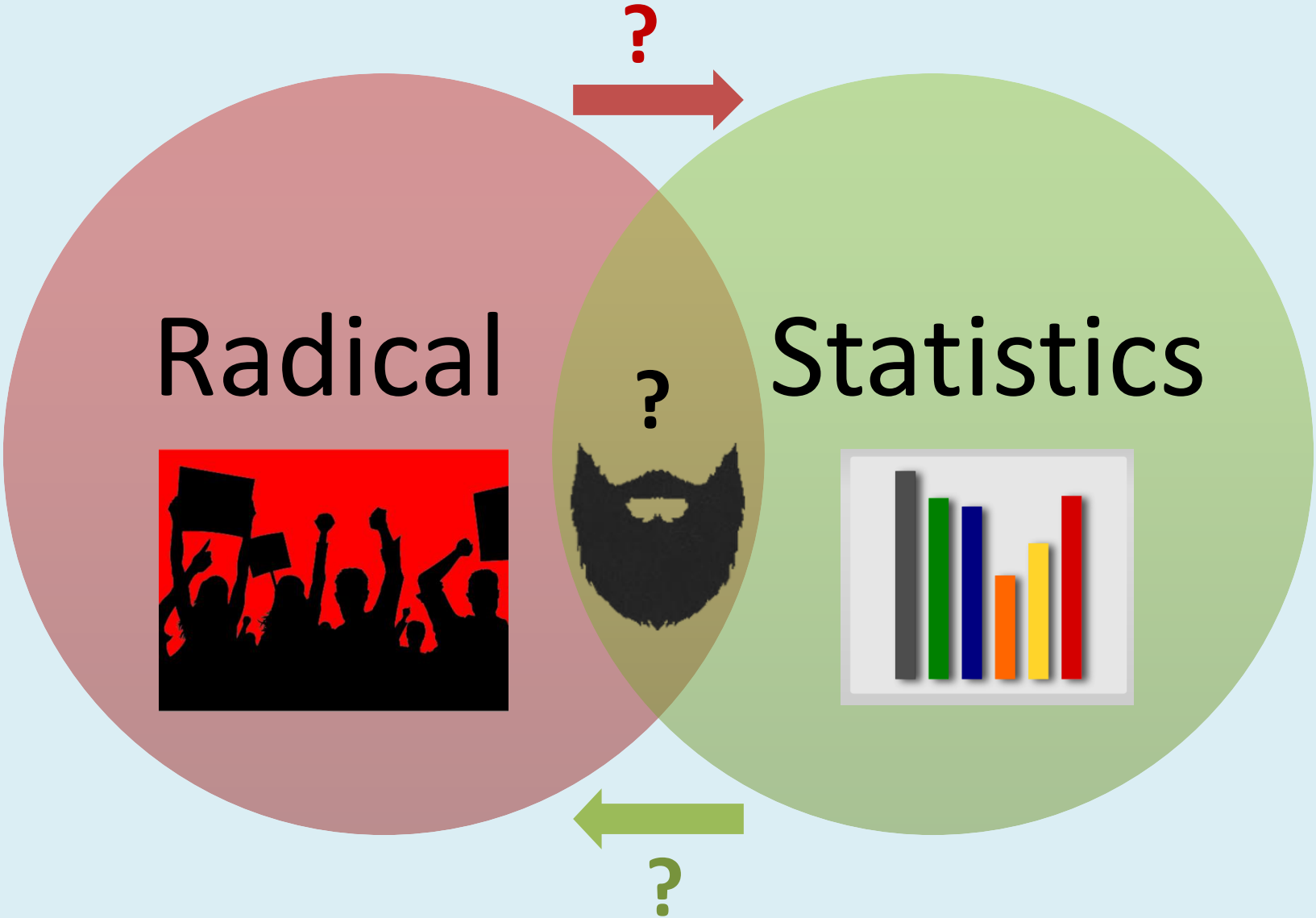


What is radical about radical statistics?

Some reflections

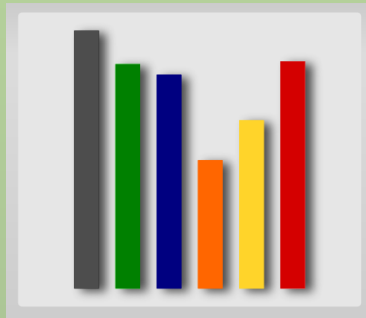
Rachel Cohen.



Radical



Statistics



‘What we are’

RadStats is independent of any other organisation.

Members are ‘radical’ in being committed to helping build a more free, democratic and egalitarian society.

Members of Radstats are concerned at the extent to which official statistics reflect governmental rather than social purposes.

Our particular concerns are:

- The mystifying use of technical language to disguise social problems as technical ones
- The lack of control by the community over the aims of statistical investigations, the way these are conducted and the use of the information produced
- The power structures within which statistical and research workers are employed and which control the work and how it is used
- The fragmentation of social problems into specialist fields, obscuring connectedness

Radstats website/journal

What is radical?

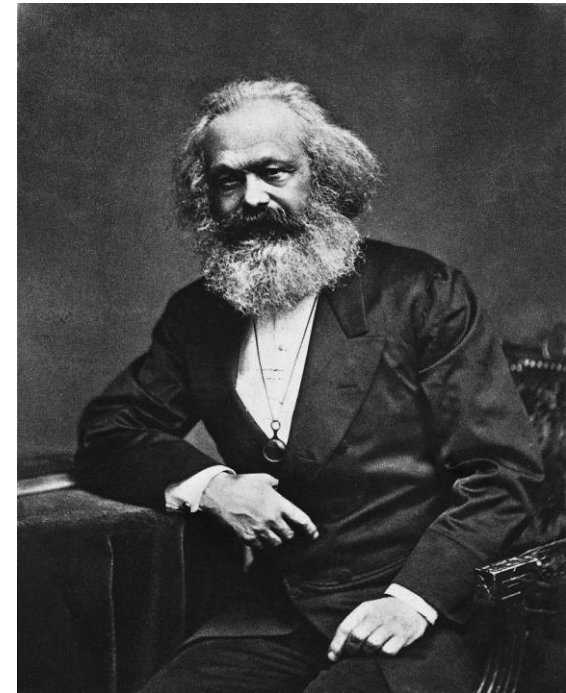
- Dissemination: Radstats as anti-journal.
 - Generalist; academic/non-academic; un-quantified!
 - But, few contributions; No 'test' of radical-ness.
- Critique of Society
 - Status quo/powerful as object of critique
 - But how different to other social science?
- Critique of Statistics/data
 - Statistics production and funding/de-funding
 - Focus only on state production?
- Radical practice and community
 - Internal
 - External community; Prefiguration?

Radical Statistics and Praxis

The weapon of criticism cannot, of course, replace criticism by weapons, material force must be overthrown by material force; but theory also becomes a material force as soon as it has gripped the masses. Theory is capable of gripping the masses as soon as it demonstrates *ad hominem*, and it demonstrates *ad hominem* as soon as it becomes radical. To be radical is to grasp the root of the matter. But for man the root is man himself.

Karl Marx (1844)

A contribution to the critique of Hegel's philosophy of right



Radical Statistics:

Picking our targets, picking our allies

- Workplace analysis:
 - Time and motion studies
 - Quantification of work rates/movement
 - Who
 - collects the data?
 - analyses the data?
 - retains the data?
 - is measured?
 - What change(s) are enacted?
- Radical critique: **against statistics?**

“Accenture Analytics, part of Accenture Digital, delivers insight-driven outcomes at scale to help organizations leverage the digital revolution for their competitive advantage. With deep industry, functional, business process and technical experience, **Accenture Analytics develops innovative consulting and outsourcing services** for clients seeking superior returns on their analytics investment”

Accenture (2014) *Big Success with Big Data*
([online report](#))