

RADICAL STATISTICS

Radical Statistics Annual General Meeting 18 February, 2017 Edinburgh

Minutes & reports

1. Present: Jake Ansell, John Bibby, Paul Bivand, Catherine Brumley, Dave Byrne, Roy Carr-Hill, Jeff Evans, Nissa Finney, Judith Furner, David Lamb, Robin Rice, Beth Shaw, Humphrey Southall, Maurice Marchant (chair), Andrew Williams, Alistair Cairns (minutes).

Apologies: Alison Macfarlane, Janet Shapiro.

2. Acceptance of previous AGM minutes, which are available on the website.
3. Radical Statistics journal editors report (with appointments) – Roy Carr-Hill.
There were three issues this year, since the last conference.
Roy will carry on. Roy is thanked for his contributions.
We will likely need more help with the processes of the book editor. Books are available, but reviews are not being produced for the journal. Troika and Alistair will coordinate.
Beth Shaw, present, will join.
Nissa will approach & remind conference speakers for submissions.
4. Troika report (with appointment) – Maurice Marchant and Andrew Williams (*appended*).
Discussion takes place about how to distribute – journal, email, and website – minutes and reports. Years ago minutes and reports were included in the first journal issue following, but this is not especially timely.
There is a suggestion that the Troika report should appear in print, but the other parts not.
Maurice has served for the customary three years, but will serve one more year, which will allow for smoother continuity. Andrew has recruited two further members, allowing for a handover period this year, where Maurice will gradually be replaced.
Troika is to follow up to welcome new members.
5. Treasurer's report – David Lamb and Janet Shapiro (*appended*).
David delivers report verbally. He was appointed one year ago.
There is a healthy balance in savings, which could, and probably should, be spent. Ideas or suggestions should be made to the Troika. Subscriptions payments constitute majority of income, conferences will either generate or lose some money.

Newsletters are the main expense; this fluctuates based on the number of journals in a given year.

Radstats banks with the Coop. Another one might be looked into without loss of any ostensible but long-lost ethical practices.

6. Membership report – Alistair Cairns (*appended*).

Overall membership went from 276 – 286 in the last year. There are a few more low income members. The membership is very stable with fluctuations largely due to conference attendees. First time attendees receive a one year introductory membership with registration; not all choose to stay on after that period.

Open-ended discussion takes place asking the fundamental question of what it is to be a member and what members ‘get’ from being a member. (Members receive the journal, and a reduced price to conferences, for a start.)

7. Conference organisers report – Nissa Finney, Alistair Cairns.

The conference organising was fairly smooth and problem-free. The venue was well chosen, including catering. The organisers found the invited speakers very receptive with the exception of finding a speaker on policy and national statistics, perhaps because the topical theme was seen as a bit risky?

There were 65 people attending the conference.

Promotion to lists, conference flyers to all members and word of mouth all contributed to successful promotion.

The whole team is thanked.

8. Future conferences.

a. 2018 London (with appointments)

A venue has been selected and reserved (in central London), which will have adequate space at an affordable price.

A programme committee has self-selected, but they (unlike this year, notably) are from disparate regions and institutions. Coordination and leadership will need to be monitored, and supported.

With allowances to the committee’s opinions, the theme will generally be around Housing and Land Use.

There remains keen interest in keeping the ‘social events’ tradition alive – usually a pub social and a guided walk.

b. 2019

Liverpool is possible. One organiser has been identified. More help needed.

9. Essay competition (There is a vacancy for a co-ordinator). The essay competition has been run bi-annually quite successfully by a volunteer who has stepped down. The role requires someone willing to oversee quality and progress. There is a budget of £500 to cover the amount of work in advertising and promoting.

If you are interested, this is an interesting project which is very helpful in developing material for the journal and awareness of Radstats and critical approaches to statistics generally.

10. Website/social media report – Robin Rice (*appended*).

- 11.** JISC mail report – Alison Macfarlane (*appended*).
- 12.** RS2020 book report – received during the conference
Jackie and Rachel are not ready to report on SRC book.
- 13.** The academic institutional boycott of Israel working group – Roy Carr-Hill (*update appended*).
- 14.** Any other business

Meeting closes.

Troika report 2016

The membership of the Troika has not changed since the 2016 conference, as although we were given permission to find another member, our search was unsuccessful. The Troika has met regularly on Skype to discuss issues raised by RadStats members and to keep abreast of RadStats matters.

The Troika wishes to record its thanks to Alistair, our administrator, for all the time and effort that he puts in to keep Radstats active.

Annual conference 2017

The Troika supported the organisers in the planning of the 2017 conference. The Troika are also looking forward to the 2018 conference in London and will support this similarly.

RadStats Journal

We have supported Roy Carr-Hill in his role editing the journal this year.

RadStats book(s)

We have been pleased to continue to support and foster the development of ideas for the two proposed books to be authored by RadStats members and others. We thank the team of Humphrey Southall, Jeff Evans and John Bibby for pushing ahead with their book and look forward to hearing from Rachel Cohen and Jackie Carter in due course.

Links to other groups

We continue to support our working relationship with the Royal Statistical Society.

Membership of the Troika

Jackie was not replaced on the Troika and Maurice agreed to remain, if necessary, for one further year. However, we do hope new members will be appointed at the 2017 AGM following Andrew's efforts to contact all members personally. Given the challenges finding Troika members, editors and conference organisers, the Troika has been concerned about the future of RadStats. RadStats cannot continue in its current form without filling these roles, which are not necessarily time consuming. If people fail to volunteer in 2017, we recommend a review be undertaken to consider if and how RadStats might continue.

Members of the Troika:

Maurice Marchant

Andrew Williams

Radical Statistics
2017 AGM

NET WORTH
As at 31st December 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
BANK BALANCES								
Current Account	£13,571.36	£14,275.16	£11,320.95	£13,055.55	£10,505.08	£9,260.65	£7,224.70	£4,314.00
14 Day Deposit	£3,573.71	£3,570.32	£3,568.66	£3,565.32	£3,561.98	£3,558.64	£3,555.31	£3,551.98
14 Day Deposit (Health)	£4,880.61	£4,875.99	£4,873.72	£4,869.16	£4,864.61	£4,860.04	£4,855.49	£4,848.64
TOTAL	£22,025.68	£22,721.47	£19,763.33	£21,490.03	£18,931.67	£17,679.33	£15,635.50	£12,714.62
INCREASE IN NET WORTH								
bank balances at 1st Jan 2016	£22,721.47	£19,763.33	£21,490.03	£18,931.67	£17,679.33	£15,635.50	£12,714.62	£10,569.52
bank balances at 31st Dec 2016	£22,025.68	£22,721.47	£19,763.33	£21,490.03	£18,931.67	£17,679.33	£15,635.50	£12,714.62
 Net Income for Year	 -£695.79	 £2,958.14	 -£1,726.70	 £2,558.36	 £1,252.34	 £2,043.83	 £2,920.88	 £2,145.10

Janet Shapiro, Treasurer

Membership Report for 2017 AGM

Alistair Cairns, Administrator

As of February 2017, membership within Radical Statistics consists of:

	2016	2014	2013	2012
Low waged/Student	47	44	43	52
Standard	189	189	197	225
Institutional	26	26	27	28
Outside UK	11	6	6	6
Gratis *	11	12	3	3
Total	291	277	276	314

** An additional five copies are sent to the Legal Deposits Libraries.*

Editors, authors & essay competition winners and graphic artist each receive two copies (one additional if already member).

Radical Statistics AGM, 18 Feb, 2017: Website and social media report – Robin Rice

Website (for 2016)

- 7 blog posts (5 in 2015)
- 82 subscribers to blog
- 15,926 views in 2016 (20,104 in 2015)
- Average views per day in 2016: 44 (55 in 2015)

Twitter (to present)

- 1,304 tweets since beginning-Feb 2011 (396 since 2015 AGM)
- 3,484 followers (758 since 2015 AGM)
- 1 promoted tweet for £10, 7 Feb 2017: 13,495 people reached

Facebook

- 592 page likes, all-time
- 1 promoted post for £5, 821 people reached

Report on Radstats jiscmail 'discussion' list for 2016

There are 430 members as at February 14 2017.

Subjects discussed July to December:

July attacks on unions

Aug frequencies of names

Sep gender pay gap

Oct minority populations

Nov hospital beds

General point

If you are in a discussion to which only two or three people are contributing, think about taking it offline and / or writing an article for Radical Statistics.

The small group self-constituted to follow up after the AGM motion on the boycott of Israeli academic institutions at the 2016 York RadStats conference has managed to get some of its act together; and are proposing the following approach to potentially sympathetic statisticians:

"Dear XXXX

I am writing to you on an issue that affects statisticians, as it does others in academic posts or whose work or interests may involve them with academic institutions from time to time.

Israel's 50-year occupation of Palestinian territories has generated a world-wide movement of Boycott Divestment and Sanctions, which has an academic component. The objectives of the boycott are to get the Israeli government to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people under international law, and to end violations of these rights. The boycott is aimed at interactions with Israeli universities as institutions, and does not seek to impede normal scholarly interchange. More information on the boycott can be found at <https://bdsmovement.net/academic-boycott>

A group of us within the statistics community in the UK are seeking to generate discussion on the Academic Boycott of Israel, and its implications for professional ethics and practice. Over the coming months we will be raising this issue for discussion among statisticians. One avenue we are considering is to seek an official working group involving the RSS and other professional organisations to establish the ground rules for a serious exploration of the issues involved.

yyyyyyyy (please add here)"

The issue was raised again briefly this weekend in Edinburgh and anyone there who was interested, together with anyone who was not able to attend but interested in further information, please contact either Jonathan Rosenhead at j.rosenhead@lse.ac.uk or Roy Carr-Hill at roy.carr_hill@yahoo.com.