

# Lessons from RadStats experience and Current challenges

Jeff Evans

RadStats 2020

28-29 Feb., St. Lukes, ,London N1

## Previous versions

Jeff Evans & Ludi Simpson chapter in K. Yasukawa & S. Black (Eds.), *Beyond Economic Interests: Critical Perspectives on Adult Literacy and Numeracy in a Globalised World*, Sense Publishers (2016).

*(Audience: Australasian literacy / numeracy researchers & tutors)*

Jeff Evans & Ludi Simpson, chapter 23 in *Data in Society* (2019).

*(Audience: statisticians, social scientists, post-grad and undergraduate students, interested members of the public)*

*Audience RadStats 2020*

## Early context / advantages

- Strength of radical ideas, much group energy
- Tended to develop, and project. an inclusive ethos, perhaps related to...
- Statisticians' (and other progressive scientists' and social scientists') experience with working in inter-disciplinary teams
- Support from other Radical Science groups, esp. BSSRS ...
- Minimum formality of relations, and ideas

# Values

- Clearer understanding and better use of statistics (e.g. Williams et al., Chapter 26; Ridgway et al, Ch. 27; Sippitt, Ch. 28)
- Progressive politics, including support for universal rights, anti-racism, publicly-funded health care (e.g. Section 5), teachers' working conditions (e.g. Dados et al, Chapter 25) against weapons of mass destruction
- Support for campaigning organisations, stakeholders' coalitions (e.g. Kate Bloor, Chapter 24)
- Critical of the Establishment, alert to the role of economic interests (throughout)
- Developing links with other Radical groups / supporters (e.g. Gray & Bounegru, Ch. 29)

# Changing Levels, Patterns, Sites of Activity, etc.

	1975-1990	1990s	2010-2020
Features of internal organisation	<b>Subgroups</b> for Health, Race, Education, Nuclear Disarmament / <b>AGM</b>	<b>AGM</b> ...	<b>AGM</b> Subgroup for Population Studies
Main modes of Internal communication	post, phone, face-to-face meetings <b>Radical Statistics 'Newsletter'</b>	...	... + <b>Email</b> <b>RS Discussion list</b> <b>Radical Statistics 'Journal'</b>
Main modes of External communication	<b>Pamphlets / Booklets</b> Interviews - Radio, Newspapers	...	<b>Website</b> 4.2K unique visitors Twitter ... Other soc media fb 45 countries
Publications	RSH (1976, 77, 78, 80*, 87) RSR (1980, 88) RSE (1982*) RSND (1982) <b><i>Demystifying Social Statistics (1979)</i></b>	RSH (republ. (2000*)) <b><i>Statistics in Society (1999)</i></b>	RS PS (2011) *RSE (1982, onto website, 2012) <b><i>Data in Society (2019)</i></b>

## **Challenges we see include:**

### A. Dwindling activity / output of the Group?

- in terms of publications, campaigns, (social) media presence

### B. Group energy

- Bi. maintaining membership commitment: “participation cliff”
- Bii. recruiting new members

### C. Changing methods of communication:

- Ci. among the membership ...
- Cii. with other Radical groups / supporters ...
- Ciii. with other potential supporters externally.