

EDITORIAL NOTES

Many thanks to all the contributors to RS₅. Special mention of Greg for the cover and Yvonne for the typing.

1. Radical Statistics AGM.

This has now been fixed for Saturday, Feb 21st at the Thomas Coram Research Unit, to begin (hopefully) at about 11.00 am. (See map opposite for details of how to get there) Apologies if Liz's letter now looks more like an agenda for the meeting; it was intended only to initiate discussion on a theme for the AGM., but our delay in producing RS₅ appears to change its function.

2. Pre-AGM Party.

Liz has kindly agreed to hold a pre-AGM party at her house (105, Noel Rd., London N.1 - Nearest tube, Angel), beginning at 8.00. to which everyone is invited. Please bring a bottle.

3. Science and Socialism Seminars.

A series of informal seminars organised by a collective of radical scientists mainly from BSSRS and Radical Science Journal. At the September Radical Stats Conference we saw a clear interest expressed in the work of radical scientists and especially BSSRS. These seminars seem bound to raise many issues central to the work of radical statisticians.

4. R.S. Conference.

The transcript is now in the final stages of production, and anyone not at the conference interested in having a copy can obtain one through Liz.

5. Editorial Policy & Letters.

We've continued an open policy on letters and articles in this issue, but have included an introduction and reply to an article on 'Statistics at Work' by George Hay of the SPECTRUM group. In the eyes of the collective producing RS₅ this article was felt to be so politically contentious as to raise the question of non-inclusion. Perhaps we should discuss the desirability of this sort of editorialising and our policy on letters and articles at the forthcoming AGM.

Ian Miles
Paul Chalmers-Dixon
John Irvine

SSRC SURVEY UNIT

The report in Radical Statistics 4 gave a brief account of the closure dispute at the SSRC Survey Unit. Since then, the AUT, representing the research staff, has invited the SSRC to go with them to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) over the issue.

The staff's claim is that Council was in breach of its own procedure in failing to give the Unit at least a five-year run-down period and that staff had reasonable expectation of future employment in the Unit.

The surprising result is that the SSRC (chaired by industrial relations expert, Derek Robinson) has refused to go to the ACAS.