

Radical

Statistics

12

in this issue

AGM '78 arrangements

Cost of living

Decision theory

News

Action?

## editorial

The prime purpose of this slim edition is to announce this year's AGM. The democratically self-selected group who have organised have left space for the usual discussions on the future of the group: its publications, whether it should hold general meetings, etc. etc. However, most space has been left for discussion on topics of current issue, from which it is hoped some action may arise. The subjects so far (see back page) all have indicators as a theme. The note in a previous issue aroused considerable interest in this area. We hope the final session will include any other interests that people have.

I feel that such meetings are very important just because they are a chance to meet each other. But this has a danger: that we all form nice cliques, arrange trips to Haiti for each other and so on. For this reason the meeting will only be really successful if new people come along and take an active part in the group. The circulation of this newsletter is 300 now. Surely we're not all passive readers of anything we can get hold of.

Please send off the form on the back page as soon as possible, so the caterers have some idea of numbers, and so you get a chance to read the advance papers.

Nic Wright

## contents

club notes / small ads	.	.	.	2
a workers' cost of living index	.	.	.	3
health group latest	.	.	.	4
decision theory - why? why not?	.	.	.	5
advertisements	.	.	.	8
letter	.	.	.	9
agm arrangements	.	.	.	back page

## appropos...

immigration **statistics** in the last issue, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants have produced a very good little paper called The Numbers Game (available price 10p from JCWI, 44, Theobalds Road, London WC1).

# Club Notes

## MONEY

This is addressed to you if you hav'nt contributed to RadStats funds in the last 6 months or so. After some large outlays last year funds are a bit low so donations would be very welcome at present. The newsletter is increasingly expensive to produce and post, and there are also various secretarial costs as well as the support we like to be able to give to young sub-groups and to organise meetings.

In any case, if you receive the newsletter and hav'nt contributed lately your sub is due. The suggested amount is £2 p.a. for individuals and £4 for organisations, though more or less is acceptable according to your means. Please make cheques payable to Radical Statistics Group and send them to The treasurer, Radical Statistics Group, c/o BSSRS, 9, Poland Street, London W1V 3DG or you may include the sum in your AGM cheque (see back page).

## EDITING THE NEWSLETTER

The form of RadStats journals is to be discussed at the AGM but offers to do an issue would be welcome. The job is not arduous since duplication and mailing are taken care of already. This is a job particularly suited to geographically far-flung members who have less chance than others to participate actively in the group.

## NEXT EDITOR

Please send all copy as soon as possible but certainly by early April to:

Ivan Rappoport, Middlesex Polytechnic, The Burroughs, Hendon,  
London, NW4 4BT (01-202 6545 x126)

Please type clearly on A4 paper and we won't have to retype it.

## small ads

### Change of Work Address:

Jeff Evans,  
Middlesex Polytechnic,  
Queensway,  
Enfield,  
Middx.  
(01-804 8131 x101 or leave  
message with switchboard)

### WANTED URGENTLY

Chiang, C.L. (1968) Introduction  
to Stochastic Processes in  
Biostatistics. John Wiley

I would like either, (i) to buy  
the book, or (ii) to borrow the  
book (say 3 months); postage will  
be paid in either case.

Ivan Rappoport, above address.

### Advance Notice

The Social Statistics Section of the Royal Statistical Society will hold its March meeting on the subject of RAWP, the speaker being Mr. Rowntree of DHSS. It will be on March 7th and will probably be 4.30 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine but please confirm these details before setting out!

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# advertisements

## STATISTICAL POLICY IN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Based on discussions at the Conference on Statistical Policy in Less Developed Countries, May 12-16, 1975, at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

Editors:

*Biplab Dasgupta*

*Dudley Seers*

Communication Series 114 Price £1.50

### Summary

This monograph is based on the deliberations of a five-day conference held at the Institute of Development Studies on May 12-16, 1975, and attended by 62 participants from 26 countries, including Directors of Statistics, representatives of international organisations, and distinguished academics from various social science disciplines. The Conference brought together people from diverse backgrounds and holding conflicting views on socio-economic issues to discuss the question of priorities of statistical work in less developed countries.

This monograph reflects a high degree of agreement among the participants regarding the need for better and disaggregative measures of social and economic health of a nation, such as the proportion of the population below poverty level, the distribution of income and wealth among various income and ethnic groups and regions, the degree and pattern of labour utilization, and the nature and extent of malnutrition. In view of the high cost of statistical work, the monograph emphasizes the need for a greater use of administrative data, and a greater effort on the analysis and interpretation of data, and urges the governments to provide more resources for statistical work as an aid to development planning. One of the major issues discussed at length in the monograph is how to reconcile the needs for international comparability (and hence, conformity with the standards laid down by the international agencies) with the specific domestic needs of an individual country. Another major issue is the role of a statistician *vis-à-vis* his government, and in particular how the need for statistics to be useful and available to the government should be balanced against the risk of 'political bias' creeping into the data or its presentation. The monograph also discusses the need for quantifying semi-legal or illegal activities such as smuggling, transfer pricing, transactions financed by 'black money', and both sides of the issue of 'confidentiality'.

The Association of Social Research Organisations is sponsoring a series of meetings for social researchers and research users. The series has been designed to cover issues relevant to people from a wide range of employment bases and disciplines.

The impetus for these meetings has come from a small number of researchers drawn from the independent social research institutions, academic bodies, and central and local government. They have been meeting to consider the need for an association of social researchers. They concluded that a new association would meet a real need and would serve two main functions. Firstly to provide a communication channel and information network for social researchers and research users. Secondly to become involved in some of the wider 'professional' concerns of researchers such as training, careers, funding, and research standards.

Any interest expressed in such an association during these meetings will be developed at the last of the five meetings (in April) at which an appropriate association could be launched. If you would like to be kept informed about this association then please **contact**

Janet Lewis  
(Social Research Seminars)  
CSSP  
62 Doughty Street  
London WC1N 2LS

# A. G. M.

Friday 10th March 7.00 pm to Saturday 11th March 5.00 pm 1978

Notting Dale Urban Studies Centre,  
Harrow Club,  
189, Freston Road (formally Latimer Road)  
LONDON W10

Phone (during conference only) : 01-969 8942

The centre is close to Latimer Road Underground Station and is almost directly under the M41 intersection on Westway (A40 (M)). Maps will be sent to all sending forms.

Accommodation is available in the form of bunk beds.  
Lunch on Saturday will be included in the price.

Please bring a bottle and food for the party.

Please send £1 returnable deposit with the form below and we'll settle up there. The more people who come the cheaper it will be. Cost not expected to be over £1.50 including deposit. Those sending form will be sent Harvey's and Adela's papers and a map. Please send a large S.A.E.

## Provisional Programme

<u>Friday</u>	7.30	Radical statistics as radical science probably/possibly (p=0.75) Stephen Rose
	9.00	Party
<u>Saturday</u>	10.15	A.G.M.      i) Election of committee etc. ii) Organisation of meetings iii) Future of RadStats publications iv) AoB
	12.30	Lunch
	1.30	Meetings on: Political Assumptions in Educational Test Models Harvey Goldstein Chilean Health Statistics Adela Bass Inaugural meeting of non-anonymous Social Indicators sub-group John Lintott Other topics as arise

Please send this form with cheques made out to Radical Statistics Group to:  
Nic Wright, 31, Brassey Road, Winchester, Hants SO22 6SB

Name:

Telephone(s)

Address:

£ p

delete  
as  
appli-  
cable

I hope to come to AGM and enclose £1 as deposit  
and a large sae.  
I cannot come but would like Harvey's and Adela's  
papers and enclose 20p and a large sae.  
I am probably going to stay at the centre  
I enclose my annual sub/donation