

RADICAL STATISTICS

thirteen

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N.B. NO NEED TO DEFACE RSN !

In the interests of preserving the pristine virginity of this copy of RSN (uncut, unthumbed ?), the forms which appear in this issue are reprinted at the back, after page 21.

COVER: Running quotation printed at Middlesex Polytechnic. Title printed on the private press of J.Buck, Edgware, Middlesex.

Notes by Nic Wright on some of the things from RadStats AGM, March 1978:

Topics: Meetings arranged round specific topics were felt to be a good idea. They could be a meeting place, a place to try out ideas, to start subgroups, etc. Possible topics suggested were immigration, unemployment, nuclear power, price indexes, decision theory, cost benefit analysis. They could be held every two months or so and perhaps tied to Royal Statistical Society meetings. 9, Poland St. could be a venue though it closes at 9.00. The meetings should be advertised outside the group (eg Time Out and News & Notes). Bob Gilchrist offered to organise a series by getting others to organise individual meetings so ideas and offers to him please at 19, Mercia Grove, LONDON SE13 (01-352 9722)

For the uninitiated, this is an idea to help community groups, pressure groups, and the like, while not, of course, overstating any 'expert' role. Liz Atkins' article in this issue describes this more fully. The fact that two groups (BSSRS and a local Science for People group) had asked for general talks on radical statistics was raised and offers for speaking in a personal capacity and not attempting (or purporting) to represent the group are invited.

Finance
In spite of reasonable support from the membership financially, each issue of the newsletter leaves funds rather low again. It was decided to make this edition the last for anyone who hasn't paid since the last AGM (1977) and who doesn't respond to the request for money in this issue. The possibility of Standing Orders or Direct Debits was raised.

Disagreement again prevailed over whether we should produce a journal. Ian Miles offered to think about the matter and present his ideas to the group via the newsletter or at a meeting. Comments please to Ian at SPRU Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Falmer Brighton (0273 586758). Any articles editors of the newsletter were dubious about should be referred to the committee.

Thanks were expressed to both Liz Atkins and John Hodgson who felt they had to resign. Nic Wright, Jeff Evans and Dougal Hutchison were asked to sort out a committee of about eight people share the secretary, treasurer, fire brigade coordinator and chairperson jobs between them. At a later meeting the three of them decided each to do all the jobs at once for 4 months, so Dougal starts from June but please write still to Radical Statistics c/o 9, Poland St., London W1V 3DG.

RADICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON is studying whether press comments on dangerous offenders make judges vary the length of sentences they impose. They are also interested in data sources other than the Home Office on crime and punishment especially with respect to murder and rape. Offers of help please to:
Marion Owens, Radical Alternatives to Prison 01-248 4973

EDITORS for this newsletter urgently needed. Please offer to do one edition on your own or in a group. Collecting articles, editing, and collating are all that needs doing. Printing, stuffing and posting are all taken care of. A good job for the geographically isolated who wants to PARTICIPATE.

POST RESTANTE

"Just write to Radical Statistics, c/o BSSRS...." ??????????

Please: If you want to use the following address as a poste restante, ensure that you can collect any post that arrives.

Radical Statistics
c/o BSSRS,
9 Poland Street
London, W1V 3DG

Also add your name to the address. Alternatively add some relevant information such as "Radical Statistics Reification Group" or "Radical Statistics (Capitalism and the contingency table)".

Alison Macfarlane is willing to forward the occasional letter from Poland Street if you tell her where to send it.

BSSRS cannot forward your post.

Important notice to members of the Radical Statistics Group (including subgroups)
(If you have paid since April 1977 please ignore this)

While the people involved in the production of this newsletter all do so for the love of it and their time is free, there are still considerable expenses to be met. We should like to remind all those receiving RS that unless we are adequately financed we cannot continue. A lot of those receiving RS have not paid us anything recently and regretfully we shall have to say that this will be your last RS Newsletter, if you are one of this army of backsliders. If you are still interested in receiving RS, then please avoid us adopting this final solution by filling in the Bankers Order below and sending it to us. Or if this is too much effort send us a cheque made payable to Radical Statistics Group.

But anyway, get on with it. Rates: £2 individuals
£4 libraries and institutions.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To Bank Limited (your own bank)

Address
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Please pay: Co-operative Bank,
110 Leman Street,
London E.1.

Sorting Code Number 080308

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the sum of (Amount in figures)

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This instruction cancels any previous order in favour of the beneficiary.

Account to be debited (Name(s))
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Signature(s)
.

Date

University of Bath

Claverton Down
Bath BA2 7AY

School of Humanities & Social Sciences

Telephone Bath 6941
(STD code 0225)

Professors:
S F Cotgrove
R E Klein
C T Sandford

Ext. 800 Home: Bath 314605

STUDENTSHIP - SOCIOLOGY/STATISTICS

A University studentship is available for research towards a higher degree starting in Autumn 1978.

The grant is earmarked for a project on the use of statistics in the sciences beginning with an investigation of the variations in statistical practice evidenced in the published work of the different sciences.

The work, which will be jointly supervised from the sociology and the mathematics departments should lead to the award of an M.Sc or a Ph.D degree and would last for two or three years.

Candidates should have, or expect to have, a 2.1 or better in either sociology (in which case they should have a strong aptitude for mathematics/statistics) mathematics or statistics (in which case they should have a strong interest in the social sciences).

For further details contact Harry Collins at the above address, by letter or telephone.

RADSTATS MEETINGS 1978/9

It is intended to organise general RADSTATS meetings on a regular basis, starting in October 1978. These meetings will be held on Tuesdays after every other RSS Social Stats Group Meeting, with probable venue being the BSSRS offices in 9 Poland Street, London W.1.

The meetings will cover a variety of topics. At the recent AGM, the following possibilities were suggested:

- Immigration statistics
- Epidimiology of radiation exposure
- Chilean Health Statistics
- Retail Price Index
- Decision theory
- Cost benefit analysis
- Traffic

Offers to contribute to these, or other sessions, will be most welcome.

Provisional dates of Meetings are:

17 October 1978	(Subject to General election?)
5 December 1978	
20 February 1979	
10 April 1979	
9 June 1979	

Offers to talk, enquiries, etc, to:

Bob Gilchrist
Department of Mathematics
Polytechnic of North London
Holloway
London N7 8DB

PAST AND PRESENT CONFERENCE 1978

in conjunction with

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

on

THE ROOTS OF SOCIOBIOLOGY

The Annual Conference of the Past and Present Society will be held on **Friday, 29 September 1978**, at the Geological Society of London, Burlington House, London W1V 0JU. The meeting has been organized in conjunction with the British Society for the History of Science.

The theme of the Conference is the relationship between biomedical sciences and social thought from the late nineteenth century to the Second World War. The papers will be given by historians and historians of science on themes relating to the social function of scientific ideas. Professor John Maynard Smith and other scientists will provide a longer-term perspective on trends in sociobiology. It is intended that discussants will comment at length on themes related to the main papers. The papers and proceedings will be as follows:

10.30 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.

Dr. Brian Harrison (Oxford): "Doctors and Feminists: Professionalism and the Pressure Group 1860-1918".

Dr. Donald MacKenzie (Edinburgh): "Sociobiologies in Competition: the Biometrician-Mendelian Debate".

2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Dr. Geoffrey Searle (Norwich): "Eugenics and Class".

Dr. Bernard Norton (Leicester): "Psychologists and Social Class".

Professor John Maynard Smith (Sussex): "Sociobiology".

General Discussion

The main papers will be available for circulation in booklet form in advance of the Conference in order to allow the maximum time for the contributions of discussants and for general discussion. This booklet will be sent to all those registering for the Conference. Any scholar particularly wishing to participate as a discussant should contact the Editor, *Past and Present*.

The Conference is open to all interested persons, whether members of the Society or not.

Good buffet facilities are available locally.

Those wanting to register for the Conference should complete and return the form below as soon as possible, together with £3.00 (\$9.00) registration fee.

Libraries and other institutions should obtain their copies of the booklet of papers being circulated in advance by completing the Registration Form and sending the registration fee.

Please detach and return to:
The Editor, **Past and Present**,
Corpus Christi College, Oxford
OX1 4JF, England.

I wish to register for the Conference on 29 September 1978; I enclose £3.00 (\$9.00) registration fee.

Name (*Block Capitals*):

Address to which the booklet should be sent:

.....

.....

If you are an overseas scholar and will be in England during the Conference, please also give your English address, with dates:

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.....

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In the interests of preserving your copy of RSN, the fill-in forms from this issue are repeated here on single-sided paper. Except where indicated, these forms can be returned to Radical Statistics, c/o 9 Poland Street, London, W1V 3DG.

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.

Date

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Please give details of help, sources or resources you can provide in addition or as alternatives to those below.

HEALTH

LABOUR

CRIME/ LAW

EDUCATION

ECONOMICS

SOCIAL INDICATORS

ENVIRONMENT

SURVEY METHODS

MARKET RESEARCH

O.R.

COMPUTING

ECONOMETRICS

PSYCHOMETRICS

BIOMETRICS

Name

Address

TELEPHONE : Day
. Evening

from
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.....

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.....

Page 20 (For Newcastle/N.E. Area)

1. I am still interested in Radical Statistics yes no
(please circle one)

2. I would be interested in attending meetings somewhere in the North. yes no

3. I would find the following places convenient:-

Liverpool Manchester Sheffield Leeds _____

(Please circle those convenient for you, if none are then indicate where would be convenient.)

4. I would be prepared to be involved in organisation yes no

5. My areas of interest related to Rad. Stats. are