

RADICAL STATISTICS 14

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GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

Dougal Hutchison has completed his spell as front-person for the group and hands over to Jeff Evans. All general enquiries and offer of help etc. should now be addressed to him c/o 9 Poland Street unless there is an obvious other point to start, for example, someone named in the newsletter.

Our address is (Poste Restante)

Radical Statistics,  
C/o BSSRS  
9 Poland Street  
London W1 V 3DG.

It will help if you mark the envelope with some relevant information, if you wish to contact a particular person or subgroup.

RS 14 was edited by Dougal Hutchison with considerable help from Mrs. Esther Mason, and everyone else.

RS15 will be edited by Dave Haran  
Department of Social Research  
Christie Hospital  
Manchester M20 9BX  
061-434 7348 X7721

Contributions and offers of help should be addressed to him there.

Also volunteers to be the NEXT EDITOR (This should be particularly suitable for someone living in a geographically isolated area to get a chance to participate).

Subscriptions Annual subscription is £2.00 p.a. (£4.00 for Libraries). If interested parties can see their way to paying by Standing Order (see later this issue) this will simplify matters for us considerably. We should like to thank all those who have responded to our last appeal for payment by Standing Order.

Trailer

RS 15 will contain an article by Martin Hammersley of the Open University on 'The Interpretive Attack on Statistics' which looks at the ethnomethodological (and ethnographical) critique of statistics (prevalent in sociology at present) together with a 'Response' by Jeff Evans.

There will also be a 'Response' by Ivan Rappoport to Ian Miles' article in this issue.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual meeting for a change this year, will be a one-day affair on SATURDAY 24th March at the National Childrens' Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London.

The morning's programme has been designed to focus on a technique rather than a particular topic to avoid only being of interest to members of one subgroup. The particular technique that we are looking at is Cost-Benefit Analysis.

In the afternoon, to conclude the Radstats conference, we shall have a discussion tentatively entitled "Radical Statistics Group: current progress and new directions". Hopefully the optimism will not be confined to the title, for we would like to have brief presentations of the ongoing work of the two most active subgroups - Health and REMIS - together with some ideas concerning following up 'Demystifying Social Statistics', concrete proposals for RSG seminars and the like. We should also be prepared to try and understand why some areas of our work are much weaker than others.

Readers with potential contributions, ideas about what should be discussed (and how) are invited to contact Ian Miles at Science Policy Research Unit, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Brighton, Sussex.

Provisional Programme

- 10.30 Arrive, coffee
- 11.00 Speakers on Cost-Benefit Analysis - Colin Thunhurst, Don Sharpe, Klim McPherson.
- 12.45 Go and find lunch in a pub.
- 2.00 (Short) Business Meeting  
Treasurer's Report  
Announcements  
Election of the 3 Joint Secretaries
- 2.30 Ian Miles: Radical Statistics Group Current Progress and New Directions
- 4.30 (about) Close

Evening: Party at a venue to be announced

People wishing to come to the Annual Conference should return the tear-off slip.

I wish to attend the Annual Conference and enclose £1.00

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FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Seminar Programme Organised by Bob Gilchrist.

Meetings (except that on 27th February) are organised to take place after meetings of the Social Statistics Section and to take place at 9 Poland Street, London, W1V 3DG.

27th February Heather Booth: Britain's Black Minorities and "Ethnicity" in the Census (see next page for introduction)  
7.00p.m.

10th April Stephen Shenfield: To Quantify or not to Quantify - calculation and human values  
6.30p.m.

19th June John Adams: Traffic Forecasting for Motorways and Airports  
6.30p.m.

For the two latter check date, speaker and time by contacting please:

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

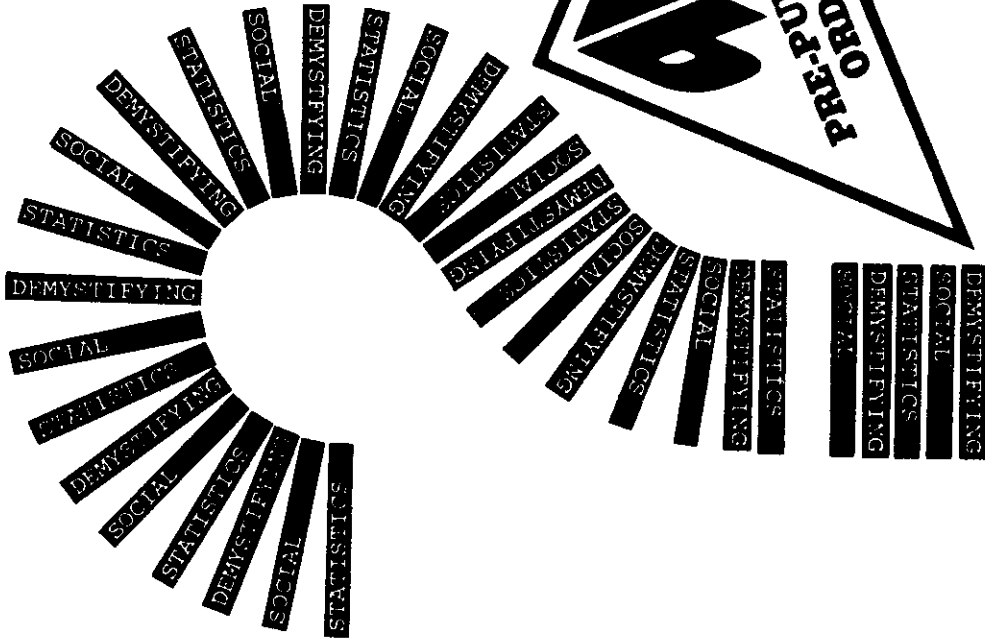
RSS CONFERENCE, OXFORD, 2 - 6 APRIL 1979.

There are two events at the RSS conference which might be of particular interest to Radstats members. The first is a workshop on the teaching of statistics to social science students to be held on Wednesday morning - anyone wishing to contribute to this workshop should contact Murray Aitkin of Lancaster University.

(There will be two other workshops on Wednesday: one on longitudinal studies and the other on measurement error, and potential contributors should contact Ian Plewis and Colin O'Muircheartaigh respectively, about these)

The other interesting event is the paper to be presented on Thursday afternoon by Fogelman and Steedman from the National Children's Bureau about selective and non-selective schooling. It might be possible to organize a further discussion of the issues raised by this paper on Thursday evening.

# DEMYSTIFYING SOCIAL STATISTICS



**EDITED BY JOHN IRVINE,  
IAN MILES AND JEFF EVANS**

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**Dot Griffiths, John Irvine and  
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