

RADICAL      DATA      BANK

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If you look through back issues of the Newsletter you will find mention of a proposal for a 'Worker's Handbook of Statistics'. This plan was in abeyance during the unexpectedly difficult and protracted production of Demystifying Social Statistics, but John Irvine and Ian Miles have now arranged with Pluto to edit what we now see as a radical alternative to Social Trends and similar official publications. We intend to make this a regularly appearing collection, even if it doesn't quite become an annual.

We will obviously rely on official data to quite a large extent, reprocessing it where possible to show aspects of Britain's social structure that are played down in official reports. We shall also be using data produced by various campaigning, community and counselling groups and to this end have visited a dozen or so groups and agreed upon cooperation with them. Members of the Radical Statistics Health Group are helping with the data on health and medicine and we are also looking for researchers who have produced or know of useful analyses or raw data.

We have established a data bank of publications, notes, newspaper reports and the like in preparation for putting this volume together. The first volume will have to be very simple; later volumes could go into more depth. But there are still various areas where we feel we could do with more information and radical interpretation of data: especially data on state expenditure, on ruling groups in the U.K., on ecological issues, on the oppression of children, gays and minorities, and on - if it is possible to represent statistically - attempts to create positive alternatives to the status quo, to assess the waste of capitalism and indicate the extent to which resources could be reapplied to social needs. Please contact us if you know of anything that you think might help.

(John and Ian are both based at the Science Policy Research Unit, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton)