

Reports from Sub-groups:

RADICAL STATISTICS EDUCATION GROUP

STEPHEN SHENFIELD

Jeff Evans and I thought it a good idea to try to get this subgroup started up again and even producing some written stuff, if nothing too ambitious to begin with.

Everyone interested, whether involved before or not, is invited to a meeting on Tuesday, 26th June from 6 to 8 pm in Room 688 at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL.

To give the meeting a focus, you will be treated to an introductory meander by me on the educational research biz and its search for determinants of pupil attainment in general, and on the recent study 'Fifteen Thousand Hours: Secondary Schools and their effects on Children' in particular. The report of this title by Rutter, Maughan, Mortimore and Ouston has just been published by Open Books at £3.50.

I have agreed to be convenor of the subgroup for the time being, so if you are interested but can't make this meeting, please write me :

Stephen Shenfield
23 Solar Ct.
Etchingham Park Road
LONDON N3 2DZ

H E A L T H G R O U P L A T E S T

ALISON MACFARLANE

At our meeting on March 5th we discussed the draft of our (unbelievably) still untitled opus which is now in the form of an unofficial guide to official statistics. It was decided that it should be published but needed some revision first. Steve Skidmore, Carl Petrokofsky and Sheila Adam have done a lot of work to this end and it is now being tidied up by David Jones. It was decided that we should try to get it out before the summer holiday period gets into full spate. It was decided on an earlier occasion that for future pamphlets we should get covers designed by people experienced in these matters, but do the paste up of the text ourselves, so if anyone would like to get involved in this please contact Sheila Adam.

Our members in Oxford have now finished the mammoth task of duplicating 1,000 copies of 'RAWP deals'. These are now available from me and our usual suppliers. 'Whose Priorities' and 'In defence of the NHS' are also still very much in print.

The academic version of 'In defence of the NHS' has now been sent off to the 'International Journal of Health Services'. As well as taking up people's time (people in this case are Sheila Adam and Klim McPherson), it cost a total of £78.80 to have it retyped, photocopied and posted to America. Is it worth spending our time and money in this way in the future ? 'In defence' also received a graphically high powered and intellectually feeble attack in 'World Medicine' - see elsewhere for further details.

We are now arranging a meeting in June at which we shall discuss what to do for our next project. Quite a few new people have asked to go on our mailing list recently so we hope they want to get involved and have ideas for things to work on.

Alison Macfarlane
40 Warwick Road
St. Albans
Hertfordshire

Local Radio Workshop

Work is going ahead with Local Radio Workshop on a programme about the political background to perinatal mortality. When it is done the next step is to try to get a radio station to broadcast it. However, from our end it could not be claimed that the (somewhat unspeedy) process of making it is a very democratic one, consisting as it does of one person's implementation (mine) of two people's ideas (Iain Chalmers' and mine). However, the arguments it contains will be no surprise to those involved in the Health Group or familiar with its work. In any case, before any attempt is made to try to get it broadcast, there will be an opportunity for anyone in Radical Statistics to hear it and say whether it is worthy of our illustrious name, or not. Could anyone who wants to be involved in making this decision please contact me and I will let them know when an appropriate meeting will be held, as is the case with pamphlets. Along with other people from groups involved with Local Radio Workshop, I went to an 'Open Forum' held by the Independent Broadcasting Authority with the alleged aim of consulting the public about commercial local radio in London. Suggestions that they should devote less time to phone-ins and the Top Twenty were not well received, to no-one's surprise, so it was even less surprising that they didn't take kindly to the idea of 'open access' programmes like 'Open Door' on the telly. However, the evening was well worth while because of the contacts made before and after the meeting with the other groups. Local Radio Workshop's ideas, of demystifying journalistic 'professionalism' and of greater participation in programme-making, are very similar to ours. It may be that other people or subgroups would like to get involved with them. They can be contacted on 01-402 7651.

REMIS (Race, Ethnic Minorities and Immigration Statistics) GROUP LATEST

NIC WRIGHT

Bouts of intense activity followed by long periods of inactivity have been the pattern for our booklet 'Britain's Black Minorities' which we are writing in conjunction with the Runnymede Trust. The format is much as described in *Radical Statistics Newsletter* 14 though the crime section has been dropped for reasons of ideological differences and lack of manpower (another project perhaps?) Also the main theme is now 'these are up-to-date accurate facts' rather than the 'here are the pitfalls of the numbers game' first envisaged. The chapters will be :

1. The size, distribution and demography of Britain's black population
2. Government responses: Immigration and Race Relations legislation
3. Facts and Responses:
 - 3.1 Education
 - 3.2 Employment
 - 3.3 Health and Social Services
 - 3.4 Housing

Appendix. Statistical sources.

The proposed publication date is now mid-October. We need reviewers in June to read and comment on parts of the draft and will happily send copies to anyone with interests and/or knowledge in any of the above areas. If you would like a copy of the draft please write or 'phone:

Dave Drew, Maths and Stats Dept.,
Sheffield City Polytechnic,
Pond Street, SHEFFIELD S1 1WB (0742) 20911 x397 or x395

If anyone requests a formal Radical Statistics-acceptance-of-putting-name-on-booklet meeting, all those who have contacted Dave will be told of its time and place (probably early July).

The group also held a poorly attended but interesting meeting in London in February at which Heather Booth both described the booklet's progress and introduced a discussion on the race question proposed for the 1981 Census.

Southern contacts : Heather Booth 01-278 9441 x31 (Wed-Fri day)
 Nic Wright 01-633 6916 (Mon-Fri day)