

RADICAL STATISTICS NEWSLETTER NO. 17

RADICAL STATISTICS

Note from editor

I was urged to put this newsletter together quickly so that it can be sent out with the papers for the AGM. That is why it's short of substantial articles. It does contain a Standing Order Mandate which it would help us if you could use. (p.11)

RADICAL STATISTICS 18 will also be produced in Birmingham by Heather Booth, Tony Fielding and me working together. We hope that you will send articles, reports, letters, reviews etc by mid-April to

Heather Booth
Research Unit on Ethnic Relations
St. Peter's College
College Rd.
Saltley
Birmingham B8 3TE.

Happy new year!

Stephen Shenfield

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Local Radio Workshop

Our tape, 'A better start in life' has been finished and was played at the meeting on perinatal statistics on November 20, thus earning itself the Radical Statistics seal of non-disapproval. Together with the other tapes made by Local Radio Workshop, it was sent to the three London local radio stations (Capital, LBC and BBC Radio London). They were received with the expected lack of a warm welcome - Capital even felt able to make criticisms about a programme which had not yet been sent to them as it wasn't finished! However negotiations are in progress. After this Local Radio Workshop will go on to approach stations in other parts of the country. Meanwhile the programmes are available on cassette for anyone who wants them. For details of the very reasonable prices contact Local Radio Workshop, 12 Praed Mews, London W2 1QY. Tel 01-402 7651 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 11am-7pm until end of March). The programmes are:

1. Albany Advice Centre- 'It's all for your benefit dear' (social security benefits)
2. North Kensington Women's Aid- 'Battered Women'
3. Institute of Race Relations- 'Police against black people' *
4. North Paddington Women's Centre- 'A woman's place' (about the centre)
5. PROP (Prisoners' rights group)- 'Lock them up and throw away the key'
6. Radical Statistics- 'A better start in life'
7. Services to Community Action and Tenants (SCAT)- 'The great council house robbery'
8. Unit for study of health policy- 'Health before wealth'
9. West London Anti Nuclear Group- 'Nuclear power? No thanks'
10. United Kingdom council for overseas student affairs (UKCOSA)- programme about discrimination against overseas students *
11. Cockpit Theatre in Education team- 'Housewife's choice'
12. Radical Education- 'School's job is to do school'

* Not yet finished as at 4/1/80

Alison Macfarlane

ITEMS RECEIVED

IN AND AGAINST THE STATE: Discussion Notes for Socialists. A new pamphlet from the London Edinburgh Weekend Return Group. Available through bookshops from the Publications Distribution Co-operative, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1, price £1-25.

The authors are a group of socialists in State employment. They ask us to review the pamphlet. I prefer not to myself: any volunteers? I'll quote a paragraph from the back cover to show what it's about:

"The predicament of people who - as teachers, bus conductors, parents, patients - experience the state as contradictory is documented in six conversations which show how the state provides services we need but does so in a way which is alien and oppressive. The capitalist state is best seen as a form of relations in which we are intimately involved. 'After-hours' socialism is not enough. It is both possible and imperative to carry our opposition to capitalism into our everyday contact with the state as employees and 'clients'."

A draft by Jeff Evans of some material for the Open University course on research methods, on points to look out for when assessing research reports. This is to stimulate the Rad Stats Education Group to get moving on its proposed pamphlet for teachers, parents etc: "How to Evaluate Educational Research" (unless a snappier title gets thought up?)

SDS

LETTERS RECEIVED

From Diana Woodward, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Pond St., Sheffield S1 1WB:
Department of Applied Social Studies -

The British Sociological Association has a Committee for the Equality of the Sexes, of which I am a member, and for a considerable time now one of our major activities has been to try and put pressure on the Social Science Research Council to review its treatment of women. A few months ago we followed up their passive response to our pressure by getting the Equal Opportunities Commission to write to the then Education and Science Minister Shirley Williams; we wrote to her directly; and we got an MP to ask a Parliamentary Question about the representation of women on all Research Councils. The Chairperson of the SSRC Sociology and Social Administration Committee has just changed, and we would like to keep up our pressure on the SSRC in general and on him in particular.

We are thus now trying to establish contact with other professional and academic groups whose members may well share our concern at the under-representation of women on these Research Councils, and their reluctance to perceive this as a problem or fault. We wondered, then, whether this would be the kind of issue where Radstats members and our own might coincide. If this is the case, we would be very pleased to hear from you and to discuss future action.

With best wishes.

There is also a letter from a Bruce Moorman. On July 11 1979 he attended a bingo session at Hillsboro Country Club, Texas, and was a witness there to "mysterious and weird events" - i.e. a curious regularity in the order in which people in different seats won. He wants to know the odds against such a thing happening. The details are not too clear to me, and the letter does not give enough data, so anyone who prefers probability-theoretic exercises to crosswords might like to contact him directly after getting the letter off me. SDS

I've also got here a pamphlet from the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science - "The question of race - the case against including any question on race or ethnic origin in the 1981 census" 10p. It's quite good.

RADICAL STATISTICS PUBLICATIONS

c/o BSSRS
9 Poland Street
London W1V 3DG

The following publications are available from the above address:

1. 'Whose Priorities?', a critique of 'Priorities for Health and Personal Social Services in England'. 45p plus 20p p&p.
2. 'In defence of the HS', an attack on 'fee for service' payments for medical care. 50p plus 20p p&p.
3. 'RAW(P) deals', a technical critique of 'Sharing Resources for Health in England' (the RAWP report). 25p plus 20p p&p.
4. 'Social indicators: for individual well-being or social control? How social indicators are manufactured by OECD. 40p plus 20p p&p.

Orders for the first three should be addressed to, and cheques made out to, 'Radical Statistics Health Group' at the above address. Orders for the 4th publication should be addressed to 'Radical Statistics(Pamphlet No. 4)' at the same address, and cheques should be made out to 'Radical Statistics Group'.

Please reduce postage to 30p and 40p for 2 and 3+ pamphlets.

RSG KEEPS PRICES DOWN

Even in these hard times, RSG has miraculously managed to keep prices down. The subscription remains at £2.00 per year (£4.00 for libraries). If you don't already do so, please arrange to pay by standing order. This keeps down costs and makes the admin job easier. Since any date can be put on the standing order form, you need not wait for your present subscription to expire. A form appears at the end of the newsletter. Please return it to Radical Statistics Group, c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG.

RADSTATS ARCHIVE

RSG has a small collection of material of general interest to members. Much of it is a couple of years old or more, but it is still worth browsing through.

The archive has now been found a home in the office of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, 9 Poland Street, London W1, where it can be consulted, as can a whole wealth of BSSRS material. We regret that archive material cannot be removed from the premises.

If anyone wishes to donate material to the archive, please address it to 'Radical Statistics Group (Archive)', c/o BSSRS.

D. J. Enright
Body count

Listener
10/11/77

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Some scholarly body has estimated
That by the time you are 16,
You will have witnessed
Roughly 15,000 fictional homicides
(Or 'killings of human beings')
On the television screen.

This seems rather a lot to me—
Don't you do anything but watch telly?
Don't you ever go to school or bed?
But I am not a scholarly body
And the figure may well be correct.

All I would say is this:
Where actual killings are concerned
The odds are, you could manage only one
In your entire lifetime.
By the Law of Averages
(A very ancient law)
On the second occasion, you
Would be the one to be killed.

So it might be felt
That with some 15,000 up your sleeve
(Albeit fictional)
By the age of 16,
You have had your fair share—
And no more can be required of you.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To..... Bank Limited (your own bank)

Address

.....

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

Sorting Code Number 080308

For the credit of Radical Statistics Group

Account No. 50182473

the sum of (Amount in figures)

.....

..... (Amount in words)

commencing (Date)

Annually until further notice, and debit my/our account accordingly.

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

Account to be debited (Name(s))

..... (Number)

Signature(s) Date

.....

RS Steering Group - Wed. 7 Nov. 1979

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Present: John Bibby, Heather Booth, Dave Drew, Dougal Hutchison, Alison MacFarlane.
Apologies: Ian Miles.

ACTION

1. Newsletter: Discussion of how to streamline production, and regularise publication. Suggested that the Newsletter should "normally" appear in early Feb. (with news of the AGM in March), May, and October. John Bibby will normally produce it within 3 weeks (subject to negotiation), so that it should reach readers one month after the editor gets the manuscript to John. A list of guidelines for contributors, and for editors, to be prepared and displayed prominently in each issue. (See prominent display elsewhere in this issue.)
2. BSSRS AGM (24 Nov.): RS asked to contribute a Workshop. Race Group and authors of last chapter of Demystifying to be approached. (Race Grp. agreed.)
3. RadStats Birthday Party: Dates chosen: Friday 7 - Saturday 8 March. (see programme and details elsewhere in this issue.)
4. Dormant Subgroups: (A) Teaching: Possible links with Quantitative Sociol. Group to be explored. Revitalisation meeting around implications of Demystifying for teaching to be organised.
- (b) Economics: Possible overlap/cooperation with the Conference of Socialist Economists mentioned. John Bibby offered vague but tantalising support.
5. Publications Policy: (a) Book Reviews in the Newsletter?: discussion of whether we should solicit books for this purpose. Decision deferred to AGM.
- (b) Radical Publications Group: Ian Miles finds it difficult to attend meetings. Jeff to cover for the moment and a replacement for Ian to be requested at the AGM.

Troika

Heather

Jeff

Troika

Jeff

?-You?

?-You?

Troika - Fri. 14 Dec. 1979

Present: Heather Booth, Dougal Hutchison, Jeff Evans.

1. Subscriptions: It was decided to leave the subs at £2pa for individuals and £4pa for institutions. This decision to be ratified at the AGM.

Announcement:

The Minority Press Group is holding a 2-day conference "How Can Radical Publishing ^{Survive} the Eighties?" on 22-23 February 1980 (friday & saturday) in London. The aim is to discuss the problems facing radical authors, printers, publishers, distributors and booksellers. Radical Statistics Group has registered. If you are interested in attending, or contributing, contact Jeff Evans (1 Granville Road, London N4; tel 01-348 5514 home; 01-804 8131 work).

Guidelines for Editors and Contributors:

The Radical Statistics Newsletter is normally produced 3 times a year: February, May, October.

Editors - normally send the typed newsletter to John Bibby (Faculty of Mathematics, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA) one month before they want the newsletter to reach readers.

- at the same time should notify the Troika (RSG, c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG) so that they can update the mailing list with John Bibby.
- will be provided with A3 sheets (for typing articles to be reduced) from John Bibby on request. (Note that these sheets require a wide typewriter, eg IBM.)

Contributors should send typed contributions, single spaced on A4 paper (or on A3 as above), where possible.

**HOW SAFE IS YOUR WORKPLACE?
HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SHOPS AND OFFICES**

**AN AFTERNOON OF TALKS AND DISCUSSION
ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS TO HEALTHY AND SAFE
CONDITIONS OF WORK AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THEM**

ON Sunday 24th February 1980 AT 1.30pm-6.00pm

**AT Isledon Teachers Centre, Highbury Station Road,
Highbury Corner, London N1 (just by Highbury
Tube & Highbury & Islington BR stations)**

PROGRAMME

- 1.30pm Bookstall and Introductions
- 2.00pm "WORK CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH" - talk by
Marianne Craig, author of book on Health and Safety in
Offices, to be published, autumn 1980.
- 3.00pm Health & Safety at Work - Your Rights & How to Get Them:
- talk by Rachel Woolf, Camden Community Law Centre
- talk by Union Safety Representative
- 4.00pm Tea & Coffee
- 4.15pm Discussions in small groups about workplace safety & welfare
- 5.30-6pm Closing discussion

Organised by the North London Health and Safety Group, 146 Kentish Town
Road, London NW1 9QG, phone 01-485 6672 - an organisation of local
Trade Union branches and Community Groups.

**BRING YOUR CHILDREN AND WE WILL
LOOK AFTER THEM WITH AN AFTERNOON OF PLAY**

If possible, please book in advance by returning this slip to: North London
Health & Safety Group, 146 Kentish Town Road, London NW1.

Name

Address

Organisation

Please enclose a fee of £1 (delegates) or 50p (individuals).

I wish to bring children, aged

30 JAN 1980

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Rad Stat AGM 1980

The Radical Statistics Fifth Anniversary AGM for 1980 will be held in the National Children's Bureau,
8 Wakley Street,
London,
EC1

Nearest tube station - Angel, Islington.

The date is Saturday 8th March.

The cost incredibly has been maintained at an unbelievable £1!

Arrangements are not yet finalised, but a provisional timetable is:

10.00 Start (Coffee)

10.30 Presentation from:

(a) Health subgroup: Unofficial guide to Official Statistics

(b) Race subgroup: Racism in official statistics

2.00 A.G.M.

2.30 Presentation from:

(c) Education subgroup: Guidelines for methodological criteria
of educational research

3.30 Tea

Radical Statistics and the cuts. Discussion led by Dave Haran.

The meeting should finish between 4.30 and 5.00. More precise details will be available when you book.

Dinner

There will also be a party (bring a bottle) on the Friday night at Lindi Simpson's (16 Bedford Square, WC1) and we should like those attending to contribute 50p for food. We hope that non-Londoners will be able to come down (or **up**) to the party on Friday and on this assumption we shall be starting on Saturday half an hour earlier than last year. Presumably most provincials and foreigners (i.e. non-Londoners) will be able to make their own arrangements for places to stay but we will be able to offer floor space at least to some people.

We should be very grateful if anyone living in London who could offer floor space or better could also let us know on the form.

There has also been a suggestion that we should have a Grand Fifth Anniversary Indian meal in the Charlotte Street (Tottenham Court Road) area after the AGM on Saturday, but - this is just a notification - will make further decisions at the Conference.

Please return to:

Dougal Hutchison,
National Children's Bureau,
8 Wakley Street
London
EC1V 7QE

I should like to come to the Rad Stat AGM on 8th March, 1980.
I enclose cheque for £1 (per person).

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

I should like a floor to sleep on for Friday night 7th March.

Name:

Tel. No:

I can offer a floor (or.....) for..... people/person
on Friday night 7th March.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Tel. No.