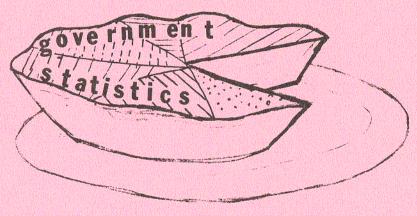
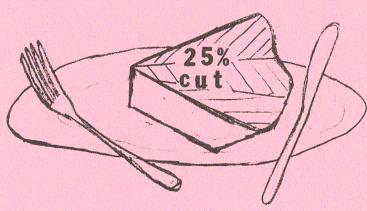
RADICAL STATISTICS





Radical Statistics 21 was edited by Ben Armstrong.

The next newsletter will be edited by Jenny Head. All contributions should be sent to her at 61 Trevelyan House, John Ruskin St., London SE5 (Tel. Q1-5824919) by the copy date, October 1st.

Contents

Themes Letters	Page 1
Cuts in the Government Statistical Services	7
Anti-Social trends - a proposal	ź
Treasurer's Report 80-81	Ŕ
Health Group report	8 9
Race Group report	10
Rad Stats Archive sale	10
BSSRS (ad)	11
AGM report	12
Understanding Statistics ? John Bibby	13
Constructing a Socialist Statistics Roy Carr-Hill	25
Statistical expertise and educational research	
Jeff Evans	28
Radicals Statistics Bankers Order form	33
Book reviews	30

Guidelines for editors and contributors

The Radical Statistics Newsletter is normally produced three 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 St., London WIV 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)

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

'Anti-Social Trends' - a proposal

The proposal was made at the AGM that Radical Statistics should publish something, possibly a journal, other than the Newsletter. Following that proposal John Bibby has written some notes on how one such publication might look. A summary of his proposal is printed below. Anyone wanting more details should contact John Bibby at the Open University.

'The proposed book would be the first in a series of annuals to start appearing in 1982. Each volume would take cues from official statistics such as those published in Social Trends (hence the title). In some sense the book could be called 'An Unofficial Guide to Offical Statistics'. However, it would be more than that, as a series of articles would precede the data.

Each volume would contain 3 sections, Section A would be largely introductory. Section B would consist of a set of articles on some common theme- the statistics of class is suggested for the first volume. Finally, Section C would be more for reference purposes and would consist firstly of an annotated bibliography, and secondly some relevant data sets.

The audience would be wide in scope, including trade unionists, teachers and students, and the interested man in the street. A paperback format similar to the CSO's 'Facts in Focus' would be used.'

1980-1981 Treasurer's Report

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Balance 8.3.80	310.02	AGM 1980 outstanding	43.00
Sub scription s	326.47	AGM 1981 room deposit	3.00
AGM 1981 fees	7.50	RSN 17	59.59
	•	RSN 18	53.80
		RSN 19	55.23
		RSN 20	87.64
		BSSRS subs and donatio	ns:
		-March 1980	30.00
•		-November 1980	30.00
		Partial refund of sub	1.33
		Postage etc.	9.17
		Bank charges	0.49
		Petty cash balance	1.50
		Balance 10.3.81	269.24
	643.99		643.99

Notes: These figures are correct (more or less \S) as of 10.3.81.

-In comparing the present balance with last year's we should take into account that the cost of four newsletters is included here but that of only two in last year's report; if the cost of RSN 20 is added to the present balance, we get about the same figure as last year in real terms.

-The current number of subscribers is 150 (\pm 5).

Radical Science Journal

NUMBER 10

THIRD WORLD ISSUE

DAVID DICKSON: Science and Technology, North and South RAPHAEL KAPLINSKY: Microelectronics and the Third World LES LEVIDOW: Notes on Development

BRIAN MARTIN: Self-Managed Science

GAVIN BROWNING: Essay Review of Ernest Callenbach's Ecotopia EDWARD YOXEN: Essay Review of June Goodfield's Playing God ROBERT YOUNG: Essay Review of Maurice Goldsmith's biography

of JD Bernal

A BARACCA et al: Germany and the United States 1870-1940

Plus News & Notes, Reviews, Letters, Connections.

Bookshop distribution by Southern Distribution and Scottish and Northern Books (UK) and Carrier Pigeon (USA). Bulk orders from RSJ, one third off ten or more copies. Add £0.20 for mailing single copies. To cover charges on non-sterling cheques, please add the equivalent of £0.60.

Price £2.00/\$4.50, 176 pages.

Subscription (three issues): individuals £6.00, institutions £13.50 from

Radical Science Journal, 9 Poland Street, London W1V3DG, England.

GRAND SALE BARGAINS GALORE UNBEATABLE PRICES CLEARANCE SALE HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST UNREPEATABLE OFFER RADICAL STATISTICS READERS ONLY GRAND SALE CLEARANCE UNREPEATABLE OFFER UNBEATABLE PRICES SALE NOW

RSG is having a grand clear out. Backcopies of the newsletter are now being offered to readers. For availability and contents see list below. Send cheques, payable to 'Radical Statistics Group', to RSG c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London WIV 3DG. All backcopies price 40p each, including p&p. There are very small numbers of some of the issues, especially early ones, so please leave cheques blank, but with a maximum written between the cross lines.

- RS20 Women in government statistics ...statistics against missiles ...official energy forecasts,
- RS19 Official health statistics...crime and the black population...educational attainment.
- RS18 Responsible statistical criticism...demystifying social research...health service in danger.
- RS17 cost benefit analysis...BSSRS race workshop
- RS16 (OUT OF PRINT) review of Demystifying Social Statistics...crime statistics and women...the cuts. ...applied numeracy courses.
- RS15 cost benefit analysis...conference afterthoughts...interpretative attack on statistics...NHS...

 Hairless in Arcadia...data protection...radical data bank.
- RS14 towards purpose...private health insurance.
- RS13 low paid price index...educational policy statistics...towards structure.
- RS12 workers cost of living index...decision theory.
- RS11 NHS...planning inquiries...race statistics...statistician and the law...decision theory.
- RS10 statistician and the law...overcrowding...RSS presidential elections.
- RS9 participant observation...health statistics.
- RS8 (OUT OF PRINT) significance tests...ideology...forecasting...models.
- RS7 (OUT OF PRINT) policy...anti-social trends...statistics teaching and texts.
- RS6 official statistics...values and ideology.
- RS5 (OUT OF PRINT) econometric methodology...science in social relations...statistics at work.
- RS4 education cuts...MRC cuts... housing cuts...social science research centre closure...SSRC survey unit closure.
- RS3 groups...bias...statistics for bargainers.
- RS2 (OUT OF PRINT) statistics confuse issues.
- RS1 (OUT OF PRINT) groups...reviews...letters.

JOIN BSSRS

Most readers of Radical Statistics newsletters will be aware that Rad Stats is affiliated to BSSRS - the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science. But few are themselves members.

Affiliation to BSSRS gives Rad Stats a permanent mailing address, a place to meet; it provides an important outlet for Rad Stats publications, and the services of a parttime office coordinator to handle enquiries and aid recruitment.

But BSSRS means more than that. It puts Rad Stats into the context of a broader socialist movement in science, technology and medicine. That is why it needs and deserves your individual support.

BBBRS members receive its Internal Bulletin (5 a year), which keeps them in touch with the activities of all local, working and affiliated groups. They also receive the quarterly Science for Feople - which is acheiving high standards of content and production.

JOIN BSSRS NOW! KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE BROADER MOVEMENT FOR A SOCIALIST SCIENCE - AND SUPPORT IT.

BSSRS Membership (1981) Application Form. and return to BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, Loncheque or PO. NAME	don W1, with
Field/Occupation	
TU Membership	• • • • • • • • • • • • •
I enclose (please circle as appropriate)	£7 Ordinary Lember £3.50 Student/OAP etc
plus	22.10 Hazards Bulletin
Fighting Fund for Office Coordinator	₽ ₽
TOTAL STOLOSED	£
Signature	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
SPECIAL OFFER * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	* * SPECIAL OFFER *
Science for People is offering the last	10 issues (38-47)
for £5. Includes postage. Cheques payable Feople. 9 Poland Street, London "1.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

SPECIAL OFFER

SPECIAL OFFER * * * *

Minutes of Business Meeting, 14 March 1981

Action

- 1. Last years minutes (see RS 18 were accepted, there being no matters arising.
- 2. The Treasurers Report appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

 Membership stands at 150. The £2.00 subscription remains.

 The balance held to be put in a deposit account until needed to help provide initial funds for publications, or some other worthy cause.

3. The archive held at BSSRS office (9 Poland Street) to be pruned to include only relevant material.

pruned to include only relevant material.

John

Geminars are to be organised again when Bob Gilchrist reappears from sabbatical. Volunteers or suggestions YOU?

for seminars requested.

5. Jeff Evans resigned from the Troika. The new expanded Fentagon includes John Lintott, Ian Files and Heather Booth and two new members, Jenny Head and Ben Armstrong. Thanks to Jeff forseveral years contribution to PSG work.

6. Pentagon meetings are to be open to all RSG members. Subgroup coordinators and the seminars organiser wil be notified of dates.

7. Next years AGM is to be held in Birmingham, pending a beather venue. If anyone knows of a good place, please contact YOU?

8. A fee and donation, of £10 and £30 respectively, to be Heather paid to BSSRS. The situation to be reviewed after 6 months.

Fembers of RSG are urged to support the BSSRS fighting YOU? fund (see RS20). BSSRS are asking an affiliated group to take over (in name only) the Poland Street office. Pentagon

9. As an affiliated group to BSSRS we can send a rpresentative to BSSRS Steering Committee Meetings. This is to be done on a local basis: Ten for London meetings, Colin

Thunhurst for Sheffield and Edinburgh meetings, and Heather for Birmingham meetings.

O. John Bibby is the reviews editor for the newsletter.

John S.

10. John Bibby is the reviews editor for the newsletter.
See elsewhere in this newsletter.

11. Plans for the Radical Statistics Conference put forward at last years AGM have been postponed...indefinitely.

12. The International Statistical Institute meeting in Argentina in November/December 1981 to be opposed.

See elsewhere in this newsletter.

13. RSS council elections are not to be opposed this year.

The issue is to be reviewed in October/November re
RSG nominations

Pentagon
John B.
YOU?

CONTACTS:	home	work
Ben Armstrong	01. 701.0442	01.636.8636 ext 265
Jenny Head	01. 582.4919	
John Lintott	01. 254.6560	
Reather Booth		021.327.0194
Ian Miles	0273.601369	0273.686758

-33RADICAL STATISTICS GROUP

(daytime) 01-437-2728 (message only)

C/o BSSRS 9 Poland Street London W.17 3DG

* IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A REMINDER WITH

We see from our records that your subscription to Rad. Stat. seems to have expired some time ago. If you wish to continue to receive RS please send us a further donation to cover the publication and postage costs, preferably by bankers order if you can. If you are unable to afford this, we would be willing to accept what you can afford. Best wishes, Leather Booth HEATHER BOOTH for RSG. STANDING ORDER MANDATE To...... Bank Limited (your own bank) Please pay: Co-operative Bank, 110 Leman Street, London E.1. Sorting Code Number 080308 For the credit of Radical Statistics Group 50182473 Account No. the sum of (Amount in fugures) 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))

Signature(s) Date

(Number)