

RADICAL STATISTICS 22

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Radical Statistics 22 was edited by Jenny Head. The next newsletter will be edited by Dave Drew. All contributions should be sent to him at Department of Statistics and Operational Research, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Pond Street, Sheffield (Tel: 0742 20911 ext 397) by the copy date, February 1st.

Guidelines for editors and contributors

The Radical Statistics newsletter is normally produced three times a year: February, May and October.

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

- at the same time should notify the Pentagon (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).

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

- The Radical Statistics newsletter is available by subscription. Rates for next year are ~~£~~3 per year for individuals (~~£~~1.50 unwaged) and ~~£~~5 for institutions (less if you can't afford it). The newsletter is available from Radical Statistics Group, c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1. Issues are normally produced in February, May and October.

P R E G N A N T A T W O R K

SYNOPSIS

INTRODUCTION

The research project is jointly sponsored by the Open University and Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Area Health Authority (T) There are two main concerns:

- a) to investigate the experience of women (both pregnant and recently pregnant) in the workplace regarding their access to information about maternity benefits and ante natal provision. At the same time to investigate the impact of the Employment Act 1980.
- b) to evaluate the available material on pregnancy at work and to propose improvements, with a view to contributing to the remaking of the Open University short course entitled "The First Years of Life".

The short seven month project, which is scheduled for completion in April 1982, has an appointed Advisory Panel of Health professionals and Open University Course Co-ordinators. It is essentially a small-scale study based on the experiences of women in KC&W AHA.

METHODOLOGY

1. Ethnographic fieldwork

Information will be sought from three groups of women through unstructured interviews.

- a) women in waged labour who are currently pregnant
- b) women in waged labour who may be pregnant in the future
- c) women in waged labour who have experienced one or more pregnancies and whose last pregnancy was 1-2 years ago.

2. Discussion groups

Information, attitudes and opinions regarding pregnancy at work will be sought from a wide range of groups - for example, 'Mothers and Toddlers' group, Health professionals, Occupational Health staff, and feminists with an interest in health care. Materials will be introduced to these groups focusing on (i) health education and (ii) maternity rights and benefits, for comments.

3. Literature & Material assessment

- a) Government Reports and relevant legislation 1971-1981
- b) Summaries of recent sociological and medical research undertaken in Britain

During the first month of the project we have discussed our research informally with a variety of people: pregnant women, women from ethnic minorities, feminists, health professionals, trade union representatives and those involved in medical research.

From these discussions we have drawn up this synopsis and research procedure. We anticipate that there will be constant amendments as

the project develops.

If you would like further information, please contact us at the following address:

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Research Assistants
304 Westbourne Grove
London W11
Tel: 229 9001

18 Gloucester Gardens
Sutton
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23 September 1981

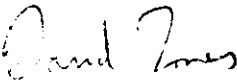
Jenny Head
Editor, Kadstats Newsletter 22
61 Trevelyan House
John Ruskin St
London SE5

Dear Jenny Head,

Proposed kadstats Health Group Pamphlet

About three years ago Peter Smith and I wrote a 'demystifying' guide to the epidemiological/statistical method often used in (cohort) studies of occupational health hazards as an Appendix for the second edition of Pat Kinnersly's "Hazards at Work" (1st ed. Pluto Press, 1973). That second edition and our article have still yet to be published, and in the meantime several proposals for other guides to the methods used in occupational epidemiology have been made. At a recent meeting about the needs of the labour movement from epidemiology it was agreed that a different article would be written for Pat's book by Tony Fletcher. It was suggested that our article should be published as a kadstats (Health Group) pamphlet since a good deal of interest had already been expressed in the possibility that it would be more widely available.

We would like to go ahead with this idea. Accordingly a meeting to discuss (and I hope approve) this will be arranged. Copies of the draft of the pamphlet and details of the time and place of the meeting are available from me at the above address. Any comments on the draft will of course be welcome.


David Jones

An apology. Bernard Norton wrote the review of "Intelligence: the battle for the mind" by Eysenck and Kamin in RSN 21. I apologise for the fact that his name was left off when the copy was retyped.

A New Radical Statistics Pamphlet

The newest Radstats subgroup is still to be christened: it may be the Nuclear Weapons Group, or the Peace Group (watch this space...). Our pamphlet "The Nuclear Numbers Game: Understanding the Statistics behind the Bombs" is now receiving its finishing touches; we hope to send it to the printers over Christmas, and to publish it in February.

The pamphlet is produced for nuclear disarmament activists, and for members of the public. It has a number of aims. First and foremost, we want to provide tools with which data can be critically understood: to help activists decide when and how to attack or reject data, when and how to apply them, or reply to them. Second, we aim to point out some of the main ways in which statistics are used on behalf of the war drive, and to provide the material with which to deal with these arguments. Third, we provide data on a wide range of background issues about which it is useful for activists to be informed, and guidelines concerning how to use and supplement these figures.

The pamphlet is divided into four sections. The first takes on the thorny question of the balance of Terror between East and West. Here we show how it is possible to discredit official dogma concerning the arms race, and give the outline of an alternative appraisal. The second section considers global issues of proliferation and the arms trade, as well as Britain's military role in and out of NATO. The third section explicates the likely effects of nuclear war. It suggests how the data presented can be used to transform bald general statements about the consequences of nuclear explosions into material relevant for local communities. The fourth section gathers together conclusions and provides further data on alternatives to nuclear war. Finally, the Appendix provides a brief guide to sources.

We hope thereby to produce a booklet which will be a valuable critical source of information and argument for all those concerned about the future. The booklet will be about 100 pages, and will sell for the lowest practicable price, probably £1.75 or £2.00.

If you wish to comment on the penultimate draft, please send a s.a.e. to Radstats Nuclear Group, 9 Poland Street, London. W.1. (A donation of £2.50 to cover photocopying would be appreciated).

You can help us publish the booklet in either or both of the following ways:

- Order one - preferably more - copies at the pre-publication price of £1.50, using the form below. An ideal Christmas gift, (a) booklet voucher(s), for a copy of NNG once it comes hot off the press, will be sent on request.
- Make a loan to the Group, as a number of people have already offered to do. (The moment the book is published, we will owe the printers approximately £1,000 more than the money we will receive from your orders and those of CND - for 1,000 copies!).

See form
on next
page

PETITION

We, the undersigned statisticians and workers in related fields, note that the eminent Argentine statistician Carlos Noriega was arrested in February 1977 and that to date the Argentine authorities have not revealed his whereabouts. Given that the International Statistical Institute plans to hold its next Congress in Buenos Aires at the end of 1981 we call on the ISI

- (a) to continue to press the Argentine government for information about his whereabouts, and
- (b) if such information is not forthcoming to send a mission of enquiry to Argentina to investigate the circumstances of his disappearance.

Name Organisation Address

Return to: A E Raftery, Trinity College, Statistics Dept., Dublin 2,
Eire

To: Radical Statistics Nuclear Group, 9 Poland Street, LONDON. W.1.

- Please send me copies of "The Nuclear Numbers Games" as soon as it is published. I enclose £1.50 for each copy, plus a stamped addressed envelope.
- I would like Christmas gift vouchers.
- I am happy to make a loan of for months to the Group to aid publication.

Name..... Address.....
.....
..... Tel No.