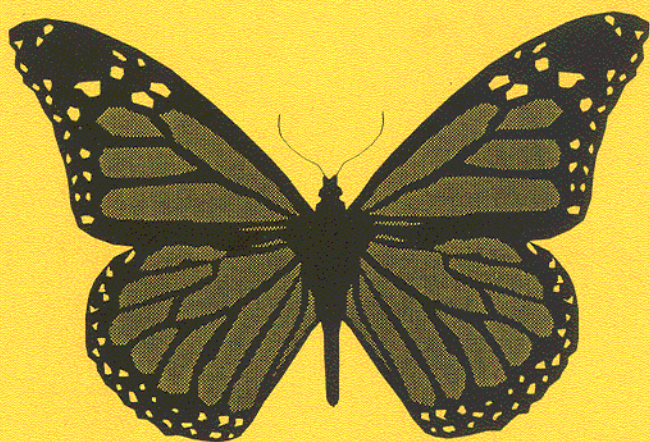


RADICAL STATISTICS



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The **Radical Statistics Group** is a group of individuals based on the distribution of this newsletter. The small amount of central administration work is done by a committee known as the "Troika", and elected at the Annual General Meeting. The editorship of this newsletter rotates; the next editor will be **Nicki Dennis** who can be contacted via the address and telephone number given below. Apart from producing this newsletter, the work of the RSG is done by its sub-groups whose membership is open to all interested parties. If you would like to get involved consult the contact person below.

Use the newsletter to advertise if you wish to start a new group.

The Troika

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Deadline for copy: **1st March 1994**.

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Autumn Ed.

Autumn 1993

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Editorial

Philip Bertrand and Mark Selinger

Initial work on this issue was carried out by Mark Selinger and it was finalised by Philip Bertrand. Problems of preparation have centred on shortage of time of those who have volunteered to carry out the editorial task. You should receive this a few weeks before our AGM on 26 February in Birmingham which I hope as many as possible will attend. I look forward to meeting you then! We had a very successful meeting last year and we hope for more success this year. It is essential if the editorial line is to be minimised that contributors supply complete copy on floppy disks: DOS format; preferably in Wordperfect, with ASCII an acceptable alternative, with tables incorporated within the text and figures in 'camera ready' form. Thank you for all contributors who have taken such care over their text preparation.

An international issue of Radical Statistics

Ludi Simpson

I have agreed to edit the issue of Radical Statistics 57 due out in June - two after this one. I have written to the 40 or so members and ex-members of Radical Statistics who live outside Britain, asking for contributions.

But you don't have to live outside Britain to write for the international issue of Radical Statistics. Have you (or anyone you know) something to say about the creation of United Nations, European Community, or any other non-British statistics? Any news of events outside Britain that may interest other readers? Any statistical analysis of the globalisation of trade, politics and development?

And finally, the issue won't be exclusively international, so both myself and the editor of the issue 56 will welcome all contributions from wherever they come from and on any subject.

Ludi Simpson

41 Park Crescent, Bradford BD3 0JZ, England. (0)274-642838

PS Does anyone have an interest in the use of official statistics about and from Northern Ireland? The samples of anonymised individual and household records from the 1991 Censuses of Britain and of Northern Ireland are being harmonised for release in 1994. Can you (or again, someone you know) write a note about the analyses that might be pursued with what will be an unusually consistent and versatile set of data for comparison of the six counties with Britain. I can provide a paper by Liz Middleton from the Census Microdata Unit on the variables the harmonised census extract will contain.

Subscription Reminder

Subscriptions are due for 1994. Please make payment either by cheque (made payable to 'Radical Statistics Group') or request a direct debit form. The address to make payment is: Radical Statistics Group, c/o London Hazards Centre, 3rd Floor, Headland House, 308 Grays Inn Road, LONDON, WC1X 8DS. Rates are £10 for waged, institutions and overseas, £5 for low waged (self defined) and £3 for the unwaged.

Radical Statistics Annual General Meeting and Conference

Birmingham, Saturday 26th February 1994
9.45 a.m to 5.15 p.m

Venue: St. Francis Hall (near Guild of Students) University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15. Three miles SW of Birmingham city centre along the A38. Nearest bus stop on 61, 62 or 63 bus is 'Edgbaston Park Road' (then walk 200 yards north). Nearest station is 'University of Birmingham' (then walk half a mile east).

Cost: £10 to include lunch, coffee, tea and room hire.

Conferees: An indication of a desire to attend should be made as soon as possible to Antony Fielding, Department of Economics, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT accompanied by a cheque for £10. Cheques should be made payable to the University of Birmingham (Radstats AGM). Acknowledgement of these, a final programme, directions, etc., will be sent after 12 February. Please remember to include address and telephone number. If you decide to come at the last minute please telephone Tony Fielding or Philip Bertrand to let them know for catering purposes.

Speakers: The following have already agreed to speak; Steven (Ludi) Simpson, Ian Diamond (Census undercounting), Juliet Solomon (transport), Connall Boyle (Ethnic questions, are they any good), Dave Drew and associates, Roy Carr-Hill, Phil Bertrand, Tony Fielding.

Accommodation: A few people can be put up for the weekend. It is proposed to have an informal gathering on Friday 25th in the University Staff bar from 9.00 pm. There will be a social gathering at Tony's house, 91 Anderton Park Rd, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9DS on the Saturday evening. Moseley and Balsall Heath is the world centre of the culinary delight Balti curries, and these as last year will be provided.

Enquiries and Contacts: Tony Fielding (work 021-414-6649/6640
home 021-449-7986)
Philip Bertrand (work 021-414-6193
home 0564-771209)
University on the day (Security 021-414-3344)

Minutes of the Troika Meeting on 30 April 1993

Present: A Staines, L Simpson, J Bibby, P Bertrand
Apologies: A Pepper
Business:

- 1) The next AGM will be held on 25 and 26 February 1994 in Birmingham. Tony Fielding and Ros Weatherall are organising it. It will be in the same venue as last year (St Francis Hall).
- 2) Philip presented preliminary accounts for the 1993 AGM. It appears to have made a modest profit of about £35. Some monies still have to be retrieved from the University. John will investigate setting up a separate AGM account at the Co-op. This would be used for all AGM income and expenditure and the signatories would be the treasurer (JB) and the AGM organisers.
- 3) Ludi handed over several boxes of paper and files which Anthony will mind from now on. The account signatories are being changed and John will find an accessible member to be a co-signatory. John will receive all mail from Alison and will forward the relevant bits to Anthony.
- 4) The current newsletter is doing fine, although it will be a bit late going out. The editors for the next two newsletters are Mark Selinger (Oxford) and Nicki Dennis (London). Nicki has also volunteered to get more book reviews in, Anthony will appraise Brendan Burchell of her offer.
- 5) Very few articles, well actually one, have been received for the Cathie Marsh memorial. John and Bob will take it forward over the summer, liaising with Mark Selinger to avoid undue competition for material. If enough material comes in, it could become a thin book, rather than effectively a fat newsletter. The costs of this will be investigated nearer the time.
- 6) Performance indicators. Susan Starkings and Andrew Pepper have expressed an interest in leading this further. Anthony's summary of the AGM discussion will be circulated further for comment and as a basis for action.
- 7) Ludi has volunteered to update the recruitment leaflet. It is a PageMaker document on his computer at work. Suggestions to Ludi a.s.a.p.
- 8) The next Troika meeting is provisionally scheduled to be on 22 September in Birmingham. Any major disagreements about timing and location to Anthony please.

Minutes of the Radical Statistics Troika Meeting

Wednesday, 22 September 1993

19.00 83, Woodrow Crescent, Knowle

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from John Bibby

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 30 April 1993

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 April were approved

3. Matters Arising

Anthony reported on the delay in the preparation of Rad Stats 54 which he has now put together after rescuing the contributions from Bob Peacock. He was warmly thanked for his efforts. The main lessons to be learnt include:

- Edit individual contributions as received
- Pay for typing assistance as required
- Provide an emergency back-up service

4. 1994 Conference Arrangements

The 1994 Conference has been set for February 26 at the University of Birmingham. The organisers (Tony Fielding and Ros Wetherall) need to ensure that:

- Speakers are arranged soon
- Publicity is prepared
- An insert and return slip is available for Issue Number 55
- Adequate arrangements for dealing with finance are in place

5. Rad Stats Number 55 / Number 56

It was agreed that target dates should be as follows:

	Number 55	Number 56
Editor	Mark Selinger	Nicki Dennis
Support	Philip Bertrand	Andrew Pepper
Copy Date	October 30	February 28
Print Copy	November 30	March 30
Publication	December 14	April 14

6. Financial Report

Philip reported that he had received a message from John Bibby stating that this task was more onerous than expected and that he was behind with the administration. It was agreed that the next meeting should be arranged, in Sheffield, to include a report from John and a review of the financial situation. Members should be encouraged to renew by Direct Debit.

7. Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged by Philip, after discussion with John Bibby, for the first week in December.

Radical Statistics Health Group (RSHG)

Notes of a Planning Meeting held on Saturday, 20 November 1993 at Bloomsbury Theatre, London, WC1

1. RSHG and Allyson Pollock has been approached for an article by David Seedhouse, of the new journal 'Health Care Analysis'. The suggested length is 3-4,000 words and there appears to be some flexibility as to the topic. It was agreed that it would be a good opportunity for the RSHG to put together something along the lines of 'How should we really be measuring the Health of the Nation?'. The international context could, of course, be covered. It was suggested that the following structure might be pursued, in each case identifying an RSHG member who might be happy to lead:
 - a. political/social context - why is this an issue NOW? (Neil Vickers)
 - b. conceptual models of health (and health care?) (Allyson will ask Alex Scott-Samuel/Margaret Whitehead/ Mel Bartley)
 - c. Measurement - what is measured and what should be measured? (Alison Macfarlane)
2. Azeem Majeed had been working with London Health Services Crisis Committee, including Harry Keen of the NHS Support Federation, to develop a protocol for a series of research projects to study the impact of post-Tomlinson developments in health care in London. Particular topics of interest include the transfer of acute care to 'community' settings (without a philosophical shift in service orientation?); the criteria for assessing bids and spending funds in primary care development. The King's Fund had indicated some interest in some of the ideas put forward but not the whole package.

Azeem agreed to pursue individual elements with the King's Fund (Angela Coulter) and to liaise with Harry about explicit involvement of LHSCC and NHSSF. Any further ideas would be welcome (tel: work 081-672-9944 x 56268, home 081-677-7765).
3. The group discussed its ability to respond rapidly to new developments in policy. For example, there is universal disquiet about the analysis of in-patient bed needs in the King's Fund report on London, which fed Tomlinson, but no rapid response publication from the group, well placed to articulate valid criticism.

Allyson suggested that a quick response could be made to Dr Mawhinney's recent published speech which again contained misleading use of statistics. More generally, she is considering a series of non-technical (eg newspaper) articles on different aspects of the current state of the NHS for mass readership. Any suggestions to her (tel: work 081-672-9944 x 56267, home 081-769-2514).

The group discussed ways in which members could obtain press-releases and notification of NHS-ME developments in enough time to be able to respond. Members are asked to make use of their official or other (press) contacts.

4. The revision of the Unofficial Guide to Official Health Statistics had rather ground to a halt at some point between 24 and 18 months ago. As before, the booklet is aimed at students, health professionals who are not statistical experts, CHCs and Trades Unionists. A number of contributions have already been made and Alison Macfarlane has started the work on collating these. They will need to be returned to the originators for updating and contributors will need to be identified for key areas that are missing. Mike Chambers is now drawing up a revised structure to the document and working on more specific guidance for contributors. The intention is to circulate the skeleton structure to those who are interested by mid-December and to request updated contributions/new contributions in the early New Year, to be delivered by the end of March. Mike and Alison are prepared to act as editors but would welcome some assistance. Kate Bloor volunteered to help with contacting people on the phone to motivate them to contribute. Any offers of help to Mike Chambers (tel: work 071-982-6391, home 0727-838873), Alison Macfarlane (tel: home 0727-852111) or Kate Bloor (tel: home 071-635-5451).
5. Any ideas are still sought on Health Care rationing and how we should continue to respond. Issues discussed at the meeting were the growth of co-payments - pay-beds, over-the-counter drugs - and the inexorable transfer of the costs of care back to carers and the individual. Allyson suggested that we have a further discussion meeting on rationing, inviting RSHG members and also people on the database containing names of those who attended or showed an interest in last year's successful event. A related issue that was discussed is how actually to monitor community care. The process is being bogged down in a mass of paperwork and, therefore, could be open to considerable manipulation (corruption?) by street-wise providers of services.
6. The next Radstats conference will be on the last Saturday in February. The health group should ideally produce a speaker for the morning and devise an afternoon workshop. Ideas that generated some interest were those of 'League Tables' in health care, as in Education, and the current hot topic of 'outcome indicators' such as those presented in the recent DH package (and feasibility study by McColl and Gulliford). Neil Vickers agreed to canvas for ideas and possible speakers (tel: work 081-672-9944 x 56267; home 071-609-1856).

7. Allyson Pollock and Margaret Whitehead are planning a Society for Social Medicine conference on 19 May on 'Monitoring Equity in the NHS'. Contact either for further details: Allyson (tel: work 081-672-9944 x 56267; home 081-769-2514) or Margaret (tel/fax: 0948-664529).

If you have a cross marked to the right of this message, please send more SAEs to Alison Macfarlane (40 Warwick Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4DL) if you wish to receive further mailings.

The *Radical Statistics* newsletter is available by subscription. Current rates are £10 for waged, institutions and overseas and £5 per year for low waged (self defined). The cost to the unwaged is £3. This newsletter is available from the Radical Statistics Group, c/o London Hazards Centre, 3rd Floor, Headland House, 308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DS.

Radical Statistics is usually produced three times a year.

All members of the Radical Statistics Group are invited to contribute to the newsletter. Articles may vary from brief notices to detailed articles. Letters and reviews are also welcome.

Articles should be sent to the next editor at the address below.

Data Protection Act

In accordance with the Data Protection Act any member of the Radical Statistics Group is entitled to ask:

- a) For a printout of his/her personal details and name and address as kept on the Radical Statistics Group computer.
- b) That his/her personal details do not be so stored. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this right, please contact the Troika (address on inside front cover) with request in triplicate.

Editor of Newsletter No. 56

Nicki Dennis, 2 Ormsby Place, Stoke Newington, London, N16 8ER

Tel: 071 865 0066 (work), 071 249 6862 (home).

Deadline for copy: 1st March 1994

For those with access to computers the next editor will take contributions on 5.25 or 3.5 inch DOS disks preferably written using Wordperfect or in ASCII text (both if possible) mentioning the hardware the disks were prepared on. Please also include a hard copy of the contribution. Ideally use 2cm margins. Bookman 13pt for text, 18pt for subheadings, 18pt italics for your name, and 24pt for headings. Articles should be as near as possible 'camera ready'. Tables should be included in the text where required. Figures should be of a quality to be included by the editor at points within the text indicated by the author. Copyright of other publications must not be infringed by authors. If any material is copied from any other source it must be accompanied by the written agreement of the original publisher that it may be reproduced in our newsletter.

If you have not got access to a computer, written or typed contributions may be accepted, but the editor reserves the right to omit any article which makes for unnecessary work.

RADICAL STATISTICS

AGM 1994

VENUE St Francis Hall
The University of Birmingham
(same as last year)

DATE Saturday 26th February 1994, 9.00 am onwards

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All Welcome

See page 3 inside for further details