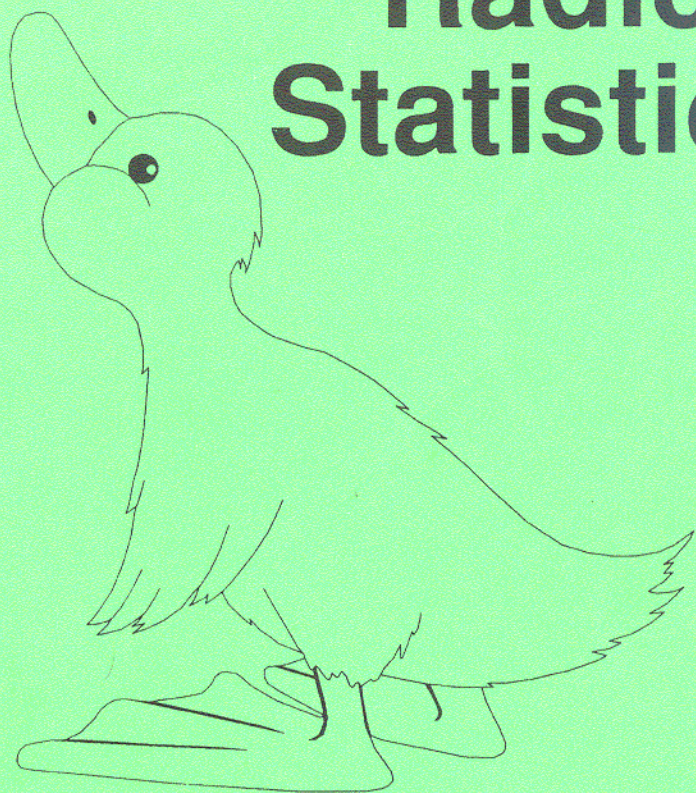


Radical Statistics



Number 57
Summer 94

Susan Staines

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The 1994 AGM

Anthony Staines

The AGM was held for the second year in Birmingham, hosted by Tony Fielding, Ros Weatherall and Philip Bertrand. Despite some hiccups in getting mailing list labels, there was a good attendance. Philip Bertrand opened the meeting with a presentation on modelling the effects of social disadvantage on education. Ian Diamond, Danny Dorling and Ludi Simpson then gave a very interesting presentation

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 **Susan Starkings** 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.

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

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on 'The missing 1.2 million - the census undercount'. If you plan on using census data, find out what they have to say in the next newsletter! Sue Starkings spoke on performance indicators in education. Ali Macfarlane spoke, on behalf of the Health Group, about inaccuracies in the derivation and presentation of official health statistics. Dave Drew and Bekia Fosam presented the results of their recent work on gender and ethnic differences in education and the youth labour market. Conall Boyle finished with a highly controversial talk on the movements for racial and sexual equality. The AGM was held just after lunch time, by popular demand. Radstats is in a healthy financial state at the moment. The difficulties experienced over the past year in managing the database are going to be resolved by passing the work on to Rebecca Wilner, who will be paid to look after it. This should ensure an easier and less fraught year for next year's Troika.

Pat Dugard, and Sue Starkings have joined the Troika, Andrew Pepper has left, and Anthony Staines and Philip Bertrand are still on. John Bibby and Paresch Patel who have struggled manfully against severe time constraints to keep the system running were given a vote of thanks for their hard work.

After a long discussion it was agreed that it was time for another rise in the subscription. For unwaged it will stay at £3.00, for the low-waged it will stay at £5.00. However for those on full wages it will rise to £12.00, and library or institutional subscriptions will rise to £20.00. All of these rises will apply from the beginning of 1995.

The next AGM will be held in London, and will be organised by Alison Macfarlane and the Health Group. If you would like to be part of the et al., get in touch. Potential speakers are asked to contact Alison as soon as possible.

AGM 1995!	
Time	10:30 to 5:30
Date	Saturday February 25
Place	London, somewhere central
Social	To be announced

Note - There are a small number of people who pay by standing order, whom we cannot trace. This is usually because your bank gave your payment a really meaningful 12 digit numeric code. We are trying to track down four or five of you at the moment. If you have paid, but aren't getting anything please let Anthony know, and he will try to sort it out.

Can anyone help?

Are there any books or other document of the following sort?

(1) A compendium of statistical fallacies and 'paradoxes'. For example, 'The Ecological Fallacy' and 'Simpson's Paradox'. It would be good if it contained a number of small datasets, ideally 'real' ones to show the problems.

Such a book would be helpful for impressing that the subject of statistics is important and gross misinterpretation of data may take place if you are not careful.

(2) Something on the subject of missing values and the problems that may arise. (I've been involved in producing a note for students which addresses the problems of unanswered Yes-No questions. Specifically that different interpretations may arise if such are treated as either 'Missing' or 'Don't Know' or 'No' (i.e. absence of Yes).

I wonder if there is something which could alert people to such problems in a more general way.

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Interested in writing book reviews?

The following books are available for review:

Analyzing Qualitative Data Edited by Alan Bryman & Robert G Burgess, 232pp

Health and Development Edited by David R Phillips & Yola Verhasselt, 331pp

Population Matters - The Local Dimension Edited by Tony Champion, 189pp

Spatial Analysis & GIS Edited by Stewart Fotheringham & Peter Rogerson, 281pp

Modelling Biological Populations in Space & Time Author Eric Renshaw, 401pp

Error Propagation in Quantitative Spatial Modelling - Applications in Geographical

Information Systems Author Gerard B M Heuvelink, 151pp

Books allocated on a first come first served basis. Reviews should be 500-700 words, unpaid, but you get to keep the book! Please contact the Book Review Editor Nicki Dennis, Tel: 071 873 6360 - full address on the inside front cover.

Autumn 1994

Radical Statistics is available by subscription. Current rates are £5 per year for low waged (self defined) and £12 for waged, institutions £20. The overseas subscriptions are at the same rate. 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 per 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 using 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 requests in triplicate.

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Deadline for copy: 30th October 1994

For those with access to computers the next editor will take contributions on 5.25" or 3.5" DOS discs, using Wordperfect or ASCII text (both if possible) mentioning the hardware the discs were prepared on. Please also include a hard copy of the contribution. Ideally use 2 cm margins, Bookman 13 pt for text, 18 pt bold for subheadings, 18 pt italics for your name, and 24 pt bold for headings. If you haven't got access to a computer, paper is quite acceptable, but a lot of extra work for the editor.

AGM 1995

Place - Central London

Date - Saturday 25th February 1995

Needed - Speakers.....
Participants.....
Session organisers.....

All Welcome