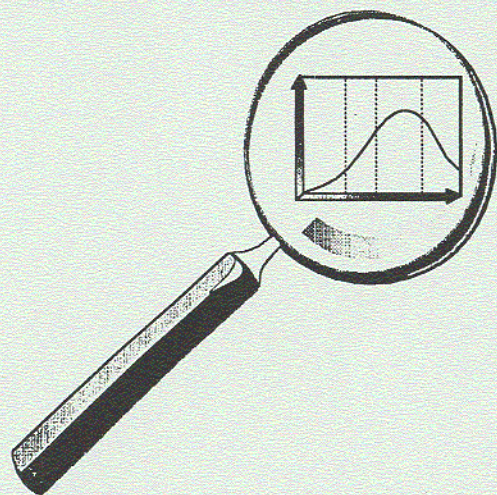


# Radical Statistics 61



Winter 95

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 **Andrew Philpott Morgan** 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. Please consult the contact people below if you wish to get involved. Use the newsletter to advertise if you wish to start a new group

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#### The Troika

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This newsletter was edited by **Andrew Philpott Morgan**.

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Deadline for copy: 31st May 1996.

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For general correspondence write to:

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*Radical Statistics* is available by subscription. Current rates are £5 per year for low waged (self defined) and £12 for waged and overseas, and £20 for institutions. The cost to the unwaged is £3.

#### Note the new subscription rates

This news letter is available from the Radical Statistics Group, c/o London Hazards Centre, Interchange Studios, Dalby Street, London NW5 3NQ

*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.

#### Editor of Newsletter No. 62

**Andrew Philpott Morgan**,

Lower Maisonette, 20 Dunollie Road, London, NW5 2XP. Tel: (0171) 813 4565.

Deadline for copy: 31st May 1996

For those with access to computers the next editor will take contributions preferably on 3.5" DOS discs, using Wordperfect, Microsoft Word, Lotus Pro, T<sub>E</sub>X or ASCII text mentioning the hardware the discs were prepared on. Please also include a hard copy of the contribution. Ideally use 2 cm margins, Bookman (or alternative) 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.

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## What needs to be done

1. Make a contribution to RS62: 31st May 1996
2. Drag out that article/book review and send it to the next editor
3. Think of which broadsheet needs to be written for the general election
4. Think of a contribution you can make at next AGM

CALL FOR PAPERS

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## Radical Statistics annual meeting

Coram's fields London WC1 • Saturday 22 February 1997

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### **Numbers into Policy**

• agenda for a new government

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BY THE TIME of next year's AGM we will either have a new government or be on the brink of one.

What light can statistics shed on needs, and on policies to fulfil them?

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**Please send proposals for contributions to**

*Radical Statistics*  
c/o London Hazards Centre, Interchange Studios,  
Dalby Street, London NW5 3NQ

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Details of how to book will appear in a later edition  
of *Radical Statistics*

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# Misleading use of statistics - a series of broadsheets

*Alison Macfarlane*

With the next general election getting nearer, the party political machines are gearing themselves up to convince the electorate that they are right and everyone else is lying. As usual, statistics play a major role. The claims which are beginning to emerge, for example 'more nurses than in 1979', have an all too familiar ring, to us at least, but what about the public?

At the AGM, we discussed the proposal that we put together a series of 'broadsheets' to expose misleading uses of statistics on key topics. We have done this before. The Education Group produced an excellent four page broadsheet, illustrated with apposite cartoons, about schools league tables. In the run up to the 1992 general election, the Health Group produced a two page broadsheet challenging statistical claims of 'a growing health service'. This was less exciting graphically, and would have been more use if we had done it earlier, but it was circulated and used by sympathetic groups.

The AGM concluded that we should start now, tackle a larger range of subjects and think about how to circulate the broad sheets more widely. The Health Group already has a draft leaflet on the privatisation of the NHS and ideas for others, but more are needed. That is only one area of interest. We need volunteers to put together broad sheets on other subjects, education, crime, transport ... and so on.