

---

## ***Publication of Data in Society***

**Jeff Evans, Sally Ruane and Humphrey Southall**

As we write we are at the very end stage of finalising the manuscript for Policy Press. It's a big operation with twenty eight chapters and six sections as well as a book Introduction and Foreword by Danny Dorling. Even with the usual challenges of coordinating the activity of around 35 authors plus a score of reviewers, all working to very different timetables and under a great variety of institutional and other pressures, we have found our contributors amazing: keen to be part of the book and really responsive. The originators of this book – attending dedicated RadStats meetings back in 2015 and 2016 – wanted to see a volume which embraced the fact that statistics are no longer largely the preserve of the state, given the expansion of the role of corporations in our society with the associated corporate acquisition of data, and the evolution of the new tech giants which have generated (and captured) data through the new social media. Of course, these developments give rise to important questions about the ownership, control and management of data as well as of accountability. The book addresses and reflects these developments and these challenges.

It would be invidious to single out contributors but readers can expect a diversity of subject matter, all written as accessibly as possible. We wanted the book to be accessible to a reasonably well-informed literate public and to undergraduate students as well as to senior academics and those practitioners in statistics who have an interest the social forces which shape the data we have and the statistics we produce. By the time you read this, the book will be with Policy Press and is scheduled for publication in August this year; and we shall advertise this at the Conference. It is called *Data in Society: Challenging Statistics in an Age of Globalisation* and is edited by Jeff Evans, Sally Ruane and Humphrey Southall.

Jeff, Sally and Humphrey  
January 2019