
Florence Nightingale's Bicentenary

Eilenn Magnello

Florence Nightingale's Bicentenary will take place over the course of 2020, and a number of organisations will be celebrating her many accomplishments as a statistician, as someone who reformed nursing and set up the School of Nursing, hospital architect, founder of the Red Cross and much more.

On 17 November 2018, a meeting was held in Manchester for the editorial team of RadStats. I raised the idea that RadStats might want to get involved with the Bicentenary at their AGM in 2020, especially as Nightingale was a radical statistician. After all, she was the first person to insist that those soldiers and officers who died in wartime should be counted. Moreover, she established the first Statistical Department of the British Army and became the first woman to be made a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and Member of the American Statistical Association.

The editorial team agreed that RadStats would like to celebrate Florence Nightingale's role as a statistician at their AGM in 2020 and the meeting will be held in London.

We are looking for speakers who are radical statisticians whose work uses the kind of statistics that Nightingale used. This includes nursing, public health, hospital and medical statistics, data visualisation, official statistics and the census. Following this Bicentenary meeting, RadStats will establish an annual Florence Nightingale's Statistical Lecture to be given at their AGMs.

I am also interested in establishing Nightingale Statistical Lectures in universities across the UK. The Department of Statistics at Oxford has long had an annual Florence Nightingale Statistics Lecture.

If you are interested in speaking at the AGM in 2020 or in establishing an annual Florence Nightingale Lecture, please email me at: MEileenMagnello@aol.com

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I am, in fact, organising a three-day academic meeting on Nightingale, which will be held in late June or early July 2020.

Day 1: A meeting will be held at the Royal Statistical Society. Speakers will include a number of statisticians whose work uses the kind of statistics that Nightingale used. This includes nursing, public health, hospital and medical statistics, data visualisation, official statistics and the census. Following this meeting, the RSS will establish an annual Florence Nightingale's Statistics Day.

Day 2 will involve historians who will talk on a variety of topic that include nursing, statistics (including data visualisation), hospital design and architecture, her religious thinking, her political views, the Crimean War, her knowledge of India and more.

Day 3 will be about Florence Nightingale's new legacies that will be established by a fairly large number of organisations. It will also be about making Nightingale relevant in the 21st century.

The meetings on Days 2 and 3 either be held at the Wellcome Building or at King's College, London.