
EDITORIAL

Contents of this Issue

There is only one proper article in this issue - a very interesting account of the genesis and current state of inequality and poverty in Cameroon by Dave Drew. This followed by the Report of the Commission on the Future of Radical Statistics which will be discussed on Saturday 29th February in London after the Conference on Friday 28th February (see pages 34-36).

Prospects for RSN 126

We have had only one article for this issue (RSN 125) and, of course, absolutely nothing is available for the next issue RSN 126, due late May 2020. Once again, we urge presenters at the upcoming Conference to provide a write up of their presentation however short.

Given that - with one honourable exception (Ridgeway) – NONE of the other presenters at the 2019 Liverpool Conference provided a paper, despite two reminders from the Editors, the Future of Radical Statistics Commission is proposing a relatively novel procedure of archiving and profiting from the presentations at this and future Conferences (see page 31).

Another proposal for generating material is the recent publication of the third RadStats compendium, *Data in Society*, which will be presented by the books' editors on Saturday 28th. It is a landmark publication, bringing together many of the crucial issues around the production and use of quantitative information.

The contributors to *Data in Society* summarise many of the concerns around the accessibility and use of statistics in contemporary society. Examples include the lack of data from banking and financial organisations hides the extent of tax evasion of taxation. Government agencies are reducing the number of data series they make available for public scrutiny. The number of healthcare treatments in Britain provided by private groups is growing steadily.

The book is an eye-opener on the difficulties in holding governments and large organisations to account. Do you agree with the authors' interpretations?

As the editors acknowledge there are data topics the volume does not cover in detail. These include the use of statistics by legal practitioners, housing and homelessness data and climate change data.

The editors of the RadStats journal are planning to devote one journal issue to topics raised by *Data in Society*, and to topics not discussed in the book. Could you write an article for the journal on any of the topics above? Are there are areas of debate missing from *Data in Society*?

Roy Carr-Hill