

Statistical excellence in journalism – 2008 winners

The 2008 awards recognise work published in the period 1 January 2007 to 30 September 2007.

Print/online articles

First prize – Chris Giles

‘Lies, Damn Lies and Befuddlement’ – Financial Times, 27 July 2007

Article looked at the difficulties facing official statisticians in compiling measures to capture the value of the business sector.

RSS vice-president, Sheila Bird said:

‘The article has made an important contribution by highlighting the challenges faced by statisticians in defining and choosing what will be measured, and the impact those decisions make.’

Joint second prize – Peter Aldhous

‘Sex offenders: throwing away the key’ – New Scientist, 24 February 2007

Article analysed the controversial issue of indefinite detention of sex offenders in the US justice system.

Joint second prize – Martin Wolf

‘The new capitalism’ – Financial Times, 19 June 2007

Article discussed the transformation of the world’s financial system in recent decades.

Broadcast

BBC Radio 4’s The World Tonight

3 September 2007 broadcast on the estimation of conflict death tolls, particularly Iran and Darfur, and the differing responses of politicians to these figures.

RSS president, David Hand said:

‘The programme gave a valuable insight into the power of modern statistical methods.’