The nation in focus

The routes to economic growth

When journalists become the news

Which way for the coalition?

Education fair for all?
ESRC research making an impact

**Society Now** offers a readable, intelligent, concise overview of issues concerning society. Written by journalists, academics and other experts, the magazine explores and explains the ESRC’s research and its impact, reaching a wide range of readers from the private sector, academia, government and the general public.

**Society Now** is published three times a year and is free to subscribe. For more information see www.esrc.ac.uk/societynow

**Society Now - making sense of society**
While 2012 will be remembered as the year of Britain’s greatest sporting successes, we are still in the grip of a global recession, there is uncertainty about how growth can be stimulated and growing disaffection with politicians and our political system. In this context, Britain in 2013 reflects on the country’s most pressing issues and offers possible solutions to the many problems British society faces. Britain in 2013 is the annual magazine of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and showcases the research funded by the ESRC through the contributions of leading academics, directors of research investments and expert journalists and writers.

In the Environment section, Professor Nicholas Stern makes the case for Britain increasing the speed of its response to climate change. In Public Services, Professor Carol Propper examines hospital mergers, while Professor Simon Burgess looks at the effectiveness of Ofsted’s inspection system. Moving on to Money & Business, management and economics experts Amanda Goodall and Ganna Pogrebna ask: What can businesses learn from Formula 1 racing? Britain’s retail sector comes under the focus of Neil Wrigley and Michelle Lowe, and in Jobs & Growth economics expert Romesh Vaitilingam looks at whether lessons from the past can help Britain’s economy grow. Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies Paul Johnson also considers the tough choices Britain faces and the fiscal adjustments needed to create a secure future for all.

Politics & Governance moves north with ESRC experts on politics and devolution offering their views on the possible outcomes of the 2014 referendum on Scottish independence for the people of England and Scotland. In Science & Wellbeing scientists assess how advances in science change the way we think about ourselves and create difficult ethical issues for clinicians, and in the Society section, with Britain still basking in the glow of the 2012 Olympics, social science experts revisit the social mobility enigma and ask: If politicians from all parties agree that British society is unequal, why is it proving so hard to change?

In a time of unprecedented change in the news industry, the former Editor of the Independent, Professor Ian Hargreaves, shows in Culture, Media & Sport that despite the many threats there will always be a need for the craft of good journalism – trustworthy, accurate reporting. And in our International section, Professor Paul Collier, one of the leading experts in the field of world development, explains why it is important that the UK continues to provide aid to developing countries, even in a time of austerity.

We hope you enjoy reading Britain in 2013 and welcome your comments or suggestions – email us at britain@esrc.ac.uk
06
Are we reacting to global warming quickly enough?

19 PUBLIC SERVICES
19 Failure to connect
22 OPINION
   Could do better
23 Keep up the good work
24 A healthy comparison
24 Lessons in life
25 Turning a blind eye
26 Lending a helping hand
26 On the edge of care
27 A good incentive
28 What price education?
29 OPINION
   Combat support

30 MONEY & BUSINESS
30 In the fast track
34 OPINION
   A united front?
35 Regional variations
36 Pensions for the masses
37 The competitive edge
37 Evasive action
38 Tailor made
38 Money worries
39 Who saves for retirement?
40 Bad Apple?
41 OPINION
   Retail therapy

42 JOBS & GROWTH
42 Can we fix it?
46 OPINION
   Deep stall
47 Recession and diet
48 Driving test
48 Working or shirking
49 New arrivals
50 Back to the future
50 A greener vision
51 After effects
52 OPINION
   The money merry-go-round

56 POLITICS & GOVERNANCE
56 State of independence
60 OPINION
   Uneasy bedfellows
61 House proud
62 Power to the people
63 Competition versus co-operation
64 A lost generation
65 A matter of trust
65 Under scrutiny
66 Fit to govern?
67 You scratch my back, I might scratch yours...
68 OPINION
   Trigger happy people
37
The laws for tax havens are changing

56
The consequences of independence

96
How socially mobile is Britain?

82
SCIENCE & WELLBEING
82 Baby boom or bust?
86 OPINION
Bonfire of the quangos
87 A changing world
88 The brain drain
88 Super burger
89 Code breakers
90 A whole lotta bottle
90 Managing the mutations
91 Running in the family
92 Regulating the robot
93 OPINION
Is austerity all bad?

96
SOCiETY
96 The pursuit of social mobility
100 OPINION
You gotta have faith
101 Under pressure
102 Socially minded
102 Bleak expectations
103 Being British
104 Value judgements
104 The power of peers
105 Why breast is best
106 Universal Credit challenge
107 OPINION
Identity in focus

108
CULTURE, MEDIA & SPORT
108 Legacy of a lifetime
112 OPINION
Read all about it!
113 A sporting chance
114 Hands off!
114 Art or crime?
115 Policing the pirates
116 Body perfect
116 A match not made in heaven
117 Act your age!
118 Poetic licence
119 OPINION
What's mine isn't yours

120
INTERNATIONAL
120 Natural assets
124 OPINION
Paying dividends
125 An age-old dilemma
126 The truth about rendition
126 A poor outlook
127 Filthy lucre
128 A healthy option for Africa
128 Shame on you
129 Bad influences
130 OPINION
Paying dividends

Portraits of Britain
Turn to pages 54-55 & 94-95 for our prize-winning photos