



BILL BRYSON
A well-travelled immigrant

THATCHER'S CHILDREN
The Generation-Xers come of age

MENTAL HEALTH
Still the 'Cinderella' service of the NHS?

Britain in 2016

ESSENTIAL RESEARCH ON THE ISSUES THAT MATTER



SETTING THE PACE?

Nations jostle for influence in a year of Olympic challenges

LONDON'S LEGACY

Does anyone want to host the games any more?

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WELCOME TO BRITAIN IN 2016



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50 YEARS OF SHAPING SOCIETY

Britain in 2016, the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) magazine, shows how scientific research is examining and influencing Britain today. This issue, we look at Britain's place in today's world – turn to page 68. Who are our allies? How is the global power balance changing? What are the new threats to economic and political stability? And what should we be doing to tackle highly complex issues such as the migration crisis in Europe that have their roots and influences in countries thousands of miles away, and were borne out of events many years ago?

At a European level, experts examine the possible outcome of the promised referendum on EU membership (page 12) and, if the vote is to leave, how Britain's place in the world could be affected.

Although the recovery from the recession is under way, we are not out of the woods yet. On page 104 we consider the best funding channels for investors and firms that would deliver investment, innovation and growth. Turn to page 48 to see what investments in skills, infrastructure and innovation are the key ingredients in Britain's future prosperity. A country's stock of skills matters greatly for continued economic growth: education experts examine the best ways to increase pupil motivation to gain these skills (page 122). Green issues have moved lower down the political agenda yet the imperative to find new sources of energy has not gone away. Is the dream of a renewable energy future closer to becoming a reality (page 76)?

Mental health is an increasingly severe problem and more support is needed for mental health services, particularly for the young (page 88). How could customising approaches lead to better outcomes for mental health sufferers? And, in the new era of data everywhere, we look at how the available data on business, government and society can help businesses become more successful, and society work better (page 28).

We hope you enjoy reading *Britain in 2016*, and discovering how social science research is shaping British society.

Nick Stevens

Editor, Britain in 2016



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YOUR VIEWS:

We'd love to hear what you think about Britain in 2016. To fill in a short survey, please go to www.esrc.ac.uk/britainin2016



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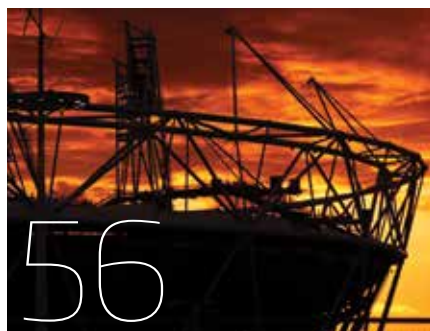
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