Sixty years of change
Britain during the Queen’s reign

Seven days of science: Showcasing research
Under pressure: Regulating emotions
Voices: The changing face of charities and giving
Welcome

Welcome to the Summer issue of Society Now, the ESRC’s regular magazine which showcases the impact of the social science we fund.

As the UK and the Commonwealth marked Queen Elizabeth II’s Diamond Jubilee this Summer, ESRC experts give their views on the great changes that have taken place in British society in the 60 years since she was crowned.

Academics offer their views on how the socioeconomic gap in university attendance can be reduced and, in the run-up to Rio+20, examine the multiple pathways that are needed to meet global sustainability challenges.

We highlight the new Seven Days of Social Science videos that showcase the breadth of our research, and take a look at a BBC online test that uses ESRC-funded research to investigate how people handle tasks under stress.

And Professor Cathy Pharoah explains how recession has affected charities and considers how generous we are.

I hope you find the magazine enjoyable and informative. Please do email us with your feedback or ideas for content.

Nick Stevens, Editor - nick.stevens@esrc.ac.uk

In this issue

REGULARS

3 News
18 Opinions

Responding to global sustainability challenges; Closing the university attendance socioeconomic gap

20 The UK by numbers: Energy and waste
29 Information and updates
People, publications, news in brief, websites and events

FEATURES

10 Sixty years of change
How has Britain changed in the 60 years since Queen Elizabeth II was crowned and is it for the better? ESRC experts on economics, health, education, migration, politics and family give their views on whether we’ve ‘never had it so good’ as Britain in the 1950s

22 Seven days of science
The ESRC Seven Days video series showcases the breadth of our research by exploring the themes of the well-known ‘Monday’s child is fair of face’ nursery rhyme

24 Performance under pressure
A new BBC online test investigates whether an athlete’s techniques for mental preparation and the regulation of emotions can be learned to improve performance in other situations

26 Voices: The changing face of charity
Professor Cathy Pharoah explains how recession has affected charities’ income, who the biggest donors are, whether there are simply too many charities vying for the same pot of money and how generous we are as a nation

CONTRIBUTORS

Martin Ince is a freelance science writer, media adviser and media trainer. He was previously deputy editor of the Times Higher Education Supplement, now THE

Jake Anders is an economics PhD Student at the Institute

Melissa Leach is Professorial Fellow at IDS, University of Sussex and STEPS Centre Director

Adrian Ely is Head of Impact and Engagement at the STEPS Centre
Almost half of the UK’s Black Caribbean citizens do not feel that the British political system has treated them fairly, according to a new study. “Many people may be surprised to learn that in the UK it is Black Caribbeans, not Muslims, who are the group in British society who feel most alienated and disaffected,” says researcher Professor Anthony Heath.

Findings are based on interviews and questionnaires conducted among just under 3,000 people drawn from the UK’s five main minority groups (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black African and Black Caribbean). These ethnic minority groups were sampled as a complement to the British election study (Bes) which surveys the attitudes and behaviour of the British electorate at every General Election.

The survey reveals that ethnic minority groups feel a strong duty to vote and are generally (with the exception of Black Caribbeans) more satisfied with, and more trusting of, British democracy than the white British. Moreover, the great majority of those surveyed claimed to ‘feel’ British.

“We found a considerable increase across generations in the sense of British identity, with the great majority of second-generation minorities having dual ethnic and British identities,” explains Professor Heath. “We also found large generational increases among ethnic minorities in terms of their fluency in the English language, in British citizenship and in social contact with the white British – all of which casts doubt on claims that minorities in Britain lead parallel lives.”

But researchers did identify some distinctive political concerns among minority groups. “Unemployment was a far bigger concern among minority groups than the white British,” Professor Heath points out. “We also found shared ethnic minority concern with securing equal opportunities and overcoming prejudice and discrimination. That these distinct ethnic concerns are not currently reflected in the mainstream political agenda is significant as it may be fuelling feelings of exclusion, alienation and dissatisfaction held by some of our young, particularly Black Caribbean, citizens.”

Professor Heath suggests that policymakers’ focus on terrorism means they are neglecting important issues in the lives of the UK’s young ethnic minority voters. “We found clear evidence that young Black men – who are not at all attracted by terrorism – feel that British society does not treat them equally and does not provide them with equal opportunities,” he says. “Rather, they face discrimination in the labour market, from the police and in society. And none of the mainstream political parties appear to be taking concerns regarding discrimination and equality seriously.

“Finding ways to reintegrate these alienated young people who feel they have no stake in society, no job and no future is the real challenge that policymakers need to address,” says Professor Heath. “If people (whether from the majority or minority group) are unable to get what they think is a fair hearing for their grievances through conventional political channels, then we should not be surprised if they find other channels for dissent.”

Contact Professor Anthony Heath, University of Manchester
Email anthony.heath@nuffield.ox.ac.uk
Telephone 01865 533512
ESRC Grant Number RES-062-23-1953-A
CITIES IN RECESSION
What has been the impact of the recession on cities and households? A new study will use quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a systematic comparison of the experience of two English cities, Bristol and Liverpool. Researchers aim to develop our understanding of the relationship between economic crisis, global connectivity and the transnational processes shaping cities and the everyday lives of residents.

PERFORMING FOR PAY
Researchers will investigate the incidence and effects of Performance-Related Pay (PRP) in Britain using the latest available firm-level data and data linking employees to firms. The study will explore reasons for the incidence and growth of PRP in Britain, the relationship between PRP and firm performance, and consider PRP’s impact on wages and wage distribution.

GREENER HAIRDRESSING
Hairdressers use a lot of energy, water and chemicals. Despite increasing concern about the importance of sustainability, there is little awareness in the hairdressing sector. This study aims to engage hairdressers in developing their own sustainability practices, and as ‘catalytic individuals’ to share practices and ideas for responsible chemical, energy and water use across social networks.

IN BRIEF

The lessons of longer compulsory education

FOLLOWING THE 2008 Education and Skills Act, the participation age in education and training is to be raised to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015. But significant ‘teething’ problems should be expected, according to research into previous legislation from 1944 to 1979 to increase the UK school leaving age.

Findings show that advances in the school leaving age during the twentieth century (to 14 in 1918, to 15 in 1947 and to 16 in 1972) were generally accompanied by bitter dispute and debate, as well as significant problems in terms of the curriculum, pedagogy and teaching materials.

“Research shows that, despite considerable preparations for raising the school leaving-age (ROSLA) in 1972, certain schools and teachers took considerable time to adjust to the changes that occurred,” says researcher Dr Tom Woodin. “Clearly there are significant differences between ROSLA, which meant keeping all children in school for another year, and the planned rise in the participation age which requires young people to engage in an agreed form of education and training. But we still anticipate that similar problems with raising the participation age (RPA) may occur, particularly given a seeming lack of preparation and increasing budgetary constraints.”

There are potential problems with RPA: First, funding has been reduced, new courses and qualifications have been cancelled and preparations for RPA have become more muted. Second, implementation problems are now more likely in view of the weakening position of local education authorities which were originally expected to co-ordinate this work. Third, it is not yet clear exactly how compulsion to participate in education will be enforced.

“Probably the greatest problem is that while voluntary staying-on has increased, with RPA there will be significant pockets of young people who are not adequately catered for, who are unable to locate appropriate learning opportunities and who find themselves isolated on unsuitable courses – a situation that may persist for a number of years,” warns Dr Woodin.

“When the participation age is raised, it is likely to have a number of further unforeseen consequences, fostering access and opportunity for some young people as well as marginalisation for others,” says Dr Woodin. “The long-term challenge posed by RPA is to create meaningful opportunities for all in a highly divided society while taking into consideration the education system as a whole.”

Contact Dr Tom Woodin, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Education, University of London
Email t.woodin@ioe.ac.uk
Telephone 0207 911 5384
ESRC Grant Number RES-062-23-1494
Mixed impacts of FOI Act

THE UK FREEDOM of Information Act (FOI) 2000 was intended to make local authorities more transparent and accountable, more participatory, more effective and more responsive to citizens. In a recent study, researchers from University College London evaluated the performance of FOI in local government in England against these original policy objectives.

Findings show that FOI has increased accountability and transparency, although local government was already very open.

But FOI has not increased public understanding, except at a micro level by revealing the reasons for granting a licence, for example. It has had little impact on public participation and has neither increased nor decreased trust.

The study further shows that FOI has not affected how local government works — local political leadership, local accountability, partnership working and local service provision. “FOI appears to be used day-to-day, to find out about things that matter to people such as allotments, parking and speed bumps,” says researcher Professor Robert Hazell.

IN BRIEF

SMALL FIRM GROWTH
Based on a study of emerging ‘green goods’ industries whose outputs benefit the environment or conserve natural resources, this project explores the growth strategies of innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The international collaboration is led by the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, in conjunction with Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, Beijing Institute of Technology, China and Experian, UK.
ESRC grant number ES/J008303/1
– Innovative Research Initiative

ENDOMETRIOSIS STUDY
Endometriosis is a disabling gynaecological condition affecting two million women in the UK. There is no consensus on what causes endometriosis and there is no definitive cure. Researchers aim to explore the impact of this condition on couples, in particular, and to enhance the wellbeing of people living with endometriosis by providing an evidence base for improving couple support.
ESRC grant number ES/J003662/1

PAIN MANAGEMENT
Long-term pain is experienced by around 62 per cent of older people and is associated with poor quality of life. But older adults often do not seek help for chronic pain. This Fellowship builds on earlier research into the ways in which older adults live with long-term pain, and will disseminate findings on the issues highlighted by that earlier study.
ESRC grant number PTA-026-27-2990
– Postgraduate Fellowship
IN BRIEF

TRAVELLER INCLUSION
This Fellowship aims to contribute to discussions on policies related to Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. These new policy areas include reforms in vocational training and support, community involvement in school governance structures and curricular reform. The study will further explore policies to deliver Traveller sites and community empowerment.

ESRC grant number PTA-026-27-3013 – Postgraduate Fellowship

SCHOOL CHOICE
How do urban South African pupils choose schools and how far do they travel to school? This project will explore the investments of time, effort and money by families to access higher quality educational opportunities. It will help increase understanding of how children from different backgrounds have different levels of access to education.

ESRC grant number ES/1035206/1 – Collaborative Analysis of Microdata Resources – China/South Africa

INNOVATION LESSONS
Over the past five years mutuals and other forms of employee- or user-owned organisations have been portrayed as vehicles for innovation and the improvement of public services. This study will provide evidence on the role of spin-out mutuals in promoting innovation in UK public services. This will provide a high-quality evidence base for spin-out organisations and policymakers.

ESRC grant number ES/J008435/1 – Venture

Sleep solution to problem-solving

EVIDENCE FROM A new study at the University of Lancaster finds that ‘sleeping on it’ can make a difference to solving problems. Researchers tested whether sleep or time awake worked best in helping participants find the solutions to a range of problem-solving tasks. Participants attempted easy and difficult verbal insight problems and, after 12 or 24 hours including sleep, or 12 hours awake, returned to problems that were previously unsolved as well as novel problems. The study found that the sleep group solved more previously unsolved difficult problems than the awake group but no sleep-induced improvement was found for easy and novel problems. For easy problems, solution rates were best after 12 hours awake. It seems sleep works best to help solve difficult problems.

Finding a diet that works

HOW DOES FOOD fit into working families’ lives? Researchers from the Institute of Education set out to explore the relationship between being an employed parent and the quality of children’s diets.

Findings show that parents emphasised the importance of fruit and vegetables for a healthy diet. But as children ate in a number of settings as well as at home, parents were not always willing or able to control what children ate. Researcher Dr Rebecca O’Connell says: “Particularly for working parents, childcare settings are a key environment in which children’s food habits are nurtured and their preferences fostered. And at home, children themselves may have considerable influence over what is eaten”.

Providing healthy food at home was not always a priority for busy parents. “In practice, on some occasions parents placed greater importance on fostering children’s independence and self-control, ensuring they ate something rather than nothing and avoiding arguments or children developing ‘hang-ups’,” says Dr O’Connell.

While campaigns aimed at improving child nutrition target families, this study suggests that policymakers need to consider the constraints of parents’ busy lives and the role that other settings and commercial interests also play in shaping children’s diets. The findings suggest that instead of regulating parents, efforts may be better directed at maintaining and strengthening policies that ensure schools and childcare settings provide healthy food, and intensifying efforts to control marketing of unhealthy food to children.

Contact
Professor Professor Padraic Monaghan, University of Lancaster
Email p.monaghan@lancs.ac.uk
Telephone 01524 593913
ESRC Grant Number RES-000-22-4049

Contact
Dr Rebecca O’Connell, Institute of Education, University of London
Email r.oconnell@ioe.ac.uk
Telephone 020 7612 6458
ESRC Grant Number RES-190-25-0010
ESRC/FSA Exploring and Explaining UK Dietary Decisions Programme Fellowship
EMPLOYEES FROM MIDDLE and higher income households are predominantly relying on their employers rather than private insurance or the state to provide a measure of security against sickness and unemployment. A new study explored ways in which couples (homeowners aged 34-55) with above-average household incomes for this group (more than £40,000) engage in private risk-management strategies. Findings suggest that private insurance packages play only a very small part in most people's thinking on how best to ensure income security and protection against risk.

“Those with above-average incomes are often assumed to have access to or seek private forms of risk protection to deal with unemployment, sickness, costs of higher education for children, retirement and infirmity in old age,” explains researcher Professor Jochen Clasen. “But evidence suggests that despite being financially able, many households do not arrange insurance to protect themselves against the loss or significant reduction of income.”

Findings reveal that, rightly or wrongly, many better-off households believe that their employers will provide them with more financial support than is legally required if they fall ill or are made redundant. Scarcely any of those interviewed factored public benefits into their thinking.

“Over recent years there has been an expectation that private insurance would play an increasingly important role in people's financial planning strategies but this hasn't happened perhaps partly because people are suspicious of private insurance.

“Now we have the unsatisfactory situation where many middle-income and better-off households have only a vague notion of what their pension is worth or how they would cope financially should they fall ill. At the same time, there is little systematic information available on the protection offered by employers and whether this is changing as a result of the current financial climate. One of the key findings of our study of public/private provision is the discrepancy between the need to rely on market provision and the lack of market transparency,” says Professor Clasen.

Researchers conclude that private insurance is not being taken up to replace reduced public welfare provision. Analysis of large-scale survey data shows that the part played by private insurance markets in the security packages of better-off households has not increased over the past 15 years.

MORE THAN 200,000 Britons have been conned by romance scammers, says a new study. Some victims of internet dating fraud have been duped out of sums up to £240,000, although often these crimes go unreported and hidden.

In this newly emerging crime, criminals take on fake identities and initiate a relationship through online dating sites with the intention to defraud their victims of money, explains researcher Professor Monica Whitty. Criminals groom their victims by developing very close relationships via Instant Messenger and email.

Research reveals that victims experience significant emotional distress as well as financial losses. In some cases the psychological trauma experienced by victims is so severe that they attempt suicide. “It’s our view that the trauma caused by this scam is worse than any other, because of the double hit experienced by victims – loss of monies and a ‘romantic relationship’,” says Professor Whitty.

Most victims experience deep shame when they learn they have been scammed which often deters them from reporting the crime and can make them vulnerable to a second wave of the scam. “New methods of reporting this crime are therefore needed,” Professor Whitty concludes.

Contact Professor Monica Whitty,
University of Leicester
Email mw229@le.ac.uk
Telephone 0116 229 7329
ESRC Grant Number RES-000-22-4022

Contact Professor Jochen Clasen,
University of Edinburgh
Email jochen.clasen@ed.ac.uk
Telephone 0131 650 9922
ESRC Grant Number RES-062-23-1954
The growing practice of ‘hands-off’ and ‘no-touch’ sports coaching may have negative implications for the continued recruitment of coaches, their effectiveness, and also for the development of healthy relationships between adults and children through participation in sport, suggests new research. Ultimately, this could affect levels of achievement in both elite performance and, more important, general participation in sport.

Interviews carried out with over 60 coaches around the UK, in sports such as football, gymnastics and swimming, have revealed that coaches are overwhelmed with confusing rules about what constitutes ‘appropriate behaviour’, leaving them too scared to have any physical contact with their pupils. Many are afraid of breaching often contradictory child protection guidelines or being investigated for assault or abuse.

“The policing of self and others in relation to child protection now appears to be at least as highly valued as coaching effectiveness,” says researcher Professor Heather Piper. The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 do not mention touching as such, but the central role of the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) in promoting child protection as a priority over the wider goals of sports organisations seems to have contributed strongly to the ratcheting-up of regulatory pressure, arguably to an unhelpful extent.

In the course of the study, researchers elicited accounts from coaches who feel they are no longer trusted to be with or near young people. The perceived risk of accusation has led some to withdraw entirely from coaching. Researchers conclude that the unique position of the CPSU should be reconsidered and its effects examined. “Sport is the only context where such a unit operates,” says Professor Piper. “Other contexts such as schools, play groups and youth organisations follow ‘regular’ child protection procedures – and seem more able to maintain an appropriate balance.”
Migrants lack school ‘choice’

NEW RESEARCH INTO the issues that concern parents when choosing schools for their children highlights the difficulties that some migrants experience in the process of school choice. Researchers interviewed migrants who had recently arrived in Britain and those who had been resident for longer periods. While these are clearly very diverse groups, interviews revealed that current policy emphasis on parents exercising choice in their children’s schooling presents particular issues for those who have had their own schooling elsewhere.

Researcher Dr Bridget Byrne says: ‘For some, their attempts to integrate their children into the school system had caused particular stress and showed that they did not have the necessary social and cultural resources to navigate the process successfully. While migrants have a high degree of investment in their children’s education, they are disadvantaged in specific ways due to lack of knowledge and information.’

IN BRIEF

HARD TO COMPREHEND
Ten per cent of 7-11 year olds in mainstream schools have specific difficulties with reading comprehension, despite age-appropriate levels of reading accuracy, fluency, and phonological skills. Identifying the reason for comprehension failure is essential to avoiding the risk of poor educational attainment. New research will explore poor comprehenders’ eye movements to understand when and why comprehension fails.

ESRC grant number RES-000-22-4652

BROADBAND BENEFITS
East Africa was the world’s last major region without fibre-optic internet access. Since Summer 2009 the region has been connected giving much greater broadband speeds at much lower prices. This project examines expectations and perceived effects of broadband connectivity in Kenya and Rwanda in tea production, ecotourism and business process outsourcing.

ESRC grant number RES-167-25-6701 – ESRC/DFID Programme Fellowship

SEX WORK RISKS
Little is known about sexual risk behaviour among rural Female Sex Workers (FSWs) compared to their urban counterparts. This study develops a novel FSW typology for the comparative analysis of behavioural risk factors and socio-demographic characteristics in rural and urban settings of transactional sex in Indonesia. Findings will inform HIV interventions aimed at reaching FSWs working in both urban and rural areas.

ESRC grant number ES/K004898/1 – Postgraduate Fellowship

High costs of food bargains

OBESITY AND FOOD waste pose significant problems for modern society. New research from the University of East Anglia highlights how the pricing practices of supermarkets may contribute to these ills.

“Consumers overbuy and overeat unhealthy food yet don’t seem to change their behaviour,” researcher Professor Paul Dobson points out. “We were interested in finding out whether supermarket price promotions exacerbate this problem by focusing offers on unhealthy food.”

Researchers examined the use of pricing techniques used by supermarkets that may tempt consumers to overbuy, including, for example, multiple unit pricing offers such as ‘buy one get one free’, ‘three for the price of two’ or price promotions that steer consumers towards unhealthy food.

Detailed analysis of price promotions at four of the UK’s leading supermarket retailers shows a modest bias towards sugary products for price promotions and that straight discounts tend to be skewed towards unhealthy items. Highly prominent deals, notably ‘buy one get one free’ tend to be on relatively unhealthy products.

Researchers suggest that shoppers should aim to be smarter in how they shop by, for example, not only hunting for bargains but checking ingredients as well as buying only what is needed. “Price promotions are extensively used by all major retailers and for all product categories so consumers need to shop carefully, avoid unhealthy promotions and focus more on the healthy food promotions,” says Professor Dobson.

“It’s simply irresponsible for supermarkets to overly promote very high-fat and high-sugar foods,” he argues. Supermarkets must play a far greater role in promoting healthy diets by practising responsible marketing while the food industry must do more to reduce the fat, sugar and salt content of processed foods. “Responsibility lies with both retailers and producers otherwise government interventions such as a fat tax or sugar tax – although challenging to implement – must be considered,” he concludes.
Sixty years of change

This Summer, Britain and the Commonwealth celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. How has Britain changed in the 60 years since she was crowned and is it for the better? Martin Ince asks ESRC experts on economics, health, education, migration, politics and family

On 6 February 1952, Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II, on the death of her father George VI. This year she celebrates 60 years on the throne, three fewer than Queen Victoria, but ahead of any other British monarch.

The Queen's Jubilee year is bound to prompt thoughts about how the United Kingdom has changed during her reign. Few would exchange 1952, and a nation still recovering from the most catastrophic war in history, for 2012, despite the tricky economic and political climate we now face. But what deeper changes have affected the UK and its people in this period?

ESRC experts from a range of fields who were asked to ponder this issue agreed on one thing. Britain is a more informal and less deferential place than it was in 1952. We no longer think that MPs, teachers, doctors and other authority figures are automatically right. Whether this is a sign of a better-educated, more confident nation, or of a collapse of respect and social order, is perhaps a matter of taste.

As Paul Whiteley, Professor of politics, university of Essex, explains (see box), one effect of this reduced deference is seen in our turbulent political system. Election turnouts have fallen, and voters are more inclined to look beyond the Labour and Conservative parties on polling day. This means that big parliamentary majorities are becoming a thing of the past, while debate becomes more shrill. Jeremy Paxman’s combative interview style, says Professor Whiteley, would never have been acceptable in 1950s Britain. At the same time, the public relations machinery used to manage political opinion has grown massively. As Professor Whiteley sees it: “A lot of politics runs on a postmodern view that there is no real truth. It’s all in the mind, so you can guide public opinion about the issues.”

Another effect of the collapse of deference is the trend for more voters to support extreme or new parties, such as the Greens, Respect or UKIP. “Although the first-past-the-post electoral system inhibits new parties, it is possible to imagine a successor to UKIP becoming a serious political party to the right of the Tories,” Professor Whiteley says. “The current recession is a recruiting sergeant for extreme parties.”

He adds that another important trend of the past 60 years has been the reduced power and prestige of local government. One way of strengthening democracy would be to allow more local taxation – a step Professor Whiteley sees as more valuable than the misguided idea of directly elected mayors. Weakened local government has reduced the visibility and influence of political parties, adding further to their loss of authority. “In many countries, most politicians are local. Here they are not, and that weakens the political system.”

On a bigger scale, the UK political scene during Elizabeth II’s reign has been marked by two major power shifts. One is towards Brussels: the UK joined what is now the European Union in 1973 and since then has become what Whiteley terms ‘a multilevel governance state’ with power shared between Brussels, London and elsewhere, and this is a change of which the public is very aware.

The second big change – devolution within the UK – is symptomatic of new trends in political opinion. In 1952, Plaid Cymru and the Scottish National Party were politically invisible. Now they have taken support from Labour and the Tories,
The Queen’s Jubilee year prompts thoughts about how the United Kingdom has changed during her reign.
winning power in their own nations and damaging the big parties’ chances of a Westminster majority.

But one thing that has not changed in British life is the close connection between political and economic success. As recent elections in continental Europe show, it is hard for a government to stay in power in an era of mass unemployment, raging inflation or other economic bad news.

Going global
Professor John Van Reenen of the Centre for Economic Performance points out that Britain was shedding a world empire in 1952, and since then has adapted well to the globalised economy. While it has been in economic decline relative to its main competitors, this downward drift was reversed by reforms after 1979 to toughen competition and make the labour market more flexible. The emphasis on quality and good management that overseas investment has brought was also helpful. The Nissan factory in Sunderland, for example, is the most productive car plant in Europe.

Despite this success, the UK economy is still less productive than those of France, Germany or the US. The UK also exports less to China and other emerging nations.

Professor Van Reenen adds that EU membership has been important to British success over the 40 years since UK accession. As he says, “The UK has about one per cent of the world’s population. Being in the EU allows it access to the world’s biggest single market, which takes over 40 per cent of our exports. It also provides competition for British firms that helps them to improve, and has allowed people more freedom to come here to work. Of course there are some burdensome regulations as the downside of EU membership. But there are also big advantages. The UK on its own could never go out and negotiate a trade deal with Brazil or other major countries in the way the EU does.”

He points out that throughout the past century the UK has lost out through having lower levels of intermediate and basic skills than its major competitors. This means that the current debate about ‘rebalancing’ the economy in favour of manufacturing and exporting is misleading. Throughout the post-war period, the UK has exported too little, and it could be that we now need more export-oriented manufacturing. But the UK
has been a financial centre for far longer. Professor Van Reenen regards finance as an area where Britain should use its competitive edge. “The UK is good at finance and also at other business services such as the law, advertising and consultancy. These are high-value, export-oriented businesses that should remain a priority,” he says.

Nobody knows how the UK will fare in the current economic crisis. But Professor Van Reenen points to research showing that the country has relatively high levels of ‘intangible capital’, for example in ICT, basic science, and economic competencies. These make up to some degree for its low levels of investment in equipment and buildings.

But he adds that the UK has a long history of being slow at the kind of gradual innovation that has helped economies such as Germany to improve. The country is fine at big Nobel-winning discoveries, but less good at steady but sure incremental improvement.

**Universal education?**

The UK’s ability to educate its elites well – and everybody else rather poorly – has been noted since Victorian times. The abolition of grammar schools and the massive growth of university education have improved matters, but the problem remains.

Professor Simon Burgess of the ESRC Centre for Market and Public Organisation (CMPO) at the University of Bristol points to an even bigger influence on the British school system: the prevalence of real or artificial market forces, driven by league tables and the idea of the student (in fact the parent) as customer. While the switch away from grammar schools is the biggest post-war change to the education system, there have been a string of others such as the development of academies, free schools and City Technology Colleges. These changes have one thing in common, says Professor Burgess: “They are all driven from the top, by politicians. This is overwhelmingly a public service. While it has been growing, the scope for parents to express their preferences is still limited. Successive secretaries of state have thought that they have the answer and have brought in systemic reforms of one kind or another.”

These changes, he adds, are driven by concern for the skills of the future workforce, reflected in continuing fears about ‘standards’. There is also pressure for a less inequitable system, reflected in remarks by politicians of all parties, from parents wanting good schools, and from employers wanting better employees.

By contrast, Professor Burgess says that the teaching profession seems to have been behind the curve most of the time, reacting to changes rather than driving them. It has spent much of its energy fighting marketisation, choice, competition and other trends.

This change has taken place alongside a move towards central control of schools, mirroring the lower status of local government pointed up by Professor Paul Whiteley. “Secretaries of state of all parties think they can do better than local education authorities,” says Professor Burgess. As a result, most secondary schools at least are likely to be controlled by central government in the near future.

Professor Burgess says that increased demand for skills is also behind the huge expansion of university education since 1952, with more students, more institutions, and more diversity. “In the deferential 1950s university was for a certain type of person. Now it is for a far wider group, partly because the financial advantages of a degree have become better appreciated. But things have still not changed enough and there are still some groups that do not participate fully, mainly poor white boys.”
One of the perennial questions, Professor Burgess says, is whether British education is better than it was 60 years ago. Because there is no timeless way of measuring how well people are educated, and because demands on students and young people have changed so much, the question is unanswerable. But one thing is clear – today’s education system still leaves too many people behind, a growing problem as low-skill jobs vanish.

Living longer

By contrast, an unambiguous picture emerges when one looks at the health of the British population during the reign of Elizabeth II. When she ascended the throne, the National Health Service was new. It had been designed to provide acute care, in a world where the poor often had trouble getting basic medical treatment.

Carol Propper, Professor of economics at the CMPO and at Imperial College, London, where she heads the Health Management Group, says that the NHS now exists in a very different world. “The incredible increase in life expectancy that we have seen in the past 60 years means that today’s NHS is expected to deal with a huge amount of chronic disease, for example heart disease. At the same time, growing wealth means more diseases of excess, such as type II diabetes. These conditions have become so common that life expectancy could go into reverse, with today’s children not living as long as their parents.”

Professor Propper points out that the Baby Boomers born early in the second Elizabethan era are the luckiest Britons ever. “The education system, the welfare system and the labour market all worked for them. While some are poor, there are millions of younger and older people with a far worse outlook.” This means trouble for the NHS, especially paying for it. “Breast cancer used to be a deadly disease; now it has a 75-80 per cent survival rate. That means continuing demand for care while people are in remission, including mental health problems. In general, the treatment of mental health problems, alongside the rise in chronic conditions, poses the NHS with huge problems.”

Alongside this change, Propper agrees with her fellow experts that there has been a big decline in public belief in medical practitioners and other professionals. “There is far more consumer questioning, often driven by the web. Chronic sufferers from a disease now know a lot about their condition. They used to be patients, and their job was to be patient. Now they are customers and consumers.”

She sees two big priorities for future UK healthcare. One is efficiency, because of the sheer size and economic importance of the NHS. This will probably mean more reorganisation, as it is still not clear how to organise a centrally-funded service on a basis of equity across the whole country. And because it is cheaper and better to prevent disease than to treat it, there is bound to be more emphasis on public health. This sounds like an obvious good thing, but there are problems in telling people to improve their behaviour. As Professor Propper says, “No politician ever won an election by calling for shorter opening hours for pubs.”

Professor Heather Laurie of the University of Essex says that growing life expectancy is only one of the ways in which the British population has changed in the past 60 years. The changing role of women (see box) is even more important. And while intentional childlessness is still rare, the number of children per household has fallen throughout the period. Mainly because of the number of single older people, there are now only about 1.7 adults per household in the UK. She adds that this number may rise if welfare
spending “hits the buffers” and families have to get used to the idea of multi-generational living. Professor Laurie’s work on British families suggests that the moral panic about low-quality parenting leading to the 2011 rioting in English towns was overdone. She points out that the culprits were from a range of social and cultural backgrounds. The other side of this coin is that children can get the support they need for a good start in life from a wide range of family structures. She says: “We know that children do better with a stable, supportive environment and that parents, especially young mothers, struggle to provide this setting if they are poorly supported themselves. The cost of not supporting them becomes a lot higher later on in life.”

The principal issue which Professor Laurie identifies is that of unemployed young people with poor prospects. Their lifetime employment and earnings outlook can become surprisingly limited at an early age. As well as being socially divisive, the riots showed that this ends up costing a lot if governments do not invest in long-term outcomes.

She adds that the debate over power within families is bound to continue. “The pay gap between men and women is closing and will go on doing so. That makes the question of who goes out to work and who stays at home more difficult.”

By contrast, Professor Laurie thinks that mass immigration, perhaps the most visible change to Britain in the post-war period, may be less sweeping in its social effects than might be imagined. She says: “First-generation immigrants can tend to stick with the community they know, so you get clustered communities. But by the second or third generation, they have often become more integrated.” Indeed, the rest of the UK may be catching up with immigrant communities as it becomes used to multi-generational living. Many immigrant families have always worked this way.

Professor Michael Keith, Director of the ESRC COMPAS centre on migration at Oxford, points out that the UK migration story is a complex and fascinating one. “From about 1948 to 1968 we had mass migration from the Commonwealth. Now we have more specific migration for precise parts of the labour market, and far more migration from Europe. And in the opposite direction, there are over a million UK citizens outside the country but retaining their citizenship, including pensioners, students and people working abroad.”

Professor Keith says that panics over migration are nothing new: Jewish immigrants in 1905 received a hostile reception. More recent mass immigration has met with a range of friendly and wary reactions.

In general, Professor Keith thinks that the UK has done well by world standards at coping with its changing cultural makeup. It has been good at allowing the first generation to have rights and ensuring that the second generation is fully British. He says: “Many places and institutions have been altered by immigration. Leicester is set to be the first majority-minority city. But organisations like the NHS have also changed a lot as their workforce has included more migrant labour.”

At the moment, he points out, London remains a magnet for immigration. But secondary cities are less attractive, while remote areas of England and Scotland still bring in casualised labour for farming and fishing.

He adds that new technology – mainly Skype and the airliner – have changed the immigrant experience a lot. “Being a migrant is less final and definite than in the past because you are still in touch with the community you came from or with its global diaspora. You can be a British Bangladeshi in the East End of London, and feel safer online with your friends in Toronto than you do on your own street.”

Michael Keith’s colleague Professor Helen Margetts, Director of the Oxford Internet Institute, agrees with him on the importance of technological change in British life. She says: “Information technology is an especially good field to look at over 60 years. It takes us back to the time when government was a leader in the early use of computers, for example in social security and the Post Office. These were huge machines running organisations’ large-scale, internal processes. But it was the internet that changed daily life for most people. For the first time, citizens are using – and innovating with – information technology more than governments. You don’t really care if the letter about your driving licence has been generated by a computer, but it does make a difference if you can buy it online rather than queuing at the Post Office. The internet has transformed the way we find information, and therefore has the potential to reshape our relationships with government organisations and with professionals such as doctors and lawyers.”

Professor Margetts says: “Widespread use of the internet has transformed the way British
people do the things we like doing most, such as dating, socialising and shopping. But it has also reinvigorated civic engagement, with new forms of political participation on the rise.”

She adds that in 1952, Britain was a world leader in computing, an advantage that has now mostly vanished. Part of the reason is that UK government culture is not well-attuned to the era of social media. But the UK is a leader at using internet applications developed elsewhere, for example in its takeup of e-commerce and social media.

Professor Margetts thinks that a priority for the UK should be to create enthusiasm for internet-based technologies among children. “There is a tendency to blame the internet for everything bad,” she says, citing Prime Minister David Cameron’s idea of closing Facebook during the 2011 riots in the hope of making the rioters stay at home. Instead of this pessimistic approach, she backs ideas for more schools to teach coding to children and to convey the entrepreneurial excitement of information technology at its best.

Knowing ourselves
Professor Heather Laurie, who runs the UK’s biggest centre for social statistics and data, says that the past 60 years are a short period in which we have seen massive change. One plus point, she thinks, is that the UK’s knowledge of itself has improved over this time, especially our ability to get a proper statistical understanding of complex issues.

An example is work on the intergenerational transmission of major life events within families. It points to severe gaps in opportunity between rich and poor. In the past, the available data would not have revealed these patterns.

And Professor Paul Whiteley points to one thing that has not changed in these six decades: the Queen herself. “She remains very popular. Very few people want to abolish the monarchy. But society is far less deferential to royalty than it was when she came to the throne. She now attracts respect and affection, not deference. That is one symptom of the way in which British people have become more difficult to manage, and more inclined to protest and disagree than they ever were in the past.”

HISTORY OF THE ESRC
For 47 of the past 60 years, the UK has had the ESRC to refine the way it thinks about itself. Debate on the need for social science to have a research council like those for science, medicine and agriculture had begun in the 1940s, when Lord Hailsham warned that it risked being “a happy hunting ground for the bogus and the meretricious”. By 1965 the mood had changed, and the Social Science Research Council opened for business, a symbol of the new Wilson government’s modernising zeal.

The SSRC had an initial budget of £1.2 million, and offices at Blackfriars in London. Now it spends £185 million a year, employs 120 people, and is based in Swindon, where it moved in 1988. And of course, it is called the ESRC, a name change made in 1983 in response to pressure from the Thatcher government.
DISCUSSIONS AT JUNE’S Rio+20 Earth Summit, and the challenges of devising a post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework, raise important questions about the roles of science and politics in global governance – and the links between global and local processes.

The MDGs, signed in 2000 by the heads of 193 UN member states, set ambitious development targets for the global community but focused these on the global ‘South’ within a conventional aid framework, and paid scant attention to environmental sustainability (which was confined to goal seven). A new framework – following the target deadline of 2015 – should, many argue, be more genuinely global in scope and, drawing on emerging earth system science, pay necessary attention to the inextricable links between the environment and every dimension of development.

In the UK, there were calls for leaders like David Cameron to turn up and act at Rio

The scientific framework currently guiding much discussion around sustainability (introduced by an international team led by Johan Rockström at Stockholm Resilience Centre) points to a ‘safe operating space for humanity’, within which our global patterns of development should be steered. But combining this evidence on ‘planetary boundaries’ with the urgent and varying needs of localities and communities around the world requires political debate and negotiation. The pre-Rio global debate did not fully grasp the depth of this challenge, and at how many levels such political engagement was needed.

In the UK, there have been calls for leaders like David Cameron to turn up and act at Rio, yet much of the discussion was essentially about the politics of buying into the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is still little clarity on what the post-MDG agenda should involve, who should set future goals, and how they can be realised in practice. As one of the co-chairs of the committee appointed by Ban Ki Moon to oversee the post-MDG process, David Cameron should realise that this is where the really knotty politics begin.

The global community may agree to ambitious goals, for instance on stabilising global atmospheric CO2 concentrations and reducing the number of people facing hunger. However, especially in low-income and BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India and China) countries, there is already anxiety about how to share the burdens of meeting such goals. Whether SDGs imply the old, industrialised north putting the brakes on others’ development while avoiding costly changes to their own lifestyles and economies is at the centre of global political debates, as it has been in recent climate negotiations.

More problematic still is the question of who is responsible for delivering on SDGs at national and local levels, and the roles that institutions and diverse forms of innovation must play. Here, there are multiple, disputed versions of ‘sustainable development’ that imply different winners and losers. For example, when it comes to combating hunger in various rural settings across the world, does sustainable development mean improving food security through boosting agricultural productivity, using modern plant breeding and genetic engineering to roll out technical solutions at scale? Or does it mean tackling diverse local food insecurities shaped by ecological, market, social and institutional contexts, through farmer-participatory approaches? Will sustainable development be helped by Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) schemes, by securing the livelihoods of forest users while enabling them to benefit from carbon markets? Or will such schemes become ‘green grabs’ that appropriate local resource rights in the interests of global environmental repair?

In reality, these choices are not so clear-cut. Our work at the STEPS Centre argues that multiple, diverse ‘pathways’ will be needed to meet global sustainable development challenges. Not all of these can be pursued because there are inevitably trade-offs and competition between different alternatives. Although scientific and technical considerations play a vital role, resolving these trade-offs is necessarily a game of politics, to be played out through the interactions of ministers and local government, corporations and businesses but also – importantly – citizens and users, NGOs and people’s movements.

The STEPS centre is a global research and policy engagement centre, funded by the ESRC, bringing together development studies with science and technology studies.

Contact Melissa Leach and Adrian Ely, ESRC STEPS Centre, University of Sussex
Email m.leach@sussex.ac.uk / a.v.ely@sussex.ac.uk
Telephone 01273 621202
Web steps-centre.org
REFORMING THE UNIVERSITY application system gets a lot of attention from politicians. Initiatives such as the Office of Fair Access and suggestions that more use is made of information about young people’s family backgrounds as part of the selection process both hint at the idea that the process is fundamentally unfair and in need of change.

Certainly, a look at the socioeconomic gap in university attendance reveals young people with higher household incomes are much more likely to go to university. New research using the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England shows that teenagers in the top fifth of the income distribution are 2.7 times more likely to attend university than those in the bottom fifth.

But a closer look reveals problems with this analysis. If, like universities, we can look just at individuals who have applied to university, the observed gap in those who get a place shrinks significantly.

Among teenagers who apply, those in the top fifth of the income distribution are only 1.2 times more likely to get a place than their peers from the bottom fifth. And if we compare applicants with similar exam results from age 11 this difference becomes so small it is no longer clear that it exists at all.

This is not to say that the socioeconomic gap in university attendance doesn’t exist, but that it needs to be tackled in a different way. The evidence shows the gap develops earlier so initiatives such as the Office of Fair Access can only hope to work on an already small group; they are not the key to making big improvements.

Although harder to implement, bigger changes can only come from policies that work at an earlier age. Much of the observed gap in university attendance is explained by earlier exam results, for example GCSEs. This partly reflects teenagers from better-off families doing better in these earlier tests so an important way to narrow the gap in university attendance will be to ensure that young people from poorer backgrounds can reach their potential in such exams.

As there’s a gap driven by household income in overall university attendance, but only a much smaller one in getting a place once people have applied, there must be an income gap with teenagers from poorer households less likely to apply. Even if we compare young people with similar GCSE results this gap cannot be explained away fully and would seem to suggest a difference in aspirations; perhaps a belief that university is not for ‘people like me’. We need to encourage young people with the right skills to seriously consider if university is right for them, regardless of their family background.

Having said that changes to the admissions process are not the key, there are, however, a couple of exceptions. Changes to the admissions procedures, to shift young people’s perceptions of how they’ll be treated by universities, might make pupils from poorer backgrounds more confident of a fair hearing. This might in itself help close the applications gap, and hopefully, in turn, the participation gap.

Moving to a post-results application system may also have benefits. Research by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has shown that teenagers from worse-off families are more likely to have their A-levels grades poorly predicted. When those predicted grades play such an important part of the application process how can they then expect a fair hearing from universities? Getting lower predicted grades than they ultimately achieve may even put people off applying to university in the first place.

While there is clearly a gap between the most wealthy and the poorest families in university attendance, we must look earlier in young people’s lives to understand it fully. Some changes to the admissions process could make a difference. However, to make bigger strides towards levelling the playing field, and thereby improving one important aspect of social mobility, young people from poorer backgrounds must achieve their potential throughout their school career. It is too late to try and tackle it during the university admissions process alone.

Mind the gap

In initiatives to reduce the university attendance socioeconomic gap should focus on whole school careers and not just university admissions. By Jake Anders

 Jake Anders is a PhD student at the Institute of Education, funded as part of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) ADMIN Node. This work also forms part of the Nuffield Foundation project Higher Education Funding and Access: exploring common beliefs. What’s the link between household income and going to university? is available online from repec.ioe.ac.uk/repec/pdf/qsswp1201.pdf Email jake@jakeanders.co.uk Telephone 020 7612 6000 Web www.ioe.ac.uk

People from poorer backgrounds must achieve their potential throughout their school career

Moving to a post-results application system may also have benefits. Research by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has shown that teenagers from worse-off families are more likely to have their A-levels grades poorly predicted. When those predicted grades play such an important part of the application process how can they then expect a fair hearing from universities? Getting lower predicted grades than they ultimately achieve may even put people off applying to university in the first place.

While there is clearly a gap between the most wealthy and the poorest families in university attendance, we must look earlier in young people’s lives to understand it fully. Some changes to the admissions process could make a difference. However, to make bigger strides towards levelling the playing field, and thereby improving one important aspect of social mobility, young people from poorer backgrounds must achieve their potential throughout their school career. It is too late to try and tackle it during the university admissions process alone.
We present an at-a-glance overview of the key issues in Britain today. This issue our focus is on energy and waste. All statistics are from the Department of Energy and Climate Change unless stated otherwise.

**Energy consumption**

Since 1970, the overall fuel consumption mix in the UK has changed from solid fuels and petroleum to significant growth in gas and some renewable energy.

Energy Consumption by fuel: Great Britain 1970-2010

---

**Low-carbon energy**

Using the methodology required by the 2009 EU Renewables Directive, 3.3 per cent of total energy consumption in the UK in 2010 came from renewable sources; up from 3.0 per cent in 2009.

Percentage of UK energy consumed from low-carbon sources

---

“The release of atomic energy has not created a new problem. It has merely made more urgent the necessity of solving an existing one”

Albert Einstein

---

Gas demand was 17 per cent lower than in 2010 and was at its lowest level since 1995, while electricity consumption was 3.5 per cent lower in 2011 than in 2010. Average annual household standard electricity bills (fixed consumption of 3,300 kWh per annum) across all payment types in 2011 were £36 higher than in 2010 (up 8.5 per cent to £453), and average gas bills (fixed consumption of 18,000 kWh per annum) across all payment types were £61 higher (up 9.3 per cent to £719). UK domestic gas and electricity prices are the lowest and fourth lowest in the EU respectively.
Recycling and recovery

The amount of packaging was in the UK estimated to be around 10.8 million tonnes in 2009. The recycling rate has increased from 34 per cent in 1999 to 62 per cent in 2009, and total recovery rate (including recycling) has increased from 38 per cent in 1999 to 67 per cent in 2009.

Source: Defra

Landfill and recycling

The UK landfills around 15 per cent more municipal waste than the EU average (40 per cent). It also has lower recycling and composting rates (34 per cent) than the EU average (39 per cent). Denmark is the only country where incineration is the main method of waste disposal (53 per cent). The Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Belgium recycle and compost the majority of their waste. Source: Defra

Flytipping

Flytipping incidents and actions reported by local authorities in England have fallen by over 35 per cent from 2007/08 to 2010/11. Source: Defra

“We live in a disposable society. It’s easier to throw things out than to fix them. We even give it a name — we call it recycling” Neil Labute
Monday’s child is fair of face: Image and identity

Like it or not, a person’s attractiveness is a key influence on how we treat them. A study of 346 participants aged three to 17 years indicates that preferences for a good-looking face begin to emerge in very early puberty, plateau at around 10-14 years and then increase again between 14 and 17 years.

“Physical attractiveness permeates all aspects of how we interact with others, so we need to understand how feelings of attraction develop,” says Dr Lynda Boothroyd at Durham University. “These patterns correspond roughly to the expected patterns of hormone release over the course of puberty, which may mean that it is the sex hormones released during puberty which activate our preferences for relevant facial traits.”

Perceptions of facial attractiveness across development
ESRC grant number: RES-000-22-3990
Dr Lynda Boothroyd, email: l.g.boothroyd@durham.ac.uk

Tuesday’s child is full of grace: Charity

The large-scale donations and philanthropic activities of entrepreneurs can lead to far-reaching economic and social change, according to a study from the Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy (CGAP). “Wealthy entrepreneurs are frequently happy to get involved in large-scale philanthropy, but they want control over where and how the money is spent,” explains CGAP researcher Professor Eleanor Shaw at the University of Strathclyde. “Their approach to tackling an issue can be very different to the route taken, for example, by a government department. They are particularly adept at addressing the root causes of a problem.”

The entrepreneurs themselves can also reap huge business benefits from philanthropy, in terms of their own social standing, reputation, influence and networks.

Entrepreneurs as philanthropists
Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy
Professor Eleanor Shaw, email: eleanor.shaw@strath.ac.uk

Wednesday’s child is full of woe: Poverty

Key government measures generally define poverty as living in a household with an income below 60 per cent of the national average. But research
from the Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK project suggests this measure is too narrow. One of the alternative ways of measuring poverty is the ‘consensual’ or ‘perceived deprivation’ approach where people are asked what they think are necessities for living in the UK, in order to establish a publicly agreed minimum standard.

Definitions of poverty are key to people’s life chances and opportunities, emphasises Professor David Gordon at Bristol University. They provide a basis for redistributing income and resources through the tax and benefit system. “As such, they are essential for determining questions of fairness in society,” he argues.

**Thursday’s child has far to go: Migration**

Early findings from an RCUK Global Uncertainties (GU) Programme study show that treating immigrants as a security problem – as an intrusion or invasion – can produce the very consequences that are feared. Research into Zimbabwean migration to South Africa suggests that the South African government’s ‘neglectful approach’ to the large-scale influx of Zimbabweans in the past decade allowed local resentments to fester and finally erupt in violent xenophobic riots in 2008.

“If the South African government had put proactive policies in place to deal with the influx and done more to dispel inaccurate perceptions of Zimbabweans as ‘welfare scroungers’ and criminals, South Africa might not have ended up having to deploy soldiers to restore order in some townships,” says GU Fellow Dr Anne Hammerstad at the University of Kent.

**The securitisation of forced migration**

RCUK Global Uncertainties programme
ESRC grant number RES-071-27-0089

Dr Anne Hammerstad, email: a.hammerstad@kent.ac.uk

**Friday’s child is loving and giving: Relationships**

When people ‘click’ there are huge advantages to be gained in terms of better collaboration and greater empathy. Using a range of techniques including MRI scanning of brain activity, researchers believe they now have a better understanding of the mechanisms underpinning our social interactions.

“We find that when two people interact, their two brains become coupled together to the extent that exactly the same area in both people’s brains will become activated,” Professor Garrod explains. “The more we copy someone else – for example incidental movements such as scratching one’s head – the more we align or ‘click’ with them.” Experiments also showed the opposite effect: when someone was deliberately blocked from copying another, they left the encounter feeling that they didn’t much like the other person.

**Social interaction: A cognitive-neurosciences approach**

ESRC grant number RES-060-25-0010

Professor Simon Garrod, email: simon.garrod@glasgow.ac.uk

The image and identity video explores Sheffield University’s Look at Me! project that challenges current perceptions of older women in society

**Saturday’s child works hard for a living: Employment**

Despite concerns that young children suffer if they are left in childcare during their early years, a new study found no significant detrimental or harmful effects on a young child’s emotional wellbeing if their mothers work.

Based on data for 12,000 children from the Millennium Cohort Study, researchers found that the ideal scenario for children, both boys and girls, is one where both parents lived in the home and both were in paid employment. “We found no evidence of a longer-term detrimental influence on child behaviour of mothers working during the child’s first year of life,” says Dr Anne McMunn at the International Centre for Lifecourse Studies, University College London.

**Working mothers and children’s wellbeing**

International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health
Dr Anne McMunn, email: a.mcmunn@ucl.ac.uk

**The child that is born on the Sabbath day is bonny and blithe, and good and gay: Happiness and wellbeing**

A research project under the AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society programme has explored the potential link between religion and happiness or wellbeing. “No-one would want to say that religion makes you happier, but evidence drawn from across many religions does suggest that people of faith do record better mental and physical health,” says Professor Elaine Graham at the University of Chester.

“Crucially, a religious faith appears to make people more resilient.”

Researchers believe resilience may result from the strong networks of support many religious people experience within their faith community. Religion may also offer a worldview which prepares people for life’s ups and downs and makes them more resilient in the face of adverse circumstances.

**How religion affects happiness**

AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society programme
Professor Elaine Graham, email: e.graham@chester.ac.uk

To view the ESRC Seven Days videos or to download a copy of the report, see: www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/multimedia/seven-days/index.aspx
Performance under pressure

How do an athlete’s techniques for mental preparation and the regulation of emotions make the difference between winning and losing in an evenly matched race? And can these techniques be learned to improve performance in other situations, such as giving a speech or at a job interview? A new BBC online test investigates

As the 2012 Olympics draw closer the media spotlight is on elite athletes and how they prepare for competition. World-class athletes spend years training to physically prepare for events such as the Olympics, but what difference does their mental preparation make?

The BBC is collaborating with ESRC-funded research to answer that question by exploring how people handle tasks under stress. ‘Can you compete under pressure?’ – a 20-minute online test fronted by Olympic athlete Michael Johnson – provides participants with a personal performance analysis and advice on mental preparation.

The BBC Lab UK test aims to be ‘the biggest ever study of the psychology of pressure’ and is based on research by Professors Andy Lane and Peter Totterdell at the ESRC-funded Emotion Regulation of Others and Self (EROS) research network. EROS is a research project that studies fundamental and applied questions concerning how we regulate our emotions and those of others. The project is a collaboration between researchers from a number of psychological disciplines based at five universities in the UK – Sheffield, Oxford, Manchester, Reading and Wolverhampton.

EROS aims to advance the understanding of emotion regulation – the set of automatic and controlled processes involved in initiating, maintaining, and modifying states of feeling in self and others. Emotion regulation is goal-directed, oriented to have effects on the self and others, and implemented using thoughts and behaviours.

Day-to-day examples of emotion regulation include cheering yourself up by doing something enjoyable; reducing anxiety by recalling positive experiences; angering a colleague by criticising him or her; or calming down an over-excited child.

But regulating emotions isn’t just important for being able to calm others or to cheer yourself up: how people regulate emotions can have considerable costs or benefits for their own and other’s wellbeing and performance, and for the quality of their relationships. Dysfunctional emotion regulation may contribute to mental health problems such as bipolar disorder, gambling, alcohol/drug abuse, and road rage; and effective emotion regulation can be vital in high-performance situations such as competitive sports and safety-critical work. So research that helps understand emotion regulation and how to change it has clear social and economic value.

For the BBC test the EROS researchers designed a game that generates a sense of increasing pressure, including an ‘opponent’ based on real pilot performances to introduce a competitive element. ‘The Grid’, which has been used in previous sport psychology research, is simple enough for everyone to play online, but generates the sense of pressure that is found in competitive sport and other situations.

The researchers picked three types of psychological skills – visualisation, self-talk and ‘if-then’ planning – to test which of these techniques is most effective at improving performance on ‘The Grid’. Participants are randomly allocated to receive one of the techniques, to analyse the effect it has on their performance compared to a control group.

Sportspeople believe in the benefits of psychological preparation and may talk to...
themselves in ways that they believe will improve performance, replacing self-doubt with positive thoughts about what they need to do in order to succeed. Others use a technique called visualisation, bringing to mind the sights, sounds and feelings of a successful performance, to be better prepared for the real situation. And many sportspeople also plan their reactions to the many different things that might happen during competition.

Research shows that these techniques are effective for increasing focus and sustaining performance in sporting situations but there is growing evidence that the same techniques can also help in other contexts such as in the workplace or in public performance.

“What we measure in this experiment is the connection between controlling emotions and the reaction to performing poorly or very well,” say the EROS researchers. “The big question is: can the psychological skills used by top sportspeople be used to prepare us for other moments of intense pressure? And, if so, which ones are most effective? These are just two of the questions we are hoping to answer with the data generated,” say Professors Andy Lane and Peter Totterdell.

Other areas the online experiment could shed light on include the effect of emotion on performance, and strategies to change emotional states. “Because the ability to regulate emotions has been shown to be important in areas of life from family and work relationships to how we deal with risk, the data from ‘Can you compete under pressure?’ should have application well beyond the world of sport,” conclude the researchers.

To date, over 100,000 people have completed the BBC test. To take part, go to: www.bbc.co.uk/compete.

Key findings

The critical seconds that make the difference between success and failure

When top sprinters line up for a major final, psychological rather than physical differences could decide who takes gold. In contests won or lost by hundredths of a second, athletes need every advantage they can get.

When the stakes are high and there’s pressure to succeed

It’s not just top athletes who face moments of intense pressure; the same psychological factors influence us whether we are giving a speech, taking a driving test, or sitting in front of an interview panel. So can the psychological skills used by top sportspeople be used to prepare us for other moments of intense pressure? And, if so, which ones are most effective?

What techniques are the best for improving performance?

When tackling a high-pressure task, is it best to focus on improving technique, increasing effort, or controlling arousal? There is also considerable debate over which techniques are most effective and whether they work for some people better than others.

Champion heptathlete Jessica Ennis visualises technique and performance before each competition

“Can you compete under pressure?” was designed by BBC Lab UK, with Professor Andy Lane of the University of Wolverhampton and Professor Peter Totterdell of the University of Sheffield.

Professor Andy Lane is interested in how emotions and psychological techniques affect performance in high-pressure situations including sport and education.

Professor Peter Totterdell is interested in emotion regulation of others and self (EROS) research group (www.erosresearch.org) which is funded by the ESRC.
The changing face of charity

Professor Cathy Pharoah, Co-Director of the ESRC Research Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy Research (CGAP), explains how recession has affected charities’ income, who the biggest donors are, whether there are simply too many charities vying for the same pot of money and how generous we are as a nation.

In the UK, do the rich give a greater or lesser proportion of their entire wealth/annual income compared with medium and lower earners?

Cathy Pharoah: Medium and low earners give a higher proportion of their income to charity than the rich do (approximately three per cent and one per cent respectively). However, a much higher proportion of wealthy households give to charity than medium and low-earning households. The top ten per cent of households by spending give around one quarter of all donations by value.

Are wealthy donors discouraged from giving because of the possible critical backlash. For example, when rich celebrities give time, money or create charitable projects they are generally criticised for not giving a higher proportion of their fortune. How much is enough to give?

CP: Yes, in the UK we tend to moan about the people who get publicity because they have given, instead of focusing on the half of wealthy households who give nothing. I don’t think that celebrities are influenced so much by public opinion when they give, because they have many reasons for giving and they often get a huge amount of personal reward and stronger relationships through doing so. However, there is anecdotal evidence that the ‘bad press’ which donors have had in the public debate around the proposed cap on tax reliefs, being seen as ‘tax avoiders’ and so on, has distressed many donors and donations may be affected as a consequence.

The number of charities continues to grow while giving has declined because of recession

Decisions about how much to give are highly personal today, although there is a history of ‘norms’ for giving within religious contexts such as the tithe, the duty to give away ten per cent of income. Recently government has become interested in the role which norms could play in getting people to give. So, for example, ‘Legacy10’ was introduced which gives people an extra ten per cent of inheritance tax relief if they give away ten per cent of their estates to charity when they die.

Some charities have recently tried to promote norms such as that people should give away 1.5 per cent of income. The ‘PerCent’ club was an earlier initiative of Business in the Community to encourage companies to give away one per cent of pre-tax profit.

Do we still continue to give even in times of recession? How are personal and corporate charitable donations affected?

CP: Our evidence suggests that average household giving does fall in times of recession but not by as much as the level of the economy. Cash donations by companies have been at best static for more than a decade: evidence suggests that cash giving fell in 2008-09 but also that companies are trying to compensate with more ‘in-kind’ giving.

Is the increase in charity shops on the high street because of more demand for what they sell or is it because they can benefit from cheaper rate deals with local councils?

CP: I think it’s all of that, but also that the general decline in our high streets has lowered the rents charged.

Are there too many charities vying for the same pot of money?

CP: Evidence suggests that at this point in time the number of charities continues to grow while giving has declined because of recession. So there is definitely greater competition. But I don’t agree that there are too many charities: an economy more dominated by non-profit-making organisations could be a good thing. Moreover, as employment opportunities in the public and private sector reduce, people have to turn to alternative options such as charities and social enterprises. The real issue is whether people could be persuaded to give more because they see the role of charities as so important, or encouraged to use non-profits for more of their services.

As a nation are we suffering from charity fatigue, constantly bombarded with pressure to give – TV, texts, social media like Facebook and Twitter, Red Nose day, Comic Relief, chuggers etc? How do we respond?

CP: A recent public opinion survey found that people wanted there to be less charities. I doubt very much if most people have any idea how many charities there are, or what number would be about right: I suspect this finding more likely expresses public response to feeling bombarded with charity requests, being unable to afford to support as many charities as they used to, and finding it difficult to prioritise and say ‘no’ to causes they basically feel sympathetic towards.

Do corporate-charity projects such as M&S Plan A actually increase charitable donations or merely encourage...
The general decline in Britain’s high streets has lowered the rents charged and increased the number of charity shops.
CP: Could people be encouraged to buy more new clothes than they do already? I would like to see companies increase their levels of community investment generally, and this is more likely to be sustainable and grow if companies can see benefit to themselves as well as charities and community organisations through partnership approaches. There is no empirical research, however, on consumer reactions, and whether there is indeed more gain all round for companies and charities through such partnership approaches. Many companies do their corporate giving through setting up charitable foundations which they either support through a one-off permanent endowment or fund with an annual grant, such as Lloyds TSB and Nationwide. Money is then given away by an independent board. There are around 150 corporate foundations in the UK.

As a nation how do we fare in the global charity league. Are the British more or less generous than their European neighbours and the US in terms of how much they give as a proportion of total income?

CP: In the US people give around two per cent of income to charity on average per annum, twice what we give in the UK (figures depend on what is included in the calculations). This is always held up as the great example of what we could aspire to. After the US, however, the British give the highest proportion.

Also, what are the trends in domestic versus international charity – do we tend to give ‘closer to home’ when we have less money?

CP: This is an issue which many people are concerned about at the moment. It’s difficult to tell, because giving to international causes is heavily skewed by major events – for example, a natural disaster which attracts a huge amount of donations, or a biannual ‘comic relief’ fundraising campaign. There is no evidence of any major shift away from international giving, and many of our highest net worth donors today are increasingly giving to international causes – they’ve made their money globally and they take global perspectives. Also, when money is tighter, the transformative power of small donations in developing countries is a very attractive proposition.

As the trend goes towards fewer and larger charities are small charities on their way out?

CP: This is a broad generalisation, because what most affects the fate of charities is not their size per se, but the sources of their income. Many large charities get a huge amount of income from government contracts: if they lose a major contract they can be very hard hit, and currently they are at risk from serious cuts in public spending and increasing competition from the private sector for public welfare delivery. Small charities such as local hospices, or those which address ‘niche’ areas, such as a rare medical condition, and have a dedicated set of users and supporters, are just as likely to be able to survive as a large charity.

Will charities be increasingly dependent on commercial income rather than individual donations?

CP: I think it is inevitable that charities will increasingly need to look towards trading operations to increase their income. This might consist of what is called ‘primary purpose trading’ – providing services such as care for the elderly which lies totally within their charitable mission; or of social enterprise such as developing business activities which employ groups of people who might otherwise be unemployed through mental health or disability issues; or of setting up commercial trading organisations which gift their profits back to the charity, as in the sale of Christmas cards.

Is the use of celebrity to promote charities a good thing? Do we tend to be less trusting of those charities that use celebrity endorsers?

CP: I guess it will all depend on how we view the celebrity!

What is the average amount given by British people to charities. What are the most popular types of charity – animal, children’s, international aid?

CP: Average UK giving is £31 per month, and the median – which is probably a better reflection of how much the ordinary general public gives – is £11. The most popular causes are health, particularly cancer research, and international causes. When it comes to legacies, health, animal and religious causes are the most popular.
News briefs

SEVEN DAYS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
The ESRC has published the Seven Days of social science research videos and accompanying report that highlight how ESRC-funded research is exploring all areas of our lives. The videos and report cover a range of themes and feature experts from ESRC-funded centres and programmes. They explore some of the research we fund within each theme, and give links to further resources. For more information see the feature on page 22 of this issue of Society Now and to view the videos or download the report go to: www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/multimedia/seven-days/index.aspx

ESRC IN PARLIAMENT
Ofcom consultation
Professor Morten Hviid and Dr Daithi Mac Sithigh from the Centre for Competition Policy provided a response to the Ofcom consultation: Consumer switching – A consultation on proposals to change the processes for switching fixed voice and broadband providers on the Openreach copper network in May 2012.

Adult Apprenticeships
Professor Lorna Unwin and Professor Alison Fuller from the Learning and Life Chances in Knowledge Economies and Societies were personally invited to give written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee for its session on Adult Apprenticeships in March 2012.

Homelessness
The Minister of State for Housing has stated that the findings of the study ‘Multiple exclusion homelessness across the UK’ have been influential in the Government’s forthcoming national strategy on single Homelessness.

Innovation for Inclusive Development
In 2010 the Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability Centre launched a New Manifesto. The Manifesto recommended new ways of linking science and innovation to development for a more sustainable, equitable and resilient future. This has influenced the formulation of the International Development Research Centre’s ‘Innovation for Inclusive Development’ programme. Centre director, Professor Melissa Leach was invited by the UK Parliament to give oral evidence to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee in February 2012.

National carbon emissions targets
Research from the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy has been having a significant influence on the debate about national carbon emissions targets in the UK. The brief was initially requested by the Prime Minister’s office to inform inter-departmental negotiations and it has been referenced in Chris Huhne’s evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee in 2011.

ESRC/DFID JOINT FUND
The ESRC approved funding of £9 million from the ESRC’s Venture budget for a third phase of this initiative together with the DFID contribution of £18 million. The funding is recognition of the significant potential of the work to generate genuine impact and for creating community-based interventions. It is suggested that volunteering will be included in the thematic steers for phase 3.

WORKING WITH THE GRASSROOTS
The trend towards increasing the voluntary sector’s role in mainstream policy initiatives has recently extended outward to smaller third sector groups and activities. Their increasing importance in policy is reflected in the continued drive towards localism and the coalition government’s £15-million investment in the Community Organising Programme. On 28 June a policy seminar organised by ESRC, the Third Sector Research Centre and GMCVO reflected on current policy and helped to further understanding of local grassroots organisations – frequently referred to as under- or below-the-radar organisations.

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
The Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society and the Cardiff Business School held an agenda-setting event on 26 June 2012 to discuss the future of Sustainable SCM research, policy and practice. The intention was to hold a workshop where experts can discuss how they see the field unfolding in the future, and what the ‘wicked questions’ we need to answer are. They hope to have established a research network following the workshop.

Seven Days of Social Science Research
The ESRC has published the Seven Days of social science research videos and accompanying report that highlight how ESRC-funded research is exploring all areas of our lives. The videos and report cover a range of themes and feature experts from ESRC-funded centres and programmes. They explore some of the research we fund within each theme, and give links to further resources. For more information see the feature on page 22 of this issue of Society Now and to view the videos or download the report go to: www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/multimedia/seven-days/index.aspx
People

ESRC COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Willetts, the Minister of State for Universities and Science, has appointed Martin Rosenbaum as a new Council member to the ESRC. Martin Rosenbaum is an executive producer in the BBC Political Programmes department, overseeing a variety of radio programming including Radio 4’s The Week in Westminster, Decision Time and Four Thought. Mr Rosenbaum has been appointed to Council for three years from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2015.

Four re-appointments have also been made to Council: Paul Grice, Dave Ramsden, David Walker and Professor John Beath.

Paul Grice is the clerk and Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament, which is responsible for delivering all services to the parliament and its members. Mr Grice has been reappointed to Council for three years from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2015.

Dave Ramsden CBE was appointed the Treasury’s Chief Macroeconomist and Director of the Macroeconomics and Fiscal Policy Group in 2005. Mr Ramsden has been reappointed to Council for one year from 1 February 2012 to 31 July 2013.

David Walker is a writer and broadcaster specialising in public policy and management. Formerly Managing Director, Communications and Public Reporting at the Audit Commission and founding editor of Guardian Public, Mr Walker has been reappointed to Council for one year from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013.

Professor Ian Bateman

Professor Ian Bateman, Director of the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment at the University of East Anglia, has been appointed to the independent Natural Capital Committee by Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman. The Committee will help Government to ensure the value of England's natural capital and its potential to support growth is fully taken into account in decision-making. The Natural Capital Committee, a key Natural Environment White Paper Commitment, will provide advice on the state of English Natural Capital to the Economic Affairs Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Dr Bryony Hoskins

The Elsevier Scopus Awards recognise and reward the talent, knowledge and expertise of young researchers in a variety of disciplines. Fifteen countries participate in the award, each marked with an event co-organised by Elsevier with a prestigious national consortium, funding body or society. These academic groups nominate an award committee to recognise scholarly output, citations, and prestige of their region’s outstanding young researchers across a range of subject areas. Dr Bryony Hoskins, a researcher at the ESRC’s Centre for Learning and Life Chances in Knowledge Economies and Societies, was runner up for the Elsevier and US-UK Fulbright Commission 2011 UK Young Researcher award in Social Sciences.

ESRC PHOTO COMPETITION

Are you a keen photographer? Can you capture the meaning of ‘social sciences’ and ‘society today’ in a single picture? If so, the ESRC Portraits of Britain photographic competition could be for you.

We’re launching this free competition to capture images of what life in Britain means today. There are eight categories to enter, including an open category for young people.

The competition is run in partnership with the tenth annual ESRC Festival of Social Science and the winning entries will be showcased at the ESRC’s 2012 flagship festival event in London this autumn.

Whether you are a photography novice, a keen amateur or a professional photographer, the competition is an opportunity to capture your portrait of Britain.

Entries are being accepted in the following categories that reflect all aspects of social science. You can enter up to three photographs in the competition. Each photograph may only be submitted once, but you can enter in just one, or across three of the seven categories. Only young people up to the age of 17 may enter up to three images in the Young People category.

Seven subject categories are open to all, excluding young people: Environment; Public Services; Politics; Economy and business; Society; Culture, media and sport; International; And Young photographer (11-17 years only).

The closing date is 17 August 2012. For more information see: www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/photographic-competition/index.aspx
Publications

Intrusion

A single-dose pill has been developed that corrects, without risk, many common genetic errors in a developing foetus. When a pregnant woman refuses to take The Fix, as the pill is known, she divides friends, family and even the law with a moral dilemma. Is her decision a private matter of individual choice, or is it equal to wilful neglect of her unborn child?

This book is set in the very near future and is the latest offering from award-winning science fiction writer Ken MacLeod, a writer in Residence at the ESRC Genomics Forum.

Intrusion by Ken MacLeod. ISBN 9780748128778 (ebook), @ £8.99. For more information see bookshop.blackwell.co.uk/jsp/id/Intrusion/9781841499390

Breaking Rules

This book introduces new theory and methodologies to explore where, when and why, young people engage in acts of crime. Based on the work of the Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study it presents an analysis of the social and situational dynamics of young people’s urban crime. The study focuses on the important adolescent time window, ages 12 to 17, during which young people’s crime involvement is at its peak. This is the first study of this kind and has significant implications for policy and prevention.

Breaking the rules by Per-Olof H. Wikström, Dietrich Oberwittler, Kyle Treiber, and Beth Hardi. ISBN 9780199592845 (hardback), 512pp @ £60.00. For more information see ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199592845.do#.T8M31I8NyEe

Trusting on the edge

Trust is fundamental to the functioning of society. How trust develops or fails to develop, within contexts of severe mental illness is a pertinent topic for social scientists and healthcare professionals. This book will appeal to anyone interested in the concept of trust, including social science researchers and students, as well as practitioners, managers and policymakers who work with vulnerable people.

Trusting on the edge by Professor Michael Calnan and Professor Patrick Brown. ISBN 9781847428899, (hardback), 144pp @ £56.00. For more information see www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?k=9781847428899

Women, Leadership and Mosques: Changes in Contemporary Islamic Authority

The book features case studies of females who have emerged as Muslim scholars, preachers and leaders within traditional spheres of religious authority in Muslim-majority countries as well as Europe and the US. It sheds new light on factors that have contributed to their emergence, the demands they make on their followers and the ideals of ‘empowerment’ they provide to women.

Women, Leadership and Mosques: Changes in Contemporary Islamic Authority by Masooda Bano and Hilary Kalimbach. ISBN 9789004211469 (hardback), 582pp @ €155.00. For more information visit www.brill.nl/women-leadership-and-mosques

Events

18 July

Final year student conference

Working with our Doctoral Training Centres, we are planning to deliver annual conferences for ESRC-funded students in their first year and final year of PhD study. The first conference is taking place in Birmingham on 18 July for final year students. Research evidence and policy, further funding opportunities and career guidance are some of the themes to be covered. For more information see www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/guidance/postgraduates/student-conferences/index.aspx

6 September

First year student conference

This conference is designed for all ESRC students with a start date from September/October 2011. The conference will focus on themes such as: Making the most of your PhD – opportunities available through the ESRC and your DTC; How to make an impact with your research and what the benefits are as well as life beyond your PhD. For more information see www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/19313/first-year-student-conference.aspx

11 September

Deaf Children Development Conference

The Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre will explain their findings from their past research in an accessible and relevant way with suggestions for practice and policymaking. The conference includes a question and answer session with leading experts plus DCC researchers asking the audience for their opinion and advice on what they should be doing in the future. For more information see deafchilddevelopment.eventbrite.com

14-15 September

IFS Residential Conference 2012: HMRC and the taxpayer

This conference will bring together leading academics, policymakers and practitioners to share perspectives on an important area of public policy. The conference includes a mix of talks and break-out sessions to provide opportunities for attendees’ participation and an exciting forum for sharing ideas to help shape future policymaking. For more information see www.ifs.org.uk/events/774
Know society. Society Now

The ESRC magazine Society Now aims to raise awareness of our research and its impact. It addresses a wide range of readers, from the MP to the businessperson, the voluntary worker to the teacher, the public through to the social scientist, and is published three times a year (spring, summer and autumn).

Society Now offers a readable, intelligent, concise overview of current issues concerning society.

To subscribe to the magazine, please send an email including your full name and address to: societynow@esrc.ac.uk

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funds research into the big social and economic questions facing us today. We also develop and train the UK’s future social scientists.

Our research informs public policies and helps make businesses, voluntary bodies and other organisations more effective. Most important, it makes a real difference to all our lives.

The ESRC is an independent organisation, established by Royal Charter in 1965, and funded mainly by the Government.

More at www.esrc.ac.uk

Economic and Social Research Council
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1UJ
Tel: +44 (0)1793 413000
Fax: +44 (0)1793 413001

EDITOR IN CHIEF Jacky Clake jacky.clake@esrc.ac.uk
EDITOR Nick Stevens nick.stevens@esrc.ac.uk
SUB-EDITOR AND RESEARCHER Debbie Stalker debbie.stalker@esrc.ac.uk
ASSISTANT EDITOR Jeanine Woolley jeanine.woolley@esrc.ac.uk