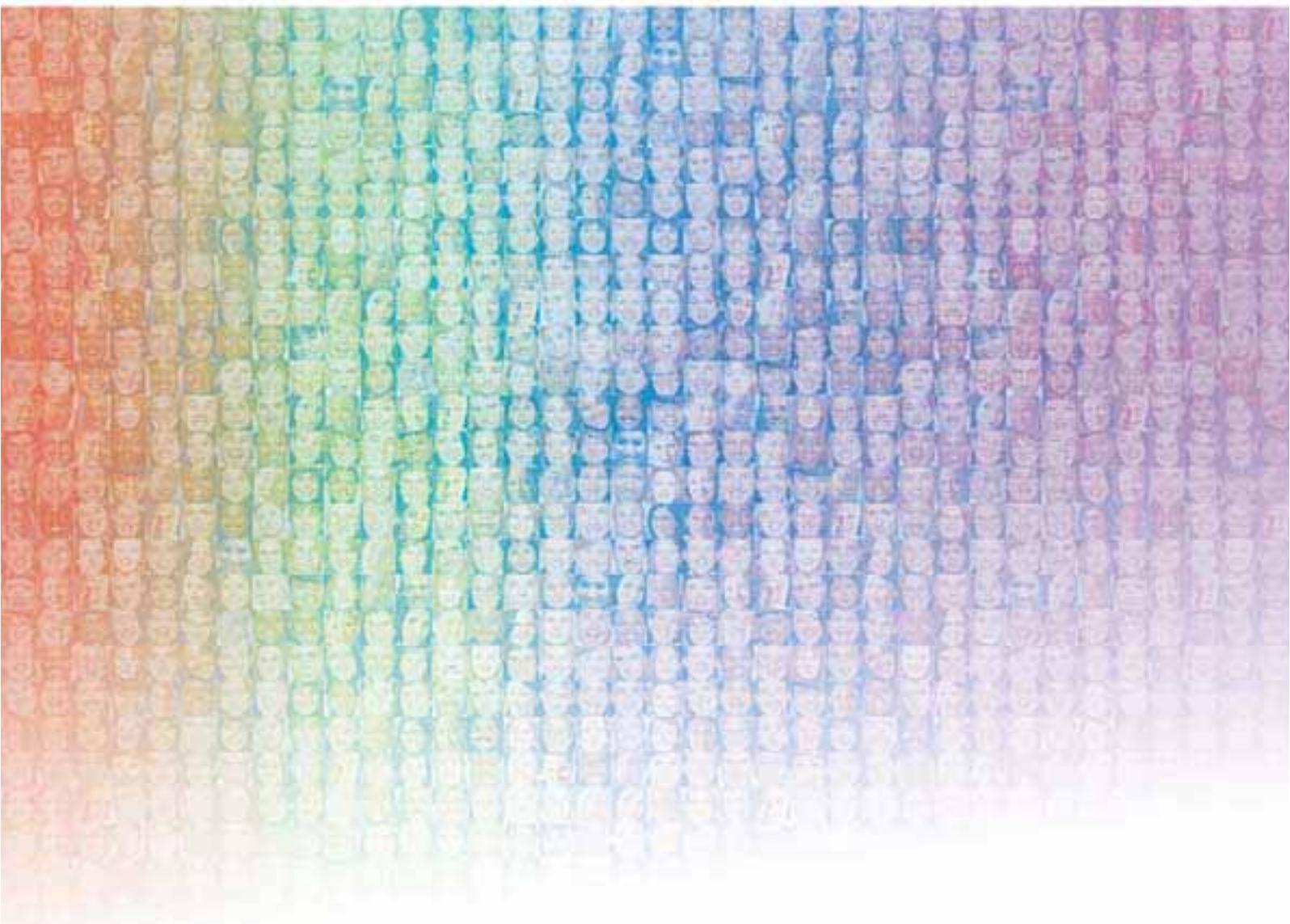


2005-06 Annual Report and Accounts

Joint Statement by Chair and Chief Executive, Highlights, Research, Building Capacity for the Future, Engaging Society and Performance

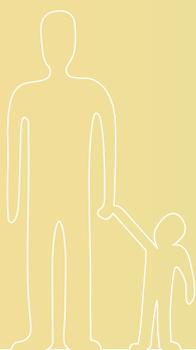


The Economic and Social Research Council's Role is:

To promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training in the social sciences.

To advance knowledge and provide trained social scientists who meet the needs of users and beneficiaries, thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom, the effectiveness of public services and policy, and the quality of life.

To provide advice on, and disseminate knowledge and promote public understanding of, the social sciences.



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In accordance with Schedule 1 to the Science and Technology Act, 1965, the Economic and Social Research Council submits the following Report on its activities from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, on Wednesday 19 July 2006. Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on Wednesday 19 July 2006.

HC1412

£21.75

London: The Stationery Office

Frances Cairncross, Chairman

Professor Ian Diamond FBA, AcSS, Chief Executive

Joint Statement by Chair and Chief Executive

In 2005, the Economic and Social Research Council celebrated its 40th anniversary. As this report shows, the ESRC is more lively and relevant in its fifth decade than ever before.

A highlight of our activities during 2005-06 was the launch in November of our Strategic Plan for 2005 to 2010. The plan sets out ambitious targets for the next phase of the ESRC's development. Its aim is to ensure that in coming years, we are supporting the very best social science research in the UK, and addressing questions of fundamental importance to the full range of social scientific disciplines. This will happen both in response mode and in directed mode. Here we have identified seven key priorities including the global economy, education, the structure of the UK population, the environment and energy, and the provision of public services such as health and transport. Because the scientists we support are the best judges of promising directions for research, we are putting more of our resources than ever into responsive-mode funding. The responsive mode accounts for most of our research spending and allows us to support the best projects put to us by social scientists.

The priorities set out in the Strategic Plan were arrived at after careful consultation within and beyond the UK. As well as talking to social scientists themselves, we spoke to people from industry, government and the non-profit sector about what they want from social science research. We also consulted international partners about their views on the strengths and weaknesses of UK social science research, and found that the researchers we support are in high demand as collaborators around the world. We are confident that the completion of this exercise has given us a solid base of knowledge about the challenges we face.

During the year we also published ESRC's Delivery Plan for the current spending review period. It describes how we will meet the demanding targets in our Strategic Plan. We are already starting to do this.

Research Highlights

ESRC researchers continue to work in key areas of policy concern. During 2005-06, one highlight was Dr Nick Bloom's work on productivity in the UK economy. He and colleagues from the London

School of Economics have shown that, contrary to some beliefs, investment in information technology does enhance productivity.

Another well-received policy intervention was the publication, during National Science Week 2006, of our commentary on improving science education in schools. This document was produced by our Teaching and Learning Research Programme, working with the Association for Science Education. It outlines research-based evidence for ways in which science can be taught better, and looks at ways of getting more science graduates into teaching careers.

Supporting Future Social Science

Alongside our support for research, ensuring the future capacity of UK social science is of critical importance to us. We recognise that some areas of the research we support are in need of strengthening. During the year we carried out a new survey of the age structure of UK social scientists. In some subject areas, the average age of researchers is high. So we have decided to increase the resources we devote to strategic areas such as economics, statistics and social work, with a view to bringing more young academics into these subjects. There are likely to be more such initiatives in future. We would like to thank Dr David Mills of the University of Birmingham and his team for their hard work on this review.

This demographic review has guided the allocation of quotas of postgraduate students to the higher education institutions we support. We also launched a 'First Grant' scheme to ensure that researchers near the start of their academic careers have a fairer chance of winning support from ESRC.

We are aware that public expectations of scientific research are rising. There is an increasing need to show that the research we support meets high ethical standards. It is extremely rare for the researchers we fund to apply any but the highest standards to their research. During the year, we implemented our Research Ethics Framework to ensure that participants in our research are treated in an acceptable fashion. It relies upon institutions to put procedures in place to guarantee the ethical standards of their research. We would like to thank Professor Andrew Webster of the University of York, who led the development of the Framework.



The year was marked by increased efforts on our part to enhance the capacity of UK social science research. The resources we support are available to all researchers, not only those supported by ESRC. Our decision to continue funding the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) until 2009 will guarantee this major survey at least 18 years of life, making it one of the longest-running and most valuable surveys of its kind in the world. We intend that the BHPS will be greatly increased in size in the next few years. This will enhance the opportunities for research on subgroups of the UK's increasingly diverse society.

Working With Others

Social scientists now regularly work in teams that cross international boundaries. We have instigated agreements with partner organisations in several other European countries and in Australia, Korea, New Zealand and the United States with the aim of making this vital form of working simpler.

In this context, it is a pleasure to congratulate Professor Roger Jowell of City University on becoming the first social scientist to win the European Union's Descartes Prize. It is appropriate that Professor Jowell, the founder of Social, Community and Planning Research, won the prize for his involvement in the European Social Survey.

The study of important languages and cultures is a further area in which we are working with others to improve UK capacity. New collaborative efforts which we have launched jointly with the Higher Education Funding Councils for England and Scotland and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) will allow university research in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and other languages and cultures to be enhanced at five major research centres. We have also established a number of new cross-council research initiatives, such as work with the AHRC on religion and with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council on technology-enhanced learning.

Our aim of contributing to the economic success and quality of life of the UK is leading us to deepen our connections with UK government departments at all levels. We have long had research contacts with many central government departments and with the governments of the devolved UK. The aim is to connect our training and research more directly to government by increasing freedom of movement

between government and universities. We are sure that this will benefit the individuals and departments concerned. The connection will also make us better-informed about the needs of government for research and for trained social scientists. We are exploring similar forms of joint working with the business sector.

ESRC's success depends on the contributions of its council members, its staff, and many others who make up its boards and committees. We would like to thank them all for their efforts, which have been especially strenuous during this phase of rapid growth in our activities.

In particular, we wish to thank two retiring council members for their hard work. We are sure that Professor Andrew Chesher, Professor of Economics at University College London and former chair of the Research Grants Board, and Professor Stephen Wilks, Professor of Politics at the University of Exeter and former chair of the Strategic Research Board, will remain valuable allies for ESRC.

Finally we note with sadness the death of Michael Posner (1931-2006). Michael was chairman of the then Social Science Research Council during the inquiry in 1982 that threatened its closure, under a government that doubted the necessity for social science and perhaps even the discipline's existence. The flourishing ESRC whose activities are encapsulated in these pages is here because of his political skills, which enabled this threat to be averted.

Frances Cairncross
Chairman, ESRC

Professor Ian Diamond FBA, AcSS
Chief Executive, ESRC

2005-06 Highlights



Fourth ESRC Social Science Week



More than 4,000 people attended around 60 events held throughout Britain during ESRC Social Science Week 2006. This year, ESRC Social Science Week moved from its traditional summer slot to March 10-19 alongside National Science Week. This move enabled more people to learn how social science fits into the wider science world. This change in date aside, the fourth ESRC Social Science Week continued its tradition of giving the widest range of people the opportunity to learn how social science research influences our social, economic and political lives – both now and in the future. From politicians and policymakers to schoolchildren, students and the general public, ESRC Social Science Week 2006 provided numerous opportunities to take part in and hear about what's happening in the social science world.

Once again, this week-long celebration of the social sciences was made up of a hugely varied range of events. A photographic exhibition held in Manchester gave the general public an insight into what scientists actually do all day. A guided walk in the Peak District National Park offered a group of 30 GCSE geography students (some of whom had never donned

walking boots before) a real insight into moorland management issues. And more than 300 teenagers considered how to save Planet Earth during two sixth form debates. These were just three of the week's events that had non-social scientist specialists in mind. But, throughout the week, non-specialists and specialists alike were impressed by just how relevant the social sciences are

to how we live today. The highly topical issues discussed and debated during the week included global warming, genes and gene patenting, sustainable energy, pandemic risk management, citizenship, education, the rural economy and innovation in the NHS. The week also highlighted both ends of the research process with the launch of the new £4.5 million ESRC Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre and a conference to report the findings from the recently ended six-year ESRC Devolution and Constitutional

Change Programme. Both events underline the range of social, economic and political issues addressed by Britain's social science community. And ESRC Social Science Week 2006 proved once again the success with which UK social scientists are tackling the issues that concern us all.



Ageing Britain

Ageing Britain was the focus of the ESRC Annual Debates 2005. More than 260 people attended the three debates held in London, Cardiff and Glasgow. By 2025 the number of people in Britain over the age of 60 will outnumber those under 25. What challenges does this pose our society? Panellists from a wide range of backgrounds discussed this and other issues including the 'pensions crisis', age discrimination and the effects of an ageing population on society as a whole. In the London Debate, Professor Alan Walker, Director of the cross-council New Dynamics of Ageing research programme, considered issues regarding the low levels of state pensions and the fact that retired women in particular often find themselves living on very low incomes. Professor Walker called for 'active ageing' to be promoted among people of all ages to prevent ageing being seen

as a problem. He also spoke of the need to address at an early stage factors that can lead to problems in old age, such as poor diet and working conditions. At the second Annual Debate held in Cardiff, panellists including Professor Christina Victor, Professor of Social Gerontology at the University of Reading, Sarah Stone, Head of Public Affairs at Age Concern Cymru and Steve Milsom from the Older People and Long Term Care Policy Directorate at the Welsh Assembly answered questions on topics ranging from pensioner poverty to access to drugs in later life. In the final debate of the series held in Glasgow, the lively and wide ranging discussion addressed issues such as the low life expectancy in Glasgow, quality of life in old age and the huge benefits that older people bring to society.

Parliamentarians Find Out About ESRC Research

One of the ways in which the ESRC promotes the work of its investments to Parliament is by sponsoring the Parliamentary All Party (APG) on Social Science and Policy. The APG meets on a regular basis to hear presentations from ESRC-funded researchers on how their findings might have an impact on policy change. Good independent research evidence is crucial to MPs in both their Parliamentary and constituency work.

In March 2006 the APG took part in a discussion titled *What Happens if the Lights Go Out?* which looked at the social implications of an energy shortage. The first speaker was Robert Knight, the Research Director from MORI, who examined the public perceptions of different energy supplies – wind farms, solar energy and nuclear new build. Professor Jim Skea, Research Director of the UK Energy Research Centre, talked about the recent problems caused by the stoppage of the supply of gas from Russia to Europe. He highlighted our reliance on importing our energy supply as North Sea oil supplies and our natural gas reserves diminish.

The All Party Group is Chaired by Alan Simpson, MP.

Cross Party Contacts

The ESRC Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE) continues to extend its contacts not only with the Government, its departments and its agencies but also with players elsewhere on the political spectrum. SKOPE Director, Mr Ken Mayhew, spoke on skills and their contribution to the UK economy at a Skills for Business fringe meeting at the Annual Conference of the Liberal Democrats in Blackpool.

<http://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/skope>

Contributing to the Government's Anti-Drug Policy

A new study of the size of the UK illicit drugs market by Professor Stephen Pudney, Director of the ESRC Micro-social Change Centre (MiSoC), is making a significant contribution to Home Office monitoring of the Government's anti-drug policy targets. Several government bodies including the Department for Work and Pensions and the Home Office in addition to the Low Pay commission and Equal Opportunities Commission have recently commissioned projects by MiSoC. The Centre also completed a cross-cutting review of employment disadvantage related to gender, disability, ethnicity and age for the Prime Minister's 'Equalities Review'.

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/misoc>

Connecting Research to Policy

Substantial written and oral evidence was provided by Professor Gordon MacKerron, Dr Jim Watson, Dr Alister Scott and Dr Shimon Awerbuch of the Sussex Energy Group (SEG) to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee inquiry *'Keeping the Lights On'*. The SEG evidence argued, among other things, that the costs of nuclear power are radically uncertain in a UK context. They further argued that micro-generation has uncertain economic prospects, despite its evident advantages. In January 2006, SEG also made an impact on the Government's energy review consultation. SEG issued a press release outlining the 20 questions it believed the review should consider on the day the formal consultation was launched. This press release attracted significant press coverage and interest including pieces in *The Independent* and *New Scientist*.

Local Authority Research Council Initiative

Education, climate change and transport were the topical subjects addressed by seminars run by the Local Authority Research Council Initiative (LARCI). Set up in 1997, LARCI aims to bring local authorities and the Research Councils into closer partnership, facilitating knowledge exchange between organisations. Following the appointment of a part-time Research Co-ordinator, LARCI has increased its activities with an expanding programme of seminars and meetings, the launch of a new on-line newsletter, and an increased level of awareness of the role of LARCI among Research Council and local authority staff. Awareness has been increased through a major questionnaire survey undertaken by LARCI of chief executives and research personnel in local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland.

Analysis of the 278 responses revealed low levels of awareness of the Research Councils, coupled with an acknowledged need for high quality, reliable research. This information has enabled LARCI to improve its knowledge-brokering role by, for example, setting up a database of local authority staff willing to be involved in Research Council programme development or advise on the LARCI seminar programme.

<http://www.larci.org.uk>

Devolution

Devolution: the impact on politics, the economy and public services. Lord Falconer, Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs provided the keynote speech at this one-day conference reporting the findings of the ESRC Devolution and Constitutional Change Programme. The devolution process launched by Labour in 1997 has had far-reaching implications for society, the political system, and for the management of the economy in the UK. During the conference, researchers from the programme addressed the following questions: Has devolution renewed British democracy? What impact has devolution had on the Union? Is devolution good for the economy? Does devolution produce better public services? And, in a final roundtable discussion chaired by Mr Peter Riddell of *The Times*, the key question: Is devolution working?

Informing the Scottish Political Agenda

A third series of David Hume Institute Seminars began in June 2005 as part of Social Science Week. The first of the seminars saw Professor David Bell, University of Stirling, give a talk on *Does Public Sector Wage Setting Constrain Devolution?* Professor Bell, a well-known expert in the area of labour markets, has a long and distinguished record of providing policy advice to the Scottish Executive. His presentation analysed which groups of workers fare relatively well in the public sector and who do badly and what the findings may mean for the quality and availability of public sector workers.

The Sociology of Finance. When Genius Failed – revisited was the subject of a talk by Professor Donald MacKenzie, University of Edinburgh, that examined the sociological factors impacting on the decisions and behaviour of those operating in the investment sector of the financial community – especially hedge funds and other active traders.

A third seminar on *Gordon Brown and the Public Finances: sticking to the rules?* was led by Robert Chote, Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Robert Chote informed an audience of mainly business people of the difficult choices that lay ahead for the Chancellor. He discussed whether the Chancellor had breached, or was at risk of breaching, the fiscal policy rules that he established when he came into office.

The final seminar in the series looked at *Rebalancing the Constitution*, a presentation given by Professor Robert Hazell, University College London and Director of the Constitution Unit. Professor Hazell drew broadly on the various studies that have been conducted by the Constitution Unit into the successes, failures and challenges experienced by devolution in the UK. He reviewed the unfinished business of constitutional reform, brought together the disparate elements, and suggested how they might be woven together.

The seminar series is sponsored by the ESRC and hosted by the David Hume Institute and held at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The series highlights ESRC findings that are relevant to areas of public policy in Scotland.

Assessing Non-Academic Impact

An International Symposium sponsored by ESRC held in May 2005 explored recent developments in assessing the non-academic impact of social science research. ESRC's Research Evaluation Committee is currently exploring new ways of assessing the non-academic impact of research in order to demonstrate how policymakers and practitioners use the outcomes of its research. The Symposium formed part of this process and was attended by speakers and practitioners from academic, business, evaluation practice and government backgrounds in the UK and abroad. Assessment of non-academic impact is complex and, in addition to the Symposium, ESRC is commissioning a series of case studies of particular areas of research or policy and practice impacts. A discussion forum has also been set up on the ESRC Society Today website for debate on the effective uses and benefits of social science research from the perspective of both researchers and the users of research.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/forums/default.aspx>

e-Social Science Strategy

Does your environment put you at risk of committing a crime? Or is the prime influence your family, school or your personal choice? Social scientists have asked these questions for 70 years but have not had the tools to answer them – until now.

Research conducted as part of the ESRC's e-Social Science strategy reveals that environment accounts for 80 per cent of the risk of committing a crime. Only 20 per cent is attributable to individual factors. Researchers from the University of Sheffield made use of the latest e-Science techniques in coming to this conclusion. These techniques allowed them to analyse many different variables and then apply their findings to a wide geographical area.

<http://www.ncess.ac.uk>

Environmental Impact

How much of an impact does one family have on the environment? *BBC Newsnight* featured calculations made by the ESRC Group on Lifestyles, Values and the Environment of the amount of carbon produced in a year by one ordinary UK family. *Newsnight* presenter Justin Rowlatt was dismayed to learn from Professor Tim Jackson that his family was responsible for ten tonnes of carbon – three tonnes of carbon above the UK average. Calculations were based on information ranging from gas consumption to holidays and shopping patterns.

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/resolve>



Peer Launches Identities and Social Action Programme

Leading sociologist Professor Lord Giddens gave the opening address at the launch of the ESRC's Identities and Social Action Programme at the Royal Society of Arts. This £4 million multi-disciplinary research initiative aims to deepen understanding of the processes involved in the making of selves, groups and communities. In his address Lord Giddens argued that people in the UK are living in a post-traditional society. The changes, he suggested, are as fundamental as the shifts which occurred in the Industrial Revolution. British people live in a world where individuals anchor themselves not by tradition and fixed roles and positions but through their self-identity. Therefore, understanding how people see themselves – whether as 'chavs', single parents, 'hoodies', asylum seekers, Muslims, gays or, 'middle England' – has important implications for policymakers, business and welfare organisations. As Programme Director Professor Margaret Wetherell explained: "Identity is how we envisage the future of society and diagnose its current state. Identity is about difference, how groups are marked and the stories people can tell about who they are – where they come from and where they are going to."

<http://www.identities.org.uk>

Deafness, Cognition and Language Centre Launched

The new ESRC Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre (DCAL) held its launch during ESRC Social Science Week in March 2006. The £4.5 million Centre, based at University College London, places research with deaf people at the core of linguistic and psychological research. The aim is to create a world-class hub of excellence that will connect various fields of research in a new way. As such the Centre will be a world-first in this area of research and will lead international collaborations. DCAL began work in January 2006 and over the next five years will establish a team of 20-25 researchers, research students and support staff. In the new Centre, both hearing and deaf researchers will create a unique working environment with English and British Sign Language as the languages of communication. DCAL also works with many different collaborators in science, education, medicine, the voluntary sector, and social services to make sure that its research leads to real impacts on deaf people's lives.

<http://www.dcal.ucl.ac.uk>



Women's Employment Survey 25th Anniversary

Both the good and bad news on mother's employment were highlighted at an ESRC Gender Equality Network conference to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Women's Employment Survey. In their keynote speech, Professor Shirley Dex and Professor Heather Joshi explained that the good news is less downward mobility over first childbirth between generations as first-time mothers return to work more quickly. Overall downward mobility is less likely for those born in 1958 (28 per cent) compared to those born in 1943-1953 (35 per cent). Yet, the downward mobility rates vary markedly across different occupations. And the bad news is all too familiar: returning to work part-time exacerbates women's downward mobility.

<http://www.genet.ac.uk>

Concordats

Since the appointment of Professor Diamond as Chief Executive and the establishment of Knowledge Transfer as a distinct unit, strategic partnerships have been formalised with ten Government departments, the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and the National Council for Voluntary Organisation (NCVO). Fifteen agreements are now in place.

Annual meetings have identified common research interests and developed collaborations between the ESRC and concordat partners on these topics. The areas of interests commonly cited by partner organisations are closely aligned with those of the ESRC: global economy; population; preventative health; education for life; and the links between social science and the natural sciences.

The agreements maximise social science research impact, and also support the Government's agenda to develop evidence-based policies. Ongoing dialogue ensures progress on delivering key objectives.

Capacity building for social science research serves the interests of both the ESRC and Government departments and there are a number of ways in which this is fostered, including collaborative studentships and the newly piloted Placement Fellows Scheme. The Department for Transport, Department for Communities and Local Government and Welsh Assembly Government have all operated successful jointly funded studentships with ESRC.

A recent survey of concordat partner satisfaction showed that all partners had a good understanding of the type of research and training the ESRC funds. The majority of partners were aware of ESRC collaborative schemes. All partners rated the relationship with ESRC highly.

Improving Links Between Social Scientists and the Voluntary and Community Sector

In 2005-06 the ESRC established a formal concordat agreement with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). This agreement seeks to boost the capacity within the voluntary and community sector through joint studentships and training activities; to develop a joint research agenda; and to assist in the transfer of knowledge from charities researchers outside the sector.

Karl Wilding, NCVO's Head of Research, said: "This concordat is of vital importance. It shows that research about the VCS merits rigorous investigation. It will allow us to increase the scope, depth and quality of research about the sector. We hope to explore opportunities for seconding academics to the voluntary sector and increase the number of researchers interested in the sector from a range of different relevant disciplines."

In 2005, the ESRC organised a public policy seminar tackling the issue of 'Charitable Giving and Donor Motivations'. This was a highly successful lunchtime seminar attended by leading academics, policymakers and practitioners. The seminar brought the highest quality of social science concepts and evidence to the heart of this issue. The concepts and evidence from the leading academics Dr Tom Farsides, Lecturer of Social Psychology, University of Sussex and Dr Sally Hibbert, Associate Professor in Marketing, University of Nottingham was also made available to all key policymakers and practitioners in booklet form.

NCVO and ESRC will be holding a series of seminars on civil renewal and active citizenship during 2006-07. This is an area that continues to be central in underpinning the Government's agenda. The aim of the seminars is to improve the understanding of the motivations and practices of engaged citizens. They will provide an opportunity for academics, policymakers and practitioners to share insights into how active citizens contribute to an inclusive and cohesive society; and will provide an opportunity to review possible implications for both Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

The seminar series will cover the following themes; Faith-based voluntary action; ICT, social capital and volunteering; Individual pathways in participation; Localism and local governance; From local to global; and Human rights, a tool for change.

Rising Number of Single People and Solo Livers

St Valentine's Day offered the perfect impetus for researcher Professor Sasha Roseneil to create a 'Love Map of the UK' on BBC3. In the programme Professor Roseneil, from the ESRC Research Group for the Study of Care, Values and the Future of Welfare (CAVA), discussed the rising number of single people and solo livers, with a particular focus on Manchester's urban regeneration as a hot spot for single people. CAVA's Professor Fiona Williams and Professor Simon Duncan also appeared on the programme, which was inspired by CAVA research.



<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/cava>

Partnership with the International Peace Academy

Leading experts on post conflict reconstruction met at a workshop of users and researchers hosted by the ESRC New Security Challenges Programme. Working in close partnership with the International Peace Academy, Professor Michael Pugh and his colleagues brought together international experts to discuss the transformation of war economies. Participants included the Deputy High Representative, Banja Luka, the UN Office for West Africa, the Conflict Prevention Forum, New York and the UK's Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit. The workshop developed a series of key policy ideas.

<http://www.newsecurity.bham.ac.uk>

New View on Genomics

The ESRC Genomics Forum co-sponsored the world's first Film Festival on human cloning in November 2005. Cult film classics *The 6th Day* and *The Boys from Brazil* were just two of the titles featured in a varied programme of over 15 short films, noted documentaries and drama-fiction films dealing with human cloning. Post screening, film goers had the opportunity to explore the ethical, moral and social issues raised by the films with a specialist panel of biomedical and bioethics experts including Genomics Forum researchers Nadja Kanellopolou and Dr Catherine Heeney. Considerable interest was also generated by another Genomics Forum event, a lecture by Professor Ian Wilmut, creator of 'Dolly the sheep'. More than 200 people heard Professor Wilmut discuss his work on using cells from cloned human embryos in research and therapy.

<http://www.genomicsforum.ac.uk>

New Blood for UK Social Sciences

The UK social science community is generally older than that of the natural and physical sciences. This is the conclusion of a study commissioned by the ESRC into the demographic profile of the UK social science community. Researcher Dr David Mills of the University of Birmingham suggests that this situation presents a challenge to the long-term health of the social science base. However, his report stresses that there is considerable variation within this picture, with some disciplines facing particularly acute problems while others are in a healthy state demographically. Specific capacity building strategies are necessary, the report suggests.

International Collaboration

Members of the Victorian Parliament's Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee (Melbourne, Australia) met researchers from the ESRC Families and Social Capital Research Group in November 2005. The researchers outlined interim findings and lessons from across the Group in relation to enhancing community development, the role of community groups, non-governmental and governmental agency involvement, the role and provision of volunteers and mentors, and increasing active membership of people in their communities.

<http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/families>



The Global Economy

Can Britain prosper in the new global economy? Ms Vicky Pryce, Chief Economic Adviser and Director General Economics, DTI, was one of several expert speakers to address this seminar on the global economy as part of the ESRC Social Science Week 2006. One of the key challenges for Government is how best to respond to the challenges presented by the rapidly growing economies of China and India. More than 100 audience members heard Ms Pryce conclude her presentation by arguing that as change is inevitable we must embrace globalisation. She pointed out that it is essential that the UK responds to globalisation by raising productivity. To achieve this, we must continue to make progress in key areas such as skills and education, science and innovation, and boosting enterprise.

Improving the Population's Health

Research into adolescent leisure-time physical activities and well being in adulthood conducted at the ESRC Network in Development and Persistence of Human Capability and Resilience in its Social and Geographical Context featured in *The European Journal of Public Health*. Researchers analysed two British birth cohorts (1958 and 1970) and conclude that policies aimed at increasing participation in leisure-time physical activities in youth may improve population health but are unlikely to prevent the development of social inequalities in health.

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/capabilityandresilience>

Cross Council Collaboration on Education

Primary school children will find it easier to develop their Key Stage 1 numeracy and literacy skills following a successful project funded by the ESRC/EPSC People at the Centre of Communication and Information Technologies research programme. The 'Homework' project built a system for maths teaching on a tablet PC that can be used both in class and at home. Led by Dr Rose Luckin of the University of Sussex, Simon Fuller of Channel 4 and Roland Tongue of Open Mind Productions, the Homework system helps six to seven year olds develop their maths and literacy skills. In the classroom, children can use the set-top boxes to work alone or as part of a group and interact both with the television and with a tablet PC as directed by the teacher. When the tablet PC is taken home, children can complete further activities using the television and tablet either working alone, with their family, or with other classmates who may be co-located or at a distance in their own homes. Trials with pupils, teachers and parents show that the system is effective in fostering collaboration between parents and children, and in promoting and supporting communication between learners and teachers both at home and in school.

<http://www.paccit.gla.ac.uk>

Changing Status, Changing Lives

Research conducted by the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society is a source of widespread media focus. Its '*Changing Status, Changing Lives?*' project explores employers' demands for low waged migrant labour. Findings reveal that employers and workers 'bend the rules' to achieve their ends. The project provides tools that analyse how immigration status works in labour markets and how workers can be both a source of flexible labour and restricted by immigration controls.

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk>

Research Council's Knowledge Transfer Activities External Challenges Panel

Following the DTI Innovation Review (2003) the Research Council were required to develop plans for increasing the rate of knowledge transfer and the level of interaction with business. These plans and progress in implementing them were subject to peer-review in 2004 and scrutiny by an External Challenges Panel in 2005-06.

The Panel was given the task of examining each Research Council's plan for knowledge transfer and progress in achieving its objectives. The Panel's report is expected to provide evidence for OSI's (formerly OST) submission for Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR 2007) and as an input to the scrutiny of Research Councils' knowledge transfer activities by the House of Commons Science and Technology (S&T) Committee which deliberated in March – April 2006.

In December 2005 each of the Research Councils presented its knowledge transfer plans and current activities to the Panel who

reached a consensus on the quality of the plans and progress in implementing them. In advance of the meeting, each Council submitted a six-page statement to the Panel.

Following input from RCUK and the Research Councils the Panel produced a final version of the report and it has been submitted to the S&T Committee for consideration.

The Panel noted the progress the ESRC had made in achieving the objectives set out in its knowledge transfer plan. It praised the Council for its engagement with the public sector through concordat agreements with Government Departments to facilitate knowledge transfer. Activities include organising public policy briefings and seminars on topics identified by these Departments and supporting a placement scheme within Government Departments. The Panel believes that this ESRC approach to fostering working relationships should be adopted more widely to understand and meet user needs. The Panel also highlighted that the ESRC have made a great deal of progress in developing new knowledge transfer initiatives; have implemented a wide variety of positive impact measures; and has developed a network of retired business professionals to act as intermediaries with the research users.

However, the Panel recognised that more effort was required by ESRC to match a comparable level of interaction with the business sector. During 2006-07 the ESRC will achieve this through increasing collaborative funding with the business/private sector; placement schemes within businesses; training and impact funding for social scientists to engage with the business sector.

Census Briefs

A unique study of ethnic segregation from the ESRC Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) has received widespread coverage and comment in the press and other media. Findings from the study, published in *Urban Studies*, explored the extent of ethnic segregation experienced by children across secondary schools and neighbourhoods. Using both the 2001 Schools Census and Population Census data, the article compared patterns of segregation across nine ethnic groups and across Local Education Authorities in England.

High levels of segregation were found for the different groups combined with considerable geographical variation. Consistently higher segregation was found for south Asian pupils than for Black pupils. And, for most ethnic groups, children were more

segregated at school than in their neighbourhood. Other CASE research to receive media attention include the Census Briefs, which are published in collaboration with the Brookings Institution, Washington DC. These Briefs compare and contrast issues such as changes in polarisation and in city neighbourhoods in the two countries. In a recent Brief, *Narrowing the Gap*, author Alan Berube analysed what happened during the 1990s to a collection of neighbourhoods in England identified as 'poor' in 1991. Over the decade, the 'poverty wards' made progress in some key measures such as employment. However, on some other measures, the already wide gap with national averages widened.

<http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case>

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Awards Ceremony and 30th Anniversary

The Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP's) initiative celebrated its winning partnerships and 30th Anniversary by showcasing the programme's outstanding achievements and successes over the years. The showcases highlighted the diverse industry sectors KTP operates in and the range of benefits that can be enjoyed by participating partners. The ceremony was held on the 28 March 2006 at the Savoy Hotel, London.

KTP's is a Government wide initiative, helping businesses to improve their competitiveness, efficiency and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills that reside within the UK knowledge base.

The ESRC awarded the partnership between University of the West of England, Bristol and the North Bristol Healthcare Trust with the Award for the Best Application for Social Science in 2005. The partnership aimed to engage the views of the public and patients during the design of the proposed new health services and facilities in north Bristol and South Gloucestershire as part of the Bristol Health Services Plan.

During the Partnership the KTP associate Joscelyn Miles co-ordinated the development of a strategy for public and patient involvement in the future design of health service provision in the Bristol area and built a valuable network of contacts in both voluntary and public sectors, and devised a methodology to test public opinion at a series of public meetings and bedside briefings.

According to David Tappin, Director of Strategic Development for the North Bristol NHS Trust, this project demonstrates the Trust's commitment to patient and public involvement in the development of its services.

"The project has helped us to improve our technique for engaging patients and the public to ensure that the design of new hospital facilities reflect the needs of the people we serve. The approach to patient and public involvement in developing the Bristol Health Services Plan has been cited by the Department of Health as an example of good practice from which other parts of the NHS can learn."



Joint Research Initiative

What are the key economic and social impacts generated by higher education institutions in regional economies? This question is the subject of a new research initiative jointly funded by the ESRC in conjunction with the Scottish Higher Education Funding Councils, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland. Five institutions have received awards to undertake initial reviews and hold workshops to disseminate the results to a wider community. Researchers at the University of Strathclyde, for example, will consider the impact of HEIs on international and trans-regional interactions. Other institutions taking part in this initiative include the Open University, Aston University and the Universities of Liverpool and Salford. It is hoped that this network will help establish a community of researchers able to conduct substantive research in subsequent phases of this initiative.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/forums/default.aspx>

Identities and Social Action Roundtable

A roundtable discussion hosted by the ESRC Identities and Social Action Programme on *'Identity, Political Engagement and Civic Activism in 21st Century UK'* was attended by Mr Mark Easton (Home Editor, BBC News) and Ms Mary English (Head of Political Programmes, BBC). Following the roundtable, John Denham MP, Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, requested a briefing on trends in British national identity. Programme Director, Professor Margaret Wetherell, also attended a briefing at the Labour Party conference on national identity organised by the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR).

<http://www.identities.org.uk>



Schools Engagement

More than 400 students (aged 15-18) attended debates held in Birmingham, Manchester and Lewisham. The two debates held in the north of England looked at the challenges posed by climate change. Audience members were keen to discuss the actions they, and society, could take to help save our planet. More than a hundred sixth formers attended the debate held in Lewisham Civic Centre, London on the topic of young people and citizenship. The key questions of why people do or don't vote and what current issues concern young people aroused considerable interest in the audience.

Cultures of Consumption

People in the UK spend more time in voluntary and pleasurable activities and less time on obligatory activities in 2000 than they did in 1975. This is just one of the findings from the ESRC Cultures of Consumption Programme published in recent papers. Other research reveals that people in the UK spent more time travelling in 2000 than 1975, indicating growing reliance on transport for conducting daily life. Researchers also identified an overall decline in the amount of time devoted to the consumption of food in the UK. Time spent eating at home has declined most, and time devoted to eating away from home has increased significantly.

<http://www.consume.bbk.ac.uk>

ESRC CMI Enterprisers Programme 'Spreading The Spirit of Enterprise'

The ninth CMI Enterprisers programme was held at Van Mildert College, University of Durham in January 2006.

This was the first programme organised for ESRC funded postgraduate students and also involved students for Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a number of delegates from Industry. In total there were 68 delegates.

This four day residential entrepreneurial programme was designed to: ensure each participating student becomes equipped with entrepreneurial and transferable skills; support a social and ethnical context for venture creation; develop innovative ideas and to stimulate enterprising projects. Another benefit of this programme is participants become part of a valuable international network of people who are developing their entrepreneurial skills in business, communities and organisations.

The programme is jointly managed by the Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning, University of Cambridge and MIT Sloan School of Management and includes sponsorship from a range of organisations including academic institutions and Regional Development Agencies. The programme is also supported by a range of facilitators including previous participants and senior personnel from academia with entrepreneurial experience.

The programme was a great success for both the students and facilitators. The ESRC have received valuable feedback from the participating students; "The programme exceeded my expectations in terms of the wealth of knowledge/experience presented during the week coupled with igniting my own creativity and ability to recognise opportunities. The skills I developed during the programme were networking, thinking in new and innovative ways, confidence in team building and managing and progressing an idea from beginning to conclusion".

Learning About Risk

The publication *'Learning about Risk'* draws on the launch conference of the ESRC Social Contexts and Responses to Risk network (SCARR) held in January 2005. The SCARR network is an interdisciplinary network on risk which examines perceptions of and responses to risk in a range of areas, including sexual behaviour and partnering choices, the mass media, faith and ethnicity, pensions and financial planning, industrial pollution, crime, transport, energy policy and environmental hazards. The papers in *'Learning about Risk'* link together this diversity and interdisciplinarity in risk research.

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/scarr>

Genes and Gene Patenting: Is it Fair?

Professor John Bryant of the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society (EGENIS) chaired this panel debate with expert witnesses which followed the format of the BBC Radio 4 programme, *The Moral Maze*. Three experts – Professor Steve Hughes, Co-Director of EGENIS, top patent lawyer Ms Diana Sternfeld and Ms Sheila Page from the Overseas Development Unit were closely questioned by four debaters including Exeter University undergraduate Ms Rosie Smith and semi-retired IT consultant Mr Mark Frank. Thought-provoking issues were raised on the nature of gene patents and the fairness of current gene patenting law.

Understanding the Activities of NGOs

The ESRC Global Poverty Research Group (GPRG) has developed innovative methods to analyse the activity of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Research in this area has previously been dominated by qualitative approaches. But GPRG researchers have developed quantitative research instruments to examine the institutional quality and governance of NGOs in Uganda. In Uganda, as in many countries in Africa, the NGO sector has grown in size since the 1980s. As donors and governments try to work more closely with NGOs there has been a growing need for accurate data on the activities and capacity of the sector. The new approach illustrates how research can link to the user community and how different research methods can complement each other in extending understanding of the NGO sector.

<http://www.gprg.org>

Cross Council Debate on Foot and Mouth

Were any lessons learned from foot and mouth? This was one of several debates organised by the Rural Economy and Land Use Programme, funded jointly by the ESRC, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Natural Environment Research Council. Leading experts suggested lessons to be learned, for example, that the science of animal disease control needs to be proactive not reactive, that solutions to foot and mouth disease are interdisciplinary, and that more extensive programmes of inoculation are needed in future.

International Networking Initiative

Recent reforms to an international networking initiative offer exciting opportunities to UK social scientists. COST, an inter-governmental initiative dating back to 1971, funds around 180 networking 'Actions' at any time, involving around 10,000 researchers in the 34 member countries and 12 more 'co-operating states'. Each 'Action' (lasting four years) organises workshops, summer schools, young researcher visits and a final conference. Under its new reforms, COST will offer a more transparent

decision-making process and offer continuous open calls for new 'Action' proposals. Replacing the current Social Sciences and Humanities Technical Committee will be a new Domain Committee – Individuals, Society, Culture and Health. COST currently funds 18 'Actions' in the social sciences and the humanities. The new Committee can expect to support over 25 'Actions'.

<http://www.cost.esf.org>

New Year's Honours List Social Scientists

Professor Angela Dale, Professor of Quantitative Social Research, University of Manchester was awarded an OBE for services to social sciences in the New Year's Honours List. Professor Dale is Head of the Economic and Social Data Service and Director of the ESRC Research Methods Programme. Other social scientists to receive the OBE include Professor Patricia Broadfoot, Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol and Chair of the ESRC's Research Resources Board and Professor Kathleen Kiernan, Co-Director of the ESRC Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion and Professor of Social Policy and Demography, University of York. Professor Richard Blundell, Professor of Economics at the University College London, was awarded the CBE. Professor Blundell is Director of the ESRC Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy.

New Members Appointed To Council

Charlie Jeffery, Professor of Politics at the University of Edinburgh and Chair of the ESRC's Strategic Resources Board is one of two new members appointed to the ESRC Council. Professor Jeffery's research interests are in German politics, comparative territorial politics and devolution in the UK. He recently headed the ESRC's Devolution and Constitutional Change Research Programme which ended in March 2006. The second new ESRC Council member, Carol Propper, is Professor of Economics of Public Policy at the University of Bristol. Professor Propper is Co-Director of the ESRC's Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion. She is also Chair of the ESRC's Grants Board.

ESRC Chair Appointed BA President

Frances Cairncross, Chair of the ESRC, was appointed as President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BA) for 2005-06. Ms Cairncross is Rector of Exeter College at the University of Oxford. She took over from Professor Robert Winston at the British Association Festival of Science held in Dublin in September 2005.



Human Genetics Commission

Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley, a Reader in Medical Sociology in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Edinburgh has been appointed to sit on the Human Genetics Commission (HGC). Professor Cunningham-Burley, who is also affiliated to the ESRC Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics, has particular expertise in professional and lay views of genetics, and lay understandings of health and health behaviours. The 24 members of the HGC have expertise in clinical and research genetics, consumer affairs, ethics, law, media, primary care and genetic conditions. The HGC provides expertise and advice to the Government.

Who's Who at the ESRC



Who's Who at the ESRC

Members of Council 2005-06

The following Council Members were appointed by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and serve for terms of two to four years. The list below gives details of the members of Council for the year 2005-06. The dates given show their term of appointment.

Ms Frances Cairncross

Chair Economic and Social
Research Council
2001-07

Professor Ian Diamond

Chief Executive Economic
and Social Research Council
2003-10

Professor Alan Alexander

Chair
Scottish Water (resigned
20 February 2006)
2003-08

Professor Patricia Broadfoot

Pro Vice-Chancellor
University of Bristol
2001-06

Professor Andrew Chesher

Professor of Economics
University College London
2001-05

Ms Helen Dent

Chief Executive
Family Welfare Association
2003-07

Professor Fiona Devine

Professor and Head of Sociology
University of Manchester
2003-07

Professor Charlie Jeffery

Professor of Politics
University of Edinburgh
2005-08

Mr Paul Johnson

Director of Public Services
and Chief Micro Economist
HM Treasury
2002-08

Professor Andrew Pettigrew

Dean
University of Bath Management School
2004-08

Professor Carol Propper

Professor of Economics of Public Policy
University of Bristol
2005-08

Professor Judith Rees

Professor of Environmental
and Resources Management
London School of Economics
2004-07

Professor Alison Richard

Vice-Chancellor
University of Cambridge
2004-07

Lord Adair Turner

Vice Chairman
Merrill Lynch (Europe)
2003-09

Professor Stephen Wilks

Department of Politics
University of Exeter
2001-05

Mr Andrew Winckler

Partner and Chairman
Financial Services Regulatory Practice,
Ernst & Young
2003-09

Representative of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Mr John Neilson

Office of Science and Innovation
(formerly Office of Science
and Technology).

Members of Boards and Committees

The following is a list of members of ESRC Boards and Committees as at 31 March 2006. Members of Council are given in bold type.

Research Grants Board

Professor C Propper, *Chair*
 Professor B Wells, *Vice Chair*
 Professor P Aggleton
 Professor P Allmendinger
 Professor A Bryman
 Professor N Coupland
 Professor A Edwards
 Professor B Francis
 Professor P Gatrell
 Dr V Gayle
 Professor K Gilhooly
 Professor G Hodgkinson
 Professor P Jeffery
 Professor A Menon
 Professor A Muscatelli
 Professor C O'Malley
 Dr N Owen
 Ms E Ransom
 Professor E Robinson
 Professor M Slade
 Professor S Scott
 Professor R Spears
 Professor P Taylor-Gooby
 Professor A Tickell
 Professor B Townley
 Professor S Wheeler
 Mr G Davies, *Secretary*

Strategic Research Board

Professor C Jeffery, *Chair*
 Professor T Rees, *Vice Chair*
 Professor W Ahmad
 Professor J Burgess
 Mr G Chanan
 Professor S Cox
 Professor R Eiser
 Professor J Fairhead
 Professor C Gipps
 Professor M Goodwin
 Professor H Margetts
 Ms A Millar
 Professor C Orme
 Professor W Walker
 Dr P Williams
 Mr P Sooben, *Secretary*

Training and Development Board

Professor J Rees, *Chair*
 Professor C Phillipson, *Vice Chair*
 Mr R Bartholomew
 Mr D Beaton
 Professor D Bell
 Professor J Brewer
 Professor S Bulmer
 Professor L Gelsthorpe
 Professor C Howe
 Professor R Hudson
 Professor M Martin-Jones
 Professor R Thorpe
 Ms S Witherspoon
 Mr J Neathey, *Secretary*

Research Resources Board

Professor P Broadfoot, *Chair*
 Dr J Fox, *Vice Chair*
 Professor D Blackaby
 Professor J Brannen
 Professor M Evandrou
 Professor J Martin
 Mr C Rusbridge
 Ms S Stanley
 Professor P Rees
 Mr R Lewis
 Professor L Paterson
 Mr O Frommelt
 Dr D Zeitlyn
 Mr J Neathey, *Secretary*

Audit Committee

Professor A Alexander, *Chair*
 Mrs G Ball
 Mr P Johnson
 Professor D Otley
 Professor A Pettigrew

Communications and Information Committee

Ms H Dent, *Chair*
 Ms M Adebowale
 Mr M Beatson
 Professor L Brindley
 Mr M Dean
 Ms B Doig
 Mr T Hughes
 Mr P Reader
 Mr B Rooney
 Mr J Saxton
 Professor G Stoker
 Drs A Wissenburg, *Secretary*

International Advisory Committee

Professor F Devine, *Chair*
 Dr F Berkhout
 Mr C Butler
 Professor P Elias
 Professor J Fairhead
 Professor J Glover
 Professor R Hudson
 Professor A Muscatelli
 Professor A Tickell
 Professor M Vihman

Research Evaluation Committee

Professor A Pettigrew, *Chair*
 Professor C Bellamy
 Professor N Chater
 Mr P Davies
 Professor D Osborn
 Professor C Glendinning
 Mr B Naisbitt
 Professor J Skea
 Mr I Jones, *Secretary*
 Mr P Sooben, *Ex Officio*

Who's Who at the ESRC

Profile of Board Membership

The members of the ESRC's various Boards are appointed by the Council and serve two-year terms of appointment, with a possibility of extension for another two years. The following provides a profile of ESRC Board membership for 2005-06.

Disciplinary Background

Anthropology	Economics	Education	Geography/ Planning	Linguistics	Management	Politics/International Relations
3	5	4	4	2	4	5
Psychology	Rural Affairs	Economic and Social History	Social Policy	Socio-Legal/ Criminology	Sociology	Statistics/Methods
6	1	1	4	2	5	5

Professional Background

Business	Government	Universities	Voluntary Sector
4	6	53	2

Region

London/Oxbridge	Other England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
19	28	11	6	1

Senior Staff at the ESRC

Names of staff are those in post at 31 March 2006.

Chair of Council

Ms Frances Cairncross

Chief Executive

Professor Ian Diamond

Communications and Information Directorate (CID)

Drs Astrid Wissenburg

Director

Mr Andy Gibbs

Associate Director Computing

Mr David Guy

Head of Knowledge Transfer

Mr Iain Jones

Head of Evaluation

Ms Saskia Walcott

Head of Communications

Finance and Awards

Management Division (FAM)

Mr Brian Hooper

Finance Officer

Policy and Resources Directorate (PRD)

Mr Glyn Davies

Director

Ms Mary Coole

Associate Director

Human Resources Group (Joint EPSRC)

Mr Jeremy Neathey

Associate Director

Research Resources and Training

Mr Phil Sooben

Associate Director

Corporate Strategy and Priorities

Research Training and

Development Directorate (RTD)

Mr Adrian Alsop

Director

Mr Gary Grubb

Associate Director

Geography, History, Education,

Environment and Politics (GHEEP)

Ms Ros Rouse

Associate Director

Anthropology, Linguistics,

Psychology, Health and Sociology/

Socio-legal Studies (ALPHaS)

Ms Fiona Armstrong

Associate Director

Training, Economics, Management, Methods,

Statistics and Social Policy (TEMMSS)

Research



Overview of Research Funding Schemes

The ESRC's research budget of some £83 million is spent in a number of ways. The intention is to support work of the highest quality across all areas of social science and to provide support at different stages of the research career ladder. The principal funding opportunities are:

Research centres are national focal points for social science research where academics can collaborate on long-term projects. Selected through competition, centres are funded for an initial period of ten years, subject to a satisfactory mid-term review. They are central to the ESRC's strategy to develop the UK social science research base and strengthen its position on the international stage. Large-scale and long-term funding of centres enables a focus for academic leadership to be developed and ensures continuity in a particular field of research. The infrastructure offered by a centre also enables it to improve research methods, improve career opportunities and increase the scale and ambition of the issues addressed by the social sciences. Details of the research centres currently funded by the Council are given on the following pages and include the name of the centre director, contact details and the duration and amount of funding.

Research groups are similar to research centres in involving a concentrated grouping of researchers at one or occasionally two institutions; they are funded for only five years, rather than the full ten years of a research centre. They are appropriate for research which addresses medium term issues.

Research programmes are groups of independent but related projects in areas selected by the ESRC. They harness and strengthen the UK's social science research capacity by addressing scientific and policy relevant topics of strategic and national importance. Projects are selected for their scientific excellence and fit to the programme specification. Programmes provide added value over and above stand alone research projects. They are designed to address medium-term

social and economic issues, often drawing on the skills and knowledge of a variety of disciplines in the UK and abroad.

Priority networks are similar to programmes in involving groups of related projects but participation is managed by the researchers themselves and they operate on a smaller scale. Like programmes these networks provide added value over and above stand alone research projects.

Research grants are used to investigate new and pressing issues, as well as to provide a stepping stone for new researchers. Ranging from £15,000 to £1.5 million, they give the Council the flexibility to respond rapidly to the latest developments in the academic world and society more generally. Grants are selected for their scientific excellence from proposals made by researchers in any area of the social sciences and at any time of their choice.

Fellowships provide the opportunity to undertake a period of concentrated research activity as well as supporting further training and the consolidation of previous research. They offer a salaried period of two to three years (five years in exceptional circumstances) to researchers working in all areas of social and economic science. In addition, our professorial fellowships are designed to support leading social scientists working in the UK, by providing them with the freedom to pursue their own innovative and creative research agendas. In addition, the Council has launched two new schemes in the last year. These are a first grants scheme for new researchers and a large grants scheme for awards above the normal upper limit. The first awards for these will be announced and will commence in 2006.

To find out about **Research Resources** and **funding schemes targeted at doctoral level and new researchers** see the 'Building Capacity for the Future' section.

Research

Report by Strategic Research Board Chair



ESRC remains committed to supporting the highest quality research on topics of national and international importance, and the Strategic Research Board has a crucial role in defining, commissioning and managing this work.

The Board's particular contribution to Council's Strategic Framework lies in elaborating the Key Research Challenges, including developing innovative scientific agendas which provide orientation for work across Council; identifying appropriate directed funding mechanisms to address the Challenges; and working to ensure integration and added value under the Challenge headings across the range of Council's funding portfolio. Work over the last year has led to the identification of exciting new research opportunities in fields such as human behaviour, education for life, religion and ethnicity, and innovation which develop the Board's traditional directed funding role while also connecting more strongly with Council's capacity-building, dataset and international strategies.

The Board's budget is at a historical high and the last 12 months have been exceptional in the range and scale of new research it has developed and funded. As the scale of its work has grown, and as new opportunities to help deliver the full range of Council's strategic objectives have emerged, the Board has placed a strong focus on developing new mechanisms for the effective management and monitoring of its investments.

The Board is highly selective in the science it funds. Following a rigorous competition for new research centres, the Board has approved the creation of two exciting new research centres, the Centre for Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability at the University of Sussex which takes a global development perspective on sustainability; and the Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice at the Institute of Fiscal Studies, which will refine ways of using non-experimental data to advance knowledge on human behaviour. The Board has also approved further periods of funding for its three networked research centres CESAgen, Egenis and Innogen, which carry out work on the social and economic aspects of the science of genomes, and also for BRASS, the Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society.

The Board has commissioned important research in no less than ten research programmes all of which adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to pressing topics of public policy and concern. These have included such diverse areas as Public Services: quality, performance and delivery;

Identity and Social Action; New Security Challenges; World Economy and Finance, and Teaching and Learning.

The Board is increasingly working with other Research Councils and with other committees and Boards within ESRC. Its considerable experience of cross-Council collaboration has enabled Council to ensure a strong social science element in multi-disciplinary initiatives such as Genomics, Climate Change, Energy and the Rural Economy. The forthcoming Research Programme on the New Dynamics of Ageing is the second cross-Council initiative on which the Board is taking the lead on behalf of all partner Councils.

The Board continues to work in a corporate way by seeking to integrate its research funding with support for developments in resources and methodology, and capacity building and communication. Research and capacity building aims are being brought together, for example, in the developing area of stem cells science, the Non-Governmental Public Action research programme, the Teaching and Learning Research Programme and the Advanced Institute of Management, and will be key themes in proposals for new investments over the next few years.

The Board has proved that its ability to manage risk and to facilitate large scale projects provides Council with the tools to fund speculative research whilst ensuring delivery. It has begun a radical review of its arrangements for management to ensure that they are fit for purpose, meet the highest standards of accountability, benchmark good practice and promote learning across investments. It has begun to explore the development of more systematic ways with which to engage with the users of research, and of enhancing communication between researchers and society. Last summer the Board awarded the first three Fellowships under a new scheme to enable Directors of Research Programmes to build on the achievements of their programme with a range of additional dissemination and communication activities after the main period of research activity.

The Board is considering the costs and benefits of its different funding mechanisms. In particular, it is looking at ways to ensure that the scientific and other benefits of dispersed modes of funding are captured in cost effective ways.

While there is good evidence that most of the Board's investments are already working to international standards, the Board is planning to encourage further international engagement where this is in the interests of enhancing scientific excellence, and for its investments to play a leading role in international activity. The Board expects to see an international dimension play a bigger part in its decision making on major research investment in future.

Finally, I would like to mark the work of my predecessor as Chair of this Board, Professor Stephen Wilks of the University of Exeter. His intellectual leadership, vision and management skills drove on the work of the Board over the last few years and in doing so also set the very high standards and expectations which the Board will continue to pursue.

Professor Charlie Jeffery
Chair of the ESRC Strategic Research Board

Research Partnerships Across the Councils

The ESRC's budget allocations provide for a number of initiatives where the Council is pleased to be engaged in partnerships with other members of Research Councils UK (RCUK). We expect a further increase in these partnerships for 2006-07.

The Government's Science and Innovation Investment Framework identified multi-disciplinary research and the infrastructure and funding mechanisms to support it as a critical challenge. In playing our full part in these cross-Council initiatives the ESRC demonstrates its commitment to meeting this challenge.

The ESRC leads a cross-Council investment in Rural Economy and Land Use. In 2006 we funded with our partners new projects addressing three major themes – the integration of land and water use, the environmental basis of rural development and economic and social interactions with the rural environment.

The Council is a partner in the UK Energy Research Centre. Social scientists contribute significantly to the approach characteristics of the Centre ie treating the energy system as a whole, taking into account demand, supply and infrastructure. We also agreed this year to extend our funding for the joint Tyndall Centre for climate change research.

We work with RCUK partners on genomics and stem cells. In 2006 all three Centres funded by the ESRC passed successfully through a mid-term review of their activities and achievements. We have also commissioned work to develop social science research capacity for working on stem cells.

The ESRC is one of 12 partners, including the Medical Research Council in a major initiative on preventative research. The ESRC contributed £1.25 million and 26 awards were issued during 2005-06.

The ESRC has continued to work with the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) to develop the Advanced Institute of Management Research, AIM. This year the two Councils funded nine new mid career fellows and AIM is involved in two new research consortia to address major issues in manufacturing.

With the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the ESRC funds the Cultures of Consumption Research Programme that studies consumption in a global context. In 2006, the Programme set out, in collaboration with the Food Standards Agency, what consumers know – lessons from research on consumer perception of food, motivation and ethics.

The Council is working with RCUK partners to commission research on the New Dynamics of Ageing with two new major multidisciplinary projects selected on modelling needs and resource of older people and on community and care home strategies.

ESRC works with EPSRC and industry on the People at the Centre of Communication and Information Technologies Research Programme. In 2005 the Programme demonstrated novel ways of using IT to link fun, games and learning, with British Telecom and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The ESRC works with EPSRC and RCUK partners to develop capacity for new multi-disciplinary research. Our joint studentship model was developed with the Natural Environment Research Council. A key success criterion is to ensure effective joint supervision by a supervisor from each of the natural and social sciences involved. The model has been extended to a collaboration with the Medical Research Council, to involve post-doctoral fellowships as well as students.

The ESRC is a full participant in the RCUK Academic Fellowship Scheme, although administration is led by the EPSRC.

Case Study

The Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment

“As well as providing new opportunities for wealth creation and improved quality of life, the environmental change process also brings with it significant risks and cost burdens.”

The Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE) is one of the ESRC's longest running Research Centres. Established in 1991 at University College London and The University of East Anglia, Norwich; and since 2001 at Norwich alone, the Centre has gained an international reputation for excellent interdisciplinary and policy relevant research on local, national and global environmental issues.

As individuals and as citizens we are all increasingly aware of the quickening in the pace of change in our societies and our environment. This global scale process of 'environmental change' is having and will have profound consequences for our livelihoods, neighbourhoods, country and planet. As well as providing new opportunities for wealth creation and improved quality of life, the environmental change process also brings with it significant risks and cost burdens which will impact not just on contemporary society but future generations. Climate change and its threats to people, property and biodiversity is now high up the political agenda, but many other environmental problems such as air and water pollution, waste disposal and loss of important habitats represent just as pressing a set of issues demanding mitigation or solution.

Policymakers around the world have signed up to a policy response strategy with the shorthand title of 'sustainable development'. Just what such a management programme will mean in terms of practical projects, policies or courses of action lies at the core

of CSERGE's research effort. We have been seeking to shed light on questions such as: sustainability of what, for whom and for how long? The CSERGE research findings have encompassed a wide spectrum. This has included quantitative economic analysis covering the depletion/degradation of resources and accounts to reflect more accurately on this process and the wider aim of sustainable production; as well as the monetary valuation of the 'services' provided by threatened assets such as forests and wetlands. We have also undertaken political analysis of government and institutional reforms which are seen as fairer and more accountable, and analysis of grassroots initiatives in sustainable consumption ie alternative food (local/organic) networks, new forms of money (time banks) and new structures for housing provision.

CSERGE's overall aim has been to contribute to the debate over sustainable development via a 'learn by doing' approach, in other words to promote a wide, social dialogue informed by careful data gathering, analysis and options assessment.

Professor Kerry Turner, Director of CSERGE

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/env/cserge>

Research Centres and Groups

Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR)

The centre aims to study risk management and regulation in the areas of organisations and risk management; business regulation and corporate governance; and regulation of government and governance. It will carry out a programme of interdisciplinary research and make significant contributions in the areas of economics, sociology, psychology, political science, human geography, environmental planning, management and business studies, and socio-legal studies.

Directors:

Professor M Power

Tel: 020 7955 7228

Email: m.k.power@lse.ac.uk

Professor B Hutter

Tel: 020 7955 7287

Email: b.m.hutter@lse.ac.uk

London School of Economics
London WC2A 2AE

October 2000 – September 2010

Current grant: £2.8 million
cash limit (2005-10)

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR>

Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE)

The core research of the centre lies in empirical analysis of three of the principal dimensions of social exclusion; the economy and incomes; families and family change; and communities and neighbourhoods. It also examines the implications of developments in these areas for society as a whole, and the political and philosophical content of the concepts of exclusion and inclusion.

Director: Professor J Hills, CBE

Tel: 020 7755 6679

Email: j.hills@lse.ac.uk

London School of Economics
London WC2A 2AE

October 1997 – September 2007

Current grant: £2.7 million (2002-07)

<http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case>

Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS)

The centre aims to foster a holistic and inter-disciplinary approach to the interaction between businesses and their social and physical environment through its research work and partnerships with businesses and their stakeholders.

Director: Professor K Peattie

Tel: 029 2087 6562

Email: peattie@cardiff.ac.uk

Cardiff University

Cardiff CF10 3AT

October 2001 – September 2006

Current grant: £3.2 million
cash limit (2001-06)

<http://www.brass.cf.ac.uk>

Centre for Competition Policy (CCP)

The centre's research programme is focused around three themes: regime dynamics, which explores the role of regulatory institutions on economic behaviour in competitive markets, for example whether or not there are separate sector specific regulators and their interaction with different departments of government; Enforcement and remedies which examines the appropriate use of remedies by competition authorities, including sector specialist regulators, and the effects of different legal regimes and administrative procedures; Developing principles and methodologies, which aim to provide theoretical and empirical answers to current and future issues arising in competition policy.

Director: Professor C Waddams

Tel: 01603 593715

Email: c.waddams@uea.ac.uk

University of East Anglia

Norwich NR4 7TJ

September 2004 – August 2009

Current grant: £339,000 (2004-05)

<http://www.ccp.uea.ac.uk>

Deafness, Cognition and Language Centre (DCAL)

The centre's research programme is designed around five interlocking strands concerned with a broad series of research questions. DCAL will focus on modalities of communication (vocal, visuo-gestural) and the experiences of deaf people. The focus will be on five key areas: language processing, face to face communication, language development, atypical sign language and the deaf individual and the community. The centre work involves collaboration with science, education, medicine, the voluntary sector, social services and the deaf community.

Director: Professor B Woll

Tel: 020 7679 8670

Email: b.woll@ucl.ac.uk

University College London

London WC1H 0PD

January 2006 – December 2010

Current grant: £3.6 million (2006-10)

<http://www.dcal.ucl.ac.uk>

Centre for Economic Aspects of Genomics (cesagen)

A collaboration between Lancaster and Cardiff Universities which is pursuing multidisciplinary social science research in collaboration with natural scientists and will address topics such as stem cell research, animals and biotechnology and pharmacogenetics, with special reference to cross-cutting themes of globalisation and public engagement.

Director: Professor R Chadwick

Tel: 01524 592832

Email: r.chadwick@lancaster.ac.uk

Deputy Director: Professor B Wynne

Tel: 01524 592653

Email: b.wynne@lancaster.ac.uk

University of Lancaster

Lancaster LA1 4YG

Co-Director: Professor P Atkinson

Tel: 029 2087 4155

Email: atkinsonpa@cardiff.ac.uk

October 2002 – September 2007

Current grant: £4.3 million (2002-07)

<http://www.cesagen.lancs.ac.uk>

Research Centres and Groups

Centre for Economic Learning and Social Evolution (ELSE)

The centre aims to increase understanding about how individuals and organisations learn about the way in which their behaviour can best utilise and distribute their resources.

Director: Professor T Börgers
Tel: 020 7679 5879
Email: else@ucl.ac.uk

University College London
London WC1E 6BT

October 1995 – September 2005
Current grant: £2.4 million (2000-05)

<http://else.econ.ucl.ac.uk>

Centre for Economic Performance (CEP)

The centre's work addresses several key themes which impact on the UK's economic performance. These include the impact of both the internal structure and organisation of firms and the external market environment on output, productivity and technical change.

Director: Professor J Van Reenen
Tel: 020 7955 7048
Email: j.vanreenen@lse.ac.uk

London School of Economics
London WC2A 2AE

April 1990 – September 2005
Current grant: £5.3 million (2000-05)

<http://cep.lse.ac.uk>

Electricity Policy Research Group (EPRG)

The EPRG is a focus for applied interdisciplinary research into the electricity supply industry. The group's research is concerned with finding reliable, diverse, affordable, publicly acceptable and safe ways to supply the growing demand for energy while minimising carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels.

Director: Professor D Newbery
Tel: 01223 335246
Email: david.newbery@econ.acm.ac.uk

University of Cambridge
Cambridge CB3 9DE

October 2005 – September 2010
Current grant £2.4 million

<http://www.electricitypolicy.org.uk>

Families and Social Capital Research Group

This research group focuses on the inter-relationship between the dynamics of family change and processes of social capital. The work takes a critical approach to the question of whether changing families mean the death of old, or the generation of new forms of social resources and support.

Director: Professor R Edwards
Tel: 020 7815 5750
Email: edwardra@lsbu.ac.uk

South Bank University
London SE1 0AA

January 2002 – December 2006
Current grant: £2.8 million (2002-06)

<http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/families>

Genomics Policy and Research Forum

The Genomics Forum will take a lead in co-ordinating the contribution of the ESRC Genomics Network to national policymaking processes. The Forum will conduct innovative activities that combine and communicate the insights of social scientists, scientists and 'users', policymakers, practitioners and members of the public. The Forum will act as a focal point for information flow within the Genomics Network (The three Genomics Centres and Forum).

Director: Professor M Banner
Tel: 0131 651 4747
Email: michael.banner@ed.ac.uk

University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ

August 2004 – July 2009
Current grant: £2.9 million

<http://www.genomicsforum.ac.uk>

Attitudes to Genomics Survey

The key aim of the work will be to complement and extend the activities of the ESRC's Genomics Centres, as well as providing a resource for future social science research in genomics. The aim of the survey is to provide a basic understanding of current attitudes of the general public on genomics, and how these are formed and have changed over time. The objectives of the research are to consider how these attitudes relate to other general socio-political attitudes and attitudes to other domains; what difference the impact of factual and contested knowledge about genomics makes; examine changes in key components of attitudes from earlier British Social Attitudes surveys; and, provide an understanding of the role of ambivalence in relation to genomics.

Director: Professor R Shepherd
Tel: 01483 689449
Email: r.shepherd@surrey.ac.uk

University of Surrey
Guildford GU2 7XH

November 2002 – January 2005
Current grant: £703,000

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/SHS/genomics>

Centre for Genomics in Society (egenis)

Egenis exists to conduct a wide range of high quality research into the social impact of the rapid contemporary developments in genomic sciences, and to make the results of this research readily accessible to policymakers and the public. The centre is committed to informing its research with state of the art philosophical and sociological understanding of genomic science, and to explore the diverse meanings of genomic terminology to scientists, professional groups concerned with applications of genetic knowledge (such as lawyers, clinicians, and a range of agents in the food chain) and to the general public.

Director: Professor J Dupré
Tel: 01392 262049
Email: j.a.dupre@exeter.ac.uk

Co-Directors:
Professor B Barnes
Tel: 01392 263279
Email: s.b.barnes@exeter.ac.uk

Professor S Hughes
Tel: 01392 262043
Email: s.g.hughes@exeter.ac.uk

University of Exeter
Exeter EX4 4RJ

October 2002 – September 2007
Current grant: £2.5 million

<http://www.centres.ex.ac.uk/egenis>

Global Poverty Research Group

This collaboration between the Centre for the Study of African Economies at the University of Oxford and Institute for Development Policy and Management at the University of Manchester aims to investigate poverty, inequality, and the quality of life across Africa, South Asia and China. The group adopts a decentralised, participatory form of organisation that puts the emphasis on individuals and their research interests.

Director: Dr F Teal
Tel: 01865 271084
Email: francis.teal@economics.ox.ac.uk

University of Oxford
Oxford OX1 3UQ

Co-Director: Professor D Hulme
Tel: 0161 275 2803
Email: david.hulme@man.ac.uk

August 2002 – July 2007
Current grant: £2.6 million

<http://www.gprg.org>

Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR)

Qualitative and quantitative change is taking place in the relationship between economic activity in the realm of global markets and political activity in the realm of inter-state relations. The centre aims to address the implications for international economic and political management arising from apparently competing trends to globalisation and regionalisation.

Co-Directors:
Professor R Higgott
Tel: 024 7652 4633
Email: richard.higgott@csv.warwick.ac.uk

Professor J Scholte
Tel: 024 7657 2939
Email: scholte@warwick.ac.uk

University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL

October 1997 – September 2007
Current grant: £2.4 million

<http://www.csgr.org>

Centre for Research on Innovation and Competition (CRIC)

The centre is concerned with developing a programme of fundamental research which will be informed by the needs and experiences of people in a variety of organisations and workplaces. The main objective of the centre is to cast new light on the problem of competitiveness and the role innovation plays in this.

Executive Director: Professor J Howells
Tel: 0161 275 7374
Email: jeremy.howells@man.ac.uk

Associate Directors:
Professor S Metcalfe
Tel: 0161 275 7371
Email: stan.metcalfe@man.ac.uk

Professor I Miles
Tel: 0161 275 7360
Email: ian.miles@man.ac.uk

Professor A Warde
Tel: 0161 275 7363
Email: alan.warde@man.ac.uk

University of Manchester
Manchester M13 9QH

October 1996 – September 2006
Current grant: £2.6 million (2001-06)

<http://les.man.ac.uk/cric/default.shtm>

Research Centres and Groups

Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics (innogen)

The centre, a collaboration between the University of Edinburgh and the Open University, is exploring developments and interactions between citizens and public interest groups; scientists, industry and private interest groups; and policymakers and regulators in relation to economic growth, global competitiveness, the dynamics and structure of the industry sectors involved, the evolution of UK and international policy and citizen and stakeholder engagement in policy and innovation processes.

Director: Professor J Tait
Tel: 0131 650 9174

Email: joyce.tait@ed.ac.uk

Co-Director: Professor R Williams
Tel: 0131 650 6387

Email: r.williams@ed.ac.uk

University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh EH1 1LZ

Co-Director: Professor D Wield
Tel: 01908 653231

Email: d.v.wield@open.ac.uk

Open University
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

October 2002 – September 2007
Current grant: £2.1 million (2002-07)

<http://www.innogen.ac.uk>

Centre for Market and Public Organisation (CMPO)

The aim of the centre is to understand the appropriate form for the organisation of public services. Outcomes that society cares about, such as health and education are determined by:

- how public services are delivered: the role of choice, competition and incentives
- organisational culture, the legal framework and public service motivation
- the responses of individuals and families in co-producing those outcomes
- the social environment: the role of neighbourhood, segregation and peer groups.

Director: Professor S Burgess

Tel: 0117 928 8436

Email: simon.burgess@bristol.ac.uk

University of Bristol
Bristol BS8 1TN

October 2004 – September 2009

Current grant: £1.1 million

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/cmipo>

Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy (CMAPP)

The centre will use the full range of microeconomics and microeconomic techniques on the analysis of fiscal policy in its relationships to households and companies.

Director: Professor R Blundell

Tel: 020 7291 4800

Email: rblundell@ifs.org.uk

Institute for Fiscal Studies
London WC1E 7AE

April 1991 – September 2006

Current grant: £3.2 million (2001-06)

<http://www.ifs.org.uk/esrc>

Research Centre on Micro-social Change (MISOC)

MISOC's core research programme is involved with the dynamics of social position: life chances within and between generations. The research takes full advantage of the detailed evidence now available from longitudinal studies about life courses of individuals – in particular the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS).

Director: Professor S Pudney

Tel: 01206 872957

Email: spudney@essex.ac.uk

University of Essex
Colchester CO4 3SQ

October 1999 – September 2004

Renewed funding

October 2004 – September 2009

Current grant: £3.3 million (2004-09)

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/misoc>

Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS)

The centre provides a strategic, integrated approach to understanding contemporary and future migration dynamics across sending areas and receiving contexts in the UK and EU.

Director: Professor S Vertovec

Tel: 01865 274711

Email: emma.newcombe@anthropology.ox.ac.uk

University of Oxford
58 Banbury Road
Oxford OX2 6QS

October 2003 – September 2008

Current grant: £3.4 million

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk>

Centre for Organisation and Innovation (COI)

The centre is advancing understanding of how work organisation affects the successful use of new technologies, techniques and management practices and other new forms of work; and, how job, team and organisational practices affect employee innovation.

Director: Professor T Wall
Tel: 0114 222 3254
Email: t.d.wall@sheffield.ac.uk

Co-Directors:
Professor C Clegg
Tel: 0114 222 3249
Email: c.clegg@shef.ac.uk

Professor S Wood
Tel: 0114 222 3230
Email: s.j.wood@shef.ac.uk

University of Sheffield
Sheffield S10 2TN

October 1996 – September 2006
Current grant: £2.1 million (2001-06)

<http://esrccoi.group.shef.ac.uk>

Complex Product Systems Innovation Research Centre (CoPS)

The centre is making a fundamental contribution to our knowledge concerning high-cost, complex industrial products and systems and to harness this understanding for UK competitive advantage. It provides an umbrella for world-class research in complex product systems and is investigating whether there can be a core competence for the UK in the area.

Directors:
Professor M Hobday
Tel: 01273 877153
Email: m.g.hobday@susx.ac.uk

University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9RH

Professor H Rush
Tel: 01273 642188
Email: h.j.rush@bton.ac.uk

University of Brighton
Brighton BN2 4AT

October 1996 – September 2006
Current grant: £1.8 million (2001-06)

<http://www.cops.ac.uk/>

Simulating Policy for an Ageing Society Research Group (SAGE)

The aim of the centre is to estimate a social policy framework for the year 2020, in particular with regard to questions of factors that influence the experience of ageing. It is broadly concerned with retirement prospects amongst different cohorts of people. A population microsimulation model POPSIM 2020, will be constructed based on a sample of the current UK population. The information will then be 'aged' and various factors and differences between groups will be examined. From this model, social policy interventions may be estimated for their impact on different sub-groups within the population.

Directors: Dr M Evandrou
Tel: 020 7955 7355
Email: maria.evandrou@soton.ac.uk

Professor J Falkingham
Tel: 020 7955 6615/6517
Email: j.c.falkingham@soton.ac.uk

London School of Economics
London WC2A 2AE

Professor P Johnson
Tel: 020 7955 7061
Email: p.a.johnson@lse.ac.uk

Dr K Rake
Tel: 020 7253 2598
Email: katherine@fawcettsociety.org.uk

October 1999 – October 2005
Current grant: £763,392

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/SAGE>

Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE)

The centre is examining the links between the acquisition and use of skills and knowledge, product market strategies and economic performance.

Director: Mr K Mayhew
Tel: 01865 276434
Email: skopec@ox.ac.uk

Department of Economics
University of Oxford
Manor Road
Oxford OX1 3UQ

Deputy Director: Dr E Keep
Tel: 024 7652 4275
Email: skopek@wbs.warwick.ac.uk

University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL

October 1998 – September 2008
Current grant: £2.2 million

<http://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/skope>

Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE)

The Environmental Decision-making Programme at CSERGE is dedicated to original research on the causes, consequences and policy implications of global environmental change. It focuses on policy issues, using interdisciplinary research which bridges the natural and social sciences.

Director: Professor K Turner
Tel: 01603 592551
Email: r.k.turner@uea.ac.uk

University of East Anglia
Norwich NR4 7TJ

October 2001 – September 2006
Current grant: £2.2 million

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/env/cserge>

Research Centres and Groups

Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC)

This research centre will analyse socio-cultural change. It is the first major research centre in Britain to develop a broad, empirically focused account of cultural change and its economic, social and political implications. CRESC will bring together the theoretical and methodological expertise of the University of Manchester and Open University staff in disciplines as diverse as accounting and finance, business, census and survey statistics, geography, history, social anthropology, and sociology.

Directors:

Professor M Savage (convening)

Professor K Williams

Tel: 0161 275 8985

Email: cresc@manchester.ac.uk

University of Manchester
Manchester M13 9PL

Professor T Bennett

Tel: 01908 654458

Email: cresc@open.ac.uk

c/o Karen Ho
The Open University
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

October 2004 – September 2009

Current grant: £3.7 million

<http://www.cresc.man.ac.uk>

Sussex Energy Group

This research group aims to address the challenges of the transition to a sustainable energy economy, appraising the options for technology and policy around transitions, assessing how transitions occur, and determining how best to govern complex and uncertain transition processes.

Director: Professor MacKerron

Tel: 01273 678166

Email: g.s.mackerron@sussex.ac.uk

University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9QE

April 2005 – March 2010

Current grant £2.8 million

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/spru>

Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

The purpose of the centre is to research, assess and communicate from a distinct trans-disciplinary perspective the options to mitigate, and the necessities to adapt to, climate change, and to integrate these into the global, national and local contexts of sustainable development. Jointly funded by NERC, EPSRC and the ESRC, the centre will seek the views of the public, regularly briefing politicians and the media, and engage industry through its business liaison programme.

Research Director: Professor J Schellnhuber

Executive Director: Professor M Hulme

Tel: 01603 593162

Email: m.hulme@uea.ac.uk

University of East Anglia
Norwich NR4 7TJ

October 2000 – March 2009

Current grant: ESRC contribution

£1.3 million

<http://www.tyndall.ac.uk>

UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC)

Co-funded by the ESRC, NERC and EPSRC as a part of the Research Councils Energy Programme, UKERC aims to provide a stimulating environment to deliver rigorous whole-systems, integrated, inter-disciplinary research that will inform sustainable energy policy for the UK and engage with stakeholders and the wider public. As well as conducting its own interdisciplinary programme, UKERC acts as the hub of a National Energy Research Network and a focus for international collaboration, knowledge transfer and public engagement activities.

Director: Professor J Skea, OBE

Executive Director: Mr J Loughhead

Tel: 020 7594 1574

Email: jim.skea@ukerc.ac.uk

58 Prince's Gate
Exhibition Road
London SW7 2PG

April 2004 – April 2009

Current grant: ESRC contribution

£3.2 million

<http://www.ukerc.ac.uk>

Wellbeing in Developing Countries Research Group (WeD)

This research group is dedicated to the study of poverty, inequality and the quality of life in developing countries. The purpose of its current research programme is to develop a coherent conceptual and methodological framework for understanding the social and cultural construction of well-being in specific developing societies. The conceptual framework and methodology is being developed and tested in detailed studies with collaborating research organisations in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Peru and Thailand.

Director: Dr A McGregor

Tel: 01225 826384

Email: ja.mcgregor@bath.ac.uk

University of Bath
Bath BA2 7AY

October 2002 – September 2007

Current grant: £3.3 million

<http://www.welldev.org.uk>

Rural Economy and Land Use Programme

“We are bringing teams of people together who haven’t worked with each other before.”

The objective of the Rural Economy and Land Use (RELU) Programme is to improve understanding of the health, welfare and sustainability of the countryside.

To achieve that ambition, it was thought vital, in setting up the programme, to harness the scientific strengths and resources of the ESRC, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). With a budget of more than £22 million, this large and complex initiative is the biggest inter-Research Council programme to date headed by the ESRC. It is, moreover, the largest effort in interdisciplinary collaboration of its kind in UK public research funding.

“A lot is rolling on this programme”, says Programme Director Professor Philip Lowe, “Can the Research Councils and their respective scientific communities work together to resolve some of the recalcitrant problems of the countryside?” The success of the programme has required the ESRC, BBSRC and NERC to establish integrated ways of working including common procedures on data management, assessment and communication.

RELU is committed to pursue interdisciplinary working across the social and natural sciences in every research project it funds. The programme – which runs between 2003 and 2010 and currently involves over 50 projects, 300 researchers and 50 institutions – aims to advance a holistic understanding of the major economic, social, environmental and technological challenges facing rural areas. RELU is built on two core premises. The first is that the salient challenges cut across disciplinary boundaries and that interdisciplinary research is required as a basis for sustainable rural development. The second is that to enhance the impact of research on policy and practice the programme should engage potential stakeholders throughout all stages, including the identification of research questions, the conduct of the research, and the dissemination of results.

The immense challenges faced by the British countryside demand this innovative approach. If RELU is to succeed in its aim of helping achieve sustainable rural development, then a decisive break must be made with the segmented knowledge systems of the past. “These simply add to the problems by failing to address the complexity of the issues involved,” Professor Lowe argues.

Rural areas have encountered considerable change and upheaval in recent years, such as the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Key questions now urgently demand attention including: how to restore trust in food chains, how to tackle animal diseases in a socially acceptable manner, how to sustain agriculture in a liberalised economy, how to promote robust rural economies, how to alter land management to take pressure off the countryside and to anticipate climate change and challenges from invasive pests and pathogens, and how to manage land and water use to take stress off water catchments.

Interdisciplinarity is, of course, key to tackling such questions and Professor Lowe is determined to give researchers the encouragement they need to work together effectively. As he says “We are bringing teams of people together who haven’t worked with each other before”.

Professor Lowe believes that RELU’s focus on interdisciplinary and inter-Research Council working will, by the end of the programme, provide real insight into addressing major societal challenges through research collaboration. “One of our aims is to identify ways to help not only researchers work together but also Research Councils by, for example, bringing different data sets together and establishing common working procedures,” he stresses.

Through casting research in a broad social and economic framework, RELU is demonstrating a strategic potential to prioritise biological and environmental processes that underpin larger scale processes of sustainable development. In doing so, it is building new interdisciplinary capacity. Between the natural, biological and social science communities the research is strengthening or forging links that were previously weak or non-existent. This is enabling cooperation on cross-cutting issues of critical importance concerning plant/animal and human interactions.

Working closely with stakeholders and policymakers at the programme level, as well as farmers, land managers and users of rural resources at the project level, the programme is pioneering ways of addressing the multiple challenges facing the rural economy and landscape.

Professor Philip Lowe, Director of RELU
<http://www.relu.ac.uk>

Research Programmes and Priority Networks

AIM Management Research Initiative

The initiative will significantly increase the contribution of, and future capacity for, world class UK research on management. It will conduct research to identify actions to enhance the international competitiveness of UK businesses; raise the quality and international standing of UK research on management; expand the size and capacity of the active research base for UK research on management; and develop the engagement of that capacity with world class research outside of the UK and with practitioners and other users of research within the UK. AIM operates through fellowships rather than through conventional programme projects.

Director: Professor R Wensley
Tel: 0870 734 3000
Email: aim@london.edu

London Business School
London NW1 6DD

January 2002 – December 2006
Total grant: £21.8 million
40 Fellowships

<http://www.aimresearch.org>

Cultures of Consumption

The context of the programme is the rapidly expanding social, economic, technological and cultural significance of the consumer society. The programme will focus on five main topic areas: knowledge and the consumer; consumption, power and citizenship; internet commerce and media; metropolitan and transnational consumer cultures; and domestic consumption and media.

Director: Dr F Trentmann
Tel: 020 7079 0603
Email: esrcconsume@bbk.ac.uk

Birkbeck College
London WC1E 7HX

January 2002 – June 2007
Total grant: £4 million
(plus £1 million from the AHRC)
Phase I – 16 projects
Phase II – 10 projects

<http://www.consume.bbk.ac.uk>

Development and Persistence of Human Capability and Resilience in its Social and Geographical Context

The aim of the network is to contribute to policy by improving the scientific understanding of the socio-economic, biological and psychological circumstances that contribute to human capability and resilience over the life course. There are six component projects, all focused on human resilience and capability, but each with a different approach and field of study. The projects share a common definition of, and perspective on resilience. We define resilience as showing positive adjustment despite being exposed to adversity.

Director: Professor M Bartley
Tel: 020 7679 1707
Email: m.bartley@ucl.ac.uk

University College London
London WC1E 6BT

October 2003 – March 2007
Total grant: £2 million

<http://www.capabilityandresilience.org>

Devolution and Constitutional Change

The programme is examining a wide range of matters relating to devolution, constitutional change and the consequential effects. It has three themes: nationalism and national identity; governance and constitution; and economic and social policy.

Director: Professor C Jeffery
Tel: 0131 650 4266
Email: charlie.jeffery@ed.ac.uk

University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh EH8 9LL

April 1999 – March 2006
Total grant: £4.7 million
38 projects

<http://www.devolution.ac.uk>

E-Society

The programme will explore how institutions, practices and behaviours are being changed by the technologies that constitute the digital age in Government, business, leisure and other areas of social and economic life.

Programme Co-ordinator:
Professor R Burrows
Tel: 01904 433048
Email: rjb7@york.ac.uk

University of York
York Y10 5DD

January 2002 – October 2007

Total grant: £4.8 million

Phase I – 15 projects

Phase II – 13 projects

<http://www.york.ac.uk/res/e-society>

Evolution of Business Knowledge

This programme is a major investigation into the way business organisations acquire and apply knowledge in pursuit of their corporate objectives. It brings together leading researchers and stakeholders to explore how well the businesses from a range of sectors are adapting to the demands of a knowledge-based economy.

Director: Professor H Scarbrough
Tel: 024 7652 3840
Email: harry.scarbrough@wbs.ac.uk

University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL

April 2003 – December 2006

Total grant: £3.5 million

(plus £500,000 from the DTI)

13 projects

<http://www.ebkresearch.org>

Future of Work

This programme, which came to a conclusion in September 2005, made a fundamental contribution to our understanding of the changing nature of work, both paid and unpaid. The rigorous, empirical and conceptual research undertaken during the period of the programme has generated new knowledge and data on past, present and future trajectories of work organisations' employment structures and social relations.

Director: Professor P Nolan
Tel: 0113 233 4460
Email: p.j.nolan@leeds.ac.uk

University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT

October 1998 – September 2005
Total grant: £4 million
Phase I – 18 projects
Phase II – 9 projects

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/esrcfutureofwork>

Gender Equality Network

This network aims to explore the changing dynamics of gender equality in contemporary society, bringing together nine substantive projects, spread across eight institutions and involving some twenty researchers from a wide range of disciplines.

Director: Dr J Scott
Tel: 01223 335610
Email: jls1004@cam.ac.uk

University of Cambridge
Cambridge CB2 3RQ

October 2004 – September 2009
Total grant: £3.2 million
Theme I – 3 projects
Theme II – 4 projects
Theme III – 2 projects

<http://www.genet.ac.uk>

Identities and Social Action

This is a major multi-disciplinary research programme that will deepen our understanding of the processes involved in the making of selves, groups and communities. The focus is on how people are constituted in various social sites and how identity practices create social spaces and conflicted and cohesive patterns of social relations.

Director: Professor M Wetherell
Tel: 01908 274066
Email: m.s.wetherell@open.ac.uk

Open University
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

April 2003 – September 2009
Total grant: £4 million
25 projects

<http://www.identities.org.uk>

Innovative Health Technologies

The programme will advance our understanding of the interaction between innovative health technologies (IHTs) and wider changes in society. IHTs – such as new drugs, devices, procedures and wider socio-technical and organisational change – present policymakers and the public with major new concerns. The promises and risk of IHTs are currently raising important cultural, ethical, economic and political issues which merit thorough investigation.

Director: Professor A Webster
Tel: 01904 433064
Email: ajw25@york.ac.uk

University of York
York YO1 5DD

September 1999 – January 2006
Total ESRC grant: £4.1 million
(plus £1.1 million from MRC)
Phase I – 20 projects
Phase II – 11 projects

<http://www.york.ac.uk/res/int>

New Security Challenges

The programme will promote research into security which builds on, but also moves beyond, the traditional pre-occupation with military conflict between states. It will focus on international security but defined broadly to include threats to groups as well as nations; to the biosphere as well as the polity, and from the military to political, economic and environmental security.

Director: Professor S Croft
Tel: 0121 414 6630
Email: s.j.croft@bham.ac.uk

University of Birmingham
Birmingham B15 2TT

January 2003 – December 2007
Total grant: £4 million
Phase I – 18 projects
Phase II – 14 projects

<http://www.newsecurity.bham.ac.uk>

Non-Governmental Public Action (NGPA)

Public action by and for disadvantaged people, undertaken by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other non-governmental actors, is increasingly significant at local and international levels. The research programme will develop existing theory, generate new empirical data and develop beneficial links between researchers and users. Projects will include international comparative work and transdisciplinary research.

Director: Professor J Howell
Tel: 020 7955 7205
Email: j.a.howell@lse.ac.uk

London School of Economics
and Political Science
London WC2A 2AE

May 2004 – April 2009
Total grant: £4.9 million
27 projects

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/NGPA>

Research Programmes and Priority Networks

Pathways into and out of Crime: Risk, Resilience and Diversity

This priority network has identified gaps in the understanding of pathways in and out of crime for young people, particularly in the four areas of a young persons' life centred around: school interactions; individual and peer group relations; family relationships and community life. It will address these different 'risk domains' and consider the interplay of 'risk' and protective factors in diverse social and economic groups in determining behaviour.

Co-ordinator: Dr J Hine
Tel: 0116 257 7764
Email: jhine@amu.ac.uk

University of Sheffield
Sheffield S10 2JA

October 2001 – April 2006
Total grant: £1.3 million
5 projects

<http://www.pccrrd.group.shef.ac.uk>

People at the Centre of Communication and Information Technologies (PACCIT)

Co-funded with EPSRC, this programme will develop a greater understanding of the psychological, social and organisational characteristics of individuals and groups as they relate to, and interact with, information technologies and to feed this knowledge back to the evaluation and design of more effective IT systems and products. Two link phases of the programme, funded by the ESRC, the EPSRC and the DTI, were commissioned in 2001 and 2002.

Director: Professor A Anderson
Tel: 0141 330 4938
Email: a.anderson@mgt.gla.ac.uk

Faculty of Law, Business & Social Sciences
University of Glasgow
Glasgow G12 8QQ UK

October 1999 – September 2006
Total grant: £6.5 million
Phase I – 13 projects
Link Phase I – 5 projects
Link Phase II – 12 projects

<http://www.paccit.gla.ac.uk>

Public Services: Quality, Performance and Delivery

The aim of the programme is to bring together researchers from across the social sciences to explore questions such as:

How are public services changing, who wants what, and how is quality to be convincingly measured?

What are the effects of popular reform measure like incentive pay, targets and transparency?

What can we learn by comparing current public service arrangements with past expertise, by comparing experience across the UK, and by comparing the UK with other countries?

Director: Professor C Hood
Tel: 01865 279350
Email: christopher.hood@all-souls.oxford.ac.uk

University of Oxford
Oxford OX1 3UQ

November 2004 – October 2009
Total grant: £4.9 million
Phase I – 14 projects (small grants)
Phase II – 14 projects (9 standard and 5 small grants)

<http://www.publicservices.ac.uk>

Rural Economy and Land Use (RELU)

RELU will provide a body of evidence, supported by underpinning interdisciplinary research bringing together the social and natural sciences, to inform policy and practice in the area of sustainable rural economies and land use. This cross-Research Council programme is expected to contribute to the long-term outcome of achieving a rural economy that meets social and economic objectives, with protection of the rural environment and a modern, sustainable and competitive agricultural industry.

Director: Professor P Lowe
Tel: 0191 222 6903
Email: relu@ncl.ac.uk

University of Newcastle
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU

September 2003 – August 2011
Total grant: £23.8 million
(ESRC £5 million, NERC £9 million, BBSRC £7.5 million, DEFRA £1 million, SEERAD £750,000)

<http://www.relu.ac.uk>

Science in Society

The programme aims to explore and facilitate the rapidly changing relations between science (including science and technology) and the wider society. Social science has a unique opportunity and responsibility to contribute to this process through research that engages major public, private and voluntary sector stakeholders with practising scientists and institutions.

Director: Professor S Rayner
Tel: 01865 288938
Email: steve.rayner@sbs.ox.ac.uk

University of Oxford
Oxford OX1 1HP

January 2002 – December 2007
Total grant: £5.2 million
44 projects

<http://www.sci-soc.net>

Network for the Study of the Social Contexts of Pathways in Crime (SCOPIC)

This priority network will explore the role of social context and its interaction in the development of delinquent and criminal careers to advance the understanding of pathways into and out of crime.

Co-ordinator: Professor P-O Wikström
Tel: 01223 335378
Email: pow20@cus.cam.ac.uk

University of Cambridge
Cambridge CB3 9DT

October 2002 – September 2007
Total grant: £2.3 million

<http://www.scopic.ac.uk>

Social Context and Responses to Risk (SCARR)

The priority network will understand how people perceive and respond to risk and uncertainty during the course of their lives, in areas such as pensions and financial planning, industrial pollution, crime, sexual behaviour and partnering, transport, and environmental hazards.

Co-ordinator: Professor P Taylor-Gooby
Tel: 01227 827514
Email: p.f.taylor-gooby@kent.ac.uk

University of Kent
Canterbury CT2 7NF

October 2003 – September 2008
Total grant: £2.7 million
9 projects

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/scarr>

Sustainable Technologies

This programme, under the umbrella of the Government's Sustainable Technologies Initiative, aims to investigate the development and adoption of sustainable technologies.

Director: Professor F Steward
Tel: 01895 265297
Email: fred.steward@brunel.ac.uk

Brunel University
Uxbridge UB8 3PH

January 2002 – December 2006
Total grant: £3 million

<http://www.sustainabletechnologies.ac.uk>

Teaching and Learning

The programme aims to enhance research based practice in teaching and learning in order to produce significant improvements in the achievement of learners at all ages and across a wide range of educational and training contexts including pre-school, primary and secondary school; FE, HE, community, adult and continuing education and the many forms of professional, industrial and commercial learning.

Director: Professor A Pollard
Tel: 020 7947 9577
Email: a.pollard@ioe.ac.uk

University of London
London WC1H 0AL

March 1999 – December 2008
Total grant: £30 million (funded by the HEFCE, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government, Northern Ireland Executive, DfES and ESRC)

Phase I – 4 research networks, 2 career development associates

Phase II – 9 major research projects, 4 research training fellowships

Phase III – 12 projects, 4 Scottish extensions, 6 thematic seminar groups, 4 Welsh extensions, and 3 Northern Ireland extensions

Widening participation in Higher Education
Phase – 7 projects

<http://www.tlrp.org>

World Economy and Finance

The aim of this programme is to advance our understanding of ways in which financial markets and financial policies influence major global issues such as poverty, development, growth and transition. And analyse policy issues in an era of low inflation, increasingly integrated financial markets, and changing demographics and trade patterns.

Director: Professor J Driffill
Tel: 020 7631 6417
Email: jdriffill@econ.bbk.ac.uk

School of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics
Birkbeck College
Malet Street
London WC1E 7HX

March 2004 – February 2009
Total grant: £5 million
Phase I – 16 projects

<http://www.worldeconomyandfinance.org>

Research Grants

Report by Research Grants Board Chair



“International Collaborative Award agreements have now been signed with eight countries and another five are imminent.”

The Research Grants Board aims to fund the highest quality research projects proposed to it. It funds research which develops new theory and methods and research which focuses on particular social science questions. It supports single and multi-disciplinary research and receives increasing numbers of applications for research at the interface of the social sciences and the life, physical and environmental sciences.

The Board has had a very active year during 2005-06. The number of grant and fellowship applications continued to increase, with a total of 1,051 in 2005-06, an increase of 12.5 per cent over 2004-05 and of 26.5 per cent over 2003-04. Success rates for small grants have remained steady at 33 per cent and success rates for standard grants are between 22 per cent and 23 per cent, a marked improvement on the 19 per cent success rate for 2004-05. How this will be affected by the move to Full Economic Costing has yet to be fully assessed, however the Board is optimistic that the target of 24 per cent will be achieved in 2006-07.

The Board introduced two new schemes during the year. The First Grants scheme is to assist new researchers and academics at the start of their careers to gain experience of managing and leading research projects. The Large Grants scheme is to provide support where ESRC currently has no regular provision – for research groups, inter-institutional networks, linked project programmes, medium to large scale surveys and other large scale projects. Both schemes were launched in September 2005 with closing dates in January 2006. One hundred and fifty one First Grant and 23 Large Grant applications were received and it is expected that 20 First Grant and three Large Grants will be funded. The number of applications suggests that the First Grant scheme seems to have tapped into a real vein of need.

In addition to the above new schemes Research Linked studentships have now been made an explicit part of ESRC research grant provision. The Board is expecting new funding for these investments to roll from April 2006. It has laid down clear requirements so that the standard of training which ESRC expects is not diminished and has also made some provision for this support if the best students for the project are not those normally eligible under studentship nationality/residence rules.

The Board has also been active on an international front, to ensure that UK researchers can access joint schemes without compromising the high standards the ESRC operates. International Collaborative Award

agreements have now been signed with eight countries and another five are imminent. These were initially publicised in November 2005 and applications under these schemes are now expected to increase over the coming year. Meanwhile, the Board participated in the European Collaborative Research Projects Scheme for a fifth year. A total of 50 proposals were submitted to the European Science Foundation under the protocol in 2005; 32 of these had UK based partners who submitted an application to the ESRC for funding, and of these, 15 had the UK partner as Project Co-ordinator. Following funding recommendations made by the Research Grants Board, and by other national funding agencies, the Board was able to fund four European collaborative awards. The Board sees these schemes as likely to be on a steady growth path over the next two years. After that the implications for their need and demand will be assessed in the light of the proposed new European Research Council.

The Professorial Fellowship scheme ran for its fourth round during 2005-06. This scheme is aimed at the UK's leading researchers and provides support for the fellow through the payment of salary costs plus funding for a research assistant and student. Five awards have been made as result of the fourth competition.

The Seminar Group scheme has moved forward as previously. There were 162 applications and decisions are expected in June 2006.

After a trial during 2005-06, the Board agreed to formally introduce a new facility of Applicant Response to applicants of Standard Grants and Fellowships in excess of £500,000. This allows applicants to see anonymised referee comments, and provide a response to them, before the applications go to the full Board. The Board will decide later in 2006 whether to extend the facility to all Standard Grants and Fellowships once ESRC joins the Joint Electronic Submission Peer Review system.

Professor Carol Propper
Chair of ESRC Research Grants Board

Research Grant

“The promotion of social mobility is a topic which often features in current policy debates about education and about wider social reforms, and this has made our findings particularly timely.”

In June 2005 I completed a research project on education and social mobility in Scotland, funded by an ESRC Research Grant, and carried out with the invaluable collaboration of my colleague Professor Lindsay Paterson at the University of Edinburgh. The project investigated changes over time in the patterns of social mobility in Scotland and analysed the extent to which the adoption of a fairly thorough version of comprehensive secondary schooling in Scotland has shaped mobility patterns distinctively, especially when compared to England and Wales. The comparative dimension was pursued also by setting the results in the context of the international project *National Patterns of Social Mobility, 1970-1995*, directed by Professor Richard Breen of Nuffield College.

The project largely benefited from the availability of new data on social background collected in the large (15,000-case) 2001 Scottish Household Survey (SHS). These data allowed us to provide an up-to-date study of social mobility in Scotland and to analyse women's mobility patterns as well as men's. We also used the Scottish enhanced sample of the British Household Panel Study (1999) to compare social mobility in England, Scotland and Wales, and the Scottish Mobility Survey of 1974 to study the experience of people born nearer the beginning of the 20th century than the SHS allowed.

The promotion of social mobility is a topic which often features in current policy debates about education and about wider social reforms, and this has made our findings particularly timely. The project results have attracted a lot of attention from policymakers and the media, providing empirical evidence that is often lacking from the political debate in this area. To facilitate the dissemination of our research findings we made them available on the project website and engaged in a series of activities – organisation of seminar and conference, presentations and journal publications. Our main dataset is funded by the Scottish Executive, and this has helped us establish a constructive dialogue with researchers there.

As a result of this research award I have gained an extensive knowledge of social mobility issues and of advanced methods of statistical analysis that I had never used before. Building upon this

knowledge, I developed a proposal for a three-year ESRC Research Fellowship which I have been recently awarded. The programme of research for the Fellowship will enable me to deepen the study of the mechanisms that underlie intergenerational class mobility, paying particular attention to the role of educational institutions and curricula. It will improve upon the existing research on social mobility through the use of longitudinal data (the three British Birth Cohort Surveys of 1946, 1958 and 1970 and longitudinal data from Germany and Sweden), allowing the analysis to disentangle life-course, cohort and period effects. By comparing different education systems (over time and over space) some insights will be sought into the role that the structure of schooling might play in facilitating or hindering social mobility. The Fellowship will also be a great opportunity for me to extend further my methodological skills.

Dr Cristina Iannelli, Research Fellow, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh, holder of a two-year ESRC research grant, October 2002 – September 2004 (extended to June 2005)

Research Grants

Applications Processed/Success Rate for New Research Grants in 2005-06

Small and Standard Grants – Number of applications processed	Number of awards	Success rate %
1001	272	27

Applications Processed/Success Rate for Fellowships in 2005-06

Fellowships – Number of applications processed	Number of awards	Success rate %
50	10	20

Note: We are not able to supply gender information this year. This is due to the change in application systems to Joint Electronic Submissions (JeS) midway through the year. JeS is the new research proposal submission system adopted by ESRC from September 2005. This system is now used by the majority of other Research Council's, leading to strong cross council harmonisation benefits (as well as a clearer understanding of Research Council submission processes) and assisting the transition from paper to solely electronic research proposals.

All Responsive Applications and Awards by Institution 2005-06

Institute	Applications	Awards
Aberdeen	14	4
Abertay Dundee	2	0
Aston	7	2
Bath	11	5
Birmingham	26	8
Bournemouth	2	0
Bradford	4	1
Brighton	4	1
Bristol	25	9
Brunel	10	2
Cambridge	16	7
Canterbury Christchurch College	5	0
Central England	1	0
Central Lancashire	3	0
Centre for Economic Policy Research	1	0
Chester	1	0
City	12	6

All Responsive Applications and Awards by Institution 2005-06 (continued)

Institute	Applications	Awards
Coventry	1	0
De Montfort	5	1
Dundee	16	4
Durham	14	3
East Anglia	12	1
East London	2	0
Edinburgh	32	5
Essex	18	5
Exeter	28	8
Glamorgan	5	0
Glasgow	11	4
Glasgow Caledonian	2	0
Glasgow School of Art	1	0
Greenwich	3	1
Heriot Watt	2	0
Hertfordshire	6	0
Huddersfield	2	1
Hull	6	0
Institute of Fiscal Studies	8	4
Institute of Dentistry	1	0
Institute of Health Sciences and Public Health Research	1	0
Isle of Skye	2	0
Keele	8	3
Kent at Canterbury	22	5
Kingston	2	0
Lancaster	24	7
Leeds	28	4
Leeds Mental Health NHS Trust	1	0
Leeds Metropolitan	2	0
Leicester	10	0
Lincoln	3	0
Liverpool	19	3
Liverpool John Moores	2	0
London Metropolitan	10	5
London		
Birkbeck	9	3
Goldsmiths	18	7
Imperial	7	2
Institute of Education	15	4
Institute of Psychiatry	2	0

Research Grants

All Responsive Applications and Awards by Institution 2005-06 (continued)

Institute	Applications	Awards
Kings	9	2
London Business School	3	1
London School of Economics and Political Science	22	12
Queen Mary and Westfield	5	1
Royal Holloway	7	1
School of Asian and Oriental Studies	4	0
School of Advanced Studies	1	0
School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	9	1
University College London	26	10
Loughborough	12	5
Manchester (including UMIST)	34	10
Manchester Metropolitan	1	0
Middlesex	4	1
Napier	2	0
Newcastle	8	1
National Institute of Economic and Social Research	5	3
Northumbria at Newcastle	3	0
Nottingham	23	5
Nottingham Trent	1	0
Overseas Development Institute	1	0
Open	10	4
Oxford	37	13
Oxford Brookes	6	0
Peninsula Medical School	4	0
Plymouth	18	10
Policy Studies Institute	1	1
Portsmouth	8	1
Queen Margaret College	1	0
Queens Belfast	7	4
Reading	18	3
Robert Gordon	2	1
Salford	4	2
Sheffield	22	7
Sheffield Hallam	2	0
South Bank	8	0
South London Maudsley NHS Trust	1	0
Southampton	27	8
St Andrews	3	0
St Marys College Twickenham	1	1
Staffordshire	1	0

All Responsive Applications and Awards by Institution 2005-06 (continued)

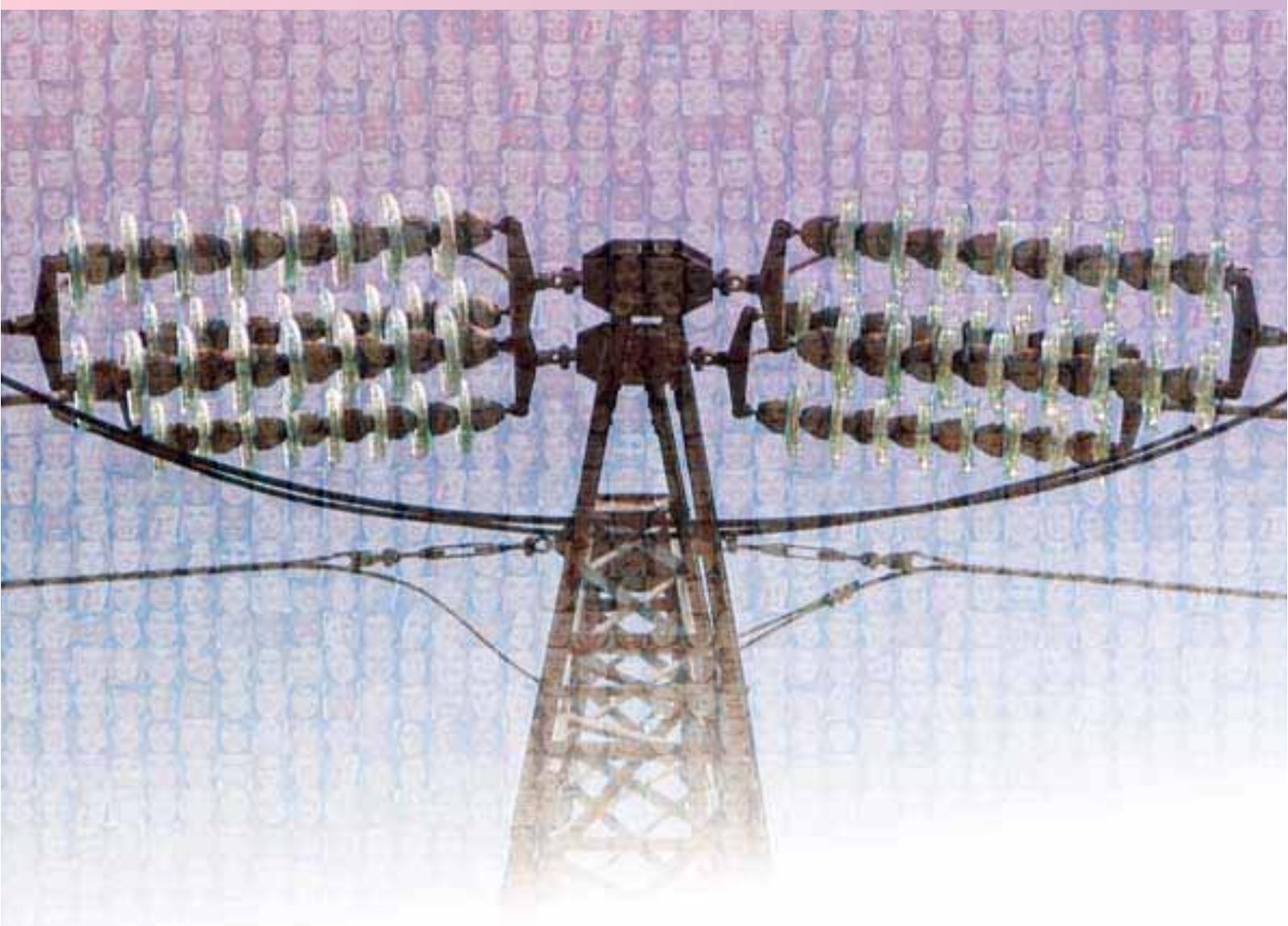
Institute	Applications	Awards
Stirling	5	2
Strathclyde	9	1
Surrey (including Roehampton)	21	4
Sussex	28	4
Teesside	1	0
Trinity Dublin	1	0
Trust for the Study of Adolescence	1	0
Wales		
Aberystwyth	1	1
Bangor	10	4
Cardiff	31	12
Institute Cardiff	1	0
Swansea	14	4
Ulster	2	0
Warwick	31	10
West of England	4	1
Westminster	5	1
Wolverhampton	5	0
York	16	5
Total	1051	282

ESRC Professorial Fellowships

The table below lists ESRC Professorial Fellowships funded to date in 2005-06. There were 26 applications for the competition and the five listed below were funded.

HEI	Award Holder	Title
LSE	Professor T Besley	Political Economy and Accountability
Warwick	Professor A Oswald	Wellbeing and Economics
Durham	Professor M Carrithers	Sociality and Rhetoric Culture in the Interpretation of Situations: An Anthropological Theory and its Application in East Germany
Open	Professor A Phoenix	Transforming Experiences: Re-conceptualising Identities and 'non-normative'
Sheffield	Professor R Varley	Language and Thinking: The Evidence from Severe Aphasia

Building Capacity for the Future



Overview of Capacity Building Funding Schemes

The ESRC is committed to providing a trained research community to sustain research and developments in the social sciences both in academia and in the community at large. To this end over 700 new PhD studentships are offered each year. Around 120 of these studentships are in collaboration with other sponsors or interested parties such as other research councils, government departments and the business, local authority and voluntary communities. In order to ensure that students are fully trained in social science research methodologies, the Council offers 1+3 studentships where the first year leads to a Masters in research methods leading to the +3 where the student continues with their chosen PhD topic. To contribute to a student's development the ESRC funds advanced training courses through the Training Development Activities scheme. The ESRC also funds around 100 postdoctoral fellowships per year for the continuing development of students who have completed their PhD.

Post Graduate Training

Report by Training and
Development Board Chair



It is widely acknowledged that the UK is amongst the global leaders in social scientific research. Sustaining that position requires the maintenance of a vibrant, high quality research community. It is the role of the Council's Training and Development Board to safeguard the longterm health of the UK social science research base by supporting high quality research training and development across the academic life course.

This continues to be a key challenge. The Board has recently completed a major demographic review of the UK social science community. This reveals that the social science workforce is ageing and that there are serious recruitment and retention problems that threaten its longterm sustainability of the UK research base. These problems are far from uniform with some disciplines facing particularly acute threats to their longterm future. The underlying causes of these problems themselves vary significantly. There is no one size fits all solution. It is clear that training and development strategies must reflect the particular needs of individual disciplines.

The Board has responded to this challenge by adopting a far more strategic approach to the allocation of its studentships, seeking to safeguard the future strength of the UK research base by concentrating extra support in those disciplines whose longterm health is most in question. In the first instance, this has involved the major re-allocation of studentships into a number of priority areas. These are: Economics, socio-legal studies, social work and the area of advanced quantitative methods. It has also involved the launch of a £20 million joint Initiative with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Funding Councils to support area based language studies. To promote greater recruitment and retention, the Board has also enhanced stipends and increased postdoctoral salaries in some of these priority areas.

However, for many 'practice linked' disciplines like management and business studies the answer is not simply to increase the number of standard studentships or to necessarily insist on a three/four year research training programme. Here a much more imaginative strategy is required to improve the overall quality of the research base. This may involve a mix of studentship awards and fellowships of varying content and duration which cater to the needs of both young scholars and experienced practitioners who are returning to academia to pursue a research career. The Board is working with the management community to develop such a strategy. It intends to do likewise with other practice based disciplines to help ensure that it is building training and development strategies that do address the specific challenges of those disciplines.

The Board has also supported the drive towards a more flexible suite of postgraduate training opportunities. For example new opportunities now exist to attach studentships to Research Grants, allowing students to undertake their PhD training as part of a broader research project. There are also an increasing number of ESRC research programmes which now include capacity building activities, such as the current initiative on Ageing.

Alongside these opportunities the Board has continued to expand the range of collaborative studentship schemes it operates. A new joint scheme with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council will commence in 2006, to add to the longstanding ones co-funded by the Medical Research Council and Natural Environment Research Council. Further pilot schemes have also been established with a number of government departments and agencies including the Department for Transport, the Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the Scottish Executive. These complement the existing schemes with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly. Additional studentships have also been made available this year through Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering Scheme.

The Council's overall support for research training has never been greater. Nor has the standard of that provision. The Board has recently completed a major Recognition Exercise through which it quality assured a record number of training courses and PhD programmes. There are now nearly 550 training outlets eligible to host ESRC studentships.

Meeting the training needs of individual disciplines extends beyond the immediate postgraduate level. The Council has charged the Board with providing training and development opportunities across the academic life course. Over the last year the Board has made major strides in this direction supporting a range of generic and discipline specific advanced training programmes through its Research Development Initiative (RDI). These range from courses on analysing large and complex datasets through to those geared to the improved use of qualitative software packages. Training has been open not just to those at the beginning of their research career but also established academics who wished to deepen or refresh their research skills. The RDI has been integrated with the research methods initiatives supported by the Council's Research Resources Board helping to create a radically expanded and fully co-ordinated national advanced training infrastructure for the social sciences.

Over the course of the coming year the Board will drive forward its strategy to sustain the longterm health of the social science research base. It will collect further evidence upon which to identify future priority areas and shape the development of discipline specific capacity building strategies. This will include a major review of the 1+3 model which currently underpins the Council's training provision. By developing this more strategic and flexible approach the Council believes it can build a training regime that will help to ensure that the UK remains at the international forefront of social scientific research.

Professor Judith Rees
Chair of the ESRC Training and Development Board

ESRC/Office of Science and Innovation Fellowship

“I am currently in the fourth year of my doctorate, researching the history and sociology of science in the public sphere, in the Department of Science and Technology at University College London.”

The placement

My placement was in the Science and Society Directorate of the Office of Science and Technology now Office of Science and Innovation (OSI), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Working under the supervision of Gary Kass, Head of Public Engagement on Science and Technology. My main task was to work on the results of the recent MORI survey in to public attitudes on science, which had been commissioned by OSI and to ensure that the report was finished and ready to be launched at the start of National Science Week in March 2005. This involved liaising closely with the staff at MORI and the academic advisors from the University of East Anglia, to ensure that the content of the report was correct and drew on the most appropriate social scientific literature. A large part of the job was to liaise with the relevant staff within the DTI who, were concerned with different aspects of their science and society agenda and ensure that the report complemented these other current projects. I also spent time working closely with the OSI Press Office preparing briefing material for the Ministers and drafting press releases for the report launch.

After the launch I was invited to stay on for another month to help ensure that the key results of the MORI report fed into the Science and Society Directorate's policy objectives. Towards this I helped to arrange a one-day seminar with several researchers funded through the ESRC Science and Society Programme, who would debate and discuss the MORI report and its conclusions, as well as report on their own relevant research.

My reflections

The placement provided me with a huge insight into the way the Civil Service operates, as well as the more basic understandings of working within a large organisation. Having worked as a researcher in an office environment before my PhD, I enjoyed the return to the fast paced day-to-day demands that these sorts of jobs offer. I was given the opportunity to sit in on meetings with Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister and Sir David King, the Chief Scientific Advisor, as well as Directors of different sections within the DTI, all of which helped me to understand how policy-making and the wider political environment operates. Being afforded the opportunity to have input into discussions about the public engagement agenda was especially rewarding as it is not only the subject of my own research, but a field in which I have worked in various capacities for several years.

Writing reports, briefing materials, and presentations within this environment was initially challenging as the time constraints, as well as the requirement for these documents to be very accessible, meant that the usual academic standard of writing and substantiation of claims was not necessarily desired. However, I feel that I developed new skills whilst on the placement that will be very useful if I ever work for or alongside policymakers in the future. And it developed my understanding of the political context in which my own topic of research – the public understanding of science movement – is situated.

Organising the one-day seminar was also very rewarding as my own research has shown that little social research in this area flows into policy-making circles, often due to the perception by civil servants that it is not understandable. The seminar proved to be a fruitful day with all participants feeling that they had had a chance to understand and reflect upon the different perspectives, motivations and agendas on both sides. The fact that policies within the DTI had taken up many of the ideas discussed during the day is testament to this.

Overall, I couldn't recommend the placement enough to another PhD student interested in science and society issues. After the initial shock of working in such a hierarchical and managerial environment wore off, I enjoyed the experience immensely. The office in which I worked was incredibly friendly and I was included as part of the team for the duration of the placement. Being given responsibility over a project, the results of which when publicised, would reflect on Ministers and the Department, though very daunting, provided a huge challenge. But it was one that having experienced, I feel more confident in expressing my own academic opinions in other environments, and which has proved to be extremely useful in feeding back into my own research.

**Postgraduate Student Simon Lock, took an ESRC/OSI Fellowship
January – April 2005**

Post Graduate Training

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is one of the biggest of the schemes funded as part of the ESRC's commitment to Knowledge Transfer. The scheme's mission is to strengthen the competitiveness and wealth creation of the UK by enabling research organisations to apply their research knowledge to important business problems. Through these collaborative partnerships, UK businesses and other organisations can benefit from a wide range of expertise available in the UK knowledge based – public and private sector research institutes and higher education institutions.

At the heart of each Knowledge Transfer Partnership is a relationship between a company/organisation and staff in a knowledge base institution applying their expertise to a project that is central to the development of their collaborative partner. The project is carried out by an associate (recent graduate or postgraduate), who also benefits from an organised training programme. In the process, the knowledge base institution is able to enhance the business relevance of their work.

The Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme is financially supported by sponsors, the largest of which is the Department of Trade and Industry. In addition to the ESRC, other Research Councils are also involved as are the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Executive. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships are managed by a contracted company, Momena. In addition to the grant, the participating business/organisational partner also contributes to each project. The ESRC contribution to the scheme in 2005-06 was £950,000.

The following list gives details of new Knowledge Transfer Partnerships that were funded by the ESRC during the year 2005-06. The duration of the project can be between one and three years and the ESRC currently funds 44 projects.

The figures shown are the ESRC contribution over the duration of the project. The ESRC shares funding of the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships where they are of joint or overlapping interest to both the ESRC and other sponsors. The details given include the sponsor(s), the academic institution and the organisation and the number of associates.

Also illustrated are regional and sector trends over the last three financial years, which demonstrate a good regional spread of partnerships. During 2006-07 the ESRC plans to increase its financial contribution to this scheme to enhance the focus on and collaboration with the business/private sector.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships 2005-06

Knowledge Based Institution	Knowledge Partner – Organisation	ESRC Financial Contribution	Sponsors	Number of Associates
Aston University	Christian Education Movement	£67,044	ESRC 100%	1
Liverpool John Moores University	The Alternative Group	£33,522	ESRC 50% DTI 50%	1
Manchester Metropolitan University	Alcohol and Drugs Services (ADS)	£67,044	ESRC 100%	1
University of Bath	Cotswold District Council	£55,870	ESRC 100%	1
University of Durham	Langbaugh Primary Care Trust	£100,566	ESRC 100%	1
University of Durham	Fife Council	£189,855	ESRC 100%	3
University of Essex	Sanctuary Social Care Ltd	£58,878	ESRC 50% DTI 50%	1
University of Gloucestershire	Gloucester City Council	£44,696	ESRC 100%	1
University of Loughborough	Coventry City Council	£83,805	ESRC 100%	1
University of Newcastle	Newcastle Primary Care Trust	£100,566	ESRC 100%	1
University of Reading	Weald and Downland Open Air Museum Ltd	£83,805	ESRC 50% DTI 50%	2
University of Reading	Riding for the Disabled Association	£34,062	ESRC 50% DTI 50%	1

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships 2005-06 (continued)

Knowledge Based Institution	Knowledge Partner – Organisation	ESRC Financial Contribution	Sponsors	Number of Associates
University of Sheffield	Timberplay Ltd	£25,812	ESRC 33% AHRC 50% DTI 17%	1
University of Southampton	Dorset Local Education Authority	£55,870	ESRC 100%	1
University of Stirling	NHS Lanarkshire	£67,704	ESRC 100%	1
University of Sunderland	Bluesparkle Ltd	£33,522	ESRC 50% DTI 50%	1
University of Wales Bangor	Denbighshire Local Health Board	£100,566	ESRC 100%	1
University of Wales Bangor	CAIS Ltd	£100,566	ESRC 100%	1
University of Wales Bangor	Integral Business Support Ltd	£52,354	ESRC 50% WAG 50%	1
University of Wolverhampton	ISWA Ltd	£33,522	ESRC 50% DTI 50%	1
University of York	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	£55,870	ESRC 100%	1

Knowledge Transfer Partnership Sector Trends

Sector	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Public	11 (46%)	8 (50%)	10 (48%)
Private	12 (50%)	7 (44%)	7 (33%)
Voluntary	1 (4%)	1 (6%)	4 (19%)
Total	24	16	21

Knowledge Transfer Partnership Regional Trends

Region	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
South East	2	2	3
South West	1	2	2
London	3	0	0
Wales	0	2	3
East	0	1	1
East Midlands	0	0	1
West Midlands	3	2	2
North West	6	1	2
North East	1	2	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	5	2	2
Scotland	3	2	1
Total	24	16	21

Post Graduate Training

New Standard Studentships

Standard Studentships refers to awards given through quotas allocated directly to outlets or awards given through the main studentship competition. It excludes CASE awards and awards from other jointly-funded schemes.

New Standard Studentships by Subject Area as at October 2005

Subject Area	Research
Area and Development Studies	30
Economic and Social History	26
Economics	66
Education	41
Human Geography	44
Linguistics	22
Management and Business Studies	50
Planning	12
Politics and International Relations	79
Psychology	91
Social Anthropology	28
Social Policy	35
Socio-legal Studies	10
Sociology	68
Science, Technology and Innovation	26
Statistics, Computing and Methodology	13
Total	641

New Standard Studentships by Institution as at October 2005

Institution	
Aston	4
Bath	5
Birmingham	25
Bradford	4
Bristol	21
Brunel	2
Cambridge	35
Cardiff	20
Cranfield	2
De Montfort	1
Dundee	2
Durham	12
East Anglia	3
Edinburgh	35
Essex	17
Exeter	4
Glasgow	16
Keele	7
Kent at Canterbury	5
Lancaster	9

New Standard Studentships by Institution as at October 2005 (continued)

Leeds	12
Leicester	4
Liverpool	5
London	
Birkbeck College	4
Goldsmiths College	17
Imperial College	10
Institute of Education	5
King's College	6
London Business School	3
Queen Mary	3
Royal Holloway	6
London School of Economics and Political Science	34
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	6
University College London	17
Loughborough	3
Manchester	34
Manchester Metropolitan	1
Middlesex	3
Newcastle	14
Nottingham	33
Nottingham Trent	1
Open	2
Oxford	50
Plymouth	4
Portsmouth	2
Reading	6
Sheffield	28
Southampton	14
St Andrews	1
Stirling	1
Strathclyde	3
Surrey	3
Sussex	25
Wales	
Aberystwyth	11
Bangor	7
Swansea	1
Warwick	22
West of England at Bristol	1
York	10
Total	641

All Studentships by Gender where known

Female	988
Male	742

Post Graduate Training

ESRC Submission Rate Survey 2005

The following table shows the results of the 2005 survey of PhD thesis submission rates: that is the percentage of students submitting their thesis within four years of commencing an ESRC research award.

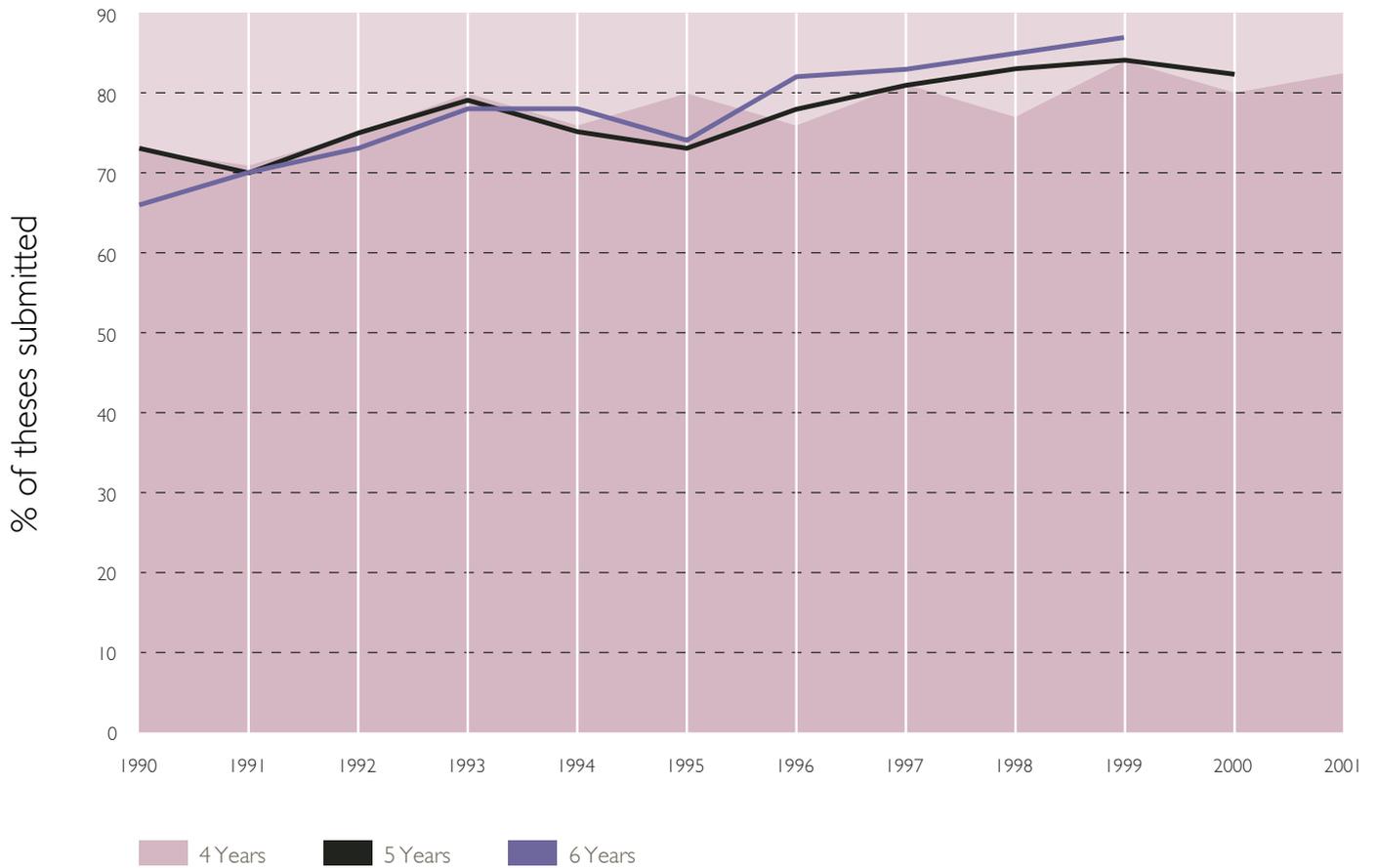
2005 Submission Rates by Institution

Institution	2001 Starters	Submitters	Rate %	Institution	2001 Starters	Submitters	Rate %
Aberdeen	3	3	100	Manchester (including UMIST)	29	19	66
Bath	7	3	43	Newcastle	11	11	100
Birmingham	18	13	72	Nottingham	6	6	100
Bradford	4	2	50	Open	3	3	100
Bristol	12	10	83	Oxford	24	20	83
Brunel	2	1	50	Oxford Brookes	3	3	100
Cambridge	18	15	83	Plymouth	2	1	50
Cardiff	10	9	90	Reading	2	2	100
City University	3	2	67	Salford	1	1	100
Coventry	1	1	100	Sheffield	14	13	93
Cranfield	2	2	100	Sheffield Hallam	3	1	33
Dundee	1	1	100	Southampton	12	11	92
Durham	4	4	100	Stirling	3	2	67
East Anglia	8	8	100	Strathclyde	4	4	100
Edinburgh	7	5	71	Surrey	13	11	85
Essex	10	8	80	Sussex	10	6	60
Exeter	5	5	100	Wales			
Glasgow	11	8	73	Aberystwyth	4	4	100
Hull	5	5	100	Bangor	4	3	75
Keele	2	1	50	Swansea	1	1	100
Kent at Canterbury	2	2	100	Warwick	14	12	86
Lancaster	13	11	85	University of the West of England	1	1	100
Leeds	6	4	67	York	8	8	100
Leicester	1	1	100	Total	398	325	82
Liverpool	3	3	100				
London							
Birkbeck	4	4	100				
Goldsmith's	10	8	80				
Imperial College	3	3	100				
Institute of Education	1	1	100				
King's College	1	0	0				
London Business School	6	5	83				
Queen Mary and Westfield College	1	1	100				
Royal Holloway	6	6	100				
London School of Economics and Political Science	17	15	88				
School of Oriental and African Studies	3	1	33				
University College	16	11	69				

Key: Starters students starting research awards
 Submitters thesis submitted within four years
 Rate percentage of students submitting theses within four years of starting award

These submission rate figures exclude students who withdrew during their first year and make allowances for supervision/extensions to awards occasioned by illness, accident or the need to obtain fluency in a difficult language.

Note: The Training Board's sanctions policy, which is applied to those institutions returning a rate below 60 per cent, is based on the overall rate for the last three years. The table above only shows the rate for the most recent year.



Overall Submission Figures – 4, 5 and 6 year rates

% of theses submitted within	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
4 years	73	71	75	80	76	80	76	81	77	84	80	82
5 years	73	70	75	79	75	73	78	81	83	84	82	
6 years	66	70	73	78	78	74	82	83	85	87		

Post Graduate Training

ESRC Collaborative Awards for Science and Engineering (CASE) Studentships in 2005-06 Successful Applications

CASE is the biggest of the collaborative schemes funded as part of the ESRC's commitment to Knowledge Transfer.

Collaborative studentships encourage greater interaction between business organisations and academic research by providing opportunities for students based in UK academic institutions to carry out research in conjunction with private, public or voluntary sector organisations. This promotes knowledge and skills transfer as well as the opportunity for students to experience working in a non-academic environment that will be useful after the completion of their studies.

The student's research focuses on a topic of mutual interest to themselves, the academic institution and the collaborating organisation. The students received financial support from both the ESRC and the collaborating organisation.

A focused promotional campaign, organised by the ESRC's Knowledge Transfer team, resulted in increased awareness of the scheme with a resultant rise in applications compared with the previous year.

The following table gives details of the 84 awarded CASE studentships made in 2005-06.

CASE Studentships 2005-06

Public Sector

University (Principal Applicant)	Collaborating Partner	Research Title
Aston University	Office of Water Services (Ofwat)	Developing panel based methods for assessing relative performance in the English and Welsh water and sewerage industry
University of Bristol	South Tyneside Primary Care Trust	Early intervention and prevention: assessing the needs of domestic violence perpetrators in South Tyneside
University of Cambridge	Home Office National Offender Management Service	Well-being and suicide prevention in public and private sector prisons
Cardiff University	Design Commission for Wales	Delivering design quality in Wales: the practices and concerns of local planning authorities
Cardiff University	Welsh Development Agency	University, business and knowledge exchange: exploring the Lambert agenda in post-devolution Britain
Coventry University	The Soil Association	Relocalising food production and consumption: analysing local and organic buying groups in mainland Europe and England/Wales
University of Durham	Tees Valley Living	Housing market renewal and neighbourhood change
University of Edinburgh	The Scottish Executive Education Department (Pupil Support and Inclusion Division)	Citizenship, health promotion and sponsorship in Scottish secondary education
University of Exeter	British Bob-Skeleton Association	Enhancing individual excellence in cohesive teams: a study of high performance individual sports
University of Glasgow	Scottish Enterprise	Growing international firms: an evaluation of firm growth and development with a specific focus on the relationship between absorptive capacity and opportunity recognition and exploitation
University of Gloucestershire	Forestry Commission	Public benefits from private forests and woodland: managing the opportunities for public good enhancement
Heriot Watt University	Forestry Commission	The restorative power of the landscape
Heriot Watt University	Policy and Organisational Development Service (POD)	Development and impact of local social justice analysis system
University of Kent	Overseas Development Agency	The political ecology of the policy process in a multi-actor environment of high international priority: a case study of the bush-meat trade
University of Kent	Commission for Social Care Inspection	Improving measurement and understanding of PSS output and productivity in social care

Public Sector (continued)

Lancaster University	English Nature	Environment and health: new understanding for new initiatives
Lancaster University	Lifeline Project Ltd	The impact of developing criminal justice interventions relative to a cohort of substance misuse related offenders
University of Leeds	Alcohol Education and Research Council	Student lifestyle, alcohol consumption and health
University of Leeds	Education Leeds	Journey to learn: geographical mobility and education provision
University of Leicester	Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)	Museum visits and social exclusion: the geography of school visits to museums
University of Liverpool	Strategic Development Unit: Research and Analysis Section	The prediction and reduction of domestic violence
University of Liverpool	Staffordshire Policy Association of Chief Police Officers	Strategy, tactics and public order: social psychology and crowd dynamics in the policing of English league football
University of London: Goldsmith College	Royal College of Psychiatrists	Cognitive, mental health and quality of life outcomes after electroconvulsive therapy
University of London: Institute of Education	Department for Work and Pensions	Using imperfect measures of income in statistical models: implications for social policy
University of London: Kings College	Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	An investigation of impact of a Falls Prevention Exercise Programme for older people on subsequent social functioning and psychosocial well-being
University of London: London School of Economics	INTRAC	Strategies and impact of urban social movements in Sao Paulo, Brazil
University of London: Queen Mary	Geffrye Museum Trust	Homemaking and material culture in nineteenth-century England and Wales
University of London: Royal Holloway	The British Library	Colonial copyright and the photographic image: a Canadian case study
University of London: Royal Holloway	Science Museum, London	The material culture of health in central America
University of London: University College of London	Great London Authority: Mayor's Office	Online public participation: the development of 3D-GIS and multimedia for e-government and e-democracy
University of Manchester	Manchester City Council	Understanding the dynamics of neighbourhood change: modelling the diffusion of low demand and abandoned properties
University of Manchester	Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	Mapping the micro generation: a regional study of innovative micro-computing in 1980's Britain
University of Newcastle	North East Community Forests	Green infrastructure, environmental perception and spatial behaviour
University of Newcastle	The Countryside Agency	Planning and affordable rural housing: the social and micro-spatial effects in rural England of new planning policies
University of Nottingham	Nottingham Healthcare NHS Trust	Adults with high-functioning autistic spectrum disorders: anomalous adulthood and habitus
University of Oxford	Department for Education and Skills	The contribution of early education to vulnerable and resilient development pathways
University of Portsmouth	Learning and Skills Council	The development of vocational interests and abilities
University of Sheffield	Department for Work and Pensions	Incentives and sanctions in public service delivery: an analysis of job seekers allowance
University of Sheffield	The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum	Travel souvenirs and the imaginative geographies of Southern Africa
University of Sheffield	Bradford South and West Primary Care Trust	Ideology, alcohol and Bradford: developing alcohol harm reduction policies for a local population
University of Sheffield	Sheffield Health and Social Research Consortium	Understanding component process and enhancing contraceptive consultations for young women at risk of unwanted pregnancy and termination
University of Sheffield	Department for Work and Pensions	Exploring the effects of multiple socio-economic and geographical disadvantages on employment outcomes

Post Graduate Training

Public Sector (continued)

University (Principal Applicant)	Collaborating Partner	Research Title
University of Sheffield	Department for Work and Pensions	A conceptual and comparative analysis of how social security and social assistance benefits systems in OECD countries affect the labour market participation of partnered women particularly those in non-working households
University of Sheffield	The Royal Horticultural Society	Quality of life in cities: the role of private gardens in sustainable urban development
Sheffield Hallam University	Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council (HWRCC)	The practice of integrated rural development policy making and implementation: reaction and response by rural community support organisation in the Yorkshire and Humber region
University of Southampton	Intensive Psychological Therapies Service Dorset Health Care Trust	Developing a time limited mindfulness-based group intervention for treatment resistant mental health patients
University of Strathclyde	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Developing the evidence base to advance environmental 'fairness'
University of Surrey	Home Office	Local areas and criminal victimisation: applying multi-level models to the British Crime Survey
University of Warwick	Community Development Foundation	Does social capital contribute to the renewal of disadvantaged neighbourhoods? The role of community development
University of York	Commission for Social Care Inspection	The impact of regulatory activity on social services providers and the experience of service users
University of York	North and East Yorkshire & Northern Lincolnshire Strategic Health Authority	The implications of the 'new' genetics on professional networks and the structuring of health delivery

Private Sector

University (Principal Applicant)	Collaborating Partner	Research Title
Aston University	Balfour Beatty Capital Projects Ltd	Effectiveness in public and private partnerships working in capital based projects
University of Birmingham	Bromford Housing Group	Designing effective interventions for homeless people: introducing a social psychological approach
Cranfield University	Électricité de France	Measurement of social responsibility: linking financial and social values
Cranfield University	Oscar Ltd	Identifying organisational factors that impact upon innovative, system-level design
Cranfield University	National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF)	How does shareholder activism influence corporate behaviour and performance? An empirical evaluation
University of Exeter	Rentokil Initial UK Ltd	The psychology of office space
University of Leeds	Education Leeds	Journey to learn: geographical mobility and education provision
University of Leeds	Institute of Public Relations (IPR)	Framing and repertoires of action in corporate communications
University of Liverpool	Groundwork Wirral	Institutional reforms for the effective delivery of local environmental objectives: the case of the groundwork trusts
University of London: Royal Holloway	Cisco Systems	The evaluation of technology enhanced learning in Africa: theory and practice
University of Manchester	The New Politics Network	A comparative study of citizenship, engagement in the UK, Europe and the USA
University of Nottingham	NESTA Futurelab	Investigating the effectiveness of tangible technologies in early years and primary education
University of Oxford	Oxera Consulting Ltd	Evaluating the long term impacts of transport policy: the case of passenger rail privatisation
University of Oxford	Watson Wyatt LLP	Financial planning for retirement: gender, labour market change and new patterns of inequality

Private Sector (continued)

The Robert Gordon University	Scottish and Southern Energy plc	Understanding community responses to UK onshore wind project
Sheffield Hallam University	West Yorkshire Housing Partnership	Understanding housing market analysis: the role of local stakeholder institutions
University of Warwick	Koios Group Ltd	Exploring the impact of problem structuring methods on the quality of group dialogue during strategic development

Voluntary Sector

University (Principal Applicant)	Collaborating Partner	Research Title
University of Birmingham	Housing Associations Charitable Trust	The role of inter-organisational partnerships in improving refugee housing options in UK cities
University of Bristol	Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS)	Spatial and longitudinal analysis of the geographies of participation in UK higher education
University of Durham	DFW Adoption	What makes adoption work? Adoptive parents' views and experiences of adoption from 1976-2001
University of Durham	National Energy Action (NEA)	Warming homes and cooling the planet: policies and practices for enhancing domestic energy conservation
University of East Anglia	The National Family and Parenting Institute	Being young, British and Muslim: pathways to faith and citizenship with Muslim families
University of Edinburgh	Barnardo's	To identify and explore the experiences and support needs for children who live with parental problem-drinking
Lancaster University	Help the Hospices	Equity of geographic access to hospice and palliative care within the United Kingdom
University of Leeds	National Catholic Refugee Forum	Children and the new Latin American immigrant communities of the UK
Nottingham Trent University	Age Concern England	Retirement migration, the 'other story': citizenship, transnational social networks and quality of life
Nottingham Trent University	Southwell Diocesan Council for Family Care	The birth parent and the evolution of adoption practice in England since 1926
University of Oxford	University and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS)	Transition in vocational education: from Level 3 to higher education
University of Sheffield	I CAN	Adults with persisting childhood speech and language difficulties: life experiences and outcomes
University of Sheffield	Epilepsy Action	The role of illness representations in the experience of poor memory of people with epilepsy: new implications for intervention and quality of life
University of Sheffield	Investment Property Forum Educational Trust	Liquidity in commercial property: the buy side of the transaction process
University of Sussex	Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants	Migrant workers in British agriculture: immigration status, employment relations, and social exclusion
University of Wales, Bangor	'For Dementia'	Motivation, meanings and relationships in family care-giving for people with dementia
University of York	Contact a Family	Participation of parents with disabled children in service development

Number of CASE Studentships by Sector

Sector	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Public	37(60%)	52 (74%)	51 (61%)
Private	15 (24%)	10 (14%)	16 (19%)
Voluntary	10 (16%)	8 (12%)	17 (20%)
Total	62	70	84

Post Graduate Training

ESRC/NERC Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Research Studentships in the Social and Environmental Sciences

ESRC/NERC Studentships focus on issues which fall within the remits of both the Economic and Social and the Natural Environment Research Councils and are genuinely interdisciplinary in nature. 21 studentships were awarded to begin from 1 October, 2005.

Institution	Lead Department	Research Title
University of East Anglia	Biological Sciences	Can ecotourism stabilise land use in the face of the trans-Amazon highway?
University of East Anglia	Development Studies	Aspects of biolinguistic diversity: medicinal plant knowledge in South Ethiopia
University of East Anglia	Development Studies	Co-evolution of forest management systems and forestry policy in Madagascar
University of East Anglia	Development Studies	Second chance at sustainability? post-tsunami shifts in reef-based livelihoods
University of Exeter	Geography, Archaeology, and Earth Resources	Development and application of a quantitative model of sustainability
University of Leeds	Earth and Environment	The interaction of climatic variability with development in West Africa
University of Leicester	Geography	Indigenous spatial literacy to inform participatory GIS in wildlife conservation
King's College London	Geography	Biotechnology, science and Africa in the international biosafety regime
Imperial College London	Environmental Science and Technology	Investigating co-management and external interventions in a marine park
University College London	Anthropology	Investigating key determinants of human-large carnivore conflict in Tanzania
University College London	Anthropology	The role of ecological factors on patterns of cultural diversity
University of London, Royal Holloway	Geography	Communicating the impact of long-term salt production on the landscape of Europe
University of Nottingham	Genetics, Biorisks and Society	Public policy implications of research on the risks of chemical mixtures
Oxford Brookes University	Anthropology	Conflict between humans and chimpanzees at the farm-forest interface in Uganda
University of Oxford, Green College	Geography & the Environment	Environmental disasters: a tool for conservation success?
University of Oxford, Linacre College	Environmental Change	A political analysis of carbon offsets for local and global benefits
University of Plymouth	Biological Sciences	Estimating the value of marine conservation in the UK
University of Salford	Built and Human Environment	Ecosystem health and social inclusion: the case of urban green spaces
University of Sheffield	Geography	Private protected areas and biodiversity conservation in South Africa
University of Sheffield	Landscape	Urban biodiversity in context: reconciling public and professional Attitudes
University of Stirling	Biological and Environmental Sciences	Development of sustainable communities in rural Scotland: measures and policies

ESRC/DCLG (formerly ODPM) Joint Studentships

The scheme started in 2002 in collaboration with the DTLR. In 2003, a further phase of funding was made available under the ESRC/DCLG Sustainable Communities Research Programme. 2004 saw a third phase of funding, in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers, to cover local and regional governance. Wave 4 of the scheme in 2005 was linked to DCLG's New Horizons research agenda. Six PhD studentships were funded in 2005, although two of these remain vacant at the time of reporting.

Research Studentship Awards

Institution	Department	Research Title
University of Birmingham	Geography	ICT, business and professional services and sustainable communities
University of Durham	Geography	Environmental shocks and housing market dynamics: understanding the interactions between global climate change, flood risk and housing systems
University of Durham	Sociology and Social Policy	Exploring trajectories of residential segregation among English districts
Heriot Watt University	Built Environment	Housing wealth: broadening horizons of opportunity?
Kings College London	Geography	Planning at the coalface: local authority planners, planning reform and the new public management
University of Newcastle	Architecture, Planning and Landscape	To what extent are country towns and villages sustainable environments for older people?

Post Graduate Training

Centre Linked Awards

The intention of the ESRC Centre Linked Studentship scheme is to enable ESRC funded Centres to strengthen their important contribution to the development of research capacity in the social sciences through the training of new researchers. In 2005 18 studentships were awarded to ESRC centres. Although there was no restriction of the topics put forward for this scheme, any proposals involving quantitative techniques would be given priority under this scheme.

The following table lists the ESRC centres awarded studentships in 2005.

Centre Name	Institution
Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (2 awards)	University of Manchester
Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE)	London School of Economics and Political Science
Centre for Genomics in Society (EgenIS)	University of Exeter
Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) (3 awards)	Institute of Education
Centre for Market and Public Organisation (CMPO) (2 awards)	University of Bristol
Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) (2 awards)	University of Oxford
Centre for Organisation and Innovation (COI)	University of Sheffield
Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC)	University of Manchester
Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE)	University of East Anglia
ESRC Priority Research Network	Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine
ESRC UK Centre for Evidence Based Policy and Practice	Queen Mary
National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) (2 awards)	University of Bristol Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine

Overview of Research Resources

The ESRC funds a range of research resources in the support of its mission. This includes source material such as local, national and international qualitative and quantitative data, many of which are internationally renowned. Through its resource centres, such as the Economic and Social Data Service, the Council houses, maintains and provides access to this information for both academic and non-academic researchers. ESRC research resources also include a range of other initiatives, such as the National Centre for Research Methods. Its mission, is to provide a strategic focal point for the identification, development and delivery of an integrated national research, training and capacity building programme aimed at: promoting a step change in the quality and range of methodological skills and techniques used by the UK social science community; and providing support for, and dissemination of, methodological innovation and excellence within the UK. Other research resources supported by the Council include library holdings; software; communications technologies and other hardware.

Research Resources

Report by Research Resources Board Chair



“The pioneering application of computationally intensive grid technologies (e-social science) have resulted in some of the most groundbreaking developments.”

This is an exciting and challenging time for the UK social science community. Researchers are being asked to answer the most searching of questions on topics as wide ranging as how to succeed in the world economy through to understanding and combating climate change. These questions are international in their scope and global in their impact.

To respond to these challenges, researchers need to be armed with the best datasets possible and equipped with the most advanced tools and techniques. Over the past 12 months the Research Resources Board has made major strides in providing them with both.

Crucially, the Board has led the way in developing a National Datasets Strategy for Social Sciences. This has been endorsed by a wide range of agencies who fund the collection of social science data resources, including government departments, charitable foundations and other Research Councils. The strategy provides a common framework for identifying and co-ordinating the future funding of new datasets as well as improving access to existing data resources. This is a very major step forward in sustaining the longterm development of the UK's world class national data infrastructure.

The Board has continued to develop key parts of that infrastructure over the last year. For example, it has funded further multi-million pound sweeps of the British Household Panel Study and Birth Cohort Studies. It has also co-sponsored a further round of data collection for the Workplace Employee Relations Survey. These surveys are invaluable in charting political, economic and social change over time. They also provide a robust evidence base upon which to formulate public policy in areas ranging from deprivation and social exclusion through to labour market dynamics and organisational development and change.

The Board has also responded to the research challenges presented by the increasingly global drivers of social and economic change. The growing need for more comparative research relies fundamentally on robust international data resources. The Board has expanded its portfolio of large scale international databanks and as well as funding further rounds of the European Social Survey. Use of these resources continues to expand at a rapid rate, underpinning research on subjects as diverse as global trade flows through to comparative public attitudes towards the expansion of the European Union.

To fully optimise the exploitation of this very rich crop of data resources demands an ongoing commitment to develop simple and effective access arrangements. The Board has recently committed a further £8 million to extend the data dissemination services that support academic access to UK Census data resources. This builds on the Board's £8 million investment in the Economic and Social Data Service at the University of Essex. These developments have helped to sustain a huge overall growth in use of the Council's data resources which reached record levels during the course of the year.

Methodological developments have fuelled this increase in use. New tools and techniques developed under the Board's research methods initiatives have improved the capacity to study complex social and economic processes. The pioneering application of computationally intensive grid technologies (e-social science) have resulted in some of the most groundbreaking developments, opening up novel ways to integrate and mine large datasets in areas such as financial forecasting and economic modelling. Grid technologies have also been used to improve the analysis of complex visual data. These developments have helped to make the UK a global leader in e-social science, witnessed when the Board funded the first major international conference in this area in June 2005.

The Council can be justly proud of its contribution to developing the UK's data infrastructure and in developing and mainstreaming new methodological tools and techniques. Yet there remains enormous scope to do more. One key objective in the year to come will be to develop even bigger and better datasets with large enough sample sizes to truly analyse our increasing complex, diverse and globalised society. This will pose major challenges, both in terms of collecting new data and at looking at ways to more effectively integrate and link existing data resources. The Board is confident that through working in partnership with other bodies, it can meet that challenge and help to ensure that the UK builds upon its reputation as a world leader in the provision of social science data resources.

Professor Patricia Broadfoot
Chair of the ESRC Research Resources Board

National Centre for e-Social Science

“Access Grids are an advanced form of teleconferencing in which webcams of people are projected on a wall, creating virtual meetings through which geographically distributed participants can collaborate.”

The National Centre for e-Social Science (NCeSS) is the key component of the ESRC's e-science strategy, itself part of the cross-Research Council e-science programme. The Centre's mission is to enable and encourage social scientists to make best use of emerging e-science technologies in order to tackle key challenges in their research fields in new and more effective ways.

As John Taylor, former Director General of the Research Councils, explained: “e-science is about global collaboration in key areas of science and the next generation of infrastructure that will enable it.” That enabling infrastructure has become known as the Grid. This has a variety of elements. Access Grids are an advanced form of teleconferencing in which webcams of people are projected on a wall, creating virtual meetings through which geographically distributed participants can collaborate. Data Grids seamlessly integrate and make easily accessible heterogeneous datasets from multiple locations. Computational Grids provide scalable, high-performance computer power, either by linking supercomputers or by harnessing the unused processing power of hundreds of PCs. Sensor Grids collect real-time digitised data from multiple sources, providing information on, for example, traffic flows or people's electronic transactions.

NCeSS is charged with both undertaking e-social science research and stimulating and supporting the uptake among social scientists of Grid-enabled collaboration tools, data resources and computing power. The Centre itself is a collaborative enterprise and has a distributed structure, comprising a co-ordinating hub established in 2004 at the University of Manchester (in collaboration with the UKDA at the University of Essex) and a network across the UK of seven nodes undertaking major, three-year research programmes together with 12 one-year small grant projects designed to encourage novel and experimental applications of e-science technologies.

There are two strands to the Centre's research programme, one involving the application of e-science technology to address social science research problems and the other investigating the socio-economic circumstances that shape, and are shaped by, the development of e-science. The aim of the nodes within the applications strand is to generate demonstrator projects that can be used in raising awareness across the social science community of the benefits that can be gained by using e-science technologies to pursue key research challenges. Simple examples

would be harnessing the computational Grid to scale up modelling and simulation to previously unattainable magnitudes such as whole national populations; representing data based on different spatial units (postcodes, constituencies, travel-to-work areas) as if it were all from the same areas thereby greatly facilitating the ease of analysis; and logging people's movements around a shopping centre using General Packet Radio Service devices. The aim of the smaller social-shaping strand is to understand the factors facilitating or inhibiting the uptake of e-science technologies as a basis for advising on policy for the future. Particularly important here are the social, institutional, ethical and legal issues surrounding research, such as privacy and confidentiality, access to data and data protection, ownership of intellectual property rights, alongside issues of trust, confidence, accountability and risk that arise in collaborative research and are heightened when collaborative teams are distributed geographically and across multiple disciplines.

Alongside the research programme, the hub took responsibility for an ESRC competitive scheme to install eight Access Grid Nodes in universities where they can add value to existing ESRC investments. Now that all eight have been allocated, their value is being demonstrated through a seminar series delivered over Access Grid, with each institution providing a speaker in turn.

Peter Halfpenny, Executive Director
ESRC National Centre for e-Social Science
<http://www.ncess.ac.uk>

Research Resources

Centre for Applied Social Surveys (CASS)

The centre's aim is to promote a fuller understanding and the improved application of social survey methods amongst the UK academic and non-academic communities. In order to achieve this aim CASS provides training to researchers in the application and use of social survey methods through a series of modular taught courses (the Short Course Programme).

The centre also provides access to technical information on the design and execution of social surveys through the provision of an electronic resource the ESRC Question Bank. The Question Bank holds the questionnaires for large scale social surveys which have a nationally representative sample and are generally conducted by a large and professional survey organisation.

The Short Course Programme is supported alongside the training activities of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods.

Director: Professor C Skinner
Tel: 023 8059 5376
Email: cass@socsci.soton.ac.uk

University of Southampton
Southampton SO17 1BJ

Question Bank Director:
Professor M Bulmer
Tel: 01483 683762
Email: julie.lamb@surrey.ac.uk

University of Surrey
Guildford GU2 7XH

November 2000 – October 2005
Total grant: £724,699

<http://www.socstats.soton.ac.uk/CASS>

<http://qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk>

British Election Study (BES)

The British Election Study has been conducted at every general election since 1964. The BES covers the following main subject areas: political preferences and values; economic perceptions; social attitudes; dispositions to engage in different forms of political activity; and individual and social demographic characteristics.

Directors:
Professor D Sanders
Tel: 01206 872599
Email: sanders@essex.ac.uk

Professor P Whiteley
Tel: 01206 872641
Email: whiteley@essex.ac.uk

University of Essex
Colchester CO4 3SQ

May 2004 – October 2006
Total grant: £925,000

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/bes>

Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS)

This national data archiving and dissemination service is jointly funded by the ESRC and the Joint Information Systems Committee. The service is a partnership between four key centres of expertise: UK Data Archive; Institute for Social and Economic Research (both at the University of Essex), Manchester Information and Associated Services; and the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (both at the University of Manchester). The service provides access to the largest single UK collection of social science datasets, with particular emphasis being placed on providing value-added support for large-scale Government, longitudinal, international and qualitative datasets and series.

Director: Professor K Schürer
Tel: 01206 872001
Email: archive@essex.ac.uk

UK Data Archive
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester CO4 3SQ

January 2003 – September 2007
Total grant: £7.8 million

<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>

National Centre for e-Social Science (NCeSS)

The role of the National Centre for e-Social Science (NCeSS) is to investigate and promote the use of e-science to benefit social science research. The overall goal of NCeSS is to stimulate the uptake and use of emerging e-science technologies within the social sciences. To do this, they provide information, training, advice, support and online resources. NCeSS also researches the use of e-science technologies and advises on the future strategic direction of e-social science.

The Centre is made up of a co-ordinating hub, based at the University of Manchester with support from the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex, plus seven research nodes based at institutions throughout the UK. A series of smaller e-social science projects have been commissioned under the ESRC small grant scheme.

The majority of the Centre's research is undertaken by the seven research nodes, which each focus on a different area of e-social science:

- Collaboratory for Quantitative e-Social Science (CQeSS) University of Lancaster
- Mixed Media Grid (MiMeG) Bristol University
- Modelling and Simulation for e-Social Science (MoSeS) University of Leeds
- New Forms of Digital Record for e-Social Science (Digital Record) University of Nottingham
- Geographic Urban Environments (GeoVUE) University College London
- Oxford e-Social Science Project (OeSS) University of Oxford
- Semantic Grid Tools for Rural Policy Development and Appraisal (PolicyGrid) University of Aberdeen.

Executive Director: Professor P Halfpenny
Tel: 0161 275 1383
Email: p.halfpenny@ncess.ac.uk

University of Manchester
Manchester M13 9PL

October 2003 – September 2008
Total grant: £4.7 million

11 pilot demonstrator projects
2 training and awareness projects
4 small grant awards
8 regional access grid nodes
NCeSS Hub
7 regional NCeSS nodes

<http://www.ncess.ac.uk>

ESRC/JISC Census of the Population

This programme provides data and support services to allow users in UK Higher and Further Education institutions to access 1971, 1991 and 2001 UK censuses.

Co-ordinator: Professor D Martin
Tel: 023 8059 3808
Email: d.j.martin@soton.ac.uk

University of Southampton
Southampton SO17 1BT

August 2001 – July 2006
Total grant: £3.8 million

<http://www.census.ac.uk>

European Social Survey (ESS)-UK component

The ESS is taking place in more than 21 countries and is designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions, its political and economic structures and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations. The ESRC is funding the UK component.

Contact: Ms A Park
(currently on maternity leave)
Tel: 020 7549 9573
Email: a.park@natcen.ac.uk

Ms K Thomson
Tel: 0171 250 1866
Email: k.thomson@natcen.ac.uk

National Centre for Social Research
London EC1V 0AX

October 2005 – July 2007
Total grant: £492,197

<http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org>

Evidence-based Policy and Practice

The network consists of a national co-ordinating centre supported by seven network subcentres that will form bridges into available expertise, results, data and information relating to specific major policy issues. The centre will foster the exchange of research-based evidence between public policy researchers and practitioners and accelerate the development of methods and capacity for appraising and summarising the results of research relevant to policy and practice across the social science disciplines integrated in the network.

Directors:
Professor K Young
Tel: 020 7882 7657
Email: k.g.young@qmul.ac.uk

Professor C Humphrey
(from January 2006)
Tel: 020 7848 3646
Email: charlotte.humphrey@kcl.ac.uk

King's College London
London WC2R 2LS

December 2000 – March 2007
Total grant: £1.5 million

<http://www.evidencenetwork.org>

Research Resources

Centre for Longitudinal Studies

The British Birth Cohort Studies of those born in one week of 1958 and 1970, and during the year 2000 are treasures of the national heritage of social statistics, internationally unique and internationally renowned. They link data from one part of the life course to another for a large number of individuals, and have been used to study a wide range of topics and the links between them, including education, health, employment, the family and citizenship. The ESRC currently funds, in whole or in part, the latest sweeps of the 1958, 1970 and Millennium Cohort through the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at the Institute of Education.

Director: Professor H Joshi

Tel: 020 7612 6901

Email: h.joshi@ioe.ac.uk

Institute of Education
London WC1H 0AL

(current centre grant)

October 2004 – 31 March 2010

Total grant: £10,270,958

Previous grant for sweep 2 of the Millennium Cohort is issued separately:

March 2001 – June 2005

Total grant: £4.5 million

<http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk>

National Centre for Research Methods

The overall mission of the Centre is to provide a strategic focal point for the identification, development and delivery of an integrated national research and training programme aimed at promoting a step change in the quality and range of methodological skills and techniques used by the UK social science community.

The Centre is distributed across a number of sites, drawing upon the knowledge and expertise of researchers around the country. It works closely with ESRC's Research Methods Programme. The Co-ordinating Hub of the Centre is located at the University of Southampton. The Hub has the strategic responsibility for assessing current national provision and identifying future national needs in the development of research methods and training. The Hub also plays a lead role in facilitating the more systematic co-ordination of the Council's existing initiatives aimed at improving the UK skills base in research methods, linking these to other non-ESRC funded activities with similar objectives.

The Centre consists of 6 Nodes which will work closely with the Hub. The Nodes will be responsible for delivering the Centre's research programme and providing support and dissemination activities across the UK.

- Bayesian methods for combining multiple Individual Aggregate data Sources in observation studies (BIAS) Imperial College
- Learning Environment for Multilevel Methodology and Applications (LEMMA) University of Bristol
- Developing Statistical Modelling in the Social Sciences, University of Lancaster and University of Warwick
- Methods for Research Synthesis Programme (MRS) Institute of Education
- Qualitative Research Methods in Social Sciences Innovation, Integration and Impact (QUALITI) Cardiff University
- Real Life Methods, University of Leeds and University of Manchester.

Director: Professor C Skinner

Tel: 023 8059 4539

Email: info@ncrm.ac.uk

University of Southampton
Southampton SO17 1BJ

April 2004 – March 2009

Hub grant: £2 million

Centre total (Hub and Nodes) £6.5 million

<http://www.ncrm.ac.uk>

National Information on Software Services

This project is managed by the Combined Higher Education Software Team (CHEST) at the University of Bath and National Information on Software Services (NISS).

The ESRC is contributing £5,000.

Research Equipment Initiative for the Social Sciences (REISS)

The initiative forms part of the Council's overall strategy to improve the social science infrastructure by supporting research activities through this opportunity to provide support for improving major research equipment available to the community. The objectives of the initiative are to:

- contribute to the research infrastructure in higher education institutions (HEIs)
- promote partnership and the sharing of equipment between institutions
- enable high-quality research to be conducted across the social sciences
- encourage, where possible, partnership between HEIs and external sponsors of research.

Contact: Mrs L McNair

Tel: 01793 413049

Email: lorna.mcnaair@esrc.ac.uk

Policy and Resources Directorate
ESRC

January 2003 – April 2009

Total grant: £433,670

6 projects

Research Methods Programme (RMP)

The programme forms part of Council's strategy to improve the standards of research methods across the UK social science community. The programme aims to develop quantitative and qualitative methods within the context of substantive research, and promotes the effective dissemination of good practice through a range of related training activities.

Director: Professor A Dale
Tel: 0161 275 4876
Email: angela.dale@man.ac.uk

University of Manchester
Manchester M13 9PL

October 2002 – September 2007
Total grant: £6.4 million

Phase I – 22 substantive research projects, 7 training projects

Phase II – 9 training projects

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods>

Strategic Advisor for Research Resources

The Strategic Advisor, Professor Peter Elias, has responsibility for the development of a National Data Strategy to support social science research. This involves planning for the development of new data sources and the maintenance of existing resources, working closely with government departments, other Research Councils and the research foundations to coordinate these developments and assisting with the task of identifying the scope for co-funding arrangements. He chairs the National Longitudinal Strategy Committee and services the newly-established UK Data Forum, which will assist in the development of the Strategy.

Contact: Professor P Elias
Tel: 02476 523 286
Email: peter.elias@warwick.ac.uk

University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL

October 2004 – September 2007
Total grant: £518,063

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/nds>

UK Longitudinal Studies Centre

The UK Longitudinal Studies Centre (ULSC) is the national resource centre for promoting longitudinal research and for the design, management and support of longitudinal surveys. The ULSC aims to: promote the use of the rich portfolio of longitudinal data sets in the UK; support users of those data through the provision of advice, information, training in longitudinal analysis and the provision of resources to make data easier to use; improve longitudinal survey methods, carry out methodological research and promote best practice in the production of high quality data for users.

Director: Professor N Buck
Tel: 01206 873066
Email: nhb@essex.ac.uk

University of Essex
Colchester CO4 3SQ

Previous term of funding:
October 1999 – September 2004

New award:
October 2004 – September 2009
Total grant: £13.5 million

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc>

Workplace Employment Relations Survey (WERS)

The survey maps the state of employment relations in workplaces across Great Britain. Data are collected from interviews with workplace managers who have day-to-day responsibility for personnel matters, interviews with worker representatives (where they are present), and from employees via a self-completion questionnaire. The survey is jointly sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, the ESRC and the Policy Studies Institute. The most recent survey, the 2004 Workplace Employment Relations Survey (WERS 2004) follows in the footsteps of earlier surveys conducted in 1980, 1984, 1990 and 1998.

National Institute of Economic and Social Research
London SW1P 3HE

Email: wers2004@niesr.ac.uk

<http://www.wers2004.info>

Engaging Society



Overview

Social science has a vital contribution to make to economic performance and development and to our quality of life both within the UK and for the wider global community. To this end, we endeavour to disseminate our research findings as widely as possible and to provide our audiences with access to the latest social and economic knowledge. The principal tool for this is our online resource 'ESRC Society Today' which contains information on the latest social science research findings and publications and features on key issues.

During 2005-06 we continued to build effective partnerships with policymakers and practitioners across all sectors to ensure that our diverse range of research findings are channelled to those that can best apply them. Examples of this are our highly successful Policy Seminar Series with Whitehall departments, the David Hume Seminars in Edinburgh and the All Party Parliamentary Briefings all of which bring together groups of academic researchers, policymakers, Parliamentarians and business people to discuss the latest research findings.

In addition to our regular targeted press releases we are committed to extending our engagement with the wider public. In the last year this included our three Annual Debates in different parts of the UK on 'Ageing Britain', accompanied by our widely distributed corporate publication 'The Edge', and Social Science Week 2005 in June. This year also saw the successful integration of the Week into National Science Week in March 2006, with around 60 events taking place across the UK.

We continue to support our researchers to develop the skills and knowledge required to improve and increase their dissemination activities. For example, in the last year we provided media training for over 200 researchers and organised workshops for our researchers on 'getting research into practice'. We also introduced a new impact grants scheme that will provide additional funding for our researchers to maximise the impact of their work on policy and practice.

Engaging Society

Making a Difference

“The University has benefited from the partnership by extending and developing theoretical and research skills in the areas of organisational development, health promotion and evaluation research.”

The best staff development for teachers happens when they can meet with others to discuss teaching and/or learning issues. Through the ESRC funded Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with the University of Reading, Redbridge London Education Authority (LEA) developed a digital extension to this process to assist in the development of a community of teachers who want to learn from each other.

Before this partnership no other LEA has used a rich media framework to disseminate teaching and learning best practice and to promote it on their website. This partnership was also groundbreaking for being the first KTP to be undertaken with a LEA.

A direct outcome from this partnership was the design, development and implementation of an online exchange service, it enables the Redbridge Network Learning Community to disseminate and share professional practice and knowledge online, and it also enables other schools to participate. This exchange service is also supported by video streaming which captures best training/learning practice.

The Redbridge LEA is now clearly seen to be a leader in using innovative ICT in teaching and learning; the work of Redbridge has become widely known across other LEA's in London and beyond who wish to adopt similar products for best practice exchange.

The partnership has provided the University with case study material to use for undergraduate courses; has successfully bridged the areas of education and computer science; the product developed can be used within the University to capture it's own best teaching and learning practice, and the academics are investigating the possibility of taking this work and applying it to other areas beyond the education sector.

The associate involved with this project has developed a range of skills and management experience; due to her success within this partnership she has accepted a permanent position at another LEA.

This project has also instigated spin-offs in teaching practice such as schools using cameras to capture the activities in the classroom. There is also anecdotal evidence to suggest that this project has reduced the cost of professional development by making it independent of time and space.

The Department of Health's Initiative 'Improving Working Lives Standard' makes a commitment to improving the working lives of staff in the health sector through enhancing recruitment and retention.

Through the ESRC funded partnership between the University of Teesside, University of Sunderland and South Tyneside Health Care NHS have developed a comprehensive healthy living and working strategy with policy briefings to improve the trust's capacity to promote health and well being amongst staff, patients and visitors. The partnership acted as a catalyst for change within the trust, it increased awareness of the way work impacts on health and well being and prompting people to broaden their activities to fit in with a more holistic way of working.

Through the duration of the partnership, sickness absence fell by 0.4 per cent (from 5.7 to 5.3 per cent) which is equivalent to savings in the region of £200,000. As a result of the policy roll out and implementation, it is anticipated that there will be further reduction in stress related absence and a reduction in staff turnover which currently has an associated cost of £167,000 per annum.

The University has benefited from the partnership by extending and developing theoretical and research skills in the areas of organisational development, health promotion and evaluation research. It has also provided training resources and case study material for undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

The University of Teesside and the NHS Trust have been working with the Northeast NHS Innovation Hub to protect the Intellectual Property Rights of the tools developed during the partnership. Work is underway to develop an IT tool which will be sold commercially and it is envisaged that there will be a substantial demand from the public sector and large private sector organisations.

The Guardian

Professor Paul Croll, Institute of Education, University of Reading, featured in *The Guardian* reporting his research on the early age at which many children make post-GCSE choices.

Children stick to plans they make at 11

Matthew Taylor
Education correspondent

By the time they are 11 years old the majority of children have made up their mind about their future — and stick

70% of those who said they were going to leave school did not return after their GCSEs.

Professor Paul Croll, who carried out the study, said the results revealed that many children had taken important

been well documented. Last week Ruth Kelly, the education secretary, gave a speech to the Institute for Public Policy Research that stressed the importance of quality childcare and pre-school education.

already made decisions about their future by the time they

THE BIG ISSUE

CHARITY WAKE-UP

'Bland and identical' charities are being encouraged to become more competitive after the release of a new research project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Researchers found that few charity brands were genuinely distinctive. If they seem identical to other charitable organisations, their appeals are doomed from the outset, said Professor Adrian Sargeant of the University of the West of England who led the study. He added that unless charities can come up with messages, which get them noticed, they will appear to be ineffectual and 'a contributor to the increasing charity clutter'.

He added: "People have a strong sense of what it means to be a charity, but they find it very difficult to distinguish between causes — much less specific charities."

THE SCOTSMAN

A report by the ESRC's Institute of Fiscal Studies.

Immigrants are 10% of population

RHIANNON EDWARD

ONE in ten of British working-age population are immigrants and more than a third of them have arrived over the last decade, according to a new study.

The figures also demonstrate the stark difference between salaries earned by white and non-white workers born outside the country.

Worst off are male Bangladeshis, who on average earn 40 per cent less than British-born whites.

The study, *Immigrants in the British Labour Market*, draws on data from the Labour Force Survey from 1979 to 2004.

It reveals what sectors immigrants are working in, how their success in finding jobs has changed over time and how they compare to British-born whites.

different origin differ substantially with respect to their education and age, their regional distribution, employment-sector choice, and time of residence in Britain.

More than a third of all working-age immigrants living in Britain in 2004 have arrived over the last ten years.

In that year foreign-born individuals made up about 30.5 per cent of the working-age population of Britain.

Employment of foreign-born members of ethnic minorities is considerably lower and the differences have increased since 1979.

However, white immigrants fare about the same as British-born whites.

"Minority immigrants have, on average, lower participation and employment probabilities, with black Africans, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and

LIVERPOOL DAILY POST

Crime levels are generally falling but fear among the public is not, according to an ESRC funded report by Dr Paul Collier, of the Aston Business School. Dr Collier said, "the reduced visibility of police appears to have hit public confidence, despite the success experienced in reducing crime".

New clues in police crime fight

A FOCUS on national performance priorities has caused local police resources to be diverted away from dealing with anti-social behaviour, says a new study.

Efforts to improve crime and detection rates have seen more visible elements of policing sacrificed, research by the Economic and Social Research Council found.

Dr Paul Collier, of the Aston Business School in Birmingham, who led the study, said that could help explain why crime levels were generally falling but fear among the public was not.

He said: "The traditional response by police officers to calls from the public has been reduced in order to invest in proactive

FINANCIAL TIMES

Research carried out by the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion.

FT SERIES: EUROPE'S GLOBAL CHALLENGE

EU set for clash on 'Anglo-Saxon' versus 'social' welfare models

Critics say the UK approach has brought high levels of poverty and inequality, while others wince at the high costs of the French and German systems. **Nicholas Timmins** reports

Does much of mainland Europe need to look up its 'social model' welfare state in favour of an 'Anglo-Saxon' model along UK and US lines?

The fundamental dispute will be at the heart of next week's summit of the European Union at Hampton Court, headed by heads in France, Germany and other EU countries that their governments

between those countries that have had effective active labour policies, and those that have not.

Then, he argues many of the Nordic countries have high levels of public expenditure and social protection but also high levels of employment thanks to policies that ensure those out of work are actively seeking to return to it.

The UK's approach

derived from the active labour market policies that countries such as Denmark and the Netherlands had started to pursue ahead of the UK. And Mr Leyard argues that it is similar programmes that have helped Ireland and now Spain and others produce dramatic falls in unemployment.

seen the financial position of childless adults who remain out of work women.

But against that, the number of poor pensioners has been cut by a quarter since 1997. Using standard measures, according to KENNETH Stewart of Case, the UK's overall poverty rate for the

falls in some ways as a whole nation with the rest of the

with the rest of the

Daily Mail

Researchers from the Institute of Fiscal Studies tracked 17,000 adults who attended nurseries in the early 1960s. The findings showed that adults who went to nursery or playgroup were more likely to have gained qualifications and jobs by age 33.

Children sent to nursery 'do better in school and at work'

CHILDREN who go to nursery classes are more successful in later life, a study has found. They do better at school and to nursery. They suffer anxiety as they struggle to accept being separated from their parents for the first time and their levels of the stress hormone cortisol

TELEGRAPH & ARGUS

Expert rubbishes 'ethnic ghettos' claim

Ethnic minority groups in the UK are becoming more integrated, according to a report released today by a specialist group. The research indicates the country's ethnic diversity is a strength, not a liability, and highlights the danger that the country has become a 'white ghetto'. As reported in the Telegraph & Argus last week, the report's author Dr Ian Stewart discussed these

find evidence of some positive and long-lasting effects from early education. The research follows debate over whether infants benefit from being separated from their parents in playgroups

THE OBSERVER

Experts at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

Airlines flying into turbulence over climate change law

Potentially one of the biggest contributors to global warming, the aviation sector is facing an uncomfortable future, writes Neasa MacErlean

Airline stocks falling 10 per cent, hefty air fare rises, increased costs across the manufacturing sector and a major knock to the UK's £10bn a year aviation industry: these are some of the impacts that are predicted to follow if the British government fulfils the promises it has made on climate change. The aviation sector will be in the front

sector and private households would have to emit no carbon at all by then to compensate for the growth of the airline sector, according to the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. This year measures will be suggested to make the European aviation industry pay for the pollution it creates. The EU Commission will publish a report in April outlining plans for aviation to join

SUNDAY HERALD

New database puts names on the map

Research into migration of Scottish family names sees creation of 'fascinating' online genealogy tool

By Jennifer Johnston

SCOTS will be able to trace their family roots far beyond their front door, with the launch of a new website that traces the history and geography of surnames across the UK.

The surname Profiler project, developed by the Economic and Social Research Council, shows the origin of surnames, their frequency and geographical distribution, tracing the movement of people with the same names from the 19th century to today.

As well as mapping surnames across the UK the project has uncovered where common Scottish and British surnames can be found in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, giving another clue to patterns of migration.

The website details British top 25,000 names, and there are plans to increase that number to around 280,000 names in the future.

Unlike genealogical research, the project focuses on groups of people sharing a family name rather than on individuals. Census data from 1881 to 1998, electoral registers and more than

10 million surname records from credit reference company Experian were all used to give a comprehensive picture of where people with the same surname lived in the past and today.

Professor Richard Whittes of University College London, one of the scientists on the study, told the Sunday Herald the project had become "a fascinating source of information for people wanting to trace their family roots".

The project threw up some surprising results such as the number of people with Scottish surnames living in London's Caribbean communities.

" Scots were amongst a number of plantation owners in the Caribbean and slaves took their names from the owners," said Whittes. "Through the years the names have remained with the descendants of these workers of the way back to Britain."

"We also see that Scottish surnames overseas are most highly concentrated in Tasmania rather than mainland Australia, giving some more clues about migration patterns."

Social changes are also evident from the research - in 1881 the census listed nobody named Patel in the UK, today

THE INDEPENDENT

Sir Terry Leahy, commenting in *The Independent* on research carried out by Professor Nick Bloom at the London School of Economics.

Tesco's chief executive considers the values that big business needs to stay ahead of the game

Public companies can learn lessons from family firms



All great businesses start the same way: someone has a simple idea and is brave enough to give it a go. Tesco started after the First World War with Jack Cohen being prepared to risk his money in setting up a stall in the East End. But as businesses

edge. How to hold on to the vision and values which first inspired the business. How to avoid becoming bogged down in bureaucracy and back-covering mediocrity. At first sight, you might think publicly owned companies

tion being based on ability rather than blood, they have a much bigger gene pool in which to fish. They are more open and transparent, with independent



Supporting Our Investments

“The ESRC continues to support its researchers by training them to communicate professionally with the numerous media outlets available to disseminate research to business, policymakers and the general public.”

The challenge of supporting ESRC funded researchers in transferring vast amounts of knowledge to government, politicians, business and the voluntary sector as well as supporting them in the huge task of engaging the public with the social sciences has continued throughout 2005-06.

The ESRC also runs a highly effective media campaign to increase awareness of the research that it funds as well as publicising the impact of social science within society. During 2005-06 the campaign led to over 2500 articles featuring ESRC funded research reaching over 510 million readers. This represents an almost 30 per cent increase on the coverage gained in the previous year and ensured that social science research reached over 170 million additional readers compared to 2004-5.

The Council also ran its second media campaign designed to raise the profile of its major longitudinal studies. Centring on the Thomas Aquinas themed publication, *The Seven Deadly Sins*, this generated considerable press coverage including articles in the *Daily Mail* and *Financial Times*.

With over 4,000 researchers and postgraduate students being supported by the ESRC at any one time, the ESRC does not have the capacity to disseminate all of the research generated by them. The ESRC, therefore, has a variety of differing ways in which it can support its funded researchers to disseminate their own research. The ESRC Communications team offers advice on communications plans and activities, enabling our investments to draw on the experience of previous successes in disseminating research.

Additionally the ESRC continues to support its researchers by training them to communicate professionally with the numerous media outlets available to disseminate research to business, policymakers and the general public. Specialist ‘Getting Research into Practice’ workshops designed to allow the development of a knowledge transfer are also

offered. It is not only established researchers that the ESRC seeks to transfer these skills to. Early career researchers and PhD students are also offered courses in media training.

During 2005-06 the Council launched two new schemes to support the knowledge transfer activities of its investments. First, the Impact Grants Scheme is being offered as a pilot to existing ESRC centres and large grant holders to enable them to undertake new knowledge transfer activities that are likely to have an impact on policy and practice. The other scheme, The Placement Fellows scheme, will enable academics to work within a partner organisation, such as a government department or devolved administration, on policy-relevant research and to upgrade the research skills of government employees.

In the past year, there have been four courses for PhD and early career researchers (in Cardiff, Liverpool, London and Oxford – with a total 109 participants), seven courses for senior researchers (with six participants each time) and 11 courses for centres and programmes (with up to 12 participants each).

All the trainers are or have been working journalists. For example, in the past year, researchers have benefited from the experience and insights of science broadcaster and editor of *Science and Public Affairs* Wendy Barnaby; Evan Davis, the BBC’s economics editor; Martin Huckerby, former foreign editor of *The Observer*; Gareth Jones, business editor at BBC Wales; and former *Financial Times* journalist Alan Pike.

Working with several Regional Development Agencies, the ESRC has been endeavouring to appoint research brokers to draw on the national research base in order to contribute to regional economic and social development. A similar scheme will also be operated to connect research themes in their presentation to the media. These activities help to facilitate engagement between users and researchers.

Science in Society

“They re-packaged contemporary ESRC research on crime, education, families, politics and wealth in an accessible manner.”

In response to the profile given to Science in Society in the Government's Science and Innovation Framework 2004-14, the last year has seen the ESRC consolidate its science in society activity. Many of our corporate public engagement events such as Social Science Week and the Annual Debates have now been brought under the Science in Society banner and are managed by a dedicated team. We have extended our folio to include more engagement with schools at Key Stage 3 and re-established our involvement with CREST Awards (Creativity in Engineering, Science and Technology) and Researchers in Residence through RCUK (Research Councils UK).

This was a particularly exciting year as the ESRC's chair, Frances Cairncross, replaced Sir Robert Winston as the President of the British Association (BA), an organisation dedicated to advancing the public understanding, accessibility and accountability of the sciences and engineering. To highlight the relationship between social science and the natural and physical sciences the ESRC moved Social Science Week 2006 from June to March to coincide with National Science Week. Social Science Week 2006 proved to be the most successful to date, showcasing the diversity of social science research in around 60 events across the country and attracting over 4,000 participants.

We have developed our engagement with school teachers and pupils at Key Stage 3. With the Association of Social Science Teachers we devised and published a selection of on-line briefing documents designed to complement the syllabus. They re-packaged contemporary ESRC research on crime, education, families, politics and wealth in an accessible manner. In addition, as part of Social Science Week in 2005 and 2006 we worked with Local Education Authorities in Manchester, Birmingham and London to organise a series of debating events targeted at sixth-form and GCSE students.

ESRC contributes to the evidence base that informs science in society activity through its major investments in the Science in Society and Teaching and Learning Research (TLRP) programmes. During the year dissemination from these programmes has included the BA and ESRC Science in Society Seminars and TLRP's latest output in its Commentaries publications outlining issues and proposal for science teaching in the UK. Collecting and disseminating an evidence-base to inform science in society activities will be further developed in 2006-07 and will form a central part of ESRC's Science in Society Strategy.

Performance



Overview

The Council has had another busy year. Key organisational and management developments have included:

- the successful operation of the first full year of the new ESRC Society Today web portal, which was delivered on budget and successfully passed a Gateway 5 review (the first Research Council project to do so)
- the implementation of new administration processes for the introduction of the joint electronic submission system (JeS) and full economic costs (FEC)
- the implementation of the RCUK Efficiency Delivery Project which has delivered efficiency gains in the areas of administrative costs, effective reprioritisation and increasing the level of co-funding
- an increase in resources for knowledge transfer and international activities to reflect the expansion of work in these areas, as described elsewhere in this report
- working in partnership with HEIs to give them more control over the management of studentships. A new system will come into effect from October 2006
- the continuing harmonisation of joint research council operations such as the establishment of a joint ICT unit. From 1 April 2005 ESRC has been managing the new RCUK Science in Society Unit.

The Council's work over the last year contributed to the Government's key science budget objectives in the areas of research, training, knowledge transfer and science in society. These are set out in more detail in our annual Delivery Report for 2005-06. Our plans for the coming year are set out in our Strategic Plan 2005-10 and our Delivery Plan for 2006-07. All of these are available on the ESRC website at www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk

In summary, the following activities address each of the four science budget areas.

Research – Research programmes and centres in priority areas; responsive mode research grants; fellowships; facilities and infrastructure.

Training – Studentships funding; quality assurance; research methods and generic skills training; postdoctoral fellowships.

Knowledge Transfer – Knowledge Transfer Partnerships; collaborative studentships; concordats with government departments and the devolved administrations; co-funding agreements; our new impact grant and placement schemes; centre and programme communication activities.

Science in Society – Engagement with the wider public; social science week; initiatives for schools and young people; development of corporate information systems.

- 1 The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is an independent executive Non-Departmental Body established by Royal Charter in 1965 for the promotion of social science research. The Charter was subsequently amended in 1994 in the light of the Science White Paper 'Realising Our Potential'.
- 2 The ESRC is funded primarily through grant-in-aid from the Office of Science and Innovation, which is part of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Principal objectives

- 3 **The Economic and Social Research Council's mission is to:**
 - promote and support by any means high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training in the social sciences
 - advance knowledge and provide trained social scientists who meet the need of users and beneficiaries, thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom, the effectiveness of public services and policy, and the quality of life
 - provide advice on, and disseminate knowledge and promote public understanding of, the social sciences.
- 4 **ESRC's Strategic Objectives are:**
 - to maximise new research opportunities by supporting social science of the highest quality
 - to create research opportunities by identifying and pursuing new challenges for social science research
 - to strengthen our future research by training the next generation of social scientists and ensuring the health of social science disciplines
 - to provide the data and methods needed to meet future social science challenges
 - to engage with stakeholders by a full range of knowledge transfer and communication activities
 - to improve our performance on the basis of robust measurement
 - to maximise our participation in International research aimed at answering major social science questions.
- 5 **In order for ESRC to meet these objectives its work is organised in four areas:**
 - **Research:** to fund cutting-edge and excellent research that focuses on pushing back the frontiers of science and on areas of major national importance.
 - **Capacity:** to ensure the availability of sufficient first class capacity, including expert researchers, data and methodology, for the UK to undertake top class social science.
 - **Engagement:** to communicate research findings as widely as possible, to engage with our key stakeholders and to get research into practice.
 - **Performance:** to evaluate the quality and impact of our funded research and perform our work efficiently and effectively.

Risk

- 6 ESRC has adopted a risk management strategy, in line with the recommendations of the Turnbull Report and to widen the scope of central government assurance statements. Controls and risk-bearing therefore relate to all aspects of management, not purely financial matters.
- 7 It is ESRC's view that it should demonstrate leadership in the quest for innovation and in the setting of strategies to achieve it. Innovation, and the social science research which supports it, is by its nature involved with uncertainty and hence risky outcomes. In order to seize opportunities to increase the probability of achieving its purpose ESRC has to embrace risk enterprises. ESRC has a responsibility not just to control risk, but to ensure the proper opportunities are created to allow the achievement of unplanned potential. ESRC therefore has a particular concern to ensure that the framework for managing risk involves appropriate measures to promote and safeguard innovation.
- 8 ESRC's capacity to handle risk and its risk and control framework can be found in ESRC's Statement on Internal Control (Page 86).
- 9 ESRC's main risks are recorded and monitored on the Corporate risk register. The key Corporate risks relate to the maintenance of social science capacity, achieving excellence in commissioned research, sustaining ESRC's reputation and influence and effectiveness of delivery.

10 ESRC's Corporate Risk Register categorises risks into Risk Types with the current financial risks being identified as follows:

- the need for additional resources from co-funding and CSR 2007 to finance adequate research under the main research challenges identified in the ESRC Strategic Plan
- the need to attract sufficient additional resources from CSR 2007 to finance levels of studentship and new data facilities and infrastructure essential for maintenance of the health of disciplines
- the impact of FEC changes leads to diminution of research, or levels of demand which reduce overall volume of support.

Review of the Year

11 The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006 record a deficit for the year of £9,584,000 compared with a deficit of £1,410,000 in 2004-05. The increased recorded deficit is a consequence of the Direction on Accounts which requires ESRC's Income and Expenditure Account to record Expenditure on an accrued basis whilst the principal source of income has to be recorded on a cash basis. Thus an increased level of year end creditors together with in-year utilisation of higher than normal cash balances at the start of the year combined to increase the size of the deficit. The General Fund as at 31 March 2006 showed an accumulated deficit of £13,981,000 (£4,084,000 in 2004-05). The total Government Funds at 31 March 2006 record a deficit of £8,424,000 a decrease of £9,628,000 during the year. Total Grant-in-Aid drawn down was £255,864,000, of which £255,215,000 was deployed on revenue expenditure and £649,000 deployed on capital expenditure. This included the £141,000,000 sustainability funding (see note 1 (n) to the accounts).

Staff and Other Operating costs have increased commensurate with ESRC's increased budget and level and range of operational activities. ESRC now hosts the RCUK's Science in Society Unit which has increased both staff and operating costs. The increased activity in Knowledge Transfer activities has also led to a direct increase in associated costs. 2005-06 has also seen the first full operational year of ESRC's Society Today. Staff costs have also increased as a direct result of the increase in the employer's superannuation contribution from 10.1 per cent to 21.3 per cent from 1 April 2005.

The Balance Sheet records debtors of £4,309,000 (£3,375,000 2004-05) and creditors of £20,914,000 (£17,448,000 2004-05). No major additions or disposals to fixed assets were made during the year. The provision for the onerous rental obligations on a London office lease increased during the year to £155,000 (£102,000 2004-05).

12 In April 2005 Council made the first funding decisions under its new planning and decision making cycle. This included increased funding for responsive mode support and a commitment to increasing success rates. Two new responsive mode schemes were introduced. The Large Grants scheme was set up to offer groups, networks and projects funding between £1.5m and £5m (post Full Economic Costing). Twenty three applications have been received and the first awards under the scheme will be announced in July 2006. The First Grants Scheme was introduced to offer established young researchers an opportunity to move into research management and direction. The first call under the scheme attracted a total of 151 applications with awards made in May 2006.

Council agreed to fund one centre out of the 2004-05 centres competition and the Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre at University College London, was launched in March 2006.

Commissioning took place under a number of new and ongoing programmes, for instance the World Economy Programme, the Rural Economy and Land Use Programme, and the Census Programme. Commissioning was also completed for the first phase of projects under the collaborative ESRC/Department for International Development Alleviating Poverty Scheme, and nine projects were funded by the international commissioning panel.

The Council has stepped up its international activities and eight bilateral agreements were concluded with Australia, Austria, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands and Sweden. The agreements cover responsive-mode collaborations across ESRC's remit and have created a great deal of interest among the researchers in all the countries involved.

In the postgraduate training area our largest ever recognition exercise was run and a quota allocation system was announced for the allocation of studentships, to ensure that studentships are located where there is particularly high quality training provision. Following the Council's *Demographic Review of the Social Sciences* a number of measures and activities have been initiated in disciplines identified as those where the long-term health of the discipline was most critical. These areas are economics, socio-legal studies, social work, area based language studies, management and business studies, and advanced quantitative methods. The measures range from increased studentship stipends and postdoctoral salaries; to additional studentships; to extensive discussions with the research and user communities of the disciplines in question to identify mechanisms for improving research skills.

The Council took the lead in developing a National Datasets Strategy for the social sciences. This has been endorsed by a wide range of agencies that provide funding for social science data resources, including government departments, charitable foundations and other Research Councils. The Strategy provides a common framework for identifying and co-ordinating the future funding of new datasets as well as improving access to existing data resources. This is a very major step forward in sustaining the long term development of the UK's world class national data infrastructure.

The Council has extended its engagement and communication activities in a number of ways, including the launch of a new website 'ESRC Society Today', the establishment of a new cross-Council Science in Society Unit under ESRC's management, and an increase in the number of co-funding collaborations. Social Science Week 2006 celebrated some of the very best British social science research as well as highlighting the ways in which social science touches everyday lives. For the first time the Week was run in conjunction with National Science Week in March, in order to demonstrate how integral social science is to the wider science agenda. With over 60 exhibitions, seminars, conferences and debates, there were many ways for everyone, from politicians to schoolchildren, to take part in the Week.

Other key organisational activities included the introduction of full economic costing and the cross-Council Joint Electronic Submissions system for all grant applications, as well as initial preparations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, and participation in a range of cross-Council activities to achieve greater harmonisation and efficiency.

During the year ESRC acted as an agent for DTI/OSI and paid £141,000,000 of sustainability funding to selected HEIs (see note 1 (n) to the Accounts).

- 13 The content of the Annual Report provides further details on ESRC's activities throughout the year.

Going Concern

- 14 The General fund at 31 March 2006 shows an accumulated deficit of £13,981,000. This reflects the inclusion of liabilities falling due primarily in 2006-07 which will be met by grant in aid for that year from the ESRC's sponsoring department, the Department of Trade and Industry. This is because, under the normal conventions applying to parliamentary control over income and expenditure, such grant payments may not be issued in advance of need.
- 15 Grant in aid for 2006-07, taking into account the amounts required to meet the ESRC's liabilities falling due in that year, has already been included in the department's estimates for that year, which have been approved by Parliament.

Longer term commitments are contained within existing funding allocations arising from Government Spending Review settlement figures which cover up to 2007-08. ESRC financial commitments on research and training grants beyond that period can be met well within the minimum reasonably anticipated income for those years.

Such grants issued by ESRC are made under statutory powers within the terms of the Science and Technology Act 1965, applied upon the objects set out in Article 2 of the ESRC Royal charter. This is confirmed in the ESRC Management Statement issued by OSI, as renewed in August 2005. In addition, Government Accounting regulations (GA Chapter 26.3) provides Treasury recognition to the validity of such statutorily based liabilities entered into within the normal course of business.

- 16 A letter of comfort has been issued by OSI confirming that they fully expect the recorded deficit to be extinguished over time, having regard to the resource and capital budgets to which ESRC can be expected to have access. It has accordingly been considered appropriate to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of these financial statements.

Performance Indicators

- 17 The Performance section of the Annual Report provides details of ESRC's achievements against the agreed RCUK Performance Indicators.

Future Developments

- 18 In April 2006 Council allocated the remainder of the funds available from the 2004 spending review. Plans for 2006-07 include the launch of two new research centres, one on environment and sustainability, and one on microdata methods and practice. Awards will be made and further calls issued under the Large Grants Scheme and the First Grants Scheme, both launched in the past year. A number of initiatives will be commissioned in priority research areas, for example on innovation; science and maths education; a capacity building investment in the area of 'society, social behaviour and the neurosciences'; security and terrorism; and a seminar series on demographic change with the Office for National Statistics. A second call will be launched under the ESRC/DfID Alleviating Poverty Scheme.

ESRC is taking a number of steps to maintain a healthy social science research base. *The Demographic Review of the Social Sciences* identified a number of priority areas in need of targeted action. Plans include introduction of higher stipends in 2006 for postgraduate students in Economics and Advanced Quantitative Methods, and a joint Language initiative is being commissioned with AHRC and the funding councils to build capacity in Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Asian and East European Studies.

Funds from the OSI Large Facilities Fund have been allocated to launch a new, larger British Household Panel Study, covering some 40,000 households, and preparations for the fieldwork will take place in the coming year.

A wide range of engagement and communication activities will take place. Knowledge transfer seminars and workshops will be organised with strategic partners, collaborative funding arrangements with new partner organisations will be sought, and the Impact Grants Scheme will be applied to the business sector. ESRC's Society Today website will be further developed to provide greater access to full text materials.

ESRC is committed to promoting and developing international collaboration. Further bilateral agreements will be concluded, and we will continue our involvement in NORFACE, the European Research Area network of twelve social science research funding agencies.

Statutory Basis

- 19 ESRC's accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts Direction, issued by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to Section 2(2) of the Science and Technology Act 1965 and as revised in 2001. The accounts follow best commercial practice having due regard to the Council's status.
- 20 Details of the senior members of the ESRC who are responsible for the direction of the entity are set out in paragraph 6 of the Remuneration Report.

Payment Policy

- 21 ESRC observes the CBI's Code of Practice. The Council adheres to the principles of the Prompt Payers Code, and makes every effort to ensure compliance with the agreed terms of payment of creditors' invoices. An analysis of the Council's 2005-06 payment performance indicated that 95 per cent of invoices were paid in accordance with agreed contractual conditions or where no conditions existed, within 30 days of the presentation of a valid invoice.

Equal opportunities

- 22 The ESRC's policy on recruitment and selection is based on the ability of a candidate to perform the job regardless of gender, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, age (up to the current retirement age of 60), marital status, sexual orientation or religion. Full and fair consideration is given to applications for employment from the disabled where they have the appropriate skills to perform the job. If disablement should occur during employment the ESRC would make every effort to maintain employment and to ensure the availability of adequate retraining and career development facilities.

Employee involvement

- 23 Information is provided to employees through the Staff Handbook, Office Notices, E-mail and the Intranet. Consultation with employees takes place through meetings of senior staff, the Joint Negotiating Consultative Committee, through bilateral, directorate, sectional and, and through working groups set up to look at specific organisational issues, and where appropriate through all-staff meetings.
- 24 ESRC disseminates financial information by issuing reports to Council, to the Senior Management Team and to budget holders. Successful Spending Review bids and budgetary information are detailed in the 'Social Sciences' newsletter, press notices and the Annual Report, all of which have a wide circulation.
- 25 All staff receive personal copies of the ESRC Operating Plan, and are then involved in developing and implementing Directorate and Personal objectives which flow from the Plan.
- 26 In February 1999 ESRC was recognised as an 'Investor in People' (IiP). The development of staff consultation and communication was an important element in the process involved in IiP, and ESRC will seek to develop these further as it embeds more deeply the IiP culture and approach. ESRC was successfully re-assessed in October 2003 with the next review now scheduled for November 2007.
- 27 Details of the Research Councils Pension Scheme (RCPS) are set out in Note 4 to the Accounts and details of the salary and pensions benefits of senior employees are included in paragraph 6 of the Remuneration Report.

Accounts

Audit Committee

28 ESRC's audit committee is constructed of three members of Council plus two external co-opted members from the commercial or scientific community. The Chairman of the committee is a member of Council who is not the chair of any other Board. The Committee meets at least three times a year to review internal and external audit matters, to generally consider Corporate Governance issues including the quality of internal control systems and to review the ESRC's accounts.

Auditors

- 29 The internal auditors of ESRC are the Research Council Internal Audit Service with an audit plan being agreed and undertaken each year.
- 30 The accounts of the ESRC are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the terms of paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 1 of the Science and Technology Act 1965. The audit fee covering 2005-06 was £34,000. There was no auditor remuneration for non-audit work.
- 31 So far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the ESRC's auditors are unaware. The Accounting Officer has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that ESRC's auditors are aware of that information.

Events since the end of the financial year

32 There have been no events since the end of the financial year which impact on this commentary.

24 June 2006



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

Remuneration Report 2005-06

1 This report has been prepared in accordance with schedule 7A of the Companies Act 1985 inserted by the Directors' Remuneration Report Regulations 2002.

Remuneration Policy

- 2 The remuneration of the Chief Executive of ESRC is decided by a Remuneration Panel chaired by the Director General of the Research Councils and approved by the DTI Permanent Secretary.
- 3 The performance of Directors is assessed annually by the Chief Executive and the Chair through the Staff Performance Management process. In the light of these assessments performance related pay is made in accordance with provisions of the pay remit approved by the Department of Trade and Industry. There is no separate Remuneration Committee that considers the pay of senior staff.
- 4 The remuneration of ESRC's Council members and Chairman is reviewed annually by the Office of Science and Innovation.

Contractual Policy

5 The Chief Executive is contracted for the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2010 with all Directors being permanent employees of the ESRC. The Chief Executive and all Directors are subject to a notice period of three months and any compensation awarded for early termination are subject to the terms and conditions of the Research Council's Joint Superannuation Early Severance Scheme. Council members and Chairman are not employees of the ESRC and receive a letter of appointment from the Department of Trade and Industry. The terms of appointment allow for members to resign from office by notice in writing to the Secretary of State. Members may also be removed from office by the Secretary of State on grounds of incapacity or misbehaviour or a failure to observe the terms and conditions of appointment.

Audited Information

Salary and Pension Entitlements

- 6 The following section provides details of the remuneration and pension interests of the Chief Executive, Directors and ESRC Council members.

	Chief Executive	Director	Director	Director
Name	Prof I Diamond	Mr G Davies	Mr A Alsop	Drs. A Wissenburg
Age at 31 March 2006	52	58	49	39
Sex	Male	Male	Male	Female
Service to 31 March 2006 (years)	3	34	17	2
Salary paid 2005-06 (£k)	105-110 (105-110)	60-65 (60-65)	55-60 (50-55)	55-60 (50-55)
Benefits in Kind	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Real increase in pension at 60 (£)	2,961 (2,955)	1,815 (1,193)	1,637 (3,372)	1,003 (844)
Related lump sum at 31 March 2006 (£)	– (–)	84,430 (76,907)	56,329 (50,067)	– (–)
Total annual accrued pension at 60 at 31 March 2006 (£)	38,597 (33,910)	28,143 (25,636)	18,776 (16,689)	2,334 (1,296)
Cash equivalent of transfer values at 31 March 2005 (£)	470,002 (21,964)	520,661 (408,833)	237,069 (118,167)	11,109 (4,386)
Cash equivalent of Transfer Values at 31 March 2006 (£)	641,488 (432,290)	670,026 (421,535)	336,567 (245,049)	27,415 (11,728)
Real increase in cash equivalent of Transfer Values (£)	45,854 (34,549)	42,247 (20,546)	28,488 (48,663)	9,822 (5,810)
Pension Provider	RCPS	RCPS	RCPS	RCPS

- 7 Salary paid in 2005-06 includes gross salary; performance pay or bonuses; overtime; recruitment and retention allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation.

Pensions

- 8 Details of the Research Councils' Pension Scheme (RCPS) is included in Note 4 to the Accounts.

9 The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the Research Councils' pension arrangements and for which the CS Vote has received a transfer payment commensurate with the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost.

10 The real increase in the value of the CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Council Members Remuneration

- 11 Council members and chairman receive an honorarium in recognition of their service to ESRC, together with a refund of their reasonable expenses. The rate of honorarium is set by OSI. Council members are not employees of ESRC and the appointments are not pensionable. Members of Council who are civil servants are not entitled to receive an honorarium.
- 12 The following table details the period of appointment covering each Council member along with the remuneration received in 2005-06.

Remuneration for Council Members for 2005-06 comparative figures for 2004-05 shown in brackets

Name	Period of Appointment	Remuneration £k
Ms Frances Cairncross – Chairman	07/04/01 – 31/03/07	15-20 (10-15)
Professor Alan Alexander – Chair, Audit Committee	01/08/03 – 31/07/08	5-10 (5-10)
Professor Patricia Broadfoot – Chair, Resources Board	01/08/01 – 31/07/06	5-10 (5-10)
Professor Andrew Chesher – Chair, Research Grants Board (until 31/07/05)	01/08/01 – 31/07/05	0-5 (5-10)
Ms Helen Dent	01/08/03 – 31/07/07	5-10 (5-10)
Professor Fiona Devine – Chair, International Advisory Group	31/01/03 – 31/07/07	5-10 (5-10)
Professor Charlie Jeffery	01/08/05 – 31/07/08	– (–)
Mr Paul Johnson	01/08/02 – 31/07/08	– (–)
Professor Andrew Pettigrew – Chair, Research Evaluation Committee	21/10/04 – 20/10/08	5-10 (0-5)
Professor Carol Propper	01/08/05 – 31/07/08	5-10 (–)
Professor Judith Rees – Chair, Training and Development Board	01/08/04 – 31/07/07	5-10 (0-5)
Professor Alison Richard	01/08/04 – 31/07/07	5-10 (0-5)
Lord Adair Turner	01/08/03 – 31/07/09	5-10 (5-10)
Professor Stephen Wilks – Chair, Strategic Research Board (until 31/07/05)	01/08/01 – 31/07/05	0-5 (5-10)
Mr Andrew Winckler	01/08/03 – 31/07/09	5-10 (5-10)

24 June 2006



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

Statement of Council's and Chief Executive's Responsibilities

Under paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Science and Technology Act 1965 the Council is required to prepare a statement of account for each financial year in the form and on the basis directed by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry with the consent of the Treasury. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must show a true and fair view of the Council's state of affairs at the year end and of its income, expenditure and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and in particular to:

- observe the accounts direction issued by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis
- state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Council will continue in operation.

The Accounting Officer for the Department of Trade and Industry has designated the Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council as the Accounting Officer for the ESRC. His relevant responsibilities as Accounting Officer, including his responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which he is answerable and for the keeping of proper records, are set out in the 'Non-Departmental Public Bodies' Accounting Officer Memorandum', issued by the Treasury and published in *Government Accounting* (HMSO).

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of ESRC's policies, aims and objectives, as approved by Council, whilst safeguarding the public funds and ESRC assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Government Accounting.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of ESRC's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control, endorsed by Council in June 2002, has been in place in ESRC for the year ended 31 March 2006 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with Treasury guidance.

Capacity to handle risk

ESRC has a Risk Champion at Director level who co-ordinates and leads on risk issues. Risk champions have also been appointed at Directorate level who have a similar devolved responsibility. It is ESRC's policy to assign responsibilities to staff with appropriate skills to manage risk aspects of their work. ESRC's core business involves the commissioning of research, and research training, and ESRC operates a risk management framework which draws upon engagement of expert advice from leading members of UK and International Researchers, and user communities across the UK. This is applied extensively to underpin ESRC scientific decision making.

Risk and Control Framework

Under the policy approved by Council, ESRC's framework embeds risk management via:

- Council itself, which approves the risk policy and oversees the framework and high level risks
- Council's Audit Committee, which assesses risk management processes and reports to Council
- the Chief Executive and Directors of the major functions, who are responsible for identifying and managing risks
- devolved risk management responsibilities held by staff within the Directorates.

General risk awareness training was provided to over 90 per cent of ESRC staff in 2004-05. During 2005-06 more detailed training in risk assessment and management was provided to the Directorate 'risk champions' which has extended the skill base across ESRC. This Group meets regularly to share issues and consider ways of continuously developing and enhancing the risk management framework.

There are also regular weekly Directors and monthly Senior Management Team meetings, which include discussion of risk aspects of ongoing and new business developments. During 2005-06 risk reporting routines and review have been enhanced so that monthly Directorate reports on current work to the Senior Management Team are supported by formal risk analyses.

ESRC operates largely within a low risk environment where the bulk of operational expenditure occurs within the Higher Education environment, which largely operates within a control framework subject to public sector oversight. ESRC has established a register of risks and these risks have been evaluated, to include consideration of the desired level of risk appetite having regard to ESRC strategies and priorities; controls have been assessed and responsibilities for management of risks assigned at various levels.

The key corporate risks covered by the Strategy relate to maintenance of social science research capacity, achieving excellence in commissioned research, sustaining ESRC's reputation and influence and effectiveness of delivery.

Principal processes in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing risk are:

- maintenance of a Corporate Risk Register
- regular review of risks by the Directors/Senior Management Team
- establishment of Directorate Risk registers

- development project proposals incorporate risk evaluations, and implementation plans include risk registers to manage project risks
- progress reports to the Directors/Senior Management Team on progress against key projects
- annual stewardship returns and reports from ESRC Directors on their operation of devolved systems and management of risk
- peer review processes covering the conduct of ESRC core business of commissioning of research
- ESRC scientific advisory Board papers include explicit reference to risk assessments
- annual validation procedures (within the Dipstick Testing Initiative) conducted on a Cross Council basis to oversee the regularity of Research expenditure at Research Institutions
- monitoring/reporting arrangements on business critical projects
 - implementation of ESRC Society Today Website.

Steps are also in hand to further develop structures, processes and controls to improve management of risk ie:

- further development of Directorate and Initiative risk registers and linkages including continual assessment of the financial control environment
- corporate project management guidance.

In addition, during 2005-06 the Cross Research Council Finance Management Group (FMG) developed a collective financial risk register which is now being managed at a cross council level. This provides for an additional dimension of risk management in terms of identification and management of risks and cross council consistency and bench marking. This register is being reviewed at each FMG meeting (2 monthly meetings).

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I also have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- regular reports by ESRC's internal audit including the Head of Internal Audit's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of ESRC systems of internal control
- the executive managers within ESRC who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and who provide annual reports on their stewardship and management of risk
- comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports
- the Audit Committee's review of internal controls and risk management processes
- research award validation procedures which provide assurance on the regularity of research project expenditure at Universities and other research bodies.

I have been advised by the Council and the Audit Committee on the implications of the result of my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control. A plan is in place to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system.

24 June 2006



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to Houses of Parliament

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Economic and Social Research Council for the year ended 31 March 2006 under the Science and Technology Act 1965. These comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

Respective responsibilities of the Council, Chief Executive and auditor

The Council and Chief Executive are responsible for preparing the Annual Report, the Remuneration Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry directions made there under and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. These responsibilities are set out in the Statement of Council and Chief Executive's Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, and with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report to you my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and whether the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry directions made there under. I also report whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. I also report to you if, in my opinion, the Annual Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the Economic and Social Research Council has not kept proper accounting records, if I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit, or if information specified by relevant authorities regarding remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

I review whether the statement on page 86 to 87 reflects the Economic and Social Research Council's compliance with HM Treasury's guidance on the Statement on Internal Control, and I report if it does not. I am not required to consider whether the Accounting Officer's statements on internal control cover all risks and controls, or form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Economic and Social Research Council corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

I read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises only the Joint Statement, Highlights, Who's Who, Research, Building Capacity, Research Resources, Engaging Society, Performance, the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report and the Management Commentary. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. My responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Council and Chief Executive in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are most appropriate to the Economic and Social Research Council's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error and that in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited.

Opinions

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and directions made there under by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, of the state of the Economic and Social Research Council's affairs as at 31 March 2006 and of its deficit for the year then ended
- the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry directions made there under
- in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

7 July 2006	National Audit Office 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
John Bourn Comptroller and Auditor General	Victoria London SW1W 9SP

The maintenance and integrity of ESRC's website is the responsibility of the Accounting Officer; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and accordingly the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2006

	Notes	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Income			
Parliamentary Grant-In-Aid	2	114,215	102,419
Release of Government Grants Reserve	15	812	609
Other Operating Income	3	10,557	11,375
		125,584	114,403
Expenditure			
Staff and Council Members' Costs	4	4,082	3,337
Research	5	85,943	76,994
Postgraduate Training	6	38,456	30,612
Knowledge Transfer	7	1,279	1,084
Other Operating Costs	8	5,762	4,016
		135,522	116,043
Operating Deficit			
Interest receivable		2	2
Notional cost of capital	14	352	228
		(9,938)	(1,640)
Deficit for the year			
Reversal of notional cost of capital	14	(352)	(228)
		(9,936)	(1,638)
General Fund balance as at 1 April		(4,084)	(2,431)
Transfer from reserves	15	39	(15)
General Fund Balance as at 31 March		(13,981)	(4,084)

All activities are continuing.

The notes on pages 92 to 103 form part of these accounts.

Accounts

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2006

	Notes	2005-06		2004-05
		£000	£000	£000
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	9 (a)		4,937	4,952
Intangible Assets	9 (b)		573	291
			5,510	5,243
Current Assets				
Debtors and Prepayments	11	4,309		3,375
Cash at bank and in hand	17	2,836		10,136
		7,145		13,511
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(20,924)		(17,448)
Net Current Liabilities			(13,779)	(3,937)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			(8,269)	1,306
Provision for Liabilities and Charges	13		(155)	(102)
			(8,424)	1,204
Capital and Reserves				
Government Grants Reserve	15		3,216	3,379
General Fund	15		(13,981)	(4,084)
Earmarked Reserve	15		47	45
Revaluation Reserve	15		2,086	1,656
Capital Land Reserve	15		208	208
Total Government Funds	15		(8,424)	1,204

24 June 2006



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 92 to 103 form part of these accounts.

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2006

	Notes	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from operating activities	16	(7,302)	4,355
Returns on investments and Servicing of finance			
Interest received		2	2
Capital Expenditure			
Payments to acquire fixed assets		(649)	(1,655)
Net cash (outflow) / inflow before financing		(7,949)	2,702
Financing			
Capital Grant-in-Aid received		649	1,655
(Decrease) / Increase in cash in the year	17	(7,300)	4,357

Statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year ended 31 March 2006

	Notes	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Deficit for the year		(9,584)	(1,410)
Capital Grant in Aid received	15	649	1,655
Grant in Aid released to Income	15	(812)	(609)
Reversal of notional cost of capital		(352)	(228)
Other recognised gains and losses on revaluation of land and buildings	15	471	194
Total losses recognised in year		(9,628)	(398)

The notes on pages 92 to 103 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

I. Accounting Policies

a) Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of land and buildings.

ESRC has received a Direction on the form of its Accounts issued by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Subject to the exemptions specified in that Direction, the accounts meet the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies Act 1985 and the accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board so far as these requirements are appropriate. The ESRC is exempted from producing a note of historical cost profits and losses normally required by Financial Reporting Standard Number 3.

b) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Capital expenditure includes the purchase of land, buildings, equipment and intangible assets such as licences to the value of £1,000 or more.

Intangible and tangible fixed assets are included at cost or at valuation. The basis of valuation for land and buildings is open market value for existing use. Land and buildings are professionally valued every five years. In the intervening period relevant indices are used. Any surplus or deficit arising on revaluation is taken to the Revaluation Reserve, except that any permanent diminution in value is charged to the Income and Expenditure Account in the year in which it is recognised. Increased depreciation charges arising from the revaluation are matched by annual transfers from the Revaluation Reserve to the Income and Expenditure Account.

In the opinion of the ESRC there is no material difference between the historic and current cost values of the computing and office equipment. Accordingly these assets have not been revalued and this position has been kept under review.

Provision is made for depreciation on tangible and intangible fixed assets, except land, at rates calculated to write off the costs or the valuation of each asset to its estimated residual value evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold Buildings	60 years
Office and Computing Equipment	3-10 years
Data Licences	5-10 years

The useful economic life of assets is reviewed regularly and where a valuation has provided a more accurate assessment this has been used.

Significant fixed asset acquisitions are depreciated from the month of purchase. Other additions are depreciated by a full year in the year of acquisition.

c) Ownership of Equipment or Facilities Purchased with Council Grants

Equipment or facilities purchased by an institution with research grant funds supplied by the ESRC belong to the institution and are not included in ESRC's fixed assets. Through the conditions of the grant applied to funded institutions, the ESRC reserves the right to determine how such equipment or facilities shall be disposed of and how any disposal proceeds are to be utilised.

d) Parliamentary Grant-in-Aid

Grant-in-Aid for revenue purposes is credited to income in the year in which it is received. Grant-in-Aid for the purchase of capital equipment is credited to the Government Grants Reserve when received and released to the Income and Expenditure Account over the estimated operational lives of the assets concerned. Grant-in-Aid for the purchase of land is credited to the Capital Land Reserve.

e) Research and Development

As a research funding organisation, the ESRC's research and development expenditure is charged to the Income and Expenditure Account when it is incurred.

The ownership of the intellectual property arising from a research project is made clear from the outset. Normally this rests with the university or institution receiving the ESRC award, unless stated to the contrary. Where there are material returns from intellectual property rights from an ESRC supported award, ESRC reserves the right to reclaim up to one third of the total, up to the value of its original award. Recoveries are credited to the Income and Expenditure Account when received. Future intellectual property rights arising from the ESRC's research and development have not been included in the accounts as their value in terms of future income is not material and unpredictable.

f) Operating Leases

An operating lease existed covering ESRC's rental obligations on a London office (see Note 13). There were no finance leases.

g) Foreign Currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the rate ruling at the time of the transaction. All gains and losses arising from exchange differences are taken to the Income and Expenditure Account.

h) Value Added Tax

The ESRC is partially exempt for VAT purposes. All expenditure and fixed asset purchases are shown inclusive of VAT where applicable. Residual input tax reclaimable by the application of the partial exemption formula is taken to the Income and Expenditure Account as a sundry item.

i) Research Grants

ESRC policy is to accrue for the costs of work undertaken at Higher Education Institutions at Balance Sheet date which remain unpaid by ESRC at that date. Future commitments in respect of costs of work yet to be undertaken within approved cash limits at the Balance Sheet date are disclosed in note 18.

j) Pensions and Early Severance Costs

Payments are made to the Research Councils' Pension Schemes in respect of superannuation benefits for ESRC staff.

k) Notional Cost of Capital

The financing structure of ESRC does not include specific interest bearing debt but to ensure that the Income and Expenditure Account bears an appropriate charge for the use of capital in the business in the year, a notional interest charge is included. In accordance with Treasury guidance, the calculation is based on a 3.5% rate of return on average net assets employed at cost or at valuation, and the capital charge is written back to the Income and Expenditure Account.

l) Derivatives and other Financial Instruments

Financial Reporting Standard Number 13, Derivatives and other Financial Instruments, requires disclosure of the role which financial instruments have had during the period in creating or changing the risks an entity faces in undertaking its activities. Because of the largely non-trading nature of its activities, and the way in which government bodies are financed, ESRC is not exposed to the degree of financial risk faced by business entities. Moreover, financial instruments play a much more limited role in creating or changing risk that would be typical of the listed companies to which FRS 13 mainly applies. ESRC has very limited powers to borrow or invest surplus funds and except for relatively insignificant forward purchases of foreign currency, financial assets and liabilities are generated by day-to-day operational activities and are not held to change the risks facing ESRC in undertaking its activities.

Liquidity Risk – ESRC's net revenue resource requirements are financed by resources voted annually by Parliament, and administered as grant-in-aid through the Office of Science and Technology, just as its capital expenditure largely is. ESRC is not therefore exposed to significant liquidity risks.

Interest-Rate Risk – All of ESRC's financial assets and liabilities carry nil or fixed rates of interest. ESRC is not therefore exposed to significant interest-rate risk.

Foreign Currency Risk – ESRC's exposure to foreign currency risk is not significant. Foreign currency income is negligible and foreign currency expenditure at less than 1 per cent of total expenditure is not significant.

m) Earmarked Reserve

The earmarked reserve relates to funds received by ESRC as beneficiary of a will that can only be used for specified purposes. Any income earned is transferred to the reserve from the general fund.

n) Sustainability Funding

In 2005-06, ESRC acted as an agent for DTI/OSI in distributing sustainability funding of £141m on behalf of all Research Councils. This funding represented an initial contribution from the Science Programme towards the start up of the new Full Economic Cost Research Funding Framework. ESRC's cash Grant in Aid was supplemented by £141m to provide this funding, which was distributed to HEIs on a pro rata basis determined by the level of Research Council research grant funding provided to each HEI in 2003-04. As the £141,000,000 has been treated by DTI/OSI and received by ESRC as Grant-in-Aid the amount has been disclosed in Note 2. However, as the DTI/OSI is accountable for the £141,000,000 through the DTI Resource Account and ESRC has acted as an agent only, the funding and expenditure has not been included in ESRC's Income and Expenditure Account but as a note to the Accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

2. Parliamentary Grant-in-Aid

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Amount received (DTI Estimates Request for Resources 2)	255,864	104,074
Amount provided for capital expenditure (note 15)	(649)	(1,655)
Amount provided for sustainability funding (note 1 n)	(141,000)	–
Grant-in-Aid credited to Income and Expenditure Account	114,215	102,419

3. Other Operating Income

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Contributions from government departments	3,771	2,906
Contributions from non-departmental public bodies	6,663	8,434
Contributions from other bodies	123	35
	10,557	11,375

4. a) Staff Costs

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Salaries and wages	3,145	2,749
Social security costs	195	183
Superannuation	593	253
Council members' remuneration	149	152
	4,082	3,337

4. b) Staff Numbers

	2005-06	2004-05
The average number of staff employed during the year was 116 full time equivalent.		
Senior Management (Chief Executive and Band 1)	4	4
Managerial (Bands 2, 3, 4)	82	72
Administrative Support (Band 5)	30	33
	116	109

At any one time there were up to 12 temporary agency staff covering complemented vacancies or long term absences. During the year the cost of temporary agency staff was £231k (2004-05 £203k) and is included under salaries and wages in note 4 (a).

4. c) Superannuation

The employees of the Council are members of the Research Councils' Pension Schemes (RCPS) which are defined benefit schemes funded from annual Grant-in-Aid on a pay-as-you-go basis. The benefits are by analogy to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, except that while the schemes provide retirement and related benefits based on final emoluments, redundancy and injury benefits are administered and funded by the Council.

The scheme is administered by the Research Councils' Joint Superannuation Services with the associated Grant-in-Aid managed by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). The schemes' accounts are prepared by BBSRC, on behalf of the BBSRC Chief Executive as the Accounting Officer for the RCPS. A separate Account is published for the Pension Schemes. Employees' contributions to the scheme are set at 3.5 per cent. The employer's contribution is agreed by the RCPS Board of Management on the recommendation of the Government Actuary's Department and is set at 21.3 per cent of pensionable pay.

The RCPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme but ESRC is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. A full actuarial valuation was carried out on 31 March 2002 with the rate changed from 10.1 per cent to 21.3 per cent from 1 April 2005. Details are available in the accounts of the Research Councils Pension Scheme.

For 2005-2006, employer's contributions of £593,161 were payable to the RCPS (2004-2005 £253,073) at 21.3 per cent of pensionable pay, based on the salary bands. Employer contributions are to be reviewed every four years following a full scheme valuation by the Government Actuary. The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued, not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

Notes to the Accounts

5. Research

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Research Programmes	22,849	17,857
Research Centres	14,831	14,118
Research Resources	6,698	7,871
Research Grants	21,332	18,592
Fellowships	4,280	3,003
Venture	228	4
Other Research	2,546	1,542
International Office	188	148
International Subscriptions	83	64
Teaching and Learning	4,238	4,310
Joint Infrastructure Fund	87	1,165
Research Equipment and facilities (see note 1c)	8,583	8,320
	85,943	76,994

6. Postgraduate Training

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000 Reclassified
Advanced Course Studentships	1,191	636
Standard Research Studentships	33,050	26,159
Training Development Activities	181	223
General Research	163	158
Fellowships	3,871	3,436
	38,456	30,612

The category of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships as shown in the 2004-05 Annual Accounts has been reclassified and presented under the heading of Knowledge Transfer (Note 7).

7. Knowledge Transfer

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Knowledge Transfer Activities	328	–
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	951	1,084
	1,279	1,084

8. Other Operating Costs

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Maintenance	546	472
Office Supplies	305	225
Postage and Telecommunication	72	61
Archive Services	20	13
Management Consultancy and Other Professional Fees	555	231
Research Evaluation and Information Contracts	242	174
Auditors' Remuneration	34	33
Staff Training and Subscriptions	63	88
Publicity and Distribution	2,026	1,331
Travel and Subsistence	389	296
Meetings and Catering	201	167
Conference Costs	15	41
Workplace Nursery	13	13
Recruitment	147	64
Relocation	–	24
VAT/NI Services	9	9
RCPO Costs	42	39
Legal Services/Internal Audit	60	46
RCUK	35	–
Miscellaneous	139	46
Depreciation and amortisation	853	634
Provision for bad and doubtful debts	(4)	9
	5,762	4,016

Notes to the Accounts

9. a) Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £000	IT and Office Equipment £000	Total £000
Cost/Valuation			
At 1 April 2005	2,672	5,295	7,967
Additions	–	253	253
Revaluation	397	–	397
Disposals	–	(63)	(63)
At 31 March 2006	3,069	5,485	8,554
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2005	–	3,015	3,015
Provided in year	74	665	739
Revaluation	(74)	–	(74)
Disposals	–	(63)	(63)
At 31 March 2006	–	3,617	3,617
Net Book Value			
31 March 2006	3,069	1,868	4,937
31 March 2005	2,672	2,280	4,952

The freehold land and buildings net book value relates to the Council's share of Polaris House, Swindon. The land and buildings in totality were professionally valued as at 31 March 2006 by Paul Powis (FRICS) of Powis Hughes Chartered Surveyors in accordance with SAVP and RICS guidance notes on an open market value basis. The figure disclosed represents an agreed apportionment of the total valuation.

9. b) Intangible Fixed Assets

	Data Licenses £000
Cost	
At 1 April 2005	345
Additions	396
At 31 March 2006	741
Amortisation	
At 1 April 2005	54
Provided in year	114
At 31 March 2006	168
Net Book Value	
31 March 2006	573
31 March 2005	291

10. Science in Society Unit

The RCUK Science in Society Unit is hosted by ESRC on behalf of the other Research Councils. The Unit's remit covers science in schools as well as raising public awareness and engagement in science and innovation. A key challenge for the new Unit is to promote a more collective approach to science in society activities both between individual Research Councils and in collaboration with Government Departments, Research Council funded academics and other key organisations.

As all expenditure will be matched by income and reflected in the accounts of other Research Councils ESRC will post all income and expenditure against Balance Sheet codes rather than Income and Expenditure codes. A creditor or debtor will then be recorded depending on the year-end position.

In 2005-06 the following income and expenditure were attributed to the unit on Programme expenditure.

	£000
Income	457
Expenditure	319
	138

A creditor of £138k has therefore been reflected in ESRC's 2005-06 accounts and recorded in Other Creditors (Note 12).

11. Debtors and Prepayments

	31 March 2006 £000	31 March 2005 £000
Debtors		
Contributions (Central Government bodies)	3,946	2,933
Other debts (Central Government bodies)	67	44
Other debts (Other bodies)	49	169
	4,062	3,146
Less: provision for bad and doubtful debts	(23)	(27)
	4,039	3,119
Prepayments		
Prepayments (Central Government bodies)	-	-
Prepayments (Other bodies)	270	256
	4,309	3,375

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	31 March 2006 £000	31 March 2005 £000
Research Accrual (Other bodies)	16,967	14,308
Tax and Social Security (Central Government bodies)	-	3
Advance Receipts (Central Government bodies)	2,515	2,492
Other (Central Government bodies)	492	201
Other (Other bodies)	950	444
	20,924	17,448

Notes to the Accounts

13. Provisions for Liabilities and Charges

Provision is being made for onerous rental obligations on a London office leasehold held jointly by the Research Councils. Negotiation of a sub-lease to a third party has left a residual lease obligation of £85,000 pa over the next eight years. ESRC's provision allows for its share along with other minor residual liabilities.

	31 March 2006 £000	31 March 2005 £000
As at 1 April	102	140
Additional Provisions made in year	94	–
Provisions utilised	(41)	(38)
As at 31 March	155	102

14. Notional Cost of Capital

	31 March 2006 £000	31 March 2005 £000
Cost of Capital	(352)	(228)
	(352)	(228)

In accordance with Treasury guidance the cost of capital credit has been written back to the Income and Expenditure Account.

15. Reserves and Reconciliation of Movement in Government Funds

	Government Grants Reserve £000	Earmarked Reserve £000	Revaluation £000	Capital Land £000	Income & Expenditure £000	Total Govt Funds £000
As at 1 April 2005	3,379	45	1,656	208	(4,084)	1,204
Capital Grant in Aid received	649	–	–	–	–	649
Grant in Aid released to Income & Expenditure account	(812)	–	–	–	–	(812)
Revaluation in year	–	–	471	–	–	471
Transfer to Income & Expenditure – depreciation	–	–	(41)	–	41	–
Transfer of Earmarked funds	–	2	–	–	(2)	–
Deficit for the year	–	–	–	–	(9,584)	(9,584)
Reversal of notional cost of capital	–	–	–	–	(352)	(352)
As at 31 March 2006	3,216	47	2,086	208	(13,981)	(8,424)

16. Reconciliation of the operating deficit to Net Cash (Outflow) / Inflow from operating activities

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Operating Deficit	(9,938)	(1,640)
Depreciation / Amortisation charges	853	634
Transfer from Government Grants Reserve	(812)	(609)
Increase / (Decrease) in Provisions	53	(38)
Increase in debtors	(920)	(1,988)
Increase in prepayments	(14)	(25)
Increase in creditors	3,476	8,021
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from operating activities	(7,302)	4,355

17. Reconciliation of Movement in Net Funds

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Cash at 1 April	10,136	5,779
(Decrease) / increase in cash	(7,300)	4,357
Cash at 31 March	2,836	10,136

18. Commitments

		£000
a) Research Awards	2006/2007	94,427
Future commitments on approved research awards to Higher Education Institutions and other approved Research bodies:	2007/2008	63,195
	2008/2009	31,533
	Later years	17,784
		206,939

		£000
b) Postgraduate Training	2006/2007	30,556
Future Commitments on approved postgraduate awards:	2007/2008	20,971
	Later years	15,943
		67,470

c) Capital Expenditure Commitments

Aggregate amount of Capital Expenditure authorised but not contracted for at 31 March 2006 is £380k. Aggregate amount of Capital Expenditure contracted for at 31 March 2006 is £20k.

19. Contingent Liabilities

The Council has no known material contingent liabilities.

Notes to the Accounts

20. Related Party Transactions

The ESRC is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

DTI is regarded as a related party. During the year, ESRC has had various material transactions with the DTI and with other entities for which DTI is regarded as the parent Department, viz: Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council; Office of Science and Technology; Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; Natural Environment Research Council; Medical Research Council; Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council; Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils; Arts & Humanities Research Council. In addition ESRC has had various material transactions with other Government Departments and other Central Government bodies, viz: Office for National Statistics; Department for Education and Skills; Higher Education Funding Council for England; Scottish Executive; National Assembly for Wales; Department of the Environment; Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; MOD; Department of Transport; Defence Science & Technology Laboratory; Department of Education Northern Ireland; Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland; Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Department for International Development.

These Accounts provide disclosure of all material financial transactions with those who have been defined as 'Directors'. In the ESRC context this has been taken to include senior executive staff, as at Section 6 of the Remuneration Report, and all Council members. In addition disclosure is provided in respect of members of ESRC Scientific Advisory Boards, which are used to make recommendations on research and training awards.

During the year, ESRC did not enter into any transactions with any such Directors. However it did enter into a number of material transactions with Institutions employing Board/Council members who had a direct interest in the award concerned (Table A). None of the Board/Council members were involved in the recommendation of awards to the Institution where they are a senior member of staff or member of the Governing body. Under ESRC regulations the Audit Committee chairman reviews and approves all awards to Council and Board members.

Information is disclosed on material financial transactions with any related party of these senior staff, Council and Board members (Table B).

In addition, ESRC made a number of payments in respect of ESRC funded awards to Institutions where Board/Council members are also senior members of staff or members of Governing bodies. None of the disclosed Board/Council members were involved in the approval of awards to the Institution where they are a senior member of staff or member of the Governing body (Table C).

Table A

Council/Board Members

	Institution	No of Awards	Amount £
Professor Patricia Broadfoot	University of Bristol	62	1,902,700
Ms Frances Cairncross	University of Oxford	73	4,390,858
Professor Andrew Chesher	UCL	66	3,226,951
Professor Fiona Devine	University of Manchester	77	4,635,736
Professor Charlie Jeffrey	University of Edinburgh	71	3,529,679
Professor Andrew Pettigrew	University of Bath	27	1,484,487
Professor Carol Propper	University of Bristol	62	1,902,700
Professor Judith Rees	LSE	88	4,445,978
Professor Alison Richard	University of Cambridge	52	2,254,736
Professor Stephen Wilks	University of Exeter	33	1,778,183

Table B

Council/Board Members

	Related party	No of Awards held by related party	Amount paid to related party £
Professor Patricia Jeffrey	Daughter	1	32,000
Professor Patricia Jeffrey	Son-in-Law	1	12,000

Table C

Council/Board Members	Institution	No of Awards	Aggregate Amount £
Professor David Bell	University of Stirling	1	41,450
Professor John Brewer	University of Aberdeen	1	29,066
Professor Anne Edwards	University of Birmingham	2	27,771
Professor David Firth	University of Warwick	1	138,224
Professor Brian Francis	University of Lancaster	1	133,252
Dr Vernon Gayle	University of Stirling	2	39,826
Professor Gerard Hodgkinson	University of Leeds	1	226,555
Professor Christine Howe	University of Strathclyde	1	3,011
Professor Charlie Jeffrey	University of Edinburgh	1	172,706
Professor Marilyn Martin-Jones	University of Birmingham	1	35,169
Dr Jennifer Mason	University of Manchester	2	164,656
Professor Ed Page	LSE	1	2,649
Professor Andrew Pettigrew	University of Bath	1	7,244
Professor Colin Rallings	University of Plymouth	2	34,238
Professor Margaret Slade	University of Warwick	2	17,865
Professor Russell Spears	Cardiff University	2	78,293
Professor Jonathan Spencer	University of Edinburgh	1	19,533
Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby	University of Kent	1	563,166
Professor Adam Tickell	University of Bristol	1	35,083

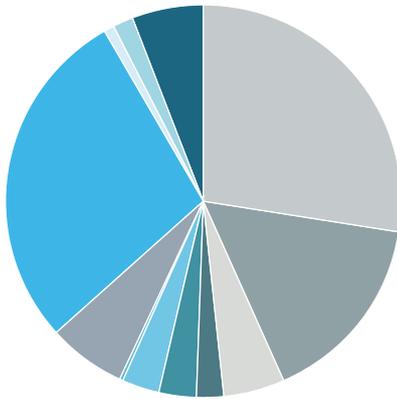
How the Money was Spent

Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2006

	2005-06 £000	2004-05 £000
Receipts		
Grant-in-Aid	115,027	103,028
Other Receipts	10,557	11,375
Total Income	125,584	114,403
Payments		
Research		
Programmes	22,849	17,857
Centres	14,831	14,118
Grants	21,332	18,592
Resources	6,698	7,871
Other Research	2,546	1,542
International	271	212
Venture	228	4
Teaching and Learning	4,238	4,310
Fellowships	4,280	3,003
Joint Infrastructure Fund	87	1,165
Innovation and Research Equipment	8,583	8,320
Total Research	85,943	76,994
Postgraduate Training	38,456	30,612
Knowledge Transfer	1,279	1,084
Evaluation	242	174
Communications	2,027	1,331
Administration		
Running Costs	6,982	5,595
Superannuation	593	253
Total Payments	135,522	116,043

Grant-in-Aid Account 2005-06

The following is a percentage breakdown of the Council's activities.



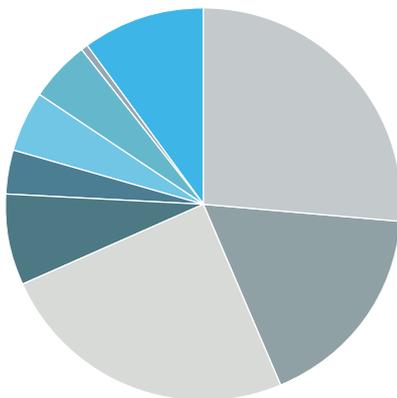
Amount

£000

Strategic Research	37,680
Grants	21,332
Resources	6,698
Other Research/International/Venture	3,045
Teaching and Learning	4,238
Fellowships	4,280
Joint Infrastructure Fund	87
Innovation and Research Equipment	8,583
Postgraduate Training	38,456
Knowledge Transfer	1,279
External Relations/Evaluation	2,269
Running Costs/Superannuation	7,575
Total	135,522

ESRC Research Budget 2005-06

The following is a breakdown of the Council's research expenditure.



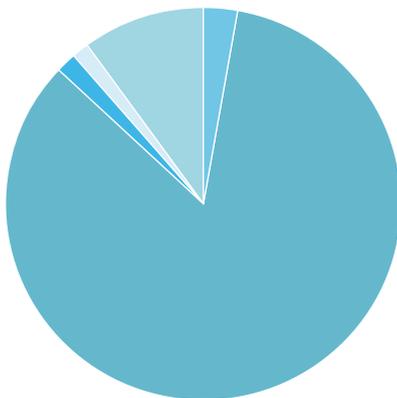
Amount

£000

Programmes	22,849
Centres	14,831
Grants	21,332
Resources	6,698
Other Research/International/Venture	3,045
Teaching and Learning	4,238
Fellowships	4,280
Joint Infrastructure Fund	87
Innovation and Research Equipment	8,583
Total	85,943

ESRC Training Budget 2005-06

The following is a breakdown of the Council's training expenditure.



Amount

£000

Advanced Course Studentships	1,191
Standard Research Studentships	33,050
Training Development Activities	181
General Research	163
Fellowships	3,871
Total	38,456

Analysis

Research and Training Expenditure 2005-06

Expenditure by Type of Institution 2005-06

	Research £000	Training £000	Overall £000
Old University	73,508	33,130	106,638
New University	3,997	1,397	5,394
Independent Research Institute	3,458	12	3,470
Research Council	80	–	80
Other	4,899	3,917	8,816
Total	85,943	38,456	124,399

Regional Spend 2005-06

	Research £000	Training £000	Overall £000
England	70,869	28,967	99,835
Scotland	6,509	3,380	9,889
Wales	3,142	2,160	5,303
Ireland	524	32	556
Other	4,899	3,917	8,816
Total	85,943	38,456	124,399

Expenditure by Institution 2005-06

The following bar chart shows the major recipients of ESRC funding in 2005-06.

Overall Expenditure for Research and Training 2005-06 (£000)

University of Essex	7,064
University of Manchester	6,353
University of Oxford	6,077
University of London: School of Economics and Political Science	5,675
University of London: Institute of Education	5,178
University of Edinburgh	4,935
University of London: University College	4,231
University of Cardiff	3,800
University of Lancaster	3,721
University of Cambridge	3,605
Total	50,639
% of Total	40.7

Research Expenditure 2005-06 (£000)

University of Essex	6,297
University of London: Institute of Education	4,742
University of Manchester	4,485
University of London: School of Economics and Political Science	4,244
University of Oxford	4,006
University of Edinburgh	3,273
University of London: University College	2,891
University of Lancaster	2,828
University of Warwick	2,586
University of Cardiff	2,570
Total	37,922
% of Total	44.1

Training Expenditure 2005-06 (£000)

University of Oxford	2,071
University of Manchester	1,868
University of Edinburgh	1,662
University of Cambridge	1,576
University of London: School of Economics and Political Science	1,431
University of London: University College	1,340
University of Sheffield	1,249
University of Cardiff	1,230
University of Bristol	1,154
University of Sussex	1,149
Total	14,729
% of Total	38.3

Breakdown of Staff Costs and Salaries

Remuneration of Senior Employees

	2005-06	2004-05
Chief Executive	£95,965	£87,952

The following number of senior members of staff received annual remuneration falling within the following ranges.

£40,000 to £50,000	3	2
£50,001 to £60,000	2	2
Over £60,000	1	1

Staff Numbers

	2005-06	2004-05
	116	109

Staff Costs

	2005-06	2004-05
	£000	£000
Salaries and Wages	3,145	2,749
NI Contributions	195	183

Remuneration to Council and Committee Members Honorary/Fees/NI Contributions	149	152
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Total	3,489	3,084
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Health and Safety

ESRC's responsibilities are essentially for its head office at Polaris House, Swindon. These are supervised by the ESRC health and safety committee, established jointly with the Council's trades union. This committee reports to our Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team.

Priorities are determined by senior management, on the advice of the health and safety committee, the committee is supported by the ESRC health and safety advisor. The committee assesses risk and conformity with legal requirements, and advises on areas where action is required. Ultimately the Chief Executive is responsible for health and safety, supported by senior colleagues including the director of Policy and Resources, who chairs the health and safety committee.

All staff receive health and safety training within the induction procedures to the Council, and their responsibilities in this are impressed upon them. There is regular training on fire and safety procedures, which all staff are required to attend annually. Information on health and safety issues is passed to all staff as required through the normal staff communication and consultation channels. Visitors to the building must obtain a pass, which details relevant procedures and information for them. They must be escorted at all times unless established regular visitors. Contractors are under the same requirements as staff. The health and safety requirements of all staff are reviewed individually where particular needs are evident. Records of reviews, risks, and reported matters are maintained by the health and safety advisor. There were no Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) reportable incidents during this year. All incidents or near misses are investigated and reviewed by the health and safety committee, which recommends action to avoid repetition.

ESRC requirements do not apply to bodies in receipt of funding from the Council, which are under separate jurisdictions.

Performance

Evaluation

The Council places great emphasis on the evaluation of its research. The Research Evaluation Committee (REC) works independently from the commissioning boards to evaluate the performance and impact of ESRC research through a comprehensive review programme:

- Project evaluations provide accountability for grant expenditure, and provide an early assessment of academic quality and research impact. The REC's analysis of the cumulative results contributes to Council's strategic planning, and feeds into policy evaluation work.
- Programme evaluations assess academic quality, practical impact, contribution to capacity building, and the added-value derived from the programme structure. The results feed into the design of new phases of research, and contribute to the development of research management practice.
- Centre evaluations assess academic achievements and contributions to fields of study, impact on policymakers and practitioners, and the effectiveness of capacity development and research training. All ESRC centres are evaluated before the Council decides whether to invite bids for continued funding.
- Impact and policy evaluations are an increasingly important aspect of the ESRC's evaluation system. This includes the benchmarking of the international impact of UK social science through a series on discipline-based reviews, the development of robust quantitative impact indicators, and the testing of new approaches to assessing the non-academic impact of research. Policy evaluations include assessments of particular aspects of science funding and performance, and reviews of ESRC funding schemes.

The REC uses evaluation results to inform Council's strategic-decision-making, and to guide investment decisions by the ESRC's funding boards.

RCUK (PEG) Performance Indicators

The charts below show ESRC's achievements against the RCUK's (PEG) Performance Indicators.

Academic Publications from ESRC Research Investments

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Research Papers	1,269	1,421	807	484
Books and Book Chapters	710	951	362	211
Total*	1,979	2,372	1,169	695

Papers Published in Refereed Journals

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
No of Refereed Papers	1,087	1,112	641	345
Proportion of all Papers	86%	78%	79%	71%

ESRC Projects Achieving Highest Approval Ratings

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
No of Projects	300	294	296	333
Proportion of all Projects	91%	94%	91%	95%

Proportion of ESRC Students Submitting PhD Theses within Four Years

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
No of Theses Submitted	317	342	312	325
% within Four Years	77	84	80	82

* There is an inevitable time delay between the publication of outputs and their registration on the ESRC database. The data for 2005-06 will therefore be incomplete, but the numbers are in line with the level expected at this date.

Further Information

You can find out more about the ESRC and its work from the Council's Communications team. Responsible for the Council's public face, this team aims to explain to a range of different audiences what the Council does, how it works, its research and training activities, and more generally the relevance of social science research.

The Communications team conducts regular media campaigns to publicise its research by issuing a number of news releases. These can be viewed on the Council's website at:

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/releases>

It also produces two publications: Social Sciences – News from the ESRC is aimed at our academic community and provides up-to-date information about ESRC policies, new research and findings from completed research; The Edge magazine, aimed at the wider public,

highlights the latest research and demonstrates how social science can contribute to better policy making and a better society.

Both publications are issued three times a year and together reach over 25,000 people. If you wish to subscribe to either of our publications contact the Communications team using one of the methods below.

Contact us by writing to:

Communications
ESRC
Polaris House, North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1UJ

or by telephoning: 01793 413122

or by email: comms@esrc.ac.uk

esrc | societytoday

ESRC Society Today is the culmination of a project that was conceived in early 2003, aimed at offering a unique social science resource to all of ESRC's stakeholders, providing content appropriate to individual needs and saving users time and effort.

The service combines a wealth of information from the ESRC Awards and Outputs Database (formerly Regard), the "old" ESRC website, a variety of major resources and websites produced by major ESRC investments, as well as selected content from other social science rich sites, such as the Office of National Statistics, Rowntree Foundation, Cabinet Office, and the Wellcome Trust.

ESRC Society Today was publicly unveiled in late May 2005, and continues to evolve and develop with support from a dedicated editorial team within ESRC, a third party managed service responsible for ESRC Award Holder and technical developments, and continuing contributions from academics and journalists.

Key features of the portal are:

- comprehensive information on all ESRC-funded research, covering topics such as economics, the environment, human behaviour, citizenship and work
- high-quality social and economic research from a growing list of other influential sources
- material to engage non-academic visitors such as articles written by leading journalists, plain-English research summaries, UK and international fact sheets, and sections dedicated to key challenge areas
- overviews of the latest UK and international research available, planned, and in progress around particular subjects
- early research findings, full-texts and access to datasets

- opportunities for users to customise content and register for news bulletins and email alerts on their areas of interest
- online discussion for and information on researchers in key subject areas
- information on ESRC research funding and postgraduate training.

2006 will see a challenging development schedule against strategic drivers to:

- further improve access to and searching of content, emphasising the linkage with quality research materials coming out of ESRC funding
- providing greater access to full text materials, including the integration of aggregative third party materials and capturing Open Access opportunities
- reinforce communication to all key stakeholder groups to ensure maximum uptake and outreach of the features and functionality available through the service.

ESRC Society Today is at

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ESRC Society Today
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1UJ

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Fax: 01793 413001

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

