



E · S · R · C
ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL

Annual Report and Accounts
2008-2009



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.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2008-2009

Presented to Parliament Pursuant to 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 2008 to 31 March 2009, on Thursday 16 July 2009.

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on Thursday 16 July 2009.

Contents

Management Commentary

Statement by the Chief Executive and Acting Chair	3
Highlighting Social Science	7
Supporting World Class Social Science Research	17
Strengthening the Social Science Research Base: Data and Methods	21
Maximising our International Presence	23
Building our Future Capacity: Training and Development	27
Impacting on Society: Impact, Evaluation and Knowledge Transfer	29
Communicating and Engaging with Society	33
Making Headlines	37
Vital Statistics	39
Financial and Other Information	89

Accounts

Statement of Council's and Chief Executive's Responsibilities	96
Statement on Internal Control	96
The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament	100
Statement of Net Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 March 2009	102
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009	103
Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2009	104
Notes to the Accounts	105

Contents Vital Statistics

Who's Who at the ESRC	
Council, Boards, Committees and Staff	41
Research	
Major Research Investments	43
Research Grants	61
Evaluation	65
Performance Indicators	66
Data and Methods	
Research Resources	67
Datasets	71
International	
International Work	75
Training	
Studentships	76
ESRC Submission Rate Survey	77
Knowledge Transfer	
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	79
ESRC Society Today	
Web-Trends	84
Data Protection and Information Security	
Personal Data Related Incidents	85
Expenditure	
Research and Training Expenditure 2008-09	86

statement

BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ACTING CHAIR

The past year has been both challenging and encouraging. Challenging, as the financial downturn has affected all parts of society, including the research community. Encouraging, as the ESRC has performed extremely well in these turbulent circumstances. While the implications of the current recession are wide reaching, both for the research community and for society as a whole, the social sciences are uniquely placed to tackle many of the issues emerging in its wake. The ESRC has been very active in providing evidence and developing research to help the UK chart its way to future success.

We are acting by targeting new strategic challenges, communicating research findings and engaging in public events. Working with colleagues in other councils we have focused on new research challenges in areas such as the green economy, the digital economy, health and wellbeing and economic resilience. In addition we were able to fund three centres focusing on economic performance in both a UK and global context over the next five years, and, with other funders, five centres for public health research. In the spring we hosted a series of public lectures and policy seminars focusing on several aspects of the recession, including happiness and wellbeing, global poverty and the green economy. Our new regular magazine *Society Now* has featured leading academics and commentators' thoughts on short and long term effects of the downturn, while the ESRC Society Today website has a dedicated section offering articles, audio comments and research resources.

The state of the economy will undoubtedly impact on research funding. Without the funds for all the high quality research and training we would wish to support, we will need to prioritise even more strictly the very best projects put forward. However, I am encouraged by the growing recognition of the importance of social science research and its contribution to society and the integral role that we play in the overall science base.

We have continued to maintain, in both responsive and directive mode, a large portfolio of world class research across a variety of disciplines from economics to history, psychology to social

anthropology and in inter-disciplinary areas. In addition it is excellent to report the continued successful development in infrastructure such as Understanding Society, the world's largest longitudinal study tracking 40,000 households over 20 years, and the new Birth Cohort facility.

In this current context it is all the more crucial to have a clear strategy for choices and priorities over the coming years. We are in the process of finalising our new Strategic Plan, outlining our key challenges, current achievements and future goals. This strategy, has been developed through extensive consultation and feedback from stakeholders, in order to identify the main strategic issues for the ESRC, the policy, business and voluntary sector communities and, ultimately, for society as a whole.

The emphasis on research impact will become an even more significant part of our overall strategy. In such financially stringent times we have a public duty to show the benefits and effects of quality research on people's lives, directly or indirectly. Our Impact Strategy ensures the highest economic and societal impact of the ESRC's activities. In the coming year we will strengthen our commitment to impact, internationalisation and interdisciplinarity as vital elements of the research that we support. In so doing we will not disadvantage in any way blue sky research which is monodisciplinary.

We remain the guardians of the health of the UK social science research base and we will continue to ensure that UK social scientists are given the best support for training and development. To this end we have reviewed our postgraduate training framework, in order to enhance training provision and maximise the benefits for researchers.

In such financially stringent times we have a duty to show the benefits and effects of quality research on people's lives.



Our international outreach has also continued this year. Joint research funding schemes, new bilateral funding agreements, and participation in the European Collaborative Research Projects Scheme underline our commitment to facilitating research across national borders. In addition, the ESRC took the lead on behalf of the Research Councils in establishing a new RCUK Office in India which opened last autumn, and has been fully engaged with other RCUK offices in China and the USA.

This year has also seen our continuing commitment to a cost-effective administrative function. As one of the first Research Councils to 'go-live', our procurement and human resources services have this year been transferred to the new cross-council Shared Services Centre. This Centre will deliver administrative services to all the Research Councils within one central, streamlined operation.

The work of ESRC and the commitment to quality, impact and independence is dependent upon the support and hard work of the dedicated ESRC staff, Council, board and committee members, and I am deeply indebted to all the work that these people undertake for the benefit of social science.

I would like to use this opportunity to particularly thank Lord Adair Turner, who stepped down as Chair of the ESRC last autumn, for his valuable contribution to the Council, both as member and, latterly, as Chair. We are also delighted to welcome our new Chair, Alan Gillespie, who will take up the position in June 2009. I look forward to working with him and to the important contribution he will make to addressing the challenges ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Ian Diamond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Professor Ian Diamond FBA, AcSS
Chief Executive, ESRC

management commentary

HIGHLIGHTING SOCIAL SCIENCE

SUPPORTING WORLD CLASS SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH BASE: DATA AND METHODS

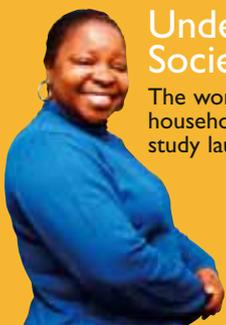
MAXIMISING OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

BUILDING OUR FUTURE CAPACITY: TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

IMPACTING ON SOCIETY: IMPACT, EVALUATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

COMMUNICATING AND ENGAGING WITH SOCIETY

MAKING HEADLINES



Understanding Society

The world's largest ever household longitudinal study launched

13



23

In 2008 ESRC launched a new magazine – *Society Now*



SOCIETY
NOW

34



MAKING AN IMPACT

The ESRC believes that social science research can and should have ongoing and significant impacts. Many of the policies of the last decade in relation to benefits and family tax credits, for example, have been informed by rigorous social science research, most of it funded by the ESRC.

Highlighting Social Science

Sustainable transport future

A centre to revolutionise the future of the UK transport industry was announced in March 2009 by Transport



Minister Andrew Adonis. The £7.75 million programme will be based at Imperial College London as well as University College London and the University of Leeds.

The UK Transport Research Centre will undertake long and short-term research on some of the key big questions likely to face transport in the next decade and beyond. It is funded by the ESRC, the Scottish Government and the Department for Transport.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

Professor Andrew Pettigrew, former Dean of the University of Bath, School of Management and member of the ESRC Council and Professor Ron Carter, Professor of Modern English Language and Director, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Centre, University of Nottingham and also a member of the ESRC Research Grants Board were both awarded an OBE for services to Higher Education in the New Year Honours 2009. Professor Duncan Gallie, Professor Tony Venables and Professor Paul Wilkinson were all awarded the CBE.

LLAKES – learning and life chances

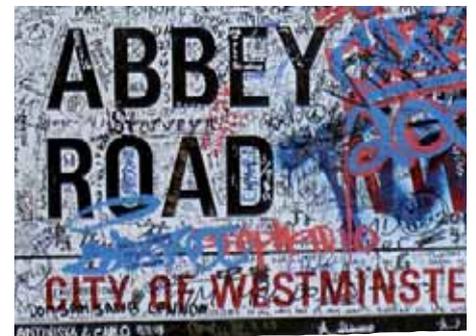
The ESRC's new Learning and Life Chances in the Knowledge Economies and Societies (LLAKES) Centre was launched in June at the House of Commons. The Centre, based at the Institute of Education, aims to investigate the role of lifelong learning in promoting economic competitiveness and social cohesion by mediating the interactions between the two. Hosted by Gordon Marsden MP, speakers included the Rt Hon John Denham MP, former Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Professor Andy Green, Director of the LLAKES Centre. <http://www.ioe.ac.uk>

Local partnership

The Local Authority Research Council Initiative (LARCI), which brings together the worlds of local government and academic research, has continued to facilitate the sharing of best practice within Local Authorities. Following his successful contribution to a LARCI waste seminar, Tim Walker, Head of Waste Management at Belfast City Council, was asked to speak at an Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government Performance Management seminar in January 2009, and has been sharing his experience with several other Local Authorities. With the formation of a strategic board LARCI is building on the impact already made through its successful promotional activities, networks and research. The initiative helped to take science to a wider public with an event in a London primary school to raise awareness of carbon emissions and sustainable travel options. <http://www.larci.org.uk>

MAGICAL MEMORY TOUR

What are your memories of the Beatles? A six month mass participation study explored the links that exist between memory and music by capturing the public's memories about a common cultural reference point – the Beatles. The experiment, which explored the psychology of memory and memory recall, culminated in an evening debate at the 2008 BA Festival of Science in Liverpool. This innovative online project was a collaboration between the British Association for the Advancement of Science (the BA) and the Leeds Memory



Group in the Institute of Psychological Studies, University of Leeds, with sponsorship from the ESRC. <http://www.magicalmemorytour.com> <http://www.debatingmatters.com> <http://www.battleofideas.org.uk>

TYNDALL CENTRE WINS SILVER MEDAL

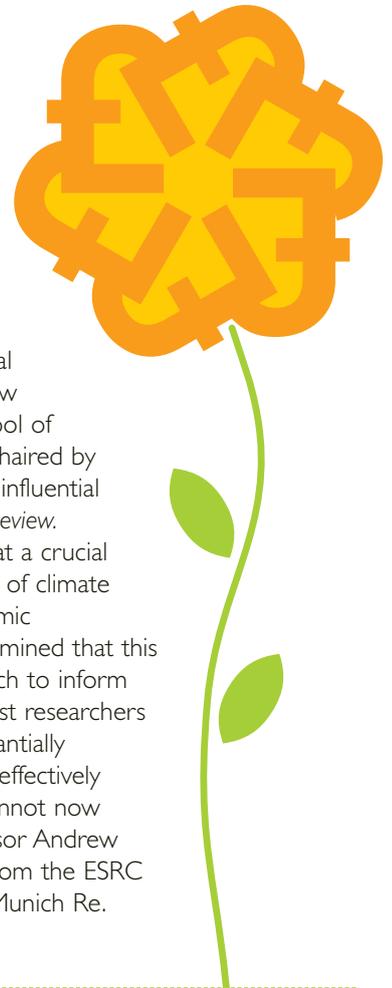
The Tyndall Centre has been awarded a Silver Lindley Medal at the 2008 Royal Chelsea Flower Show. The Centre's 2050 Garden was commended for its special



scientific interest. It was the concept and design of Tyndall Centre researchers Johanna Forster and Saffron O'Neill. The garden reflected upon the traditional English garden of the 1950s before looking to the gardens of 2050 under a changed climate. Funded by both the ESRC and the Natural Environment Research Council, the Tyndall Centre is based at the University of East Anglia and works to develop sustainable responses to climate change. <http://www.tyndall.ac.uk>

Climate change economics

Launched in January 2009, the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy will examine how political and economic systems adapt to climate change and how emissions might be reduced. Based at the London School of Economics and the University of Leeds, the Centre is chaired by Professor Lord Stern of Brentford, author of the highly influential report on *The Economics of Climate Change: The Stern Review*. Speaking at the launch event Lord Stern said "We are at a crucial stage in the battle to avoid the worst potential impacts of climate change, which could have devastating social and economic consequences for people around the world. I am determined that this Centre should generate rigorous and innovative research to inform public and private action. We really need to put our best researchers to work on the difficult problems that we face in substantially reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and preparing effectively to deal with those effects of climate change that we cannot now prevent." Directed by Professor Judith Rees and Professor Andrew Gouldson the Centre is funded by a £5 million grant from the ESRC and £3 million of support from reinsurance company, Munich Re. <http://www.cccep.ac.uk>



Eradicating homelessness

A major new research initiative was launched in January 2009 with the aim of informing government policy and practice, and finding solutions to bring vulnerable homeless people in from the margins of our society. The initiative (in collaboration with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Tenant Services Authority, the National Institute of Mental Health in England and the Department of Health) intends to develop a greater understanding of homeless people who have to cope with multiple problems in their lives, such as drug or alcohol dependencies, severe mental health



problems and institutional experiences, such as prison or long-term hospital stays. Four projects are being funded to provide a solid evidence base for further policy and practice development.

Highlighting Social Science

Facing the global financial crisis

In spring 2009 the ESRC hosted *Britain and the Global Financial Crisis* a public lecture series, exploring issues such as how recession affects our mental health and happiness, the impact of recession on global poverty, and to what extent recession is a threat or an opportunity for the green economy. In the first lecture, Lord Professor Richard Layard addressed the question of how wealth impacts on happiness. Chaired by economist and journalist, Evan Davis, of BBC Radio Four's *Today* programme, attendees also heard from Professor Mel Bartley and Professor Andrew Oswald. In the second of the series also chaired by Evan Davis, speakers focused on global poverty and the recession.



Dr Peter Boone suggested that problems for the extreme poor may lie in the future rather than the present. Other speakers included Professor Tony Venables, and Dr Allister McGregor. In the final lecture three leading experts in the fields of economics and environmental research, Dr Alex Bowen, Professor Paul Ekins and Dr Ralf Martin explored the potential economic benefits offered by the green economy in the current economic downturn (pictured above). It was chaired by Polly Toynbee, lead columnist for the *Guardian*. http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/briefings/Britain_and_the_Global_Financial_Crisis.aspx

SPECIAL ADVISER

Dr Gerben Bakker, one of the ESRC's Advanced Institute of Management Ghosal Fellows has been appointed Special Adviser to the Lords Communications Committee. Dr Bakker, a lecturer in Economic History and Management at the London School of Economics, will advise the Communications Committee on film industry related issues during a new inquiry into the British film and television industries.

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/communications.cfm

International initiative

In January 2009 the ESRC launched its New International Activities for Early Career Researchers scheme. This initiative



will provide opportunities for international mobility, exchange and networking for early career researchers (including doctoral students). These could include the provision of international workshops, summer schools or other events that stimulate networking around shared agendas; opportunities for groups of UK based early career researchers to participate in an international event or to benefit from specialist advanced methodological training only available outside the UK; and the establishment of new virtual networking opportunities.

http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/postgraduate/fundingopportunities/International_Training.aspx

CAPACITY BUILDING IN EDUCATION

The ESRC has undertaken pilot activity to support three capacity building networks in education to enable a broad spectrum of researchers at different stages of their academic career to engage with experienced researchers. The network based at the universities of Cambridge and Cardiff, focuses on developing collaborative networks for early career researchers. Collaboration between a network of universities in the north west of England and the University of East London is looking at social scientific research in teacher education. The third network is jointly funded with the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, and is undertaking a review of the significance of findings from the ESRC Teaching and Learning Research Programme project for the Welsh education system.

<http://groups.tlrp.org>
<http://www.tlrp.org/tern>
<http://www.wern.ac.uk>

New ESRC directors

Professor Michael Keith, former Director of the Centre for Urban and Community Research at Goldsmiths College, University of London, has been appointed as Director of the Centre on Migration Policy and Society. The Centre provides a strategic, integrated approach to understanding contemporary and future migration dynamics across the UK and the EU. Professor Andrew Watkinson, former Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, has been appointed as Director of the Living with Environmental Change programme. The programme will study ways for society and individuals to adapt to the environmental changes that we face now and in the future.

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

Sibling memories

As part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science researchers from the ESRC Timescapes initiative, a five year qualitative longitudinal study of changing relationships and identities through the lifecourse, asked people to share memories of their sisters and brothers on the BBC Memoryshare website. Memoryshare is a living archive of memories from 1900 to the present day. Timescapes is working with Memoryshare to invite people to share thoughts and memories about all of their relationships throughout their lives to build a broadly based archive accessible to all on the web.



http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/memoryshare/lbu_sistersandbrothers
<http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/research>

Accessible anthropology

The Royal Anthropological Institute's (RAI) weekly online diary written by the fictional character Lucy, has proved a major success in bringing anthropology to new audiences. As part of ESRC's funding the diary has 300 regular subscribers and many more casual users, with positive feedback from readers in the USA, Brazil, UK and across Europe. Lucy's diary has enabled the RAI's education programme to reach a wider geographical audience by creating an umbrella for anthropology related events, activities and initiatives run by other organisations and social scientists both in and outside the UK. www.anthropologyabouttown.blogspot.com

Awarding knowledge transfer

At the 2009 Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) awards, two projects received ESRC sponsored awards for the Best Application of Management or Social Science. The winning projects were completed by the University of Reading and Riding for the Disabled Association for work involving a complete overhaul of the charity's IT infrastructure and by the University of Lincoln and Social Enterprise Hill Holt Wood for research leading to the establishment of an environmental social enterprise construction company. In addition, Anna Reid, as associate completing an ESRC funded project between Newcastle University and Northumbria County Council, was presented with a Business Leader of Tomorrow award. The ESRC is supporting an increasing number of third sector KTP projects and the award success highlights the value the programme can bring to the sector.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/KnowledgeExch/KTPs.aspx>

Highlighting Social Science

News and views

Launched in May 2008, eNews is an online newsletter for the ESRC community issued bi-monthly and highlighting funding opportunities, corporate news and other information of interest to the social science community. *Society Now* is the ESRC's new regular magazine; launched in July 2008 it is published three times a year to a readership of over 26,000. It brings the latest and most topical social science research to businesses, government, the voluntary sector, the general public and young people. The magazine highlights research currently being undertaken by the UK's leading social scientists and demonstrates how social science research can contribute to better policymaking and, ultimately, a better society.

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/about/CI/CP/enews/eNews.aspx>
<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/about/CI/CP/societynow/index.aspx>

Birth cohort facility

A groundbreaking new research facility will enable unprecedented understanding of how economic, social and biological factors combine to shape human behaviour. A total of £28.5 million was 'earmarked' in July 2008 for the Birth Cohort Facility from the Large Facilities Capital Fund. The facility, a collaboration between the ESRC and the Medical Research Council, will have two principle components: the launch of a new cohort study in 2012 and the development of a Cohort Resources Facility, to support and enhance the use of birth cohort studies for research. The Birth Cohort Facility will, for the first time, enable the co-ordination of data collection across existing birth cohort studies which span over 60 years. This exciting new research facility will unlock the potential of the UK's existing world renowned birth cohort studies and will position the UK at the forefront of pioneering research in the areas of public health, education and social integration of individuals and families. Such information is crucial in enabling policymakers to understand the ever more complex nature of 21st Century society in Britain. http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/ESRC_Community/newsarchive/birth_cohort.aspx



INDIA WORKSHOP

In December 2008 the ESRC in co-operation with the Indian Council of Social Science Research organised a workshop bringing UK and Indian social science researchers together to address issues of economic restructuring, higher education and social equality. The workshop and related discussions have laid the foundations for future joint research activities including establishing collaboration in secondary data analysis under the initiative, Collaborative Analysis of Micro Data Resources: Brazil-India Pathfinder Research Projects.

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/international/indiadec08.aspx?ts=2>

Options for a New Britain

This year's Festival of Social Science featured the launch of *Options for a New Britain*, the most ambitious independent policy review in the UK for over a decade. Drawing on contributions from more than 60 leading experts, the review documents the post 1997 Government's successes and examines the next big policy choices that face us over the next decade. Some of the policy options reviewed were familiar, such as the case for shifting crime spending away from prisons to early interventions or the case for various forms of carbon pricing. Other options were less familiar such as slowing population growth as environmental policy or creating an independent fiscal council. Speakers at the event included the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP (Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change) and David Willetts MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills).

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/releases/2009/march/Britain.aspx?>



Third Sector Research Centre

Over 130 people including representatives from national and regional third sector and public sector agencies attended the launch of the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) in October 2008. The University of Birmingham, in partnership with the University of Southampton, hosts this new Centre which is funded by the ESRC, the Government's Office of the Third Sector and the Barrow Cadbury Trust. The TSRC will be dedicated to world class research that examines, maps and develops further understanding of the sector. Led by Centre Director, Professor Pete Alcock of the University of Birmingham, the Centre will systematically review existing research on the third sector and assemble databases for future research. Its research programme will range from complex quantitative modelling to in-depth qualitative studies and action research. The Centre will also work with third sector agencies and government bodies to help build capacity for further research across the third sector.

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

RECORD BREAKING FESTIVAL

The seventh year of the ESRC's annual Festival of Social Science held in March 2009 was the largest to date. Over 110 events were held in 44 different locations across the UK with half of the events targeting either the general public or young people in schools. The events offered something for everyone – from exhibitions, to film screenings, virtual debates, hands-on experiments and stories broadcast on the BBC World Service. Researchers offered insight into the diverse range of topical issues including the economy, use of stem cells, the environment, organ donation and social enterprise.

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



The Michael Young Prize

Two researchers at the start of their careers were joint winners of the 2009 Michael Young Prize, an annual award which aims to support new social scientists in disseminating their research findings more widely. Carol Grayson's research focuses on the politics of the global blood trade, blood policy from the 1960s to date, and the impact on UK haemophiliacs. Her findings will help shape policy in blood and health legislation, legal justice and better patient support networks in the UK. Joint winner Dr Mark Reed's research explores

the impact of changing environments on people that live and work in the UK uplands and Kalahari drylands. By focusing on anticipating, monitoring and adapting to future change in these different environments, his research can enable the residents to adapt effectively to protect not only their livelihoods, but also the ecosystems on which they depend. Said ESRC Chief Executive Professor Ian Diamond: "Getting research into practice so that it has a measurable impact on policy, business and wider society is at the heart of what the ESRC does. I am delighted that, by working with The Young Foundation, we can encourage researchers at the start of their careers to do just that!"

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/Young>

Science and maths boost

As part of a commitment to find new ways to encourage children and young people to greater achievement and understanding of science and mathematics related subjects, the ESRC, in partnership with other Research Councils, the Institute of Physics, the Department of Children, Schools and Families and the Gatsby Foundation are to invest £3 million to fund five projects across the UK. The projects will be supported by various other organisations including the Association for Science Education. Concentrating on the secondary school age range, these projects will consider issues such as the use of a variety of media within classrooms, curriculum reform, classroom organisation



and assessment methods and how to develop effective interventions to enhance student engagement.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/releases/2008/may/investment.aspx>

Highlighting Social Science



MONEY SAVING TIPS

An event advising consumers on how to choose the best energy deals held by the ESRC Centre for Competition Policy (CCP) proved so successful that it was repeated in August 2008 in the presence of a BBC *Money Programme* film crew. In total more than 200 members of the public were advised on how to save money thanks to CCP research into price comparison sites and energy tariffs. During 2008, the Centre also carried out research for the Office of Fair Trading and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The ESRC has awarded the CCP a further £4.3 million funding to continue its research until 2014. <http://www.uea.ac.uk/ccp>

Understanding Society

The ESRC launched *Understanding Society*, the world's largest ever household longitudinal study in October 2008. *Understanding Society* will provide valuable new evidence to inform research on the vital issues facing our communities. *Understanding Society* Director, Professor Nick Buck at the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, said: "We are very pleased to lead this exciting project which will provide high quality longitudinal data about the people of the UK, their lives, experiences, behaviours and beliefs, and will enable an unprecedented understanding of diversity within the population. It represents the latest stage in the UK's uniquely successful tradition of longitudinal data and we aim to ensure it becomes a flagship resource



for the research and user community in the UK - and beyond." <http://www.understandingsociety.org.uk>

CHARITABLE GIVING

The ESRC Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy (CGAP) was launched in London, October 2008. Professor

Nicholas Deakin, Chairman of the new Centre, chaired the programme of speakers which included Richard Gillingwater, Dean of Cass Business School and Adrian Alsop, ESRC, Director for Research. Phil Hope MP, former Minister for the Third Sector Geoff Mulgan, Director of The Young Foundation delivered the guest addresses and Professors Jenny Harrow and Cathy Pharaoh, Co-Directors of the new Research Centre presented the scope and approach of the work to be undertaken. The Centre is jointly funded by ESRC,



the Cabinet Office, the Carnegie UK Trust and the Scottish Government, was then launched in Scotland in February 2009. <http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/philanthropy>

New data services

During 2008 the ESRC funded the development and implementation of two new data services: an Administrative Data Liaison Service (ADLS), and a Secure Data Service (SDS). Both services build on the work of the ESRC and the Joint Information Systems Committee funded Economic and Social Data Service, and the ESRC Census Programme which already provide access and support to an extensive range of key economic and social data. The ADLS is provided by the Universities of St Andrews, Oxford and Manchester and aims to provide a focal point for knowledge about the availability of Government-held administrative data. The SDS provided by the UK Data Archive will permit approved members of the research community access to tightly controlled and securely stored low-level data, which will help to inform research into some of the most complex social challenges facing the UK. Both services aim to make previously unavailable data more accessible. <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/ViewAwardPage.aspx?> <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>

What kids



THINK

Northern Ireland's 11 year-old school children have very enthusiastically given their opinions about school, selective testing and other things that affect their lives as part of the 2008 Kids' Life and Times attitude survey.

This is a joint initiative between Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster, under the Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive funded by ESRC. The highly visual interactive online questionnaire was a hit with the children and the *What Kids Think* comic produced and distributed to schools gave everyone involved accessible feedback on the results. With valuable international measures of children's mental health and rotating modules of questions on bullying and other emerging issues, this is a key time series that will yield a unique long-term view on the changing lives of our children. <http://www.ark.ac.uk/klt>

New look at productivity

The Advanced Institute of Management (AIM) report *Closing the Productivity Gap* was launched in February 2009 at a seminar chaired by Vicky Pryce, Chief Economic Adviser for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The report draws on work in progress by AIM fellows, the Centre for Economic Performance, and the Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy. *Closing the Productivity Gap* provides an overview of the evidence from six key areas of productivity research and offers valuable insights into the nature and causes of the longstanding productivity gap between the UK economy and other major economies as well as exploring policies that might be effective in helping to close it.

http://www.aimresearch.org/uploads/File/pdf/working_papers/Aim%20Productivity_final%202009.pdf

SEARCH FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DEAL

A team led by the ESRC Sussex Energy Group at the University of Sussex has made significant contributions to the search for a new global deal on climate change. Research has focused on the role of low carbon innovation in developing countries. The group and research partners, The Energy and Resources Institute, India, have been working on a project initiated by the UK and Indian governments on low carbon technology transfer. Their findings were discussed at side events at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate



Change conference in Poland December 2008 and at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2009. These findings are being used to inform the UK's negotiating position at the UN climate talks in Copenhagen in December 2009. <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexenergygroup/1-2-9.html>

ECONOMIC WELLBEING

Funding of £16.5 million is to be allocated to three Centres focussing on the economic wellbeing of the UK over the next five years. The Centre for Economic Performance and the Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy both receive continued funding. The Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy at the University of Warwick is a new centre which will receive £3.6 million. These centres will provide key research outcomes of the highest international standards. The outcomes can provide the foundation stones for future



economic growth and ensure that future policies are best placed to help avoid a repetition of the current crisis.

http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/releases/2009/february/ESRC_boost.aspx?

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/research/centres>

Strategic plans

As part of the consultation process for its next Strategic Plan 2009-2014, the ESRC held its second biennial Open Meeting in October 2008. A summary of the responses to the ESRC's Strategic Plan consultation for 2009-2014 were presented. Over 100 people from business, policy, third sector and the media attended. The panel discussion was chaired by Professor Alan Alexander and consisted of members of ESRC Council including Professor Judith Rees, Mr David Walker, and Professor Ian Diamond.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/about/strategicplan>

Highlighting Social Science

Answers on the economy

During the recent turbulence in world economic affairs ESRC economic research expertise and analysis of the UK's fiscal and budgetary situation has been much in demand. Researchers from the Centre for Economic Performance and the Centre for the Macroeconomic Analysis of Public Policy, based at the Institute of Fiscal Studies have played a key role in informing current debate on the economic downturn. They both have provided research, responses and advice to the government, to opposition parties, to the media and society in general regarding what impact the credit crisis has for the

policy options open to the government now and into the future. Their publications have covered topical issues including the readiness of UK public finances for recession, the economics of a temporary VAT cut, saving the economy and the planet, Britain's regional divide and the impact of uncertainty shocks. To help address questions regarding the behaviour of financial markets in a global economic crisis, researchers from the ESRC's World Economy and Finance programme have embarked on two new studies. Both projects will explore how rationally financial markets behave and whether they are as socially efficient as claimed.

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

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

<http://www.worldeconomyandfinance.org>

Building capacity

The ESRC has built upon its commitment to support research and training with the commissioning of six capacity building clusters. Four of these clusters are in business research and engagement and are designed to develop closer collaboration between social science and the business sector. These clusters are led by the universities of Aston, Exeter, Southampton and St Andrews. In a parallel initiative, two Capacity Building Clusters in the third sector have also been created. Based at the University of Middlesex and the University of Lincoln, these Clusters are aligned to the new Third Sector Research Centre at the University of Birmingham. Their aim is to provide both the next generation of high quality researchers and to act as a resource for the third sector.

http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/postgraduate/fundingopportunities/Capacity_Building_Clusters.aspx

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/esrcinfocentre/research/CapacityBuildingClusters>

GENOMICS SUCCESS

The Human Genetics Commission (HGC) Citizens' Inquiry into the forensic use of genetic information and the National DNA Database has been recognised by an award for 'most engaged policymaker'. The Inquiry, commissioned by the HGC in collaboration with ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum and other partners, developed a new approach to encouraging members of the public to have their say about the pros and cons of forensic

databases and the retention of genetic information in the UK. Professor Steven Yearley, Director of the Genomics Forum, congratulated the HGC on this timely and well deserved award: "It

is vital that public voices are listened to carefully in the complex social and ethical debates that surround our growing understanding of the human genome. The HGC offered a truly innovative way for the UK public to comment on issues around DNA 'fingerprints!'"

<http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/forum>



HEI'S REGIONAL IMPACT

Findings from the Impact of Higher Education Institutions on Regional Economies research initiative were outlined in a one day conference held in Belfast in January 2009. Sir Reg Empey Minister for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland launched the event and the proceedings were chaired by Fergus Devitt, Director of Higher Education, Department for Employment and

Learning. This £3 million research initiative runs until 2010 with the overall aim of promoting a better understanding of the key economic and social impacts generated by UK higher education institutions on their host regions and on other regions of the UK. The initiative is supported by the ESRC in partnership with the Scottish Funding Council, Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland, the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.

<http://ewds.strath.ac.uk/impact/Home.aspx>

MITIGATION OF NATURAL DISASTERS



In May 2008 Professor Bridget Hutter, Director of the ESRC Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation, was invited to become a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Setting Council on the Mitigation of Natural Disasters. The Council has been created to identify principles and strategies for leadership and innovation for reducing risks from natural disasters. Professor Hutter participated in the World Economic Forum Summit on the Global Agenda 2008 held in Dubai in November. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR/aboutUs/staff/hutter.htm>

Excellence for Public Health

The UK's first Centre of Excellence for Public Health Research was launched at Queen's University Belfast, with a focus on nutrition and lifestyle. The £5 million centre has a research portfolio that spans from molecules to populations and is part of a £20 million investment programme under the umbrella of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration. A partnership of funders including the ESRC came together to establish the investment in five Centres of Excellence across the UK to strengthen research into complex public health issues such as obesity, smoking and health inequalities. The centres bring together leading experts from a range of disciplines working in partnership with practitioners, policymakers and wider stakeholders to tackle public health issues likely to have a significant impact on the health of the nation.

Changing economic circumstances

The ESRC ran a series of special Public Policy Seminars to explore the important economic and policy issues facing the UK and the wider global society in the present financial crisis. The series covered: voluntary action and the economic downturn; recession; changing economic circumstances and health; social enterprise and the recession; recession and the world economy and recession and the third sector. The seminars brought the best social science concepts and evidence into the policy arena and stimulated a discussion of how, in the light of these insights, policy can be developed. The goal was to encourage evidence-based policy through an exchange between researchers and policymakers on the changing economic circumstances.



Rural land use

Rural areas in the UK are experiencing considerable change. The Rural Economy and Land Use Programme has been advancing our understanding of the challenges they face through a series of topical research findings. Research carried out at the University of Reading has found that adopting healthier eating habits would have important implications for the UK countryside. With loss of demand for red meat, remote regions more dependent on beef and sheep farming and unsuited to arable production would see the number of farms decline. Loss of employment would have significant detrimental effects on the rural economy and migration to more prosperous regions would increase. Further research from the University of Reading found that consumers would be willing to pay the extra

costs involved in producing healthier foods. The commercialisation of agriculture in recent decades has seen production methods adopted and varieties/breeds selected for reasons of productivity and uniformity rather than health benefits. But researchers have identified ways to produce healthier vegetables and meat which they believe consumers would favour, even at increased cost. <http://www.relu.ac.uk>

Improving teaching: enhancing learning

Autumn 2008 saw over 800 practitioners, policymakers and researchers meet to discuss the implications of contemporary national education research and development programmes. Since 2000, the Teaching and Learning research

programme has supported over 700 researchers to work with practitioners and policymakers in exploring key issues in school, further, higher, workplace and lifelong learning. In collaboration with partner organisations, the innovative outcomes were made available for public debate and practical application at this conference to mark the culmination of the programme's work.

Supporting World Class Social Science Research

The ESRC is committed to supporting excellent research. All of our funding opportunities are highly competitive and only those proposals judged by experts in the field to be of the highest scientific quality are supported.

We support research in two principal ways:

- Responsive funding. This allows individuals and research teams to put forward research proposals in any area within the ESRC's remit without needing to fit within a particular set of priorities.
- Directive funding. This enables us to support new work within our strategic research priorities by inviting proposals against a specific research brief and topic areas.

This is not an absolute distinction and some of our funding schemes allow both responsive and directive elements.

RESPONSIVE RESEARCH SCHEMES

We are committed to providing a range of funding opportunities at all stages of the research career from postdoctoral fellowships and first grants for new researchers through to large grants, professorial fellowships and research centres for more senior, established researchers. All of these allow for single and multi-disciplinary projects, including work that goes beyond the social sciences and addresses important questions at the interfaces between the social sciences and the physical and environmental sciences; health and medicine; and the arts and humanities. Much of this work is innovative in terms of its theoretical or methodological approaches. In addition, much of our responsive work has significant policy and practical impacts – such impacts are not confined to our directed or strategic research.

We are taking active steps to encourage and support research applications which demonstrate one or more of innovation, interdisciplinarity and impact. The ESRC also shares and endorses the Research Councils UK statement on research councils' expectations of researchers for societal and economic impact.

First Grants Scheme

The ESRC First Grant Scheme enables new researchers and academics at the start of their careers gain experience of managing and leading research projects. Demand for the scheme remains high with over 210 applications received in the 2008 competition. Thirty one new awards were recommended which included:

Work-related health and wellbeing: Linking individual and organisational factors Dr Maria Karanika-Murray University of Nottingham

Employee health and wellbeing is determined by a multitude of work and organisational characteristics. However, findings have often been inconsistent as the majority of research has focused on individual-level variables such as job demands or relationships at work and has largely ignored the impact of higher-level organisational characteristics such as policies and practices, leadership and organisational change. The aim of this project is to understand how elements of the wider organisational context influence employee health. It also assesses relationships at multiple points in time. Its findings will help extend current theory on the determinants of work-related health. They will also help to develop the necessary knowledge and skills for managing work-related health in a successful and sustainable way.

Re-Creating the State: Governance, Civil Society and Trust in Poland, Russia and Ukraine Dr Marc Berenson Institute of Development Studies

More than a decade and a half since the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviet Union broke apart, a key question to ask is whether post-communist states can actually accomplish what they set out to do. To assess how three post-communist states, Poland, Russia and Ukraine, fulfil their own policy goals, this project will examine three areas – collecting taxes, distributing welfare benefits and enforcing environmental regulations. The project will contribute not only to debates on the origins of capable states but will also aim to find out where transitional states, given limited resources, should focus their efforts in order to implement their own policies successfully.

Large Grants Scheme

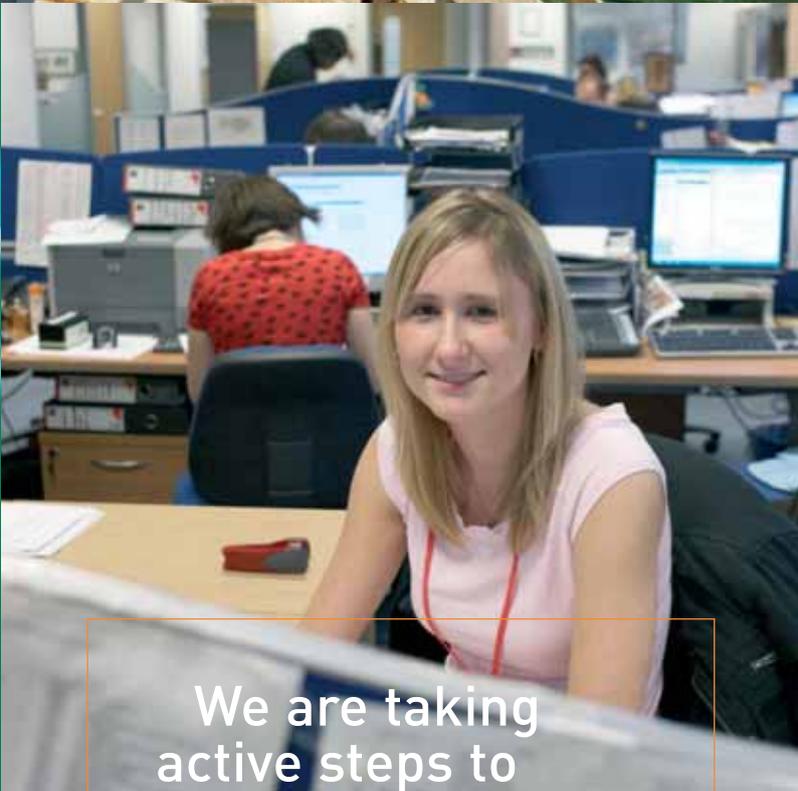
For experienced researchers requiring longer term or extended support there is the ESRC Large Grants Scheme. Funding of up to five years is available from £1.5 million to £5 million. Four new grants were agreed for funding in 2008:

Business, Taxation and Welfare

Taxation can have large knock on effects on the choices that a business can make including higher product price, lower wages and how a business may invest. The project led by Professor Michael Devereux from Oxford University will further investigate how governments currently manage business taxation and explore how governments in the future can better design and manage business taxes.

Health, Econometrics and Data Group

This work, led by Dr Nigel Rice at the Centre for Health Economics, University of York, will focus on analysing health, health related behaviour and health care. The research aims to better inform health related policy on areas such as health inequality and ways to evaluate public health initiatives. It will also compare the performance of health care systems on an international level.



We are taking active steps to encourage and support research applications which demonstrate one or more of innovation, interdisciplinarity and impact.

Developing the Centre for Time Use Research

The Centre produces and maintains the Multinational Time-Use Study, which currently includes more than half a million days of time diary materials from the 1960s to the present and spanning more than 30 countries. Led by Professor Jonathan Gershuny from Oxford University, over the next five years it will upgrade the existing database, incorporating many new surveys, improving data collection techniques, and experimenting with new data collection technologies.

Emotion Regulation of Others and Self

Led by Dr Peter Totterdell this four year project aims to answer fundamental and applied questions concerning the nature and effects of emotion regulation. How people regulate emotions can have considerable costs or benefits for their own and other's >

Supporting World Class Social Science Research

wellbeing and performance, and for the quality of their relationships. Dysfunctional emotion regulation may contribute to many mental health problems (such as bipolar disorder, gambling, alcohol/drug abuse, and road rage) and effective emotion regulation can be vital in high-performance situations (such as competitive sports and safety-critical work).

Professorial Fellowships

How should social policy, such as welfare payments, react to an individual's changing circumstances? What is 'resilient development' and why is it important? If we have a better understanding of individual behaviour and decision making, will we be better able to understand how the economy behaves? These are just some of the topics that will be addressed under the latest ESRC Professorial Fellowships scheme. The fellowships are designed to support leading social scientists working in the UK. The scheme offers Fellows with an outstanding track record in research, the time and funding to pursue an exciting research agenda, and to carry out innovative and creative work.

The six new Professorial Fellows agreed in 2008 are: Katrina Brown, Professor of Development Studies, University of East Anglia; Professor John Hills, Director, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics; Graham Loomes, Professor of Economic Behaviour and Decision Theory, University of East Anglia; Herb Marsh, Professor of Educational Studies, University of Oxford; Russell Spears, Professor of Psychology, University of Cardiff and Albert Weale, Professor of Government, University of Essex.

SUCCESS RATES

Since the introduction of full Economic Costs (fEC) in 2005 the average cost of a research award has increased substantially. Coupled with continuing growth in both quality and quantity (a nine per cent increase in standard grant applications in 2008-09) this has led to an increasing number of highly rated proposals not being supported and a success rate for standard grants of only 14 per cent. We are continuing to keep this under close review and to consider carefully how, in partnership with the universities and the social science community, this problem can be addressed.

DIRECTED RESEARCH

The ESRC, in its *Strategic Plan* for the period 2005-2010, identified seven key research challenges which address some of the most pressing and difficult scientific and policy questions facing both the UK and the wider international community. They map closely on to the Research Councils UK research priorities, all of which have a significant social science component, and the wider public policy agenda.



Our research challenges address some of the most pressing and difficult scientific policy questions facing both the UK and the wider international community.

The key research challenges are:

- Succeeding in the global economy
- Population change
- Energy, the environment and climate change
- Education for life
- Understanding individual behaviour
- Religion, ethnicity and society
- International relations and security.

We address these challenges by investing in large-scale activities such as centres and partnered programmes in these priority areas. Most of these are interdisciplinary in nature and a large number are funded jointly with other research councils or other partner organisations that share our values of quality, impact and independence.

New Research Centres

Research centres receive long-term investment and are usually located in a single institution. They are centres of excellence that are committed to the achievement of research outcomes of the highest international standards. This includes making an important contribution to the development of research capacity in the UK and in achieving significant economic and social impacts.

In 2008-09, the Council agreed funding for three centres within the theme of 'Succeeding in the Global Economy'. Two of these are existing ESRC funded centres and one is a new initiative:

- **Centre for Economic Performance directed by Professor John Van Reenen, London School of Economics and Political Science**

The mission of this Centre is to conduct world-class and policy-relevant research on economic performance to gain a better understanding of the root causes of productivity and inequality by designing and evaluating policies to improve wellbeing.

- **Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy, directed by Professor Richard Blundell, Institute for Fiscal Studies**

Designing and implementing good public policy is essential if the UK or any other country is to succeed in the global economy. The research of this Centre aims to promote good policy, by increasing our understanding of the way in which changes in policy and the economy affect individuals, families, firms and governments.

- **Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy directed by Professor Nicholas Crafts, University of Warwick**

This Centre will undertake research on how markets, institutions, and public policies interact to create and sustain competitive advantage in a changing global economy. It will also show how such advantage evolves over time, and how it influences growth, deprivation and wellbeing both in the short and the long run.

Directors Fellowships

The ESRC has funded two Fellowships this year for the directors of major research investments. These aim to consolidate and build on the work of the original investment and to maximise the impact of the research. Professor Jude Howell at the London School of Economics has received a fellowship to take forward work on the Non-Governmental Public Action Programme and Professor Andrew Pollard at the Institute of Education has received a fellowship to consolidate work on the Teaching and Learning Research Programme.

Research Ventures

The Research Ventures fund was introduced in 2004 to facilitate a speedy and flexible response to opportunities for collaboration with other organisations in important scientific and policy areas. The ESRC's extensive and diverse portfolio now consists of some 50 collaborations. The scheme has enabled us to support work that would not otherwise have been supported; to engage closely with key stakeholders throughout the research process; and to increase the amount of external funding brought in to support social science research in the UK and beyond.

Ten new Ventures and three new phases to existing ventures were agreed in 2008-09, these included:

Innovation Centre

Launched in 2009 the centre is funded by the ESRC, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, and the Technology Strategy Board. The collaboration will define innovation in its broadest sense, and will engage with policy and practitioner communities. It will ensure the maximum impact of new knowledge on policy and practice and develop capacity, in terms of people, data and methods for future research and knowledge exchange.

Understanding and Managing Natural and Environmental Risks

The ESRC, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Natural Environment Research Council have formed partnership with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to jointly support the establishment of a collaborative centre of excellence in understanding and managing natural and environmental risks.

Exploring and Explaining UK Dietary Decisions in the 21st Century

The ESRC in collaboration with the Foods Standards Agency have developed a partnership to fund a number of activities related to food policy. The initiative intends to provide a holistic approach to understanding dietary decisions about what to eat in the UK in the 21st Century. By investigating all aspects of people's lives through a number of social science perspectives we hope to understand, if, when and where dietary and health related decisions fit into people's lives and to help explain how people eat the food that they do.

Strengthening the Social Science Research Base: Data and Methods

To maximise the impact of leading-edge research it must be underpinned and supported by world class research methods and data. The ESRC over the past year has maintained its investment in such key social science research resources as well as developing new and exciting resources for research use.

A WORLD CLASS DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

The ESRC is not alone in its endeavour to create high quality data resources. In its capacity as Steward to the *National Strategy for Data Resources for Research in the Social Sciences*, it has, in collaboration with a range of government departments, the Office for National Statistics, other Research Councils and research charities, has worked to review the Strategy and produce a revised version to cover the period 2009-2012. Findings from consultations with data users, providers and producers highlighted the world-class data resources already supported in the UK and emphasised the importance of sustaining and enhancing that investment over the longer term. It is expected that the new Strategy will be published in summer 2009.

The backbone of the Strategy is the collection of longitudinal studies. The studies are central to enabling researchers to meet the challenges of the ever changing nature of our complex and dynamic society through enabling the mapping of change over time. We are committed to maintaining our significant investment in such studies and in 2008 agreed renewed funding for the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) and the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre (ULSC).

The CLS houses the ESRC's collection of birth cohort studies. Building upon this existing investment the ESRC in partnership with the Medical Research Council (MRC), successfully secured 'ear-marked' funding from the Large Facilities Capital Fund to develop and establish a Birth Cohort Facility. These funds are subject to ministerial approval in early 2010. This represents an exciting opportunity to extend the series with a new study starting around 2012, and to maximise the value of the existing studies through the development of a new resource to facilitate research across the cohorts and with their counterparts in other countries. This investment, along with our other investments in longitudinal data, will help provide important insights into new interdisciplinary research agendas.

The ULSC study supports the British Household Panel Study (BHPS) which has been a powerful source of evidence for

policymakers, helping identify the impact of poverty and ill health and assess the progress of individuals who obtained the national minimum wage. In 2008-09 the sample was successfully integrated into the newly established and worlds largest household panel study – Understanding Society. The first wave of data collection of this new survey commenced in January 2009 with the inclusion of wave 18 of the BHPS sample. Understanding Society will build upon the success of the BHPS and help researchers to monitor the shifting social landscape of the UK from a household perspective. The scale of Understanding Society will give us an insight into the experiences of a range of ethnic minority communities and we will delve deeper into the family dynamics that influence decisions from career choices to diet.

During 2008 we also partnered with the MRC and the Wellcome Trust to fund a third National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles which will commence in 2009. Results from the survey will be useful in understanding individual sexual behaviours and the prevalence of diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

In an international context, the UK has been a long-standing supporter of the European Social Survey (ESS) and the ESRC has signalled the UK's continuing commitment to the success of the survey by agreeing funds for both Rounds five and six to place it on a more secure funding basis, as well as making significant contribution to the costs of the central co-ordinating team. The ESS is an academically-driven social survey designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations.

MAXIMISING DATA ACCESS

The true value of top quality data resources is lost if they cannot be effectively accessed by the research community. Data needs to be preserved and catalogued to leading international standards in order for it to be discovered and used. The ESRC is committed to developing innovative ways to deliver data to the research community and promote its use.

Access to the vast majority of the major datasets available to the social science community is provided by the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS). Since its inception in 2003 the service has seen significant expansion of its portfolio and an increase in the number of users. The ESDS continues to receive and make available updates to some of the most important longitudinal, government and international studies. The service will be working closely with the Understanding Society team to ingest the first dataset when it is ready and promote it to the social science research community. The ESDS also promotes best practice for data sharing and management and in January 2009 the UK Data Archive, lead delivery partner for the service, published a dedicated resource providing guidance in this area.

Basic identifying information is always removed from data prior to deposit with the ESDS. To help answer some of the most complex social questions by being able to analyse data of very specific groups



Longitudinal studies are central to enabling researchers to meet the challenges of the ever changing nature of our complex and dynamic society through enabling the mapping of change over time.

or geographies, researchers need access to more detailed, sensitive and potentially disclosive data. This can only be allowed if confidentiality of data can be assured and strict access regimes adhered to. In the light of high profile data losses and increasing public concern over use of personal data such an approach is all the more important. As a result, and representing an exciting development in data access, the ESRC established a pilot service to investigate the feasibility of providing controlled access to sensitive and/or disclosive personal or organisational data.

The Secure Data Service will provide a secure access environment and will be managed and operated according to rules and conditions established by the individuals or organisations with responsibility for the guardianship of the data. Researchers will be trained before allowed to use the service and no analytical outputs will be allowed to be removed from the Service prior to checking for disclosure.

In addition, administrative data represents a largely untapped rich data resource. In recognition of this and the ethical and legal considerations that need to be taken into account by researchers who use administrative data, we have established an Administrative Data Liaison Service (ADLS). Funded initially for three years as a pilot service, the ADLS will work in tandem with government departments and agencies, seeking to develop and improve the use of administrative data resources for research purposes. Along with its service provider role, it will also undertake research into the scope for linkage between various administrative data sources and other personal records (eg survey data, census information), thereby enhancing and extending existing resources.

In terms of promoting specific datasets as part of the ESRC Census Programme, we have sustained our investment in enabling the linking of longitudinal census data in different regions of the UK through continued funding for the Scottish Longitudinal Study Centre and commissioning of a research support unit for the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study. The latter will commence from April 2009 and will enable and promote access to approximately 500,000 people (28 per cent) from the Northern Ireland population.

Along with quantitative data, we also recognise the importance of qualitative data and the context that rich data can add to research. Longitudinal qualitative data is all the more interesting given its ability to explain changes over time and determine the reasons behind those changes. Pioneering the use of longitudinal qualitative data collection methods in the UK is the ESRC funded Qualitative Longitudinal Study (also known as Timescapes). Funded since early 2007, 2008 has seen Timescapes develop a pilot version of a new digital archive of longitudinal qualitative data. This archive is designed to enable access to textual, audio and visual data as a multimedia resource to promote data sharing and re-use and allowing for enhanced insights into how real lives are lived through time.

SUPPORTING, DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

The ESRC is committed to developing and promoting the use of essential and cutting edge research methods by social science researchers. In support of a national initiative to improve quantitative research skills and linking to the existing methods infrastructure available through the National Centre for Research Methods, the ESRC has worked with the Scottish Funding Council and Higher Education Funding Council for Wales to put in place two dedicated centres for the promotion of quantitative methodologies in Scotland and Wales.

In Scotland, the Advanced Quantitative Methods Network will involve a programme of seminars and training events aimed at building capacity in quantitative methods across the social sciences in Scottish Higher Education Institutions. The network will build on existing strategic investment aimed at both encouraging and supporting postgraduate students and academics of all levels to expand their expertise and learn a range of new skills. In Wales, the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Data and Methods at Cardiff University will draw together and build upon the existing expertise in quantitative and qualitative research methods and methodologies at a number of Welsh Universities. The Institute will embark on an ambitious data integration, primary research and capacity building programme.

In further recognition of the importance of developing research skills, in November 2008 we established the Survey Resources Network. Affiliated to the National Centre for Research Methods, the network will integrate and provide a strategic focal point for our various investments in the area of survey research and methodology.

Maximising our International Presence

In an increasingly globalised world UK social science can only thrive if it engages with the best minds, organisations and resources wherever they are found. The ESRC works with the Research Councils UK and other partners both nationally and internationally to remove barriers in order to enable and encourage collaboration between UK researchers and the best researchers around the world, tackling global issues and advancing the frontiers of knowledge.

OPEN RESPONSIVE FUNDING FOR RESEARCH

One of the major barriers faced by international collaborators is access to funding. International collaborators often find themselves facing the 'double jeopardy' of needing to obtain favourable funding decisions from two different national funding organisations. We have sought to address this problem through a series of bilateral funding agreements with other national agencies.

Over the last year new bilateral funding agreements were made with the L'Agence Nationale de la Recherche in France and the National Research Foundation of South Africa, bringing the total number of active agreements to nine. Within these agreements we are increasingly promoting the International Common Application Process and the 'lead agency' approach. Lead agency arrangements have now been extended to our agreements with the Austrian Science Fund and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, allowing decisions to be taken by a single agency on behalf of both organisations fully eliminating double jeopardy.

We have committed to supporting the European Science Foundation's European Collaborative Research Projects Scheme for a further three years which helps to facilitate joint research across 20 European countries. The scheme is designed to advance international research collaboration in the social sciences by facilitating academic collaboration and pooling of expertise in Europe and beyond.

JOINT RESEARCH INITIATIVES

As well as responsive mode funding we continue to develop joint funding initiatives with a number of other funding agencies in order to promote and support international collaboration on research issues of mutual interest.

Working with the United States National Institutes of Health's Office of Behavioural Social Science (OBSSR) we aim to foster and support collaborative research on health inequalities through the issuing of a joint call to support teams of UK and USA investigators. The OBSSR are leading on the commission of projects and funding decisions will be announced in the summer of 2009.

We are also providing partner funding of a pilot call organised by the CO-REACH ERA-NET¹ with the aim of stimulating joint research between Europe and China by supporting collaborative research initiatives in thematic areas in the social sciences and humanities. The thematic areas include:

- Demography, family and welfare
- Cultural heritage
- Law, governance and policy making
- Participation, co-ordination, employment and the quality of life
- Labour market change, migration and social cohesion.

There was a good response from UK based researchers to the call and it is anticipated that a large proportion of awards will involve UK based researchers. Final funding decisions will be announced in spring 2009, with funding for successful UK collaborators provided by the ESRC, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the British Academy.

With our NORFACE² partners we began commissioning of a new Transnational Research Programme on Migration in Europe. Thirteen countries have agreed to provide €23 million to a common pot, leading to a single competition with no bureaucratic issues between different funders. The call is being supplemented with a further €6 million from the European Commission and funding decisions will be announced during the summer of 2009.

Finally, we are participating in two European Science Foundation EUROCORES calls on higher education and social change and better analysis through endangered languages. The scheme aims to promote collaborative research, networking and dissemination while targeting broad and complex topics of research across all scientific domains at the European level and in a global context. >

¹CO-REACH – Co-ordination of Research between Europe and China is a network of European Science and Technology policy and funding organisations involved in promoting research co-operation with China. It is supported by the European Commission via the European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) scheme.

²NORFACE – New Opportunities for Research Collaboration in Europe ERA-NET.



In an increasingly globalised world UK social science can only thrive if it engages with the best minds, organisations and resources wherever they are found.



Maximising our International Presence

EQUIPPING UK SOCIAL SCIENTISTS FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

In 2008 the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures published an update to its Roadmap, which aims to identify the new research infrastructures (or major upgrades) required to meet the long-term needs of the European research communities.

We are currently working hard to secure European Research Infrastructure status for two social science projects included in the Roadmap through our membership of preparatory phase projects for the Council for European Social Data Archives and the European Social Survey.

FOSTERING RELATIONS – BUILDING A GLOBAL SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

From South Asia and China to the Middle East and across the Atlantic to North America, we support scholar exchanges to enable research partners to explore ideas and to start to put them in practice. In 2008 the ESRC, the British Academy and the AHRC made 25 awards under our Visiting Fellowship scheme with South Asia and the Middle East. We also made 18 awards with the British Academy under our China exchange scheme and 19 awards through our Trans-Atlantic scheme with the Social Science Research Council in New York, including collaborations with Argentina, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay and the United States.

In addition, this year we launched a new India-UK scholar exchange scheme in partnership with the India Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR). Ten awards were made this first year helping Indian and UK researchers collaborate on a range of research topics including reproductive health, human rights, the evolution of financial systems and household income and employment. This scheme forms part of a wider range of activities with the ICSSR which also includes jointly sponsored workshops on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change and on Economic Restructuring, Higher Education and Social Change.

We have continued to foster our relations with the Chinese Academy for the Social Sciences through developing plans, a series of co-sponsored workshops. Themes include The Social and Economic Challenges of Ageing Societies and Labour Markets and Migration. We also worked with the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Office in China who sponsored a workshop on Regulation and Governance of Nanotechnology.

In early 2009 we also launched a new scheme aimed at providing opportunities for early career researchers to establish and build potentially long-term international networks and links. A strong response was received to the first call, for which decisions will be announced in early summer 2009.

Research has an important role to play in the global knowledge society of the future.



In October 2008 the Research Councils UK launched the RCUK India office.

NEW RCUK OFFICE IN INDIA

During a visit to India in January 2008, Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced that RCUK would be opening an office in New Delhi, India. With its rapidly expanding economy and its increased spending on research, India is a country of continuing strategic importance to the UK for developing international education, research and innovation partnerships.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, the ESRC took a lead on behalf of the Research Councils UK in establishing the RCUK India Office. The Office had a high profile and successful launch in October 2008. The overall aim of the office is to bring about a step change in strategic level engagement and collaboration between the UK Research Councils and Indian research funding organisations. It works equally on behalf of all the Research Councils to identify and facilitate new research collaborations in priority areas across the breadth of the research base.



I believe that research has an important role to play in the global knowledge society of the future. It is only through collaboration on high-quality research that we will be able to address the global and societal challenges that we face. With its rich tradition of research excellence and ambitious plans for the future, India was an immediate choice for the first group of such overseas offices. I would like to personally thank the UK team for their hard work and the Indian authorities for extending such a welcoming hand to this new facility.



Opening of the Research Councils UK Office in India – Personal message from the Prime Minister (read by Professor John Beddington, UK Chief Scientific Advisor).

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to have an active role in influencing the European seventh Framework Programme (FP7 2007-2010) through membership of the Programme Committee for Social Sciences and the provision of seed-funding awards for UK researchers intending to submit applications for major projects within FP7.

The Department for Innovation Universities and Skills has also contracted us to provide, on their behalf, the National Contact Point for the Science and Society Programme within FP7, the purpose of which is to raise awareness about funding opportunities within the programme, provide support for applicants and liaise with the Commission.

ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

The ESRC continues to be an active member of the International Social Science Council helping it to review its Business and Action plan and participating in its Committee on Developing and Transitional Economies. The Committee joins together researchers and agencies from the north and south in order to examine and make recommendations on key needs to promote greater equivalence and joint research between more advanced and developing and transitional social science countries.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

This has been a year of consolidation for the Joint ESRC and Department for International Development (DFID) Scheme for Poverty Reduction with the focus shifting from commissioning activities to maximising the potential impact of funded research on policy and practice. A scheme workshop on Research Influence and Impact was run in May 2008 in order to support award holders in their reflection on and understanding of research influence and impact, and to advance existing knowledge on how research can be used to drive change.

An independent review of the scheme to inform potential future collaborations reported in March 2009 and stated that the scheme is 'internationally unique (close to being so) in being a bottom up, quality driven research funding scheme in the area of development.' The ESRC and the DFID agree with the review's overall conclusion that the scheme should be continued at a larger scale, and are currently engaged in discussions about launching a second phase of the Scheme in 2009. We will be giving careful consideration to each of the report's findings and recommendations on their merits in light of learning from the first phase of the Scheme.

The ESRC and the Hewlett Scheme on Economic Development and Population Dynamics/Reproductive Health has also shifted focus towards the impact agenda. In January 2009 award holders under the scheme participated in an international workshop held in Dublin together with award holders funded under Hewlett's other bilateral partnerships. Discussions have been initiated between the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the ESRC, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, the French Development Agency, the French Research Institute for Development and the Research Council of Norway to explore possible future synergies.

Building our Future Capacity: Training and Development

The pursuit of excellent scientific endeavour calls for the most highly skilled social science researchers. The ESRC plays a key strategic role in ensuring that the UK social science research community is equipped to respond to the most pressing social and economic challenges. This is achieved through strategic investment in high quality research training and development opportunities to generate skilled researchers for academia but also to develop researchers with the capability to contribute to the wider research base and impact on society more broadly.

MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Maintaining the health of the UK social science base is a persistent challenge and one that is central to our strategy to build future capacity. The ESRC takes a strategic lead in this area by supporting growth and development across all areas of social science, whilst making strategic interventions in those areas where there are particular skills shortages or the need to develop future high quality research capacity.

Over the past year we have continued to tailor support to the needs of priority disciplines. This includes economics where we have maintained enhanced stipends for doctoral students and longer postdoctoral fellowship awards with the aim of retaining excellent scholars to pursue research careers. Towards the latter part of the year, we began to respond to the findings of the International Benchmarking Review of Economics by developing a strategy for building capacity in macroeconomics which has been highlighted as an area requiring more targeted support. The ESRC has responded immediately with additional studentships and is in the process of developing a strategy for building capacity in the medium term.

We have also continued to develop capacity in quantitative research methods throughout the academic life course – from undergraduate level through to more established research at mid career stage – with partnership funding from the Higher Education

Funding Council for England, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the Scottish Funding Council. In the past year this has included the establishment of the Welsh Institute of Social and Economic Data and Methods co-funded by the ESRC and the HEFCW. This close partnership between Cardiff University and four other Welsh HEIs brings together researchers with the clear aim of developing and enhancing social science methods in Wales. In the same period we have also appointed Professor John MacInnes at the University of Edinburgh as ESRC's Strategic Advisor for this area; he is tasked with developing a coherent programme of activity aimed at enhancing undergraduate teaching of quantitative methods across the social sciences.

We have also made good progress in strengthening capacity in other disciplines with:

- The development of a targeted scheme to attract new recruits to management and business including those trained in other social science disciplines and those with strong professional experience in the field. This was made possible using nearly £2 million of funding in partnership with the British Academy of Management and the Society for the Advancement of Management
- Investment in two pilot capacity building networks in Education in England with the aim of developing stronger inter-institutional frameworks to build and extend capacity in this field. The networks in England are running in parallel with the Welsh Education Research Network the Board is co-funding with the HEFCW. All three networks are seeking to share and pool expertise across institutions in order to maximise the overall capacity to conduct high quality social science research
- The appointment of Dr Elaine Sharland at the University of Sussex as Strategic Advisor for Social Work and Social Care with a remit to work with other stakeholders to develop a coherent capacity building strategy in this area.

Whilst sustaining core disciplines continues to be a key element of the ESRC's strategy, we are committed to providing high quality training and development opportunities right across the social science base through flexible postgraduate training opportunities as well as support for researchers at all career stages.

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN DOCTORAL TRAINING

It is widely acknowledged that the ESRC plays a major role in the development of the social science skills base within the UK and takes a strategic lead in driving up the quality of postgraduate training right across the social sciences. The ESRC continues to be the single largest funder of social science postgraduate training within the UK, with an investment of over £45 million per year training, supporting a stock of almost 3,000 studentships.

In the past year we have focused considerable effort on developing the way we organise our support for postgraduate training with the aim of making its policies and procedures as flexible as possible to fully



We are committed to providing high quality training and development opportunities right across the social science base.

exploit the considerable strengths in postgraduate training provision across the UK. The ESRC is confident that the revised framework will play a pivotal role in enhancing postgraduate training provision and the implementation of the framework, focused around major centres of excellence in training provision, will be central to our strategy in the coming period.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT AND EXCHANGE

The range of studentship opportunities offered by the ESRC has never been greater. In addition to standard studentship awards allocated to institutions through a quota exercise and an annual open competition, the ESRC continues to fund a range of studentships in partnership with a variety of public, private and third sector organisations. This includes support for interdisciplinary capacity building through joint schemes with the Natural Environment Research Council and the Medical Research Council.

We also continue to co-sponsor training with government departments and devolved administrations. A total of 88 studentship awards were made through CASE (Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering) and the government collaborative scheme this year; continuing our commitment to embed knowledge transfer in training and development opportunities. Reinforcing this commitment, we funded six Capacity Building Clusters; four focussing on business and engagement and a further two in the third sector. The clusters combine a range of opportunities to foster greater engagement amongst researchers at the early stages of their careers with users in these sectors, including CASE studentships, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and co-sponsored placements.

In addition we have further expanded the portfolio of opportunities available to doctoral students and early career researchers including overseas university visits and three month placements with government departments, business or third sector organisations.

This year we also launched a new scheme aimed at developing international mobility, exchange and networking opportunities for early career researchers.

DEVELOPING THE SKILLS OF UK SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

Developing the social science skills base in the UK takes us beyond doctoral level investment. We continue to provide support for Postdoctoral Fellowships as well as the recently introduced Mid-Career Fellowship Scheme which offers more structured support for established academics. In addition, we have committed to expand training and development opportunities through the Researcher Development Initiative.

This initiative currently supports over 40 projects and commissioning for a fourth round of projects is underway. We have appointed Professor Mike Wallace at Cardiff University as Strategic Advisor for Researcher Development to further develop the ESRC's strategy for strengthening the professionalism of social science research through a strong emphasis on high level research and transferable skills training at doctoral level, as well as providing opportunities for excellent researchers to develop their skills throughout their careers.

THE YEAR AHEAD

During the next 12 months the ESRC will continue to focus effort on strengthening the capacity of the social science research base including developing its support for the health of social sciences disciplines. The implementation of a revised framework for postgraduate training will be central to this mission with the creation of a national network of Doctoral Training Centres and Doctoral Training Units providing the infrastructure for the delivery of ESRC postgraduate training in the years that follow.

Impacting on Society: Impact, Evaluation and Knowledge Transfer

The ESRC believes that social science research can and should have ongoing and significant impacts. Many of the policies of the last decade in relation to benefits and family tax credits, for example, have been informed by rigorous social science research, most of it funded by the ESRC. Similarly, public sector productivity and a healthy workforce are as important to the UK's economic wellbeing as increased profits in the private sector.

International benchmarking assessments are demonstrating that the UK is second only to the United States in terms of research quality and impact and leads the world in some areas. Our Impact Strategy builds on the excellent record of the UK social sciences in academic impact.

The concept of 'impact' in the social sciences applies to all sectors: public, private and voluntary. Impacts include both direct and often quantifiable economic benefits; wider social impacts of more general benefit such as effects on the environment, public health or quality of life; and impacts on government policy, the third sector and professional practice.

DEVELOPING IMPACT

The ESRC's Impact Strategy ensures the highest economic and societal impact of our activities. This strategy was informed by the *Sainsbury Review of Science and Innovation: the race to the top and the Government's Innovation Nation White Paper*.

The strategy brings together and explains how the ESRC will create and support economic and societal impact through its investments in research, people and data and methods, and how this will be supported by knowledge transfer, communication and evaluation activities.

In 2008-09 the ESRC introduced a follow-on grants scheme, providing funding to the social science community where the research team can demonstrate the potential for significant economic or societal impact. Also new for 2008 was the funding of a range of Capacity Building Clusters for the business sector and third sector. The clusters provide a critical mass of people exchange facilities, through a flexible portfolio of studentships, partnerships awards, placements and a voucher scheme.

The impact strategy is supported throughout the ESRC and 2008 saw the introduction of an Impact Management Team within the ESRC office. The team provides an enhanced focus on promoting, supporting and monitoring research impact, and is working to identify and promote best practice amongst ESRC investments. Recent activities have included the introduction of streamlined reporting arrangements and reviews of communication plans, key performance indicators and governance arrangements.

EVALUATION

During 2008 the ESRC commissioned and completed ten independent evaluations of major investment reviews, published further benchmarking of the international performance of UK social science, and extended its evaluation of the policy and practice impact of ESRC research.

Evaluations have provided assessments of the academic quality and practical impact of a range of ESRC research including major programmes on devolution and constitutional change, the e-society, evolution of business knowledge, demographic change in Scotland, together with research groups and networks on global poverty, the social contexts of pathways into crime and human capability and resilience. The evaluations underline the very high quality of ESRC research, with a wide range of important contributions to social science theory and methods as well as valuable advances in empirical understanding.

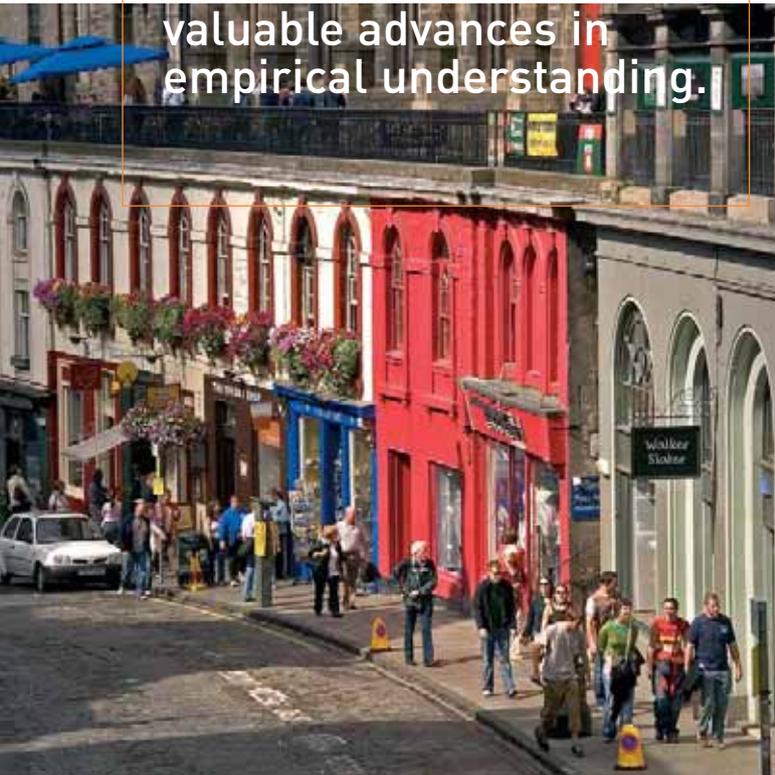
We also completed the evaluation of 401 research projects. The results show high quality academic impact, with 32 per cent of the research projects being graded 'Outstanding' – indicating work that has made an exceptional research contribution – through an independent peer review process.

The ESRC is sponsoring a series of reviews in partnership with professional associations to benchmark the international academic impact of UK social science disciplines. Following previous assessments of social anthropology and political science, a review of UK economics was completed this year in partnership with the Royal Economic Society. The review panel of leading international experts concluded that the research achievements by UK scholars are exceptional by world standards and that the UK profession is second only to the United States in its international prominence. The review pointed to the need to bolster the UK's capacity in macroeconomics and the Council has responded by making new investments to strengthen research capacity in this area. Further benchmarking work is underway with a review of UK sociology in 2009.

Impact on Policy and Practice

The ESRC's assessment of the practical impact of its research continued this year with impact evaluations of the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE) and the People at the Centre of Communication and Information Technologies (PACCIT). The reviews revealed the important impact

The evaluations underline the very high quality of ESRC research, with a wide range of important contributions to social science theory and methods as well as valuable advances in empirical understanding.



of the CSERGE research on national and international environmental policy, ranging from reports for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to important contributions to UK landfill tax, road investment and water management policies. The PACCIT researchers made important advances in understanding the human factor in software design and worked with industrial partners to produce valuable commercial applications from their research.

These case studies form part of a series of evaluations which aims to identify impact evidence, to understand the factors underpinning successful engagement and to test and develop evaluation methodologies. During 2008 the ESRC piloted the introduction of economic evaluation techniques into its assessment portfolio and launched the first full-scale reviews of this kind. We will use economic evaluation techniques where they can be applied appropriately and robustly. These techniques can capture one element of research impact and the Council recognises the importance of applying them within its wider framework for assessing the full range of research contributions to policy and practice.

This year the ESRC published its *Taking Stock* report which provides an update on its work to assess policy and practice impact and looks forward to further developments. The report is available on our website at: <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/takingstock>

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

The ESRC has introduced and developed a range of processes and mechanisms to actively engage with stakeholders. These processes are used to generate impacts and create benefits for stakeholders, individuals and communities.

We have established six strategic aims to help with this stakeholders engagement: managing knowledge transfer schemes; organising a range of engagement activities; building capacity through learning and development; delivering high quality knowledge brokering services; and generating, maximising and publicising the resulting impacts.

Our innovative approach to engagement is illustrated by the life course approach we have adopted for people transfer. Through a range of ESRC initiatives, undergraduates to experienced academics now have opportunities to work in business, the public sector and third sector organisations on projects of mutual benefit and interest. Similarly, staff from these organisations can gain from and contribute to academic units by spending time in that setting.

Promoting engagement and exchange

The Placement Fellowship Scheme is an opportunity for social scientists to work with partner organisations such as government departments and devolved administrations on projects of policy relevance and to upgrade the research skills of partner organisation employees. It also enables public sector employees to spend time within academia. During the year 12 public sector organisations hosted fellows including: the Department of Health; Her Majesty's Treasury; the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister Northern Ireland; the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service; the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council; the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); and the Department for Work and Pensions. Two reverse placements also took place with fellows from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills taking up placements at the London School of Economics and Royal Holloway, University of London.

One of the fellows completing this year was Dr Tim Harries, of the Flood Hazard Research Centre at Middlesex University. The role of his fellowship in Defra was to provide academic insights for policymakers on how to encourage floodplain residents to take long-term measures to prepare for flooding. He was one of the main authors of a draft policy on promoting property-level flood protection and resilience that was published in the form of a public consultation document and an associated impact assessment. >

Impacting on Society: Impact, Evaluation and Knowledge Transfer

Student Internship Scheme

During the year 42 internships were made under the Student Internship Scheme which offers PhD students a three month placement in a non-academic host organisation within the public, private or third sector. Students work on specific projects involved with public or organisational policy.

For example:

Sophie Millner, who is currently conducting a PhD at the University of Bradford, took up a placement at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in 2008. Her PhD focuses on civil renewal and citizen engagement in Government Policy and she was involved in updating the Council's report on *Civil Renewal and Active Citizenship: A Guide to the Debate*.

CASE Studentships

The CASE Studentship scheme is the largest of the collaborative schemes funded as part of the ESRC's commitment to knowledge transfer. These awards encourage greater interaction between academia and non-academic organisations by providing opportunities for students based in UK academic institutions to carry out research in conjunction with private, public or third/voluntary sector organisations. During the year, 39 per cent of CASE studentships took place with the public sector, 33 per cent with the third sector/civil society and 28 per cent with the business and social enterprise sectors.

Social Science Workplace Experience Programme

The ESRC also established the Social Science Workplace Experience Programme (formerly the Enterprising Social Science Programme) in 2008, managed by Step Enterprise Ltd, offers undergraduates and post-graduate social science students the opportunity to undertake an eight-week placement during the summer within a small to medium sized enterprise (SMEs).

For example:

Andrew Garnham a finance, accounting and management student from the University of Nottingham, made a lasting impact on his placement organisation, Caring for Carers at West Suffolk Crossroads. They provide practical support for carers who and their families throughout West Suffolk. Andrew developed their marketing activities, raised its profile within the local community and opened up potential streams for further funding.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

The Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) play a key role in the ESRC's investment in knowledge transfer. The projects are carried out by a recent graduate or postgraduate in a relationship with a company/organisation and an academic partner. 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.

During the year the ESRC supported 114 KTPs, 57 of which started in 2008-09. Fifteen of these new partnerships are with a business organisation, 19 in the voluntary sector and 23 in the public sector. The ESRC contribution to the scheme was £1.23 million.

For example:

The Farleigh Education Group, now part of a mental health and special education services provider; the Priory Group, has been working with the University of Bath on a two-year partnership to develop and implement a computer-based information and distance learning facility for professionals who work with young people with Asperger's Syndrome. As a result of the collaboration, the Priory Group gained a cost-effective, up-to-date in-house training tool for up to 1,000 members of staff. The associate, Geraldine Jones, developed technical skills in a real-life business context. She is now an e-learning Support officer for the Department for Education.

Developing learning and skills capacities

The ESRC is committed to promoting stakeholder engagement and practical research application with our research investments, researchers and students. In order to encourage this activity we provided a programme of training and development workshops. The workshops commenced in December 2008 and to date four workshops have been conducted; two have focused on engaging with the public sector and one each on engaging with the third and private sectors.

Entrepreneurial training is also offered to our PhD students through the Enterprisers Programme. The four day residential and interactive programme is designed to ensure that the participating student becomes equipped with entrepreneurial and transferable skills. The scheme supports a social and ethical context for venture creation and development of innovative ideas, and stimulates enterprising projects. Participants also become part of a valuable international network of people who are developing their entrepreneurial skills in business, communities and organisations.

ENGAGING WITH KEY SECTORS

The ESRC actively engages with business, the public and the third sectors. As part of the delivery of the ESRC Business Engagement Strategy we commissioned follow on workshops which explored the issues raised by last years scoping studies and asked businesses to outline the key challenges facing their sectors.

Four new Business Capacity Building Clusters were funded which will enable the building of research capacity within the business arena using a combination of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, CASE Studentships, student placements and a vouchers scheme.

Five awards were made under our Business Engagement Opportunities Scheme which aims to encourage engagement with priority sector businesses through a package of activity worth up



Through a range of ESRC initiatives, undergraduates to experienced academics now have opportunities to work in business, the public sector and third sector organisations on projects of mutual benefit and interest.

to £100,000 in funding. Ten new Business Placement Fellowships were funded which enable businesses to engage with academics on projects that are defined by the business user and also enable business people to carry out supervised research with in an academic department. These awards were with SMEs and large corporate businesses and they engaged with a variety of business sectors including creative industries, retail and tourism. In addition, issues of relevance to our key business sectors were addressed through a range of collaborative seminars and workshops.

The cross-Council Local Authority Research Council Initiative has conducted and commissioned a number of strategic reviews on cross-cutting themes of relevance to local authorities, ranging from sustainable development to civic leadership and public service innovation. Five seminars and workshops facilitating closer contact between local government and the Research Councils took place and local government input was secured into a number of Research Council commissioning panels, reviews and consultations. The initiative has significantly broadened its networks and capacity to facilitate dialogue with local government with the establishment of a Strategic Board chaired by Professor John Benington from Warwick Business School, which brings together chief executives of local authorities and Research Councils as well as senior representatives across local government.

The ESRC's Third Sector Strategy aims to: build the evidence base for this sector; enhance capacity for conducting and utilising relevant third sector research; develop and utilise a range of appropriate mechanisms to facilitate knowledge exchange and maximising the impact of our third sector research and relevant knowledge transfer activities. We seek to implement the strategy in partnership with the sector:

In 2008 the ESRC in a £10.25 million partnership with the Office of the Third Sector and the Barrow Cadbury Trust launched a five year independent multi-disciplinary centre for third sector research.

The Third Sector Research Centre brings together experts from a wide range of disciplines and is dedicated to analysing the impact of the sector's activities and effectiveness. Three Capacity Building Clusters, focussing on social enterprise, community empowerment and the economic impact of the third sector will support the work of the centre.

A joint initiative between the ESRC and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations provides an opportunity for our PhD award holders in their second or third year to undertake a three-month placement at National Council for Voluntary Organisations working on issues of civil renewal and citizen engagement in government policy.

Our activities with the public sector included 13 public policy seminars at which the UK's leading social scientists presented their latest research and drew out the policy options on topics ranging from reducing greenhouse gas emissions to social enterprise in public services.

In addition, we have expanded the portfolio of Public Policy Seminars to include third sector, industry and business-focused topics. Recent seminars of this nature included collaboration with Technology Strategy Board on two seminars addressing: Human behaviours to moving people and goods more intelligently and how people use and misuse buildings? Third sector seminars included the Impact of personal budgets on third sector providers of social care in collaboration with the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations and a series of three seminars on the Third sector in Scotland with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Communicating and Engaging with Society

The ESRC's research makes a vital contribution to the wellbeing of the UK economy, society and the wider global community. An important aspect of the ESRC's mission is to disseminate knowledge and promote understanding and value of its research and social sciences. In recent years our communication and engagement activity has had a sharper focus to aid in maximising the impacts of our research and reinforce the ESRC's leadership role within the social science community. We are determined that our research influences and reaches the people who matter from MPs and policymakers through to members of the public.

To ensure that we enhance the awareness and engagement with ESRC activities we are developing a new dedicated External Communications Strategy that is closely aligned to the organisation's Strategic Plan 2009-2014. This new strategy will be introduced in summer 2009.

In 2008-09 we have continued to: improve how we demonstrate and disseminate the impact and value of our world class research; increased our activities to engage with young people; explored new techniques to update our web presence; supported our researchers in their communication and engagement activities and increased social science engagement with the public through the Festival of Social Science.

PROMOTING OUR WORLD CLASS RESEARCH

In July 2008 we launched a new regular ESRC magazine – *Society Now*. The free magazine is published three times a year with a readership of over 26,000 it presents ESRC research in an appealing manner to a broad audience. It works alongside our annual newsstand magazine *Britain in*. The third issue of the magazine *Britain in 2009* was published in November 2008.

The magazine is targeted at a wide and informed audience. It showcases social sciences and is designed to appeal to those who enjoy informed debate, current affairs and have an interest in social sciences and UK society. The magazine goes from strength to strength and since its launch in 2007, it has increased its distribution to supermarkets, Borders and WH Smiths and increased sales by 128 per cent. The two ESRC magazines are supported by a bimonthly e-newsletter which highlights funding opportunities and corporate news intended for our academic and social science community audiences.

Towards the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 the UK saw the recession take hold. During this period ESRC funded experts and our research shed light on the growing financial crisis. In response to the crisis we ran a very successful lecture series in early 2009 looking at issues such as how recession affects our mental health and happiness, what the impact of recession will be on global poverty, and whether it is a threat or an opportunity for the green economy.

The ESRC also funded a poster which was distributed through the *New Scientist* magazine which gave a condensed, easy access history of economics and a guide to some of its theories and background on the current crisis.

In addition, we used our popular Public Policy Seminar series for expert researchers and practitioners to explore the important economic and policy issues facing the UK and the wider global society in the changing economic circumstances. In summer 2009 we are looking forward to the publishing of a supporting economics publication.

GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED

Social science has an important contribution to make in enhancing the understanding and engagement between science and the public. This includes reaching schools and young people to help create informed citizens that are aware and interested in the contribution that social science research makes to UK society.

For the second year, the ESRC has supported the UK Debating Matter competition, sponsoring the Central and North West/North Wales regions. The competition encourages sixth form pupils to discuss and engage with current issues in a debate format. Each debate includes a panel of judges who listen to the cases being presented and challenge the arguments being made. The winning teams then compete in one of the eight regional finals, leading to the national final based in London.



In 2008 ESRC launched a new magazine – *Society Now* to work alongside its annual newstand magazine *Britain in.*

We have also continued to sponsor the extremely popular two-day Battle of Ideas Festival, a high-level, thought-provoking debate organised by the Institute of Ideas and hosted by the Royal College of Art. As part of the 2008 event, the ESRC sponsored over 150 young people to attend as ESRC School's Champion. Favourite debates included *The Battle over homework: an Englishman's home is in his classroom* and *Whose data is it anyway? Medical databases, privacy and trust.*

In 2008 the ESRC progressed with developing its programme of activities and resources to provide social science teachers with contemporary research. A section dedicated to schools and young people has been created on *ESRC Society Today*. Resource sheets have been produced which outline what contemporary research shows about young people including their university choices, issues with body image and involvement in crime. >

Communicating and Engaging with Society



WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

ESRC Society Today (www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk) is the culmination of a project that was conceived in early 2003, launched in March 2005, and has been successfully meeting a diverse range of social science information needs for almost four years.

As part of an ongoing cycle of development work on the website, during 2008-09 focus has been given to scoping and implementing features to support impact and evaluation through the awards and outputs database, developing the service as a publication with more commissioned content, development of content for audience specific channels and continued work to support the open access agenda and interoperability with other repositories.

As *ESRC Society Today* has now been running since March 2005, and the cultural and technological space in which it operates has evolved, a fundamental review of the service is being undertaken over 2009, with the objective of redeveloping the site for spring 2010. This should enable the site to continue supporting ESRC in meeting key challenges in line with its new Strategic Plan.

SUPPORTING OUR RESEARCHERS

The ESRC's support for the delivery of communication and engagement activities by its research investments extends beyond funding and includes the provision of communication guides, an online communications toolkit, media training and also practical help from the ESRC Office.

In 2008-09 we trained 178 researchers. In 2008 we also piloted a number of workshops aimed at early career researchers to help develop their communication and engagement skills. Collaboratively funded PhD students had the opportunity to attend a session focussing on the value of engagement and tips to organising events. Postdoctoral researchers were also given the opportunity to explore issues around dialogue and public engagement. Professor Danny Burns from the Beacons for Public Engagement addressed the early career researchers at the ESRC's annual postdoctoral conference. Further training for researchers in science in society is being developed in collaboration with Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the Beacons for Public Engagement.

The online communications toolkit was updated with a new interactive media section. In addition, we developed public engagement advice for those hosting events within the ESRC Festival of Social Science. In November 2008 we hosted the fourth ESRC communications conference. This one-day event, organised around workshops, is an opportunity for the communication specialists and administrators working for ESRC investments to meet and share best practice and exchange experiences of the communication challenges they face from engaging with stakeholders through to web administration.

The seventh ESRC annual Festival of Social Science was the largest to date with 110 events across 44 different UK locations.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The ESRC's Science in Society strategy focuses specifically on the ESRC's engagement with the public and its role in leading the social science community to embed public engagement and public dialogue in social science practice.

We held our second biennial Open Meeting in October 2008. This public meeting presented a summary of the responses to our Strategic Plan consultation for 2009-2014. Over 100 people from business, policy, third sector and the media attended to voice their opinions and question the ESRC board and committee members on the strategic direction of the ESRC.

The year also saw the seventh ESRC annual Festival of Social Science which was the largest to date. Over 110 events were held in 44 different locations across the UK with 50 per cent of events targeting either the general public or young people in schools. Events offered something for everyone – from exhibitions, to film screenings, virtual debates, hands-on experimentation and stories broadcast on BBC World Service. Researchers offered insight into key issues facing the UK including the economy, use of stem cells, environment, organ donation and social enterprise.

In 2008 the ESRC took on the role of leading public engagement strategy for the Living with Environmental Change programme (LWEC) and the RCUK Global Uncertainties programme. Current activities within LWEC which are being explored include the

development of a citizen's panel to advise the research funding priorities and engaging with young people to explore their concerns over the management of environmental issues. Work on the Global Uncertainties programme will start later in 2009.

LOOKING FORWARD

Looking forward to 2009-10 the ESRC's communication and dissemination activities will be closely aligned to supporting the new Strategic Plan. Identifying and disseminating the impact of ESRC funded research will be a primary objective and communication vehicles to showcase them will be developed.

We will work with partners from the social science community to support the ESRC's leadership in the areas of public engagement and public dialogue. We will continue to develop the website as a more interactive communication channel, particularly for the development of our schools and young people's resources.

Making Headlines

During 2008-09 the ESRC ran an active media campaign promoting and disseminating ESRC research and social science across a wide range of media outlets.

Coverage ranged across diverse and topical issues, from migration to education through to children safety and binge drinking, within the pages of the broadsheets, the internet, specialist magazines and local press, both national and international.

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 Business | Recession
Cutting the payroll means unhappy dividends
 Simon Caulkin
 The Observer, Sunday 8 March 2009
 Article history

Happiness hardly seems at the top of the management agenda when the financial world is falling apart. But, as participants at a seminar on "Recession: health and happiness", organised by the Economic and Social Research Council, heard last week, it probably should be.

Hard times put a premium on real priorities. One of the founding assumptions (and justifications) of conventional economics is that money CAN buy me love, or at least wellbeing: and if wellbeing increases with wealth, GDP growth is obviously of cardinal importance. But in many countries over the past half century, soaring levels of crime, deprivation, depression and addiction to alcohol and drugs, much of the increases in happiness that ought to be expected from steadily rising living standards.

The Easterlin paradox, as this is called - after A. Richard Easterlin - has prompted economists at the seminar, including Richard Layard of the LSE and Warwick University's Prof. Layard, to argue that the switch from GDP growth to measures that more directly measure happiness. As BBC presenter Evan Davies, who pointed out, this is the first recession since the government has taken happiness seriously: an appropriate time to take it seriously and act on them.

The Weekly News

BUILDING BLOCKS TO SPEECH

BABIES who blow bubbles with their lips could be brighter than you think. In fact, they might even be child geniuses, writes Maggie Wilson.

Youngsters who lick their lips and pretend a building block is a car are also more likely to come out tops. The study by the Economic and Social Research Council has found that children who behave like this are more likely to learn to talk and read easier.

The study at Lancaster University looked at more than 120 children aged 21 months. That's when they're learning words at a faster rate than at any other time in life.



Experts

Psychologists found that youngsters who were poor at moving their mouths and lips were slower at learning language skills.

Now, researchers believe the findings could help child experts identify children who are most likely to have problems with speech and words in later life.

The Western Mail

Research points the way to giving teachers tools to be more effective

To encourage teachers to adopt "inclusive teaching", the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded an action research-based project. Co-authors Susan Davies from Trinity College Carmarthen and Andy Howes from the University of Manchester set out their findings.

SCHOOLS that support teachers to work collaboratively to think about, implement and evaluate changes in how they teach are using an effective method to develop inclusion. This is one of the findings of a two-year study carried out in Welsh and English secondary schools.

practical support, and encouragement of dissemination. Other factors that contribute to successful teacher engagement included the size, selection method and composition of teacher groups.

Another important condition for making this method work was the existence of a...

The Daily Telegraph

Young reject anti-binge drinking ads

By Ben Leach

RESEARCHERS from Bath and Birmingham universities say the Government must stop "demonising" young people in its attempts to promote safe drinking.

The study found that advertisements such as the Home

themselves, being violent and smearing vomit into their hair.

The research, which was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, concluded that young people did not recognise their own drinking patterns in advertisements that took a negative stance.

between 18 and 20 years. They say they do not have to look aggressive in any kind of significant way. Prof Christian Davies led the research for the Government action. She said: "The

start

Making Headlines

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Where am I? Home Business Industry Sectors Health

October 27, 2008

Credit crunch threatens investment in medicines

Catherine Boyle

The credit crisis is threatening the number of new medicines coming to market as funding for biotechnology companies declines.

Investment in drug research is seriously threatened as investors become more risk-averse amid the economic meltdown, according to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

At the same time, the world's pharmaceutical giants are making huge cuts to their workforces. Although the bulk of the estimated 60,000 cuts worldwide in the past few years has been to salesforces, there have been cuts to research and development. GlaxoSmithKline, the world's second-largest pharmaceutical

The Courier and Advertiser

Looks count in choosing partner

THE ATTITUDES of young people to casual sex are written on their faces.

That's the conclusion of researchers who found young men and women could accurately judge from looks alone who was more open to one-night stands.

Scientists at St Andrews, Aberdeen and Durham universities say results of a study into male attractiveness show people can use

their perceptions to make more informed partner selection depending on the relationship they are after.

The research also found men prefer women they think are open to short-term sexual relationships, while women are interested in potential long-term mates.

Furthermore, it concluded young men and women seek out complete opposites for relationships.

Dr Ben Jones, of Aberdeen University's face research lab, said: "Lots of previous studies have shown that people can judge a lot about a person from their face, including things like health and even some personality traits like introversion, but this really is the first study to show that people are also sensitive to subtle facial signals about the type of romantic



According to the research the face on the right is of someone who is more likely to be interested in a short-term sexual relationship while the one on the left is more likely to be interested in a long-term relationship.

Daily Express

Danger from just 7 cups of coffee a day

By Mark Blacklock

TOO much coffee can make you hallucinate and sense dead people say sleep experts.

The equivalent of just seven cups of instant coffee a day is enough to trigger the weird responses.

People who consume lots of caffeine in a typical day are three times more likely to experience the freaky hallucinogenic effect when they try to sleep than those who stick to just the odd cuppa. Tea, high energy drinks and even chocolate could also all contribute to the daily caffeine "fix".

Volunteers in a research project who tended to consume high levels of caffeine reported hearing voices when no one was there and seeing visions of things that did not exist.

They also typically reported a strong sense that they were in the presence of the dead.

Around 200 students were studied in the course of the research. The results



Can caffeine make you hallucinate? the causes of such visions. He added:

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Families of children

Medical News Article on Cancer

Families of children with cancer support tissue research, study finds

2008 APR 14 - Families of children with cancer support research using tissue samples left over after operations, a new study has found.

Contrary to reports of a public crisis of confidence in tissue-based research, a team led by the University of Leicester found that all 20 children and 59 parents they interviewed would be happy to consent to donating samples to a tissue bank for childhood cancer research. The study was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Wellcome Trust.

"These findings show that anxieties about asking families to donate tissue for research may be misplaced," said Professor Mary...

In order to view the entire article, please read your options to the right.

vital statistics

- WHO'S WHO AT THE ESRC
- RESEARCH
- DATA AND METHODS
- INTERNATIONAL
- TRAINING
- KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER
- ESRC SOCIETY TODAY
- DATA PROTECTION AND INFORMATION SECURITY
- EXPENDITURE





WORLD CLASS RESEARCH

We have continued to maintain, in both responsive and directive mode, a large portfolio of world class research across a variety of disciplines from economics to history, psychology to social anthropology and in inter-disciplinary areas.

Vital Statistics: Who's Who at the ESRC

Council, Boards, Committees and Staff

Members of Council 2008-2009

The following Council Members were appointed by the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and serve for terms of two to six years, the dates given show their term of appointment.



Lord Adair Turner
(NB: Left
September 2008)
Chair
ESRC
2007-2008



Professor Charlie Jeffery
Professor of Politics
University of Edinburgh
2005-2008



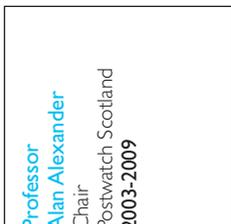
Professor Ian Diamond
Chief Executive
ESRC
2003-2010
Acting Chair
ESRC
2008-2009



Professor Malcolm Grant
Provost and President
University College
London
2008-2011



Professor Ann Buchanan
Professor of Social Work
and Director of the
Centre for Research into
Parenting and Children
University of Oxford
2007-2010



Professor Alan Alexander
Chair
Postwatch Scotland
2003-2009



Mr Martin Brookes
Director of Research
New Philanthropy
Capital
2007-2010



Professor Andrew Pettigrew
Dean School of
Management
University of Bath
2004-2008



Professor Judith Rees
Professor of
Environmental and
Resources
Management London
School of Economics
2004-2010



Professor Carol Propper
Professor of Economics
of Public Policy
University of Bristol
2005-2008



Mr Dave Ramsden
Chief Macroeconomist
and Director of the
Macroeconomics and
Fiscal Policy Group
HM Treasury
2008-2012



Mr John Neilson
Representative of the
Secretary of State for
Innovation, Universities
and Skills
Department of
Innovation, Universities
and Skills*

* Now the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Board and Committee Members 2008-09

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Board
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Dr T Bradshaw
Professor J Burgess

Vice-Chair

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Professor H Margetts
Professor C McInnes
Mr F Millen

Secretary

Professor C Orme
Professor S Owens
Ms C Roberts

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Professor J Solomos

Professor J Stevenson
Professor M Whitehead

Professor F Williams
Ms M Dodson

Secretary

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Professor C O'Malley
Professor A Tickell

Vice-Chair

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Professor P Allmendinger
Professor S Arber
Professor G Boyne
Professor R Carter

Professor M Conway
Professor B Francis
Professor P Gattrell

Mr R Laslet
Professor N MacFarlane

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Professor S Monsell

Professor E Page
Professor H Rainbird

Dr S Randall

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Professor L Reichlin

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Professor K Rowlingson
Professor C Sedikides

Vice-Chair

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Professor D Wall
Professor J Brannen
Dr C Holdsworth
Mr M Hughes
Ms S Jones

Dr L Lyon
Mr J Nazroo
Professor F Steele

Professor G Wagner
Mr M Whitbread

Professor S Wood
Ms S Millard

Secretary
Professor P Elias

Ex Officio

Chair

(Vacant)

Chief Executive/Acting Chair

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Communication and Information Directorate (CID)

2. Drs Astrid Wissenburg – Director

3. Mr Iain Jones – Deputy Director

Finance and Awards Management Division (FAM)

4. Mr Brian Hooper – Director

Research Directorate (RD)

5. Mr Adnan Alsop – Director

6. Ms Helen Thorne – Deputy Director

Policy and Resources Directorate (PRD)

7. Mr Phil Sooben – Head of Corporate Strategy

8. Mr Jeremy Neathey – Deputy Director

9. Mr Glyn Davies – Director of International Affairs

Training and Development Board

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Chair

Professor S Bulmer
Professor D Byrne

Dr S Campbell
Dr S Delamont

Professor S Dex
Professor J Field

Professor C Huxham
Professor K Lee

Professor M Martin-Jones
Professor J Micklewright

Professor M Overton
Mr C Park

Professor A Rutland
Ms S Witherspoon

Ms J McLaren
Secretary

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Mr M Brookes

Chair

Professor A Buchanan
Professor A Goddard

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Research Evaluation Committee

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Ex Officio

Communication and Information Committee

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Chair

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Mr N Churchill

Dr R Cliffe
Ms J England

Professor C Heath
Mr D May

Mr G Nicol
Mr G Power

Ms J Reeve
Mr W Rossiter

Mr J Rowley
Professor G Stoker

Ms S Ward
Drs A Wissenburg

Secretary

International Advisory Committee

Professor M Lamb

Chair

Dr L Anderson
Professor K Brown

Professor S Bulmer
Professor P Elias

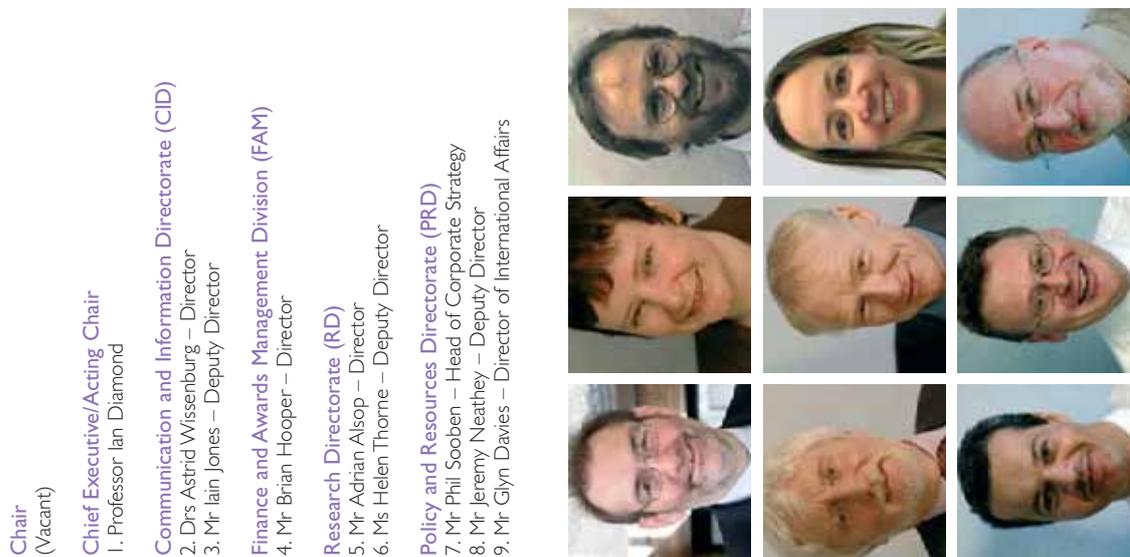
Professor J Falkingham
Professor J de Haan

Professor C McInnes
Professor T Nichols

Professor A Tickell
Professor M Vihaman

Mr M Bright
Secretary

Senior Staff at the ESRC (in post at 31 March 2009)



1 2 3

4 5 6

7 8 9

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

43

Through our Research Grants and Strategic Research Boards we provide funding through five main streams: research centres and groups, research programmes and networks, research grants, research resources and ventures.

Research centres are major investments in one or more of the ESRC's key challenges. They are funded for an initial period of ten years, subject to a satisfactory mid-term review. Selection is based on a competition steered towards one or more of the challenges, with peer and merit review processes involved. **Research groups** are selected via the same competition as centres but for an initial period of five years.

Research programmes are groups of related projects, together addressing one or more of ESRC's priorities. They are typically five years in duration. Selection is based on a competition worked around a specification for the programme, with peer and merit review processes involved.

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.

Large grants are large-scale research projects that provide funding for up to five years above the standard research grant of £1.5 million, and up to £5 million. The scheme is a source of support for experienced researchers. The scheme is based on open competition and there are no restrictions on the nature of the social science research to be undertaken.

The **Research Ventures** fund is available for collaborative proposals which lie outside current ESRC funding modes. The ESRC Ventures Scheme offers the opportunity to collaborate with interested parties willing to co-fund research programmes.

Major research investments 2008-09

Below is a list of current ESRC-funded investments. Many of the investments, particularly the research Ventures are multi-disciplinary but for the purpose of the report and for ease of use they have been listed by their most appropriate subject area.

Economics and Economic Development

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
An examination of the impact of family socio-economic status on outcomes in late childhood and adolescence	Large grant	April 2007 – March 2012	£3.6 million	N/A	Professor P Gregg 0117 331 0825 p.gregg@bristol.ac.uk http://www.bristol.ac.uk/ffsoca/
Capacity in Economics of Health	Venture	2008-09 – 2011-12	£896,000 (ESRC Contribution) £1.8 million (Partner Contribution)	Medical Research Council (MRC) and National Co-ordinating Centre for Research Capacity Development	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE)	Venture	October 2009 – September 2014	£4.4 million	N/A	Professor N Crafts 02476 523468 n.crafts@warwick.ac.uk
Centre for Competition Policy (CCP)	Centre	September 2004 – August 2013	£3.1 million	N/A	Professor C Waddams 0160 359 3715 c.waddams@uea.ac.uk http://www.ccp.uea.ac.uk
Centre for Economic Learning and Social Evolution (ELSE)	Centre	October 1995 – September 2010	£3 million	N/A	Professor M Armstrong 020 7679 4565 mark.armstrong@ucl.ac.uk http://else.econ.ucl.ac.uk
Centre for Economic Performance (CEP)	Centre	April 1990 – September 2015	£7.2 million	N/A	Professor J Van Reenen 020 7955 7049 j.vanreenen@lse.ac.uk http://cep.lse.ac.uk
Centre for Market and Public Organisation (CMPO)	Centre	October 2004 – September 2014	£3.7 million	N/A	Professor S Burgess 0117 928 8436 simon.burgess@bristol.ac.uk http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cmppo
Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy (CPP)	Centre	April 1991 – September 2011	£5.3 million	N/A	Professor R Blundell 020 7291 4820 r.blundell@ifs.org.uk http://www.ifs.org.uk/esrc

continue

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Economics and Economic Development (continued)

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Centre for Spatial Economics	Venture	2008-09 – 2010-11	£1.2 million (ESRC Contribution) £1.2 million (Partners Contribution)	Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Department for Communities and Local Government and Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)	Dr H Overman 020 7955 6581 h.g.overman@lse.ac.uk http://www.spatial-economics.ac.uk
Health, Economics and Data Group	Large grant	October 2008 – September 2012	£1.3 million	N/A	Professor N Rice 01904 321 438 nr5@york.ac.uk
World Economy and Finance Programme (WEF)	Programme	March 2004 – February 2009	£5.8 million Phase I – 16 projects Phase II – 10 projects	N/A	Professor J Driffill 020 7631 6417 j.driffill@ems.bbk.ac.uk http://www.world-economy-and-finance.org

Education, Psychology, Cognition and Linguistics

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Addictions (commissioned 2008-09)	Venture	2009-10 – 2013-14	£500,000 (ESRC Contribution) £4 million (Partners Contribution)	MRC	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW)	Centre	October 2006 – September 2011	£3.1 million	N/A	Dr E Kendall 0131 651 3777 elisabeth.kendall@ed.ac.uk http://www.casaw.ac.uk
British Inter-University China Centre (BICC)	Centre	September 2006 – September 2011	£3.7 million	N/A	Dr F Pieke 01865 278200 frank.pieke@chinese.ox.ac.uk http://www.bicc.ox.ac.uk
Centre for East European Language Based Area Studies (CEELBAS)	Centre	October 2006 – September 2011	£2.8 million	N/A	Dr R Aizlewood 020 7679 8751 r.aizlewood@ssees.ucl.ac.uk http://www.ceelbas.ac.uk
Centre for Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies (CRCEES)	Centre	October 2006 – September 2011	£2.8 million	N/A	Professor R Berry 0141 330 8539 rberry@lbs.gla.ac.uk http://www.gla.ac.uk/crcees
Deafness, Cognition and Language Centre (DCAL)	Centre	January 2006 – December 2010	£3.6 million	N/A	Professor B Woll 020 7679 8670 dcal@ucl.ac.uk http://www.dcal.ucl.ac.uk
Emotional Regulation of Self and Others	Large grant	October 2008 – September 2012	£2.1 million	N/A	Dr P Totterdell 0114 222 3234 p.totterdell@sheffield.ac.uk www.iwpp.dept.shef.ac.uk/site/projects
Impacts of Higher Education Institutions of Regional Economies	Venture	2007/08 – 2009-10	£1.3 million (ESRC Contribution) £1.3 million (Partners Contribution)	Scottish Funding Council, Welsh Funding Council (WFC), Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland (DELNI) and Higher Education Funding Council in England (HEFCE)	Professor P McGregor 0141 548 3848 p.mcgregor@strath.ac.uk Professor U Kelly 0141 548 4206 u.kelly@strath.ac.uk http://ewds.strath.ac.uk/Default.aspx?alias=ewds.strath.ac.uk/impact

continue

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Education, Psychology, Cognition and Linguistics (continued)

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Learning and Life Chances in Knowledge Economies and Societies (LLAKES)	Centre	January 2008 – December 2012	£4 million	N/A	Professor A. Green 020 7612 6760 andygreen@ioe.ac.uk http://www.ioe.ac.uk/research/159.html
Research Centre for Bilingualism in Theory and Practice	Venture	January 2007 – December 2011	£2.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £2.5 million (Partners Contribution)	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and WAG	Professor M Deuchar 01248 382269 m.deuchar@bangor.ac.uk http://www.bilingualism.bangor.ac.uk/
Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP)	Programme	March 1998 – September 2009	£3.6 million (ESRC contribution) Phase I – 4 networks Phase II – 9 projects Phase III – 23 projects Phase IV – 7 projects 8 Thematic Seminar Series Phase V – 7 projects	HEFCE, HEFCW, WAG, Scottish Government, DELNI, Department for Education Northern Ireland (DENI) and Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF)	Professor A. Pollard 020 7911 5581 a.pollard@ioe.ac.uk http://www.tlrp.org
Technology Enhanced Learning Phase II (part of the TLRP)	Venture	2006/07 – 2011-12	£3 million (ESRC Contribution) £3 million (Partners Contribution)	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)	Professor R Noss 020 7763 2150 r.noss@ioe.ac.uk http://www.tlrp.org/tel/
White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC)	Centre	September 2006 – August 2011	£2.7 million	N/A	Professor V King 0113 343 6749 v.king@wreac.org http://www.wreac.org/index.php

Government, Political Science and Law

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
ARK - A Social and Political Archive for Northern Ireland	Large grant	October 2006 – September 2011	£2.6 million	N/A	Dr R Miller 02890973386 r.miller@qub.ac.uk http://www.ark.ac.uk/
Better Outcomes in Public Policy	Venture	2006/07 – 2008-09	£650,000 (ESRC Contribution) £400,000 (Partners Contribution)	Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)	ESRC Office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR)	Centre	October 2000 – September 2010	£2.8 million	N/A	Professor B Hutter 020 7955 7287 b.m.hutter@lse.ac.uk http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR
Conflict in Cities and the Contested State: Everyday life and the possibilities for transformation in Belfast, Jerusalem and other divided cities.	Large grant	October 2007 – September 2012	£3.2 million	N/A	Dr W Pullan 01223 332962 wap10@cam.ac.uk www.conflictincities.org
Countering Terrorism in Public Places	Venture	2007/08 – 2010-11	£500,000 (ESRC Contribution) £1.5 million (Partners Contribution)	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), EPSRC, Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Justice by Race and Geography	Venture	2007/08 – 2009-10	£150,000 (ESRC Contribution) £80,000 (Partners Contribution)	Commission for Racial Equality	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
New Security Challenges: Radicalisation and Violence – a Critical Reassessment	Venture	2007/08 – 2009-10	£1.7 million (ESRC Contribution) £700,000 (Partners Contribution)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office and AHRC	Professor S Croft 0121 414 6522 s.j.croft@bham.ac.uk http://www.newsecurity.bham.ac.uk

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Geography, Environment, Urban/Rural and Transport Studies, and Area Studies

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
2007 Floods	Venture	2007/08 – 2009-10	£102,000 (ESRC Contribution) £114,000 (Partners Contribution)	Environment Agency and EPSRC	Dr-W Medd 01524 510263 w.medd@lancaster.ac.uk http://www.lei.lancs.ac.uk/cswm/ cswm_front.php
Centre for Climate Change, Economics and Policy (CCCEP)	Centre	October 2008 – September 2013	£4.7 million (ESRC Contribution) £3.5 million (Partners Contribution)	Munich Re and Yorkshire Forward	Professor J Rees 020 7955 6223 j.rees@lse.ac.uk Professor A Gouldson 0113 343 6417 a.gouldson@see.leeds.ac.uk http://www.ccecep.ac.uk/
Centre for Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability (STEPS)	Centre	October 2006 – September 2011	£3.8 million	N/A	Professor M Leach 01273 915674 m.leach@jds.ac.uk http://www.steps-centre.org
Children Flood and Urban Resilience: Understanding children and Young people's experience and agency in the flood recovery process	Venture	2008-09 – 2009-10	£52,000 (ESRC Contribution) £52,000 (Partners Contribution)	Environment Agency and Hull City Council	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Collaboration with the Food Standards Agency (commissioned 2008-09)	Venture	2009-10 – 2013-14	£175,000 (ESRC Contribution) £500,000 (Partners Contribution)	Food Standards Agency	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Collaborative Research Centre on Sustainable Behaviours (commissioned 2008-09)	Venture	2009-10 – 2012-13	£1.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £1.7 million (Partners Contribution)	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Scottish Government, WAG, the Department of Environment Northern Ireland (DENI), the Environment Agency and other potential partners across the UK	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Electricity Policy Research Group (EPRG)	Research group	October 2005 – September 2010	£2.4 million	N/A	Professor D Newbery 01223 335248 dmg@econ.cam.ac.uk http://www.eprg.group.cam.ac.uk
Environment and Human Health	Venture	2007/08 – 2009-10	£260,000 (ESRC Contribution) £3.6 million (Partners Contribution)	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), EPSRC, National Environment Research Council (NERC), Environment Agency, DEFRA, Ministry of Defence, MRC, Wellcome Trust and Health Protection Agency	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Global Uncertainties: Securing for all in a Changing World	Programme	2008 – 2011	£104.6 million across multiple partners – ESRC contribution over the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review period over £23 million	AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, MRC, NERC and STFC	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk or global.uncertainties@esrc.ac.uk
Living With Environmental Change (LWEC)	Programme	2007 – 2017	£1 billion across multiple partners – ESRC contribution over CSR08 period £20m	NERC, ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC, MRC, AHRC, DEFRA, Department for International Development (DFID), Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Department for Transport, Environment Agency, WAG, Scottish Government, Natural England, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Met Office, Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), Department of Health, Local Government Association and Technology Strategy Board (TSB)	Professor A Watkinson 01603 592267 a.watkinson@uea.ac.uk http://www.lwec.org.uk

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Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Geography, Environment, Urban/Rural and Transport Studies, and Area Studies (continued)

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Research Group on Lifestyles, Values and Environment (RESOLVE)	Research group	May 2006 – April 2011	£2.8 million	N/A	Professor T Jackson 01483 689072 t.jackson@surrey.ac.uk http://www.surrey.ac.uk/resolve
Rural Economy and Land Use (RELU)	Programme	September 2003 – August 2011	£5 million (ESRC Contribution) Phase I – 42 projects Phase II – 11 projects Phase III – 10 projects	NERC, BBSRC, DEFRA and Scottish Government	Professor P Lowe 0191 222 6903 phillip.lowe@ncl.ac.uk http://www.relu.ac.uk
Skills and Knowledge for Sustainable Communities Initiative	Venture	2007/08 – 2008-09	£435,000 (ESRC Contribution) £435,000 (Partners Contribution)	Academy for Sustainable Communities	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Sussex Energy Group	Research group	April 2005 – March 2010	£2.8 million	EPSRC and NERC	Dr J Watson 01273 873539 wj.watson@sussex.ac.uk http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexenergygroup
The Waste of the World	Large grant	October 2006 – September 2011	£3 million	N/A	Professor R Hudson 0191 33 41852 ray.hudson@durham.ac.uk http://www.thewasteoftheworld.org/
Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research	Centre	October 2000 – March 2010	£1 million (ESRC contribution)	NERC	Professor K Anderson 01603 063256 kevin.anderson@manchester.ac.uk http://www.tyndall.ac.uk

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC)	Centre	April 2004 – April 2014	£8.2 million (ESRC contribution)	EPSRC	Mr J Loughhead Professor J Skea 020 7594 1574 admin@ukerc.ac.uk 020 7594 1574 jim.skea@ukerc.ac.uk http://www.ukerc.ac.uk
Collaborative Transport Research Centre	Venture	2008-09 – 2013-14	£2.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £5.25 million (Partners Contribution)	Department for Transport and Scottish Government	Professor P Jones 020 7679 0478 peterjones@transport.ucl.ac.uk
Understanding and Managing Natural and Environmental Risks (commissioned 2008-09)	Venture	2008-09 – 2011	£312,000 (ESRC Contribution) £935,000 (Partners Contribution)	EPSRC, NERC and DEFRA	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Management and Business Studies and Innovation

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Business, Taxation and Welfare	Large grant	October 2008 – September 2012	£2.3 million	N/A	Professor M Devereux 01865 288507 michael.devereux@sbs.ox.ac.uk http://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/tax/
Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS)	Centre	October 2001 – September 2011	£5.2 million	N/A	Professor K Peattie 029 2087 6562 peattie@cardiff.ac.uk http://www.brass.cf.ac.uk
Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE)	Centre	October 2008 – September 2013	£4.3 million	N/A	Professor K Mayhew 0186 5611 030 ken.mayhew@pmb.ox.ac.uk http://www.skope.ox.ac.uk
Corporate Governance, Capital Markets and Performance	Large grant	November 2006 – October 2009	£1.4 million	N/A	Professor J Franks 020 7262 5050 jfranks@london.edu http://www.london.edu/centreforcorporategovernance.html
Corporate Governance Ideas Factory	Venture	2006/07 – 2007/08	£100,000 (ESRC Contribution) £200,000 (Partners Contribution)	Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) and Advanced Institute of Management	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Grand Challenges – Advanced Institute of Management (AIM)	Venture	2006/07 – 2008-09	£227,000 (ESRC Contribution) £2 million (Partners Contribution)	EPSRC	http://www.aimresearch.org/

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Innovation Research Centre (commissioned 2008-09)	Venture	2008-09 – 2013-14	£1.25 million (ESRC Contribution) £3.5 million (Partner Contribution)	TSB, National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) and Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Management Education Fellowships	Venture	2007/08 – 2010-11	£645,000 (ESRC Contribution) £600,000 (Partners Contribution)	The Foundation for Management Education	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
NESTA Business 2 Business Innovation Vouchers Scheme (commissioned 2008-09)	Venture	2009-10 – 2010-11	£150,000 (ESRC Contribution) £400,000 (Partners Contribution)	AHRC, NESTA, North West Development Agency and Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Public Services: Quality, Performance and Delivery	Programme	November 2004 – July 2010	£4.9 million Phase I – 14 projects Phase II – 14 projects Phase III – 14 projects and 7 fellowships	General Medical Council	Professor C Hood 01865 279350 christopher.hood@all-souls.oxford.ac.uk http://www.publicservices.ac.uk
UK Survey of SME Finances 2008	Venture	2007/08 – 2009-10	£77,000 (ESRC Contribution) £77,000 (Partners Contribution)	Barclays Bank	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Assisted Living Innovation Platform (commissioned 2008-09)	Venture	2008-09 – 2013-14	£1.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £11 million (Partners Contribution)	TSB, EPSRC and Department for Health	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Behavioural Responses to Pandemic Influenza	Venture	2007/08 – 2008-09	£66,000 (ESRC Contribution) £307,000 (Partners Contribution)	Research and Development Office for the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services, Wales Office of Research and Development, WAG and MRC	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Better Outcomes in Public Policy	Venture	2006/07 – 2008-09	£650,000 (ESRC Contribution) £400,000 (Partners Contribution)	DCLG	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Beyond Nimbyism	Collaborative network	December 2005 – May 2009	£458,000	N/A	Dr P Devine-Wright 0161 275 0316 pdwright@manchester.ac.uk
Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy	Venture	2008-09 – 2012-13	£1.1 million (ESRC Contribution) £1.1 million (Partners Contribution)	Office of the Third Sector, Scottish Government and Carnegie UK Trust	Professor J Harrow 020 7040 0136 j.harrow@city.ac.uk http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/philanthropy/
Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (CESAGen)	Centre	October 2007 – September 2012	£8.4 million	N/A	Professor R Chadwick 029 2087 6290 chadwickr@cardiff.ac.uk http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/cesagen
Centre for Genomics in Society (Egenis)	Centre	October 2002 – September 2012	£4.1 million	N/A	Professor J Dupré 01392 269127 j.a.dupre@exeter.ac.uk http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/egenis
Centres for Lifelong Health and Wellbeing (Phases II and III)	Venture	2008-09 – 2013-14	£2 million (ESRC Contribution) £15 million (Partners Contribution)	AHRC, MRC, BBSRC, EPSRC and UK Health Departments	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC)	Centre	October 2004 – September 2014	£4.7 million	N/A	Professor M Savage Professor T Bennett Professor K Williams 0161 275 8985 cresc@manchester.ac.uk http://www.cresc.ac.uk/
Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics (Innogen)	Centre	October 2007 – September 2012	£5.2 million	N/A	Professor D Wield 0131 650 6385 david.wield@ed.ac.uk http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/innogen
Centre for Third Sector Research	Venture	September 2008 – August 2013	£5 million (ESRC Contribution) £5.25 million (Partners Contribution)	Office for the Third Sector and Cadbury Barrow Trust	Professor P Alcock 0121 414 3171 p.alcock@bham.ac.uk http://www.socsci.bham.ac.uk/research/Third_Sector_Research_Centre/
Cognitive Systems Foresight	Ventures	2008-09 – 2010-11	£95,000 (ESRC Contribution) £382,000 (Partners Contribution)	EPSRC	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Cultural Sustainability Liverpool 2008	Venture	2007/08 – 2010-11	£142,000 (ESRC Contribution) £193,000 (Partners Contribution)	AHRC	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Developing the Centre for Time Use Research	Large grant	October 2008 – September 2013	£2.1 million	N/A	Professor J Gershuny 01865 286175 jonathan.gershuny@sociology.ox.ac.uk
Development and Persistence of Human Capability and Resilience in its Social and Geographical Context	Priority network	October 2003 – June 2008	£2 million 6 projects	N/A	Professor M Bartley 020 7679 1707 m.bartley@ucl.ac.uk http://www.ucl.ac.uk/capabilityandresilience
Economic Development and Population/Reproductive Health Research Centre	Venture	2007/08 – 2010-11	£1 million (ESRC Contribution) £1 million (Partners Contribution)	The Hewlett Foundation	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk

continue

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology (continued)

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Gender Equality Network (GeNet)	Priority network	October 2004 – September 2009	£3.2 million	N/A	Professor J Scott 01223 334520 jis1004@cam.ac.uk http://www.genet.ac.uk
Genomics Policy and Research Forum	Centre	August 2004 – July 2009	£2.9 million	N/A	Professor S Yearley 0131 651 4740 steve.yearley@ed.ac.uk http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/forum
Homelessness	Venture	2008-09 – 2011-12	£300,000 (ESRC Contribution) £380,000 (Partners Contribution)	Joseph Rowntree, Homeless Link and Homelessness research forum	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Identities and Social Action	Programme	April 2003 – December 2008	£4.9 million 27 Projects	N/A	Professor M Wetherell 01908 274066 m.s.wetherell@open.ac.uk http://www.identities.org.uk
International Centre for Life Course Studies in Society and Health Centre	Centre	January 2008 – December 2012	£2.8 million	N/A	Professor M Bartley 0207 679 1707 m.bartley@ucl.ac.uk http://www.ucl.ac.uk/icls/
National Prevention Research Initiative (NPRI)	Venture	2008-09 – 2012-13	£1.36 million (ESRC Contribution) £10.6 million (Partners Contribution)	MRC, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, Diabetes UK, Food Standards Agency, Research and Development Office for the Northern Ireland Health and Social Services, Chief Scientist Office, Scottish Executive Health Department, The Stroke Association, Wales Office of Research and Development, WAG, World Cancer Research Fund	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
National Cancer Research Institute Supportive and Palliative Care for Lung Cancer	Venture	2007/08 – 2008-09	£240,000 (ESRC Contribution) £2 million (Partners Contribution)	Macmillan Cancer Support, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, MRC, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Research and Development Office	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA)	Programme	April 2005 – December 2012	£20 million Phase I – 2 collaborative research projects, 11 preparatory networks 12 programme grants Phase II – 9 collaborative research projects 12 programme grants	AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC and MRC	Professor A Walker 0114 222 6467 a.c.walker@sheffield.ac.uk http://www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk
Non-Governmental Public Action (NGPA)	Programme	May 2004 – April 2009	£5.24 million 32 projects 6 fellowships	N/A	Professor J Howell 020 7955 7360 j.a.howell@lse.ac.uk http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/NGPA
Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS+)	Large grant	November 2007 – November 2012	£3 million	N/A	Professor P Wikstrom 01223 330033 pow20@cam.ac.uk http://www.pads.ac.uk
Religion and Society	Venture	January 2007 – December 2011	£4.8 million (ESRC Contribution) £7.5 million (Partners Contribution)	AHRC	Professor L Woodhead 01524 592416 l.woodhead@lancaster.ac.uk http://www.religionandsociety.org
Research Centre on Micro-social Change (MISOC)	Centre	October 2004 – September 2014	£3.5 million	N/A	Professor S Pudney 01206 873789 spudney@essex.ac.uk http://www.iseressex.ac.uk/misoc
Problem Gambling Interventions (Phase 2)	Venture	2008-09 – 2012-13	£500,000 (ESRC Contribution) £500,000 (Partner Contribution)	Responsibility in Gambling Trust	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk

continue

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology (continued)

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Social Contexts and Responses to Risk (SCARR)	Network	October 2003 – September 2008	£2.7 million 9 projects	N/A	Professor P Taylor-Gooby 01227 827514 p.taylor-gooby@kent.ac.uk http://www.kent.ac.uk/scarr
Social Interaction: A Cognitive-neurosciences approach.	Large grant	January 2008 – December 2011	£3.9 million	MRC	Professor S Garrod 01413 305033 s.garrod@psyglia.ac.uk http://www.socialinteraction.gla.ac.uk
Stem Cells Initiative: Capacity Building and Research II	Programme	November 2005 – June 2009	£3.1 million	N/A	Professor A Webster 01904 433041 ajw25@york.ac.uk http://www.york.ac.uk/res/sci
UKCRC Public Health Research: Centres of Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre of Excellence for Public Health (Northern Ireland) • UKCRC Centre of Excellence in Diet and Physical Activity Public Health Research • Centre for Translational Research in Public Health • The UK Centre for Tobacco Control Studies • Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement (DECIPHer) 	Venture	2008-09 – 2013-14	£2 million (ESRC contribution) £19 million (Partners Contribution)	British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, MRC, Research and Development Office for the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services, Wales Office of Research and Development, WAG and Wellcome Trust.	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk

Statistics, Computing, Infrastructure, Demography and Research Methodology

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Centre for Population Change	Centre	October 2008 – September 2013	£5.2 million	N/A	Professor J Falkingham 023 8059 3192 j.c.falkingham@soton.ac.uk
Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS)	Centre	October 2003 – September 2008	£3.8 million	N/A	Dr N Van Hear 01865 274711 nicholas.vanhear@compas.ox.ac.uk http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk
Electronic Patient Records and Databases in Research	Venture	2008-09 – 2013-14	£200,000 (ESRC Contribution) £1.1 million (Partners Contribution)	Wellcome Trust, EPSRC and MRC	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Ensuring Privacy and Consent: Delivering Innovative Solutions	Venture	2008-09 – 2011-12	£1.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £5.5 million (Partners Contribution)	Technology Strategy Board's Network Security Innovation Platform, Home Office and EPSRC	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk

Vital Statistics: Research

Research Grants

Research grants are used to investigate new and pressing issues as well as providing a stepping stone for new researchers. Ranging from £15,000 to £1.5 million, they give the ESRC the flexibility to respond rapidly to the latest developments in the academic world. 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.

Applications processed in 2008-09

Type of Grant	Applications	Awards	Success rate %
Standard	609	87	14
Fellowship	90	12	13
Small	552	139	25
Total	1,251	238	19

Responsive applications and awards by institution 2008-09

Institute	Applications	Awards	Success rate %
Aberdeen	17	1	6
Aston	7	1	14
Bath	14	1	7
Birmingham	38	7	18
Bolton	1	0	0
Bournemouth	3	0	0
Bradford	8	0	0
Brighton	5	0	0
Bristol	27	5	19
Brunel	16	1	6
Bedfordshire	2	0	0
Cambridge	27	5	19
Canterbury Christchurch	1	0	0
Central England	2	1	50
Central Lancashire	8	0	0
Chester	1	0	0
Coventry	1	0	0
City	14	2	14
Cranfield	2	0	0
Cumbria (St Martin)	1	0	0
Dartington College	1	0	0
Derby	1	0	0

Institute	Applications	Awards	Success rate %
London School of Economics	36	10	27
Queen Mary and Westfield	10	1	10
Royal Holloway	10	4	40
School of African Studies	5	0	0
School of Advanced Studies	2	1	50
School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	7	4	57
University College London	34	13	38
Loughborough	5	0	0
Manchester (inc UMIST)	34	9	26
Manchester Metropolitan	11	2	18
Middlesex	8	0	0
Napier (Edinburgh)	1	0	0
Newcastle	28	6	21
National Institute of Economic and Social Research	2	0	0
Northumbria at Newcastle	5	0	0
Northampton	2	0	0
Nottingham	30	6	20
Nottingham Trent	9	1	11
Open	19	4	21
Oxford	44	9	20
Oxford Brookes	5	3	60

Institute	Applications	Awards	Success rate %	Institute	Applications	Awards	Success rate %
De Montfort	8	1	13	Plymouth	18	3	17
Dundee	7	2	29	Portsmouth	5	0	0
Durham	25	7	28	Queen Margaret (Edinburgh)	7	3	43
East Anglia	12	3	25	Queens Belfast	13	2	15
East London	5	0	0	Reading	20	7	35
Edinburgh	33	11	33	Robert Gordon (Aberdeen)	1	0	0
Essex	19	5	26	Roehampton	6	0	0
Exeter	17	3	18	Salford	3	0	0
Glasgow	35	12	34	Sheffield	32	2	6
Glasgow Caledonian	4	1	25	Sheffield Hallam	6	0	0
Gloucestershire	2	0	0	South Bank	8	1	13
Greenwich	2	1	50	Southampton	21	4	19
Herriot Watt (Edinburgh)	3	0	0	St Andrews	5	0	0
Hertfordshire	4	1	25	Staffordshire	1	0	0
Huddersfield	2	0	0	Stirling	19	4	21
Hull	12	2	16	Strathclyde	10	1	10
Institute of Fiscal Studies	4	2	50	Sunderland	1	0	0
Institute of Development Studies	2	0	0	Surrey	12	2	17
Keele	10	1	10	Sussex	35	7	20
Kent at Canterbury	30	6	20	Teesside	3	0	0
Kingston	3	0	0	Trinity College of Music, London	1	0	0
Lancaster	23	6	26	University of Highlands and Islands	3	0	0
Leeds	29	6	21	Ulster	6	0	0
Leeds Metropolitan	3	1	33	Wales:			
Leicester	13	1	7	Aberystwyth	3	0	0
Lincoln (Lincs and Humberside)	3	0	0	Bangor	11	1	9
Liverpool	13	1	7	Cardiff	32	2	6
Liverpool John Moores	2	0	0	Glamorgan	1	0	0
London Metropolitan	6	0	0	Swansea	12	2	17
London:				Warwick	25	7	28
Birkbeck	8	2	25	West of England	10	0	0
Goldsmiths	9	3	33	Westminster	7	0	0
Imperial	8	1	13	Winchester	1	0	0
Institute of Education (inc Thomas Coram)	22	6	27	York	15	4	27
Kings College	15	4	27	Total	1,251	238	19
London Business School	2	0	0				

Vital Statistics: Research

Research Grants

Research grants by number

	Number of applications considered			Number graded alpha			Number recommended for award			% Alpha rated			% Total applications funded			Value £m
	Standard	Small	Fellowship	Standard	Small	Fellowship	Standard	Small	Fellowship	Standard	Small	Fellowship	Standard	Small	Fellowship	
2008-09	609	552	90	511	516	74	87	139	12	84	93	82	14	25	13	
Grand Total		1,251			1,101			238			88			19	40.3*	
Total 2007-08		1,100			962			267			87			24	41.3*	
Total 2006-07		933			838			259			90			28	38.9*	
Total 2005-06		1,051			914			282			87			27	26.2	
Total 2004-05		935			779			257			83			27	21.9	

* At 80% FEC.

Numbers of applications and awards by territory

Country	Number of applications				Number of awards				% Success rate				
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
England	784	876	751	890	221	236	208	210	28-09	27	28	24	19
Scotland	82	104	115	134	20	21	36	39	2008-09	20	31	29	24
Wales	58	62	51	61	12	21	11	13	2008-09	34	22	21	8
Northern Ireland	11	9	16	15	4	4	4	5	2008-09	44	25	33	11
Total	935	1,051	933	1,100	257	282	259	267	238	257	282	267	238

Applications and awards by discipline area

Subject	Applications					Awards					% Success rate				
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Area Studies	13	12	41	20	13	4	3	3	2	4	31	25	7	10	31
Demography	0	3	1	7	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	29	0
Economic and Social History	32	41	27	38	43	8	15	12	13	10	25	37	44	34	23
Economics	77	112	82	83	115	30	34	28	24	32	39	30	34	29	28
Education	83	100	97	97	124	20	20	13	17	17	24	20	13	18	14
Environmental Planning	19	17	15	20	21	2	5	2	3	2	11	29	13	15	10
Human Geography	56	43	42	57	58	19	6	16	14	15	34	14	38	25	26
Interdisciplinary Studies	46	35	0	22	94	11	5	0	6	7	24	14	0	27	7
Linguistics	30	38	26	56	41	12	15	8	18	10	40	39	31	32	24
Management and Business Studies	63	65	63	70	76	14	12	15	13	5	22	18	24	19	7
Political Science and International Relations	63	62	67	91	91	12	16	21	24	16	19	26	31	26	18
Psychology	240	268	230	247	290	72	91	89	72	65	30	34	39	29	22
Science & Technology Studies	0	6	19	20	22	0	2	0	3	3	0	33	0	15	14
Social Work	0	3	15	11	17	0	1	3	3	0	0	33	20	27	0
Social Anthropology	26	35	24	37	31	9	12	6	13	6	35	34	25	35	19
Social Policy	38	64	30	55	42	8	13	9	9	6	21	20	30	16	14
Socio-Legal Studies	32	9	28	22	27	6	0	7	5	6	19	0	25	23	22
Sociology	97	126	118	136	128	25	30	24	23	30	26	24	20	17	23
Statistics and Computing & Methodologies	20	12	8	11	13	5	2	3	3	4	25	17	38	27	31
Total	935	1,051	933	1,100	1,251	257	282	259	267	238					

Vital Statistics: Research Evaluation

The backbone of evaluation is peer review and almost all of our evaluation work involves selecting, briefing, supporting and in other ways dealing with peer reviewers.

Evaluation grades by research area

Research area	Grade %				
	O	G	P	U	Total
Economics and Economic Development	26	67	7	0	100
Geography, Environment, Urban/Rural Transport Studies and Area Studies	15	74	11	0	100
Government, Political Science and Law	28	62	10	0	100
Education, Psychology, Cognition and Linguistics	27	68	5	0	100
Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology	23	68	9	0	100
Management, Business Studies and Innovation	19	69	12	0	100
Statistics, Computing, Infrastructure, Demography and Research Methodology	23	67	10	0	100
Average Performance 1995-08	24	68	8	0	100
Average Performance 2008-09	32	64	4	0	100

The table above shows the breakdown of evaluation grades in each research area as a percentage of the total in that particular area. Note that unless otherwise stated, these percentages refer to the cumulative total of all research projects evaluated between 1996 and 2009.

Grade definitions

Grade	Definition
Outstanding (O)	High quality research making an important contribution to the development of the subject. An outstanding grade indicates that a project has fully met its objectives and has provided an exceptional research contribution well above average or very high in relation to the level of the award.
Good (G)	Good quality research making a useful contribution to the development of the subject. A good grade indicates a project whose research activities and contribution is fully commensurate with the level of the award, approach and subject area, and which has addressed its major objectives.
Problematic (P)	Acceptable research but with problems or weaknesses in the design, method, analysis or outcomes. A problematic grade indicates a project which has failed to address one or more of its major objectives; has encountered significant difficulties in the execution of the project; has incomplete work; or has achieved substantially less than expected for the level of the award; the approach or the subject area.
Unacceptable (U)	Research poorly conducted with unreliable results, or report with insufficient details on which to base a satisfactory judgement. An unacceptable grade indicates a project which has failed to conduct the work as agreed at the time of the award (and any subsequent agreed changes to the work plan); for example failure to conduct agreed surveys or analyses, or failure to address most of the major objectives.

Vital Statistics: Research Performance Indicators

The chart below shows the ESRC's achievements against the Research Councils UK (PEG) Performance Indicators:

Academic publications from ESRC research investments

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Research papers	1,015	799	968	1,284
Books and chapters	466	319	458	669
Total	1,481	1,118	1,426	1,953

Papers published in refereed journals

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
No. of refereed papers	540	524	733	1,066
Proportion of all papers	53%	66%	75%	83%

ESRC projects achieving highest approval ratings

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
No. of projects with highest approval rating	333	337	382	386
Percentage of total projects	95%	97%	97%	96%

Proportion of ESRC students submitting PhD theses within four years

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
No. of theses submitted	352	210	306	345
Percentage within four years	82%	80%	79%	83%

Vital Statistics: Data and Methods

Research Resources

Research resources are the foundations upon which our researchers can undertake work of the highest quality and relevance.

These resources include not only data, but also the expertise in research methods required to utilise this data, and the information technologies to improve access to the ESRC's world class information resources.

Resource centres provide quick and easy access to key research resources such as datasets. **Resource programmes** are a group of projects aimed at developing the tools and techniques which underpin high quality research.

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Administrative Data Liaison Service	Centre	October 2008 – September 2011	£0.5 million	N/A	Dr C Dibben 01334 463081 cjd@st-andrews.ac.uk
Advanced Quantitative Methods Network (AQMeN) in Scotland (Commissioned 2008-09)	Venture	Proposed Start Date Apr 2009 -Proposed End Date Mar 2012	£0.6 million (ESRC Contribution) £0.5 million (Partners Contribution)	Scottish Funding Council	Mrs S McVie 0131 6511 3782 s.mcvie@ed.ac.uk
An Examination of the Impact of Family Socio-economic Status on Outcomes in Late Childhood and Adolescence	Large grant	April 2007 – March 2012	£3.6 million	N/A	Professor P Gregg 0117 331 0825 p.gregg@bristol.ac.uk
Depositing of defined Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) Data sets with the UK Survey Archive	Centre	April 2008 – March 2009	£0.1 million	N/A	Professor G Davey-Smith 0117 331 0095 george.davey-smith@bristol.ac.uk http://www.mtoli.ac.uk/alspac/
ARK – A Social and Political Archive for Northern Ireland	Large grant	October 2006 – September 2011	£2.7 million	N/A	Professor R Miller 028 9097 3275 rmiller@qub.ac.uk http://www.wark.ac.uk/
British Election Study 2009/2010 Programme	Fellowship	June 2008 – March 2012	£1.5 million	N/A	Professor P Whiteley 01206 872 641 whiteley@essex.ac.uk http://www.essex.ac.uk/bes/

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Courses in Applied Social Surveys (CASS)	Centre	November 2005 – March 2009	£0.3 million	N/A	Professor J Micklewright 023 8059 2167 jm4@soton.ac.uk http://www.s3ri.soton.ac.uk/cass/
Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS)	Centre	October 2004 – March 2010	£11.7 million (ESRC Contribution) £4 million (Partners Contribution)	Government consortium co-ordinated by the Office for National Statistics. Includes contributions from the Office for National Statistics, Department of Health, Department for Children Schools and Families, Department for Work and Pensions, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, and Sure Start (Government Programme)	Professor H Joshi 020 7612 6874 hjoshi@ioe.ac.uk http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/
Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS)	Centre	October 2007 – September 2012	£13.2 million (ESRC Contribution) £1.4 million (Partners Contribution)	Joint Information Systems Committee	Professor K Schürer 01206 872009 schurer@essex.ac.uk http://www.esds.ac.uk Mr K Cole 0161 275 6066 keith.cole@manchester.ac.uk http://www.esds.ac.uk/International/ Professor A Dale 0161 275 4722 angela.dale@manchester.ac.uk http://www.esds.ac.uk/Government/
ESRC Census Programme	Programme	August 2006 – July 2011	£7.5 million £1.1 million (£950,000 worth data and physical resources and £130,000 a direct cash contribution)	Office of National Statistics (co-funding is provided only for CeLSUS)	Professor D Martin 023 8059 3808 djmartin@soton.ac.uk http://www.census.ac.uk
International Bibliography of the Social Science (IBSS) Online Resource Centre	Centre	April 2005 – July 2010	£1.5 million	N/A	Ms J Sykes 020 7955 7455 j.skys@lse.ac.uk http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/ibss

continue

Vital Statistics: Data and Methods

Research Resources

(continued)

Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland	Centre	July 2005 – June 2011	£1.6 million (ESRC Contribution) £0.088 million (Partners Contribution)	General Register Office for Scotland	Professor P Boyle 01334 462397 p.boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk http://www.issc.ac.uk
National Centre for e-Social Science (NceSS)	Centre	January 2004 – March 2012	£8 million (2007-12)	N/A	Professor P Halfpenny 0161 275 2493 peter.halfpenny@nceSS.ac.uk http://www.nceSS.ac.uk
National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM)	Centre	April 2004 – March 2014	£12.2 million (2009-14)	N/A	Professor C Skinner 023 8059 2533 cjs@soton.ac.uk http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/
National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyle (NATSAL)	Venture	2008-09 – 2013-14	£1.7 million (ESRC Contribution) £3.7 million (Partners Contribution)	MRC and Wellcome Trust	ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk
Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study Research Projects	Venture	2007/2008 – 2009-10	£150,000 (ESRC Contribution) £150,000 (Partners Contribution)	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency	http://www.census.ac.uk/guides/Longitudinal_NI.aspx
Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) Research Support Unit (Commissioned 2008-09)	Centre	April 2009 – Jul 2011	£0.3 million	N/A	Dr D O'Reilly 0289 063 2738 d.o'reilly@qub.ac.uk http://www.census.ac.uk/guides/Longitudinal_NI.aspx
Secure Data Service	Centre	October 2008 – September 2010	£0.3 million	N/A	Ms M Wright 01206 872003 melanie@essex.ac.uk
Survey Resources Network	Centre	November 2008 – October 2011	£0.9 million	N/A	Professor P Lynn 01206 873151 plynn@essex.ac.uk http://www.surveynet.essex.ac.uk/

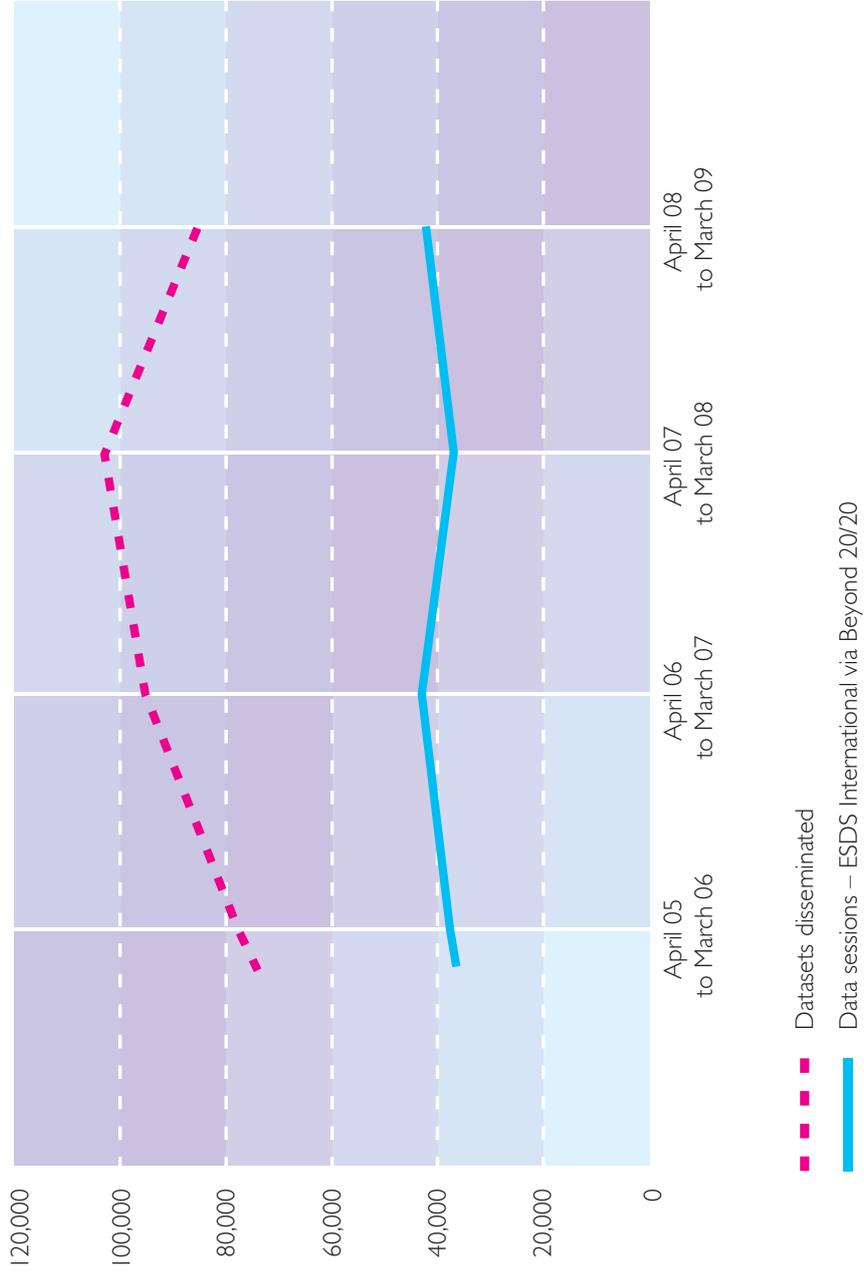
Investment	Type	Date	Current Grant	Co-funder/Partner	Contact
Qualitative Longitudinal Study (Timescapes)	Centre	February 2007 – January 2012	£3.9 million	N/A	Professor B Neale 0113 343 4813 b.neale@leeds.ac.uk http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk
The Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice (CEMMAP)	Centre	July 2007 – June 2012	£3.2 million	N/A	Professor A Chesher 020 7291 4800 andrew.chesher@ucl.ac.uk http://www.cemmap.ac.uk/
ESRC Question Bank (Qb)	Centre	November 2005 – October 2008	£0.5 million	N/A	Professor M Bulmer 01483 689456 m.bulmer@surrey.ac.uk http://www.qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk
The Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD)	Research grant	October 2008 – September 2011	£1.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £3.5 million (Partners Contribution)	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales	Professor H Beynon 029 2087 4848 beynonh@cardiff.ac.uk http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/wiserd/index.html
UK Longitudinal Studies Centre	Centre	October 2004 – September 2009	£13.6 million	N/A	Professor N Buck 01206 873066 nhb@essex.ac.uk http://www.iseressex.ac.uk/uisc
Understanding Population Trends and Processes (UPTAP): A Secondary Data Analysis Initiative	Programme	October 2005 – September 2010	Phase II – 12 projects 4 user fellows	N/A	Professor J Stillwell 0113 343 3315 j.c.stillwell@leeds.ac.uk http://www.uptap.net
Understanding Society – The UK Household Longitudinal Study	Centre	April 2007 – March 2012	£15.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £2.4 million (Partners Contribution)	The Scottish Government Welsh Assembly Government Northern Ireland Executive Department for Transport Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Children, Schools and Family, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Department for Work and Pensions	Professor N Buck 01206 873066 nhb@essex.ac.uk http://www.iseressex.ac.uk/ukhls

Vital Statistics: Data and Methods

Datasets

A dataset is defined by the ESRC datasets policy, as any collection of data generated by, or of particular interest to, the social science community which may be considered for archiving. This may include computer-readable data, audio and visual recordings, hand-written documents such as diaries and fieldwork notes, photographs and artefacts. The Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) is a national service that provides access and support for an extensive range of key economic and social data, both qualitative and quantitative, spanning a range of disciplines and themes.

Datasets delivered, April 2005 to March 2009¹

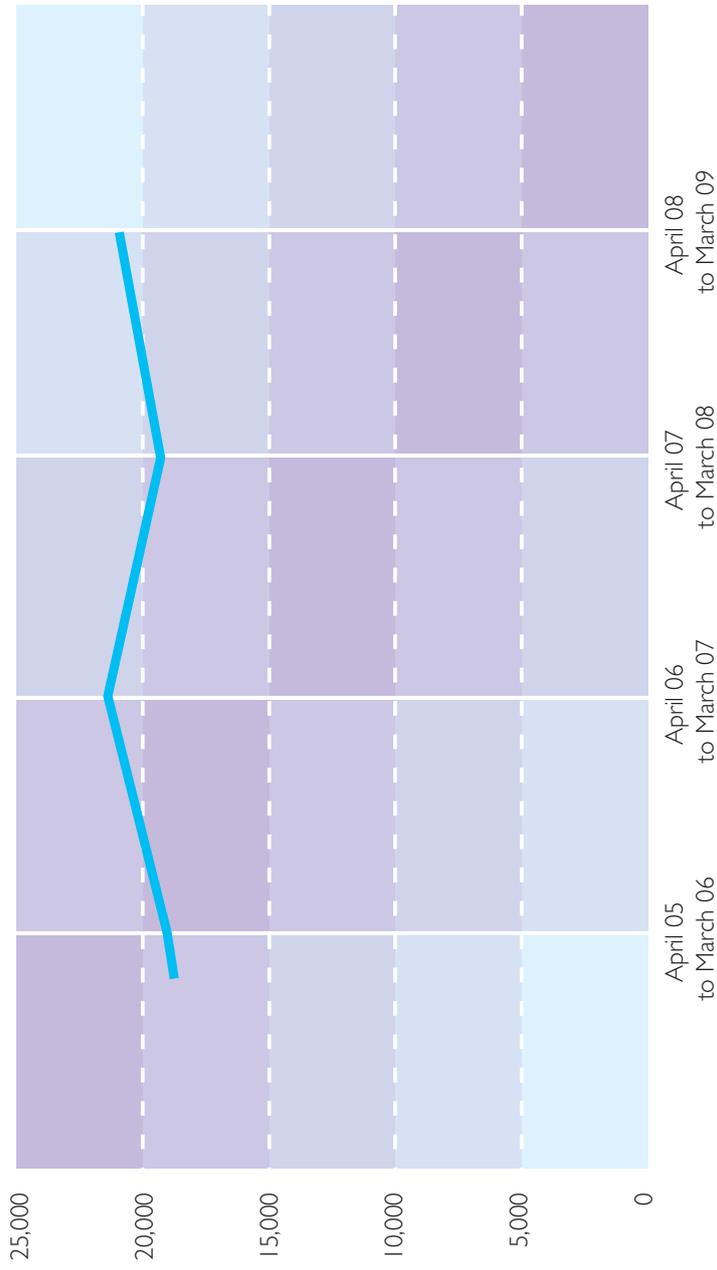


The solid line of the graph represents datasets disseminated by the core, longitudinal, qualidata, and government functions, and the dashed line represents ESDS international macro-datasets. ESDS international macro-datasets are reported separately as these are acquired directly by ESDS International due to special licensing arrangements. They are then processed and loaded onto the Beyond 20/20 data delivery server.

The figure shows a steady pattern of datasets delivered by the ESDS, with a slight decline in usage of the international macro-datasets during the last year.

¹ Actual time period is 1 April 2005 – 18 March 2009

Number of new registrations to ESDS² April 2005 to March 2009



The graph shows that the number of new users registering to use the ESDS remain high and from 2006-2009 and last year has witnessed an increase after some decline a year before. Overall the number of new registrations has stabilised at around 20,000. The number of unique users registering to use ESDS in 2007-2008 was 5,338 which represents similar figure in comparison with previous years.

² Figure includes all ESDS services

Vital Statistics: Data and Methods

Datasets

Top 10 disciplines by usage³ April 2008 to March 2009

Economics and econometrics is ranked top, followed by sociology in second. This is likely largely due to the type of research being undertaken by economists working in the field of labour markets and employment.

Disciplines	Rank
Economics and Econometrics	1
Sociology	2
Politics and International Studies	3
Business and Management Studies	4
Statistics and Operational Research	5
Social Policy and Administration	6
Other Studies and Professions Allied to Medicine	7
Geography	8
Psychology	9
Education	10

³ Note that these figures exclude usage of international macro-data

Top 10 users of ESDS datasets by academic institution April 2008 to March 2009

The top user of the ESDS datasets is one of the pioneers of the Integrated Science concept and home for the Centre for Interdisciplinary Science. The next two users house four leading centres conducting research on economic performance, employment and labour markets. They are the Warwick Institute for Employment Research, the Industrial Relations Research Unit (formally the Centre for International Employment Relations Research (CINTER), as well as the Research Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) and the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) CINTER, CASE and CEP were previously funded by the ESRC. The fourth highest is University of Essex the home for ESRC UK Longitudinal Studies Centre and Understanding Society – The UK Household Longitudinal Study.

The top user of international macro-data is the University of Cambridge which houses several ESRC-supported projects and grants, the most profound being the Electricity Policy Research Group. The University of Manchester is home for the ESRC-funded National Centre for e-Social Science as well as hosts research related activities within ESRC Census Programme and Economic and Social Data Service Government, while the University of Bath, which is also on the top of the list, houses the ESRC-funded Wellbeing in Developing Countries Research Group.

Academic Institution Name – usage of core, longitudinal, qualitative and government datasets	Academic Institution Name – usage of international macro datasets	Rank
University of Leicester	University of Cambridge	1
London School of Economics	University of Manchester	2
University of Warwick	University of Warwick	3
University of Essex	University of Leicester	4
University of Manchester	University of Bath	5
University of Oxford	London School of Economics and Political Science	6
University College London	School of Oriental and African Studies	7
University of Nottingham	University of Birmingham	8
Cardiff University	University of Essex	9
University of Edinburgh	University of Oxford	10

Top 20 most used ESDS datasets (excluding international macro datasets), April 2008 to March 2009

Dataset	Rank
Labour Force Survey	1
General Household Survey	2
British Household Panel Survey	3
British Social Attitudes Survey	4
Health Survey for England	5
Family Expenditure Survey	6
British Crime Survey	7
1970 British Cohort Study	8
National Child Development Study	9
Expenditures and Food Survey	10
Road Accident Data	11
Millennium Cohort Study	12
British Election Studies	13
Family Resources Survey	14
Office of National Statistics Omnibus Survey	15
Annual Population Survey	16
Citizenship Survey	17
Workplace Employee Relations Survey	18
Continuous Household Survey	19
European Working Conditions Survey	20

Top 10 most used ESDS international macrodatasets, April 2008 to March 2009⁴

Dataset	Rank
World Bank (two databanks)	1
International Monetary Fund (IMF) International Financial Statistics	2
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (13 databanks)	3
International Energy Agency (nine databanks)	4
National Statistics Time Series Data	5
IMF World Economic Outlook	6
IMF Direction of Trade Statistics	7
United Nations Common Database	8
IMF Government Finance Statistics	9
Eurostat New Cronos	10

⁴The exact time period is 1 April 2008 to 18 March 2009

Vital Statistics: International

International Work

ESRC is committed to raising awareness of British social science on the international stage. We collaborate in activities in Europe and around the world. We have a particular responsibility to maximise international resources and opportunities for the UK social science community. Developments within the European Union, and in particular the Framework Programmes, are a priority and we are committed to increasing the role of social scientists in European research projects.

Major international investments 2008-09

Investment	Number of awards	Total amount
BA/ESRC China exchange scheme	18	£49,000
BA/AHRC/ESRC Visiting Fellowships for South Asia*	13	£26,906
BA/AHRC/ESRC Visiting fellowships for the Middle East**	12	£26,183
Bilateral collaborative research projects***	6	£370,831****
ESF Eurocores (including ECRP)	2	£807,292
ESF Research Networking Programmes	2	£238,000
ESRC/SSRC Transatlantic collaborative fellowships	19	£84,000

* ESRC contribution. Total funding from all partners: £80,718

** ESRC contribution. Total funding from all partners: £78,549

*** Australia – 2, Hong Kong – 4

**** Most bilateral collaborative research projects and all Eurocores projects (to a combined value of £1.18 million) are funded under Research Grant: Board responsive-mode schemes; they are therefore also represented in pages 61 and 62.

Vital Statistics: Training Studentships

Part of the ESRC's Mission Statement is to support postgraduate training in the social sciences. Well-trained research students are the seedbed for the social science researchers of the future. For this reason, the ESRC has a Training and Development Board to support postgraduate students and meet the training needs of researchers throughout their career.

Volume of New Studentships by Scheme and Discipline New studentships by scheme and discipline 2008-09

Discipline	Quota (1)	Competition	Collaborative (2)	Inter-Disciplinary (3)	Project Linked (4)	Total 2008	Total 2007
Area Studies and Development Studies	7	3	1		61 (all LBAS)	72	34
Demography	8	0	1		0	9	12
Economic and Social History	10	3	0		1	14	15
Economics	59	7	6		1	73	76
Education	40	2	9		4	55	45
Human Geography	27	8	16		2	53	64
Science and Technology Studies	11	1	5		0	17	15
Linguistics	6	4	0		3	13	13
Management and Business Studies	47	4	15		2	68	65
Medical Sciences				12		12	20
Environmental Sciences				20		20	21
Planning	9	1	4		0	14	15
Political Science and International Studies	27	14	2		0	43	57
Psychology	22	16	11		10	59	70
Social Anthropology	13	4	1		2	20	23
Social Policy	11	4	8		0	23	32
Social Work	13	1	1		0	15	15
Statistics, Methods and Computing	20	0	1		0	21	29
Socio-Legal Studies	18	2	1		0	21	32
Sociology	39	11	6		1	57	75
Multidisciplinary	7		0			7	15
Total:	394	85	88	32	87	686	743

(1) This is based on the total number of quotas available for allocations this year, at time of writing seven nominations were outstanding.

(2) Includes CASE and Government Collaborative Schemes

(3) Includes NERC and MRC

(4) Includes PhD starters under the Language based Area Studies Centres, other ESRC grants

Vital Statistics: Training

ESRC Submission Rate Survey

The following table shows the results of the 2008 survey of PhD thesis submission rates: that is the percentage of students submitting their thesis within four years of commencing an ESRC research award.

Institution	2004			2004			2004				
	Starters	Submitters	Rate %	Institution	Starters	Submitters	Rate %	Institution	Starters	Submitters	Rate %
Aberdeen University	2	2	100	Goldsmith's College	9	5	56	Southampton University	13	12	92
Anglia Ruskin	0	0	0	Imperial College of Science and Technology	4	3	75	St Andrews University	0	0	0
Aston University	2	2	100	Institute of Education	8	6	75	Stirling University	1	1	100
Bath University	6	6	100	King's College	4	4	100	Strathclyde University	3	3	100
Birmingham University	13	10	77	London Business School	2	2	100	Surrey University	7	6	86
Bradford University	2	2	100	Queen Mary and Westfield College	2	0	0	Sussex University	6	5	83
University of Brighton	1	1	100	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	0	0	0	Wales:			
Bristol University	11	9	82	School of Economics and Political Science	10	5	50	Aberystwyth	6	6	100
Brunel University	2	2	100	School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	1	1	100	Bangor	7	6	86
Cambridge University	16	14	88	University College	12	10	83	Cardiff	16	13	81
City University	2	2	100	Loughborough University	2	2	100	Swansea	1	1	100
Cranfield University	0	0	0	Manchester University (inc MBS and UMIST)	25	21	84	Warwick University	15	15	100
Dundee University	1	0	0	Manchester Metropolitan University	3	3	100	University of the West of England			
Durham University	9	8	89	Middlesex University	3	2	67	York University	4	3	75
University of East Anglia	6	6	100	Newcastle University	9	8	89	Total	416	345	83
Edinburgh University	14	13	93	Nottingham University	17	13	76				
Essex University	14	11	79	Nottingham Trent University	0	0	0				
Exeter University	8	8	100	The Open University	1	1	100				
Exeter University	12	11	92	Oxford University	32	27	84				
Glasgow University	0	0	0	Oxford Brookes University	0	0	0				
Gloucestershire University	0	0	0	Plymouth University	0	0	0				
Herriot-Watt University	0	0	0	Portsmouth University	1	1	100				
Hertfordshire University	0	0	0	Reading University	4	2	50				
Hull University	0	0	0	Salford University	1	1	100				
Keele University	5	3	60	Sheffield University	14	7	50				
University of Kent at Canterbury	9	9	100								
Lancaster University	12	9	75								
Leeds University	11	11	100								
Leicester University	6	5	83								
Liverpool University	3	3	100								
London:											
Birkbeck College	4	2	50								

Key:

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

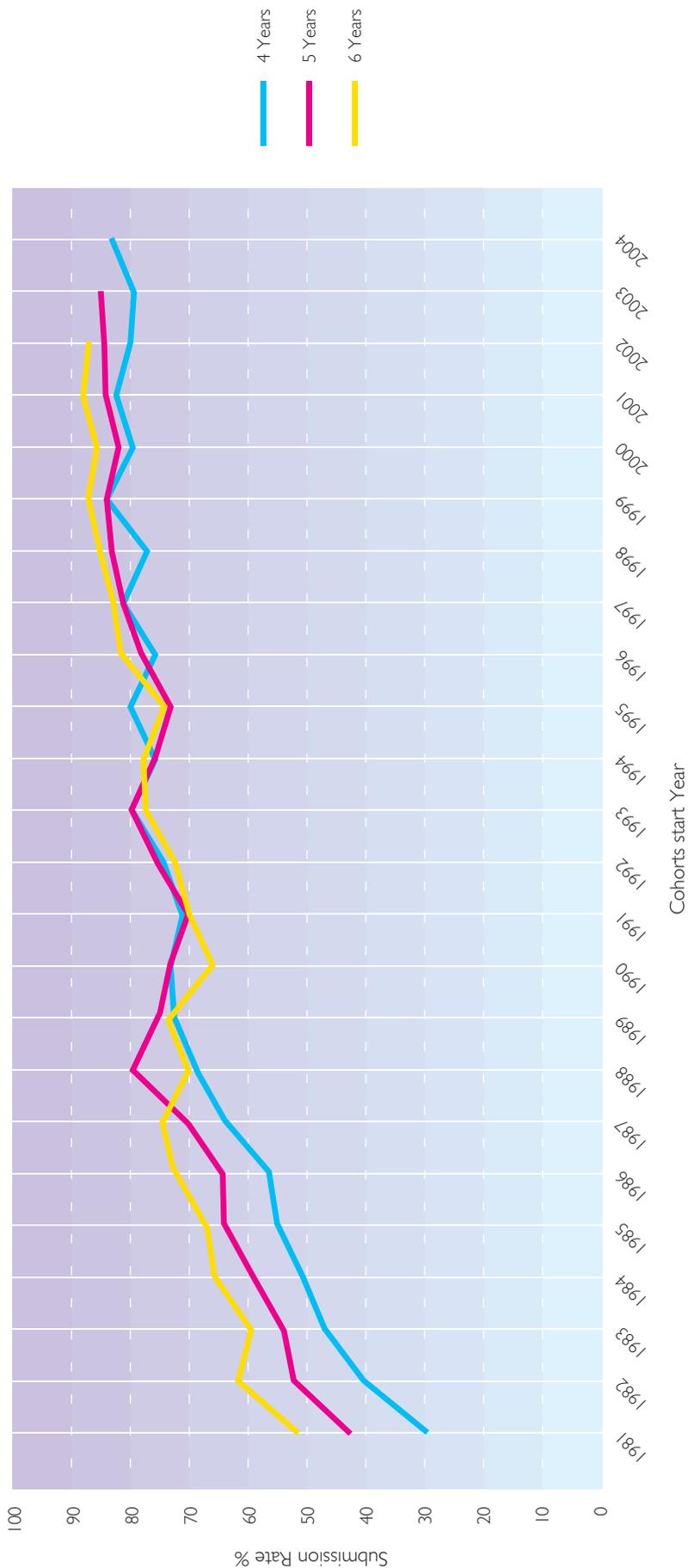
These submission rate figures exclude students who withdrew during their first year and make allowances for supervision/extensions to awards occasioned by illness, accident or the need to obtain fluency in a difficult language.

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 PhD submission rate figures – 4, 5 and 6 year rates

% of theses submitted within	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
4 years	71	75	80	76	80	76	81	77	84	80	82	80	79	83
5 years	70	75	79	75	73	78	81	83	84	82	84	84	85	
6 years	70	73	78	78	74	82	83	85	87	86	88	87		

Percentage of theses submitted



Vital Statistics: Knowledge Transfer

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) is one of the largest 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 and organisational issues. Through these collaborative partnerships, UK businesses, public and third sector organisations can benefit from knowledge, technology and skills that reside within higher education institutions (HEIs).

The scheme is funded by the Technology Strategy Board with 17 other funding organisations. In addition to the ESRC, other Research Councils are also involved as are the Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Government and Invest Northern Ireland. The scheme is currently managed by a contracted company, AEA. In addition to the grant, the participating business/organisational partner also contributes to each project. The ESRC contribution to the scheme in 2008-09 was £1,233,419.

During 2008-09 the ESRC undertook a review of KTP sponsorship criteria. The review assessed the requirement for HEI partners to be accredited with the ESRC for the delivery of research training in order to receive full KTP sponsorship. Following the review this requirement was removed. All UK HEIs become eligible for ESRC funding for KTPs based on the new criteria from 1 September 2008. The level of ESRC funding is now determined by the sector of the partnering organisation, which has resulted in a greater number of partnerships being co-funded with other organisations. The ESRC's average contribution towards a partnership in 2007-08 was £44,000 compared with an average contribution of £29,000 for 2008-09.

The following list gives details of new KTPs that were funded by the ESRC during the year 2008-09. The project's duration is usually two years and there are currently 113 ESRC funded projects, 57 of which started this year. Fifteen of these new partnerships were with a business organisation. There has been an increase in ESRC funded projects with public and third sector organisations starting in 2008-09.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships 2008-09

Knowledge Partner	Organisation	Region *	Co-Sponsor	ESRC £ Contribution
Birkbeck, University of London	Raleigh International Trust	London	Technology Strategy Board (TSB)	£41,144
Bournemouth University	CNLR Horizons Limited	South West of England	TSB	£38,737
University of Bradford	Foundation Housing	Yorkshire and the Humber	TSB	£37,937
University of Bristol	Meningitis Research Foundation	South West of England	Department of Health and TSB	£23,394
Brunel University	Harrow Primary Care Trust	London	Department of Health and TSB	£21,581
Buckinghamshire New University	Buckinghamshire Association for the Blind	South East of England	TSB	£33,522

Knowledge Partner	Organisation	Region	Co-Sponsor	ESRC £ Contribution
Buckinghamshire New University	The Red House Group of Practices	South East of England	TSB	£18,150
University of Kent, Christchurch	Kent County Council	South East of England	TSB	£15,375
University of Central Lancashire	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust	North West of England	TSB	£11,664
University College London	Paperstone Limited	London	TSB	£32,540
University College London	The Local Futures Group Limited	London	TSB	£23,439
University College London	Taylor Woodrow Construction Limited	London	TSB	£33,729
University of Durham	County Durham Primary Care Trust	North East of England	TSB	£29,490
University of Exeter	Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	South West of England	TSB	£23,265
University of Exeter	Harmonic Limited	South West of England	TSB	£41,567
Heriot-Watt University	FES FM Limited	Scotland	Scottish Government, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and TSB	£48,036
University of Hertfordshire	Southend-on-Sea YMCA	South East of England	TSB	£19,774
University of Huddersfield	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	Yorkshire and the Humber	Department of Health, TSB	£13,566
Kingston University	Renaisi Limited	London	Arts and Humanities Research Council	£37,464
University of Leeds	Pfizer Limited	South East of England	Department of Health	£45,009
University of Leeds	NHS Leeds	Yorkshire and the Humber	Department of Health and TSB	£14,795
University of Leeds	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Yorkshire and the Humber	TSB	£29,664
London Metropolitan University	Greater London Fostering Limited	London	TSB	£18,732
London South Bank University	West Sussex NHS Primary Care Trust	South East of England	Department of Health	£29,771
University of Lincoln	Hill Holt Wood Limited	East Midlands	TSB	£33,522

continue

Vital Statistics: Knowledge Transfer

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships 2008-09 (continued)

Knowledge Partner	Organisation	Region	Co-Sponsor	ESRC £ Contribution
Liverpool John Moores University	Fusion 21 Limited	North West of England	TSB	£37,936
Liverpool John Moores University	Total Quality Management International Limited	North West of England	TSB	£27,790
Liverpool John Moores University	The British Red Cross Society	North West of England	TSB	£27,385
Liverpool John Moores University	Modus Services Limited	South East of England	TSB	£29,654
Liverpool John Moores University	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority	North West of England	TSB	£13,721
University of Manchester	Bradford and Airedale Teaching Primary Care Trust	Yorkshire and the Humber	Department of Health and TSB	£15,372
Manchester Metropolitan University	Wulvern Housing Limited	North West of England	TSB	£33,522
Manchester Metropolitan University	South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd	North West of England	TSB	£18,150
Manchester Metropolitan University	Manchester Primary Care Trust	North West of England	TSB	£12,100
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	Tyne and Wear Autistic Society	North East of England	TSB	£23,625
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	North Tyneside Council	North East of England	TSB	£29,114
University of Plymouth	Plymouth City Council	South West of England	TSB	£56,151
University of Plymouth	Falmouth Harbour Commissioners	South West of England	Natural Environment Research Council	£48,507
University of Plymouth	Best Companies Limited	Wales	Welsh Assembly Government and TSB	£24,836
University of Portsmouth	SCA Community Care Services Limited	South East of England	Department of Health and TSB	£18,174
The University of Reading	Bunnyfoot Limited	South East of England	TSB	£19,020

Knowledge Partner	Organisation	Region	Co-Sponsor	ESRC £ Contribution
Robert Gordon University	Aberdeen Foyer	Scotland	Scottish Government	£38,551
University of Salford	Manchester Brook Advisory Centre	North West of England	Department of Health and Northwest Regional Development Agency	£20,100
University of Southampton	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	South East of England	Department of Health	£28,000
Staffordshire University	Stoke on Trent Primary Care Trust	West Midlands	TSB	£72,600
University of Stirling	NHS Lothian	Scotland	TSB	£14,584
University of Stirling	NHS Lothian	Scotland	TSB	£23,040
University of Stirling	Highland NHS Board	Scotland	TSB	£22,505
University of Surrey	Surrey Wildlife Trust	South East of England	EPSRC, TSB	£36,954
University of Teesside	Stockton on Tees Teaching Primary Care Trust	North East of England	TSB	£33,522
University of Wales Institute Cardiff	Llatau Limited	Wales	Welsh Assembly Government	£38,111
University of the West of England, Bristol	NHS South West (Strategic Health Authority)	South West of England	Department of Health and TSB	£14,559
University of Westminster	PAERS Limited	East Midlands	TSB	£35,856
University of Westminster	The Means LLP	London	TSB	£37,464
University of Westminster	Brentford Football Community Society Limited	London	TSB	£37,464
University of Wolverhampton	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	West Midlands	TSB	£12,100
University of Ulster	Colin Glen Trust	Northern Ireland	TSB	£33,732

* Partnership region is based on the location of the collaborating organisation

Vital Statistics: Knowledge Transfer

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge transfer partnership sector trends

New partnerships by year (% in brackets show annual increase)

Sector	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Public	11 (46%)	8 (50%)	10 (48%)	12 (46%)	12 (40%)	23 (40%)
Private	12 (50%)	7 (44%)	7 (33%)	9 (35%)	11 (37%)	15 (26%)
Voluntary*	1 (4%)	1 (6%)	4 (19%)	5 (19%)	7 (23%)	19 (33%)
Total	24	16	21	26	30	57

* The voluntary sector includes social enterprise organisations

Knowledge transfer partnership sector trends regional trends

Region	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
South East	2	2	3	2	3	11
South West	1	2	2	2	6	7
London	3	0	0	6	1	9
Wales	0	2	3	2	3	2
East	0	1	1	0	1	0
East Midlands	0	0	1	0	1	2
West Midlands	3	2	2	1	0	2
North West	6	1	2	4	3	9
North East	1	2	4	3	4	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	5	2	2	1	1	5
Scotland	3	2	1	5	7	5
Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	24	16	21	26	30	57

Vital Statistics: ESRC Society Today

ESRC Society Today Web-Trends

ESRC Society Today is the ESRC's corporate website. From its launch in 2005 it has continued to evolve with enhancements to the look and feel of the site, as well as major functional development to help users get the most out of the service.

Executive analysis 2007-08 and 2008-09

ESRC site statistics

	Total 2007-08	Total 2008-09
Visitor summary		
Unique visitors	2,518,595	1,682,147
Visitors who visited once	1,940,830	1,353,951
Visitors who visited more than once	574,465	328,196
Average visits per visitor	2	3
Visit summary		
Visits	5,487,675	4,350,470
Average per day	14,878	11,854
Average visit length	00:10:47	00:19:50
Median visit length	00:01:12	00:00:45
International visits	83.78%	67.87%
Visits of unknown origin	0.49%	0.04%
Visits from UK	15.73%	32.09%
Page view summary		
Page views	66,624,852	107,632,750
Average per day	294,884	294,884
Average page views per visit	24.89	24.89

The table above shows some of the key statistics for the ESRC Society Today website, as with all web statistics, these need to be interpreted carefully (eg number of visits based on IP addresses of computer).

Vital Statistics: Data Protection and Information Security

Personal Data Related Incidents

The ESRC is committed to safeguarding information and personal data.

Personal data related incidents

Incidents, the disclosure of which would in itself create an unacceptable risk of harm, may be excluded in accordance with the exemptions contained in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or may be subject to the limitations of other UK information legislation.

Public sector information holder

The ESRC does not sell data and therefore is not making a statement with regards to the requirement set out in the HM Treasury and the Office of Public Sector Information Guidelines.

Year-on-year total numbers of protected personal data related incidents prior to 2008-09

Total number of protected personal data related incidents formally reported to the Information Commissioner's Office by category number

	I	II	III	IV	V	Total
2007-08	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006-07	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total number of other protected personal data related incidents, by category number

	I	II	III	IV	V	Total
2007-08	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006-07	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary of protected personal data related incidents formally reported to the information commissioner's office in 2008-09

Date of incident	Nature of incident	Nature of data involved	Number of people potentially affected	Notification steps
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Planned steps for the coming year include:

- Ongoing audit programme of policies and procedures for handling information and data processed by ESRC
- Review and consolidation of information security and information assurance policies and procedures where possible
- Regular review of ESRC risk registers to ensure appropriate awareness and controls are in place
- Ongoing programme of staff training and awareness activities to reinforce the importance of information assurance and proper information management
- Continued Cross-council and collaborative working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills delivery partners to foster best practice in information assurance
- Mainstreaming guidance contained within the Cabinet Office Security Policy Framework and institutionalising information assurance processes.

Summary of other protected personal data related incidents in 2008-09

Incidents deemed by the Data Controller not to fall within the criteria for report to the Information Commissioner's Office but recorded centrally within the Department are set out in the table below. Small, localised incidents are not recorded centrally and are not cited in these figures.

Category	Nature of incident	Total
I	Loss of inadequately protected electronic equipment, devices or paper documents from secured Government premises	0
II	Loss of inadequately protected electronic equipment, devices or paper documents	0
III	Insecure disposal of inadequately protected electronic equipment, devices or paper document from outside secured Government premises	0
IV	Unauthorised disclosure	0
V	Other	0

Vital Statistics: Expenditure

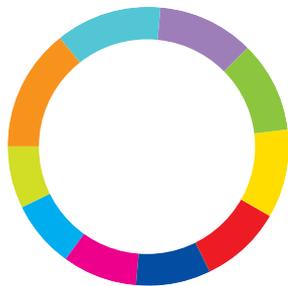
Research and Training Expenditure 2008-09

Regional spend 2008-09

Region	Research £000	Training £000	Total £000
East Midlands	2,828	2,613	5,442
Eastern	14,405	4,520	18,926
London	31,096	12,128	43,224
North East	2,975	2,674	5,648
North West	9,597	5,271	14,868
Northern Ireland	1,312	93	1,404
Scotland	11,178	7,666	18,844
South East	16,501	9,478	25,978
South West	7,301	3,683	10,984
Wales	6,105	2,867	8,971
West Midlands	6,291	3,280	9,572
Yorkshire and Humberside	6,516	5,328	11,844
Other	2,490	0	2,490
Grand Total	118,594	59,601	178,195

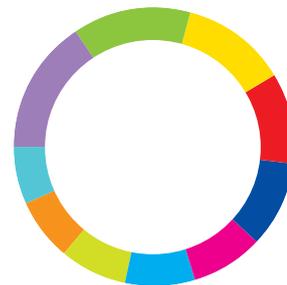
Top 10 institutions by research expenditure

HEI	£000
University of Essex	7,721
University of Manchester	6,468
University of Oxford	5,973
University of London: Institute of Education	5,700
Cardiff University	5,482
London School of Economics and Political Science	5,136
University College London	4,666
University of Cambridge	4,661
University of Edinburgh	4,071
University of Bristol	3,844
Total	53,723
% of Overall Total	45



Top 10 institutions by training expenditure

HEI	£000
University of Oxford	4,251
University of Edinburgh	3,763
University College London	3,331
University of Manchester	2,890
University of Cambridge	2,730
London School of Economics and Political Science	2,277
Cardiff University	2,217
University of Glasgow	2,109
University of Sheffield	1,924
University of Bristol	1,811
Total	27,303
% of Overall Total	46



Top 10 institutions by overall expenditure for research and training

HEI	£000
University of Oxford	10,225
University of Manchester	9,357
University of Essex	8,675
University College London	7,997
University of Edinburgh	7,834
Cardiff University	7,699
London School of Economics and Political Science	7,413
University of Cambridge	7,391
University of London: Institute of Education	6,073
University of Bristol	5,655
Total	78,319
% of Overall Total	44



financial and other information

FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION
REMUNERATION REPORT 2008-09
AUDITED INFORMATION OF REMUNERATION REPORT

accounts

STATEMENT OF COUNCIL'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSIBILITIES
STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR
GENERAL TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
STATEMENT OF NET EXPENDITURE
BALANCE SHEET
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS



Environmental policy

ESRC is committed to following the joint Research Council Environmental policy Statement

92



96



NOTES 107
Staff numbers



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

The ESRC is committed to supporting excellent research. All of our funding opportunities are highly competitive and only those proposals judged by experts in the field to be of the highest scientific quality are supported.

Financial and Other Information

Financial and other information

- 1 The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is an independent executive Non-Departmental Public 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 Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

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.
- 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 The future provision of core back office support for ESRC will be provided through the new RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd (SSC) facilities. Human Resources (HR), strategic procurement and IT went live in 2008-09, with Finance expected to go live in 2009-10. This major project sponsored by the RCUK Executive Group is being run under formal project and risk management processes, and is subject to Gateway review. In addition within ESRC the SSC implementation project is classed as a Business Critical project and thereby subject to Audit Committee review arrangements. A risk register is maintained and updated within the project framework.

Financial review of the year

- 11 The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 record a net expenditure of £194.2m compared with a net expenditure of £177.0m in 2007-08. The Government Funds as at 31 March 2009 showed a deficit of £23.6m compared to a deficit of £32.9m in 2007-08. Total Grant-in-Aid drawn down was £178.0m, of which £0.9m was deployed on capital expenditure. Capital expenditure was limited to IS developments, purchase of data sets, Assets in the Course of Construction in respect of the SSC and the acquisition of investment shares in RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd (SSC Ltd).

Research expenditure has increased to £118.5m (£105.8m 2007-08), with Postgraduate Training increasing to £59.6m (£56.3m 2007-08). Both of these reflect increases to ESRC's budget and subsequent new investments to strengthen the social science research base and strengthen future capacity both of which are covered earlier in the Annual Report.

Research expenditure included the third year's funding of grants costed and funded within the new full Economic Costing (fEC) funding framework. Such funding only relates to new awards issued since April 2006 on fEC terms. Based on estimates of additional projected fEC take up during the year of £12.4m, it is estimated that the value of research which attracted fEC during 2008-09, including fEC awards issued in previous years, amounted to approximately £98m, which would have cost around £69m if it had been funded under the previous basis.

Funding from other bodies has increased to £27.9m (£21.2m 2007-08) reflecting an increase in collaborative funding on research investments.

The Balance Sheet records debtors of £21.8m (£14.7m 2007-08). The increase in debtors was a result of the overall increase in collaborative funding with year end debtors in respect of contributions from Central Government Bodies. The Balance Sheet records Creditors of £56.3m compared to £57.4m in 2007-08. This fall was due to a reduction in pre-funding receipts.

Shared Services Centre

- 12 The seven Research Councils agreed to establish a Shared Service Centre (SSC), to be based in Swindon. The SSC was set up in 2007-08, following its incorporation as SSC Ltd. The SSC will provide finance, grants, human resources, information systems, procurement and payroll operational services to each of the Councils and their institutes. The aim of the SSC is to reduce spending on administration through sharing and standardising processes across the councils.
- 13 There is a phased implementation plan for transferring the Councils' services and 2008-09 saw the first implementation of shared services to the Research Councils from the SSC. Significant milestones included:
- The TUPE transfer of 400 staff from the Research Councils to SSC Ltd in April 2008
 - The take on of Procurement services by the SSC in May 2008
 - The take on of ITC services for the Swindon site by the SSC in June 2008
 - The launch of HR services to ESRC, EPSRC and the SSC, based on the Oracle platform in February 2009
 - Confirmation of the solution for the management of grant applications and funding.

Further rollout of HR, Payroll, Finance and system-related Procurement services across the Research Councils is planned in 2009-10, along with the development and implementation of the grants solution.

- 14 EPSRC has been acting as 'host' for the SSC project on behalf of all Councils and has contracted for the development and establishment of the shared service centre. The Chief Executive Officer of ESRC is the project SRO. The Councils have agreed to share all these costs and ESRC's agreed share is 1.83 per cent. These costs have been accounted for in ESRC's books as £191,000 expensed (note 7 to the Accounts), £690,000 as Assets in the Course of Construction (note 8 to the Accounts), £145,000 as Investment Assets (note 8 to the Accounts) and £72,000 as provisions for SSC related redundancy and system termination costs (note 11 to the Accounts).
- 15 The transition to shared services is regarded as a business critical project and is referred to in the Statement of Internal Control.

Going concern

- 16 The Income and Expenditure Reserve at 31 March 2009 shows a deficit of £25.6m. This reflects the inclusion of certain liabilities falling due in future years which will be met by future grant-in-aid from the ESRC's sponsoring department, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. This is because, under the normal conventions applying to parliamentary control over income and expenditure, such grants may not be issued in advance of need.

Financial and Other Information

- 17 Grant-in-aid for 2009-10, 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 2010-11. 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 the Department of Industry, as renewed in August 2005.
- 18 The management of ESRC fully expect the recorded deficit on the Income and Expenditure Reserve to be extinguished over time, having regard to the resource and capital budgets to which ESRC can be expected to have access. FRS18 also states that for non-trading entities the anticipated continuation of the provision for that service is normally sufficient evidence of going concern. It has accordingly been considered appropriate to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of these financial statements.

Evaluation

- 19 The ESRC places great emphasis on the evaluation of its research. The Research Evaluation Committee (REC) works independently from the Funding Boards to evaluate the impact and quality of ESRC research through a comprehensive review programme. The results inform Council's strategic decision making and guide the Boards' investment decisions.
- Project evaluations provide accountability for grant expenditure, and provide an early assessment of academic quality and research impact. The REC's analysis of project evaluation results contributes to Council's strategic planning, provides a track-record of project performance to support further funding decisions and feeds into policy evaluation work.
- Programme, Network and 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. The results feed into the design of new phases of research and contribute to the development of research management practice.
- Scheme evaluations assess the impact and effectiveness of different modes of ESRC funding. The results inform Council's strategy for supporting particular activities such as interdisciplinary collaborations, building new research capacity and supporting career development in different sections of the research community.
- Impact and policy evaluations are a central feature of the evaluation system. This work includes benchmarking the international impact of UK social science, evaluating the economic and societal impact of ESRC research and reviewing aspects of research funding policy. The results help the Council to demonstrate the wider contribution of UK social science and the national and international impact of its own portfolio.

Statutory basis

- 20 ESRC's accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Treasury Financial Reporting Manual (FREM) and the Accounts Direction, issued by the Secretary of State for DIUS pursuant to Section 2(2) of the Science and Technology Act 1965. The accounts follow UK GAAP having due regard to the Council's status as a government body.

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 2008-09 payment performance indicated that 95 per cent (2007-08 97 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.
- In November 2008 a new prompt payment target of 10 days was introduced for the public sector. ESRC will be adopting this target for 2009-10.

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, 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 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, HR Updates, E-mail and the Intranet. Consultation with employees takes place through meetings of senior staff, the Joint Negotiating Consultative Committee, through bilateral, directorate, sectional meetings, 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 would be communicated to staff through e-mail supported by all staff meetings.
- 25 All staff are made aware of the Delivery Plan and are then involved in developing and implementing Directorate and Personal objectives which flow from the Plan.
- 26 ESRC was successfully re-assessed against the new Investors in People standard in November 2008. The outcome was that the organisation continues to meet the requirements of the standard and therefore recognition is maintained for the next three years.
- 27 Details of the Research Councils' Pension Scheme (RCPS) are set out in Note 3 to the Accounts and details of the salary and pensions benefits of senior employees are included in the Remuneration Report.

Health and safety

- 28 The ESRC policy is to set and maintain high standards of health and safety performance so as to ensure the health and safety of staff as well as that of others who may work in or visit the premises. To achieve this ESRC has a Health and Safety Policy Statement signed by the Chief Executive, the Trade Union Health and Safety representative and the ESRC's Health and Safety Advisor. The policy covers responsibilities, competencies, risks, controls, the provision of advice, performance measurement and staff consultation. The policy is accessible to all staff through ESRC's Intranet along with all health and safety guidance and procedures. ESRC also has a Health and Safety committee whose role is to review the adequacy of safety training and the supply of information, consider accident statistics and safety audit reports and to help the ESRC's Health and Safety Advisor carry out his/her duties.

Sickness Absence

- 29 ESRC management continues to monitor absence on an ongoing basis with all sickness absences followed up by a return to work interview in line with ESRC's Sickness Absence policy. Persistent short term and long term absence is managed on a case by case basis often with support from an Occupational Health Physician. ESRC's sickness absence data is as follows:

Total number of staff as at 31 March 2009	140
Total days lost to sickness	843
Average working days lost	6
Days lost to long term (28 days or more)	188 (22%)

The most common causes of absence are shown below:

Cause	Number of days lost	%
Pregnancy related	107	13
Depression	101	12
Cold/Flu	92	11
Post operation recovery	66	8

Public sector information holder

- 30 Information required to be reported by the Economic and Social Research Council in respect of holding public sector information is included in the management commentary section entitled 'vital statistics: data protection and information security' on page 85.

Environmental policy

- 31 ESRC is committed to following the joint Research Council Environmental Policy Statement which calls for:
- Compliance with all relevant legislation
 - Minimise the adverse impacts of new buildings, refurbishments
 - Make efficient use of natural resources
 - Operate effective arrangements for waste disposal and recycling
 - Promote effective environmental supply management
 - Work with staff to promote more economic forms of transport
 - Provide appropriate information and training to new staff.

Financial and Other Information

Audit Committee

- 32 ESRC's Audit Committee is constructed of three members of Council plus two external co-opted members providing academic and professional accountancy expertise. 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

- 33 The internal auditors of ESRC are the Research Council Internal Audit Service with an audit plan being agreed and undertaken each year.
- 34 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 2008-09 was £42,300 which represents £38,000 for the audit of the year end financial statement and £4,300 for the audit of the IFRS opening balance sheet at 31 March 2008. There was no auditor remuneration for non-audit work.
- 35 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.

Post balance sheet events

- 36 There were no Post Balance Sheet events between the balance sheet date and the 6 July 2009, the date when the Accounting Officer approved the accounts. The Financial Statements do not reflect events after this date.
- 37 On 5 June 2009, the Government announced the creation of a new Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) whose key role will be to build Britain's capabilities to compete in the global economy. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS). The sponsorship responsibility for ESRC passed to BIS on that date. There is no reason to believe that the expected government funding underlying ESRC's going concern assertion will be affected by this change.

Remuneration Report 2008-09

Unaudited Information

Remuneration policy

- 1 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 DIUS Permanent Secretary.
- 2 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 DIUS. There is no separate Remuneration Committee that considers the pay of other senior staff.
- 3 The remuneration of ESRC's Council members and Chairman is reviewed annually by DIUS.

Contractual policy

- 4 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 is subject to the terms and conditions of the Research Council's Joint Superannuation Early Severance Scheme. The Chairman and Council members receive a letter of appointment from DIUS and are not employees of the ESRC although remuneration is made through the ESRC payroll. 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

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

Remuneration and Pensions Interests for Chief Executive and Directors for 2008-09 (comparative figures for 2007-08 shown in brackets)

Chief Executive and Directors	Chief Executive	Director	Director
Name	Professor I Diamond	Mr A Alsop	Drs A Wissenburg
Age at 31 March 2009	55	52	42
Sex	Male	Male	Female
Service to 31 March 2009 (years)	6	20	5
Annual Salary 2008-09 (£k)	135-140 (130-135)	65-70 (60-65)	65-70 (65-70)
% increase in salary from 2007-08	2.9%	4.5%	4.5%
Benefits in Kind	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Real increase in pension at 60 (£)	4,746 (6,507)	430 (777)	1,023 (1,155)
Related lump sum at 31 March 2009 (£)	– (–)	72,646 (67,959)	– (–)
Total annual accrued pension at 60 at 31 March 2009 (£)	57,388 (50,135)	24,215 (22,653)	6,009 (4,749)
Cash equivalent of transfer values at 31 March 2008 (£)	860,705 (695,191)	421,059 (372,807)	53,789 (39,282)
Cash equivalent of transfer values at 31 March 2009 (£)*	1,012,846 (912,881)	466,906 (441,923)	70,485 (61,418)
Real increase in cash equivalent of transfer values (£)	79,225 (114,454)	7,279 (14,197)	9,702 (12,725)
Pension provider	RCPS	RCPS	RCPS

* The figure may be different from the closing figure in last year's accounts. This is due to the CETV factors being updated to comply with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

6 Salary paid in 2008-09 includes gross salary; performance pay or bonuses; overtime; recruitment and retention allowances, responsibility allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation. The average increase of salary for the above senior staff was 3.9 per cent.

Pensions

7 Details of the Research Councils' Pension Scheme (RCPS) is included in Note 3 to the Accounts.

8 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 RCPS 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.

Financial and Other Information

9 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

- 10 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 DIUS. 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.
- 11 The following table details the period of appointment covering each Council member who served on the Council during 2008-09 along with the remuneration received for that period.

Remuneration for Council Members for 2008-09 (comparative figures for 2007-08 shown in brackets)

Name	Period of Appointment	Remuneration £k
Lord Adair Turner – Chairman*	01-04-07 – 18-09-08	5-10 (15-20)
Professor Alan Alexander – Chair, Research Resources Board	01-08-03 – 31-07-09	5-10 (5-10)
Mr Martin Brookes – Chair, Audit Committee	01-08-07 – 31-07-10	5-10 (0-5)
Professor Ann Buchanan	01-08-07 – 31-07-10	5-10 (0-5)
Professor Charlie Jeffery – Chair, Strategic Research Board	01-08-05 – 31-07-11	5-10 (10-15)
Professor Malcolm Grant**	08-02-08 – 31-07-11	- (-)
Professor Michael Lamb – Chair, International Advisory Group	01-08-06 – 31-07-11	5-10 (5-10)
Professor Andrew Pettigrew – Chair, Research Evaluation Committee	21-10-04 – 20-10-10	5-10 (5-10)
Professor Carol Propper – Chair, Research Grants Board	01-08-05 – 31-07-09	5-10 (5-10)
Mr David Ramsden***	05-02-08 – 31-01-12	- (-)
Professor Judith Rees – Chair, Training and Development Board	01-08-04 – 31-07-10	5-10 (5-10)
Mr David Walker	01-02-07 – 31-07-12	5-10 (5-10)

*Following Lord Turner's relinquishment of the Chair appointment, Professor Diamond took up the role of temporary Chair pending the appointment of a new ESRC Chair. In taking on this responsibility, as advised to the ESRC Council at its October 2008 meeting, Professor Diamond instituted additional processes under which Professor Alexander, a member of ESRC's Council, agreed to deal with any appeals and issues which could be deemed to potentially lead to conflict of interests between the role of Chief Executive and Chair. In addition Professor Diamond established a process for other issues to be jointly discussed at bi-monthly meetings to be held by him with both Professor Alexander and Mr Brookes, who is also an ESRC Council member, as well as being Chair of ESRC's Audit Committee.

**Remuneration not requested by member.

*** Remuneration not payable as member works in Public Sector.

29 June 2009



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

Accounts

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 the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills 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, recognised gains and losses 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 the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, 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 for Innovation, Universities and Skills has designated the Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council as the Accounting Officer for the ESRC. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which he is answerable, for the keeping of proper records and for safeguarding the Council's assets, are set out in the 'Non-Departmental Public Bodies' Accounting Officers' Memorandum, issued by HM Treasury and published in *'Managing Public Money'*.

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 *'Managing Public Money'*.

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 2009 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with HM 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.

Accounts

General risk awareness training has been provided to over 90 per cent of ESRC staff with more detailed training in risk assessment and management being 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 quarterly Senior Management Team meetings, which include discussion of risk aspects of ongoing and new business developments. Risk reporting routines and review have been enhanced so that quarterly Directorate reports on current work to the Senior Management Team are supported by formal risk analyses.

During 2008-09, ESRC Directors have been consulted on improvements to ESRC's risk management framework and supporting risk system, and a corporate Risk Champions working group has been established to take this forward.

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 Funding Assurance Programme and the Quality Assurance and Validation of TRAC) conducted on a Cross Council basis to oversee the regularity of Research expenditure at Research Institutions
- Monitoring/reporting arrangements on business critical projects:
 - UK Household Longitudinal Study. This project will establish a major new longitudinal study of the UK population across 40,000 households
 - SSC implementation
- Those relating to Venture funding where new procedures in 2007-08 include the requirement for a risk assessment for all proposals put to Directors
- Corporate project management guidance.

In addition, for its large five year research and resource centre investments which are commissioned at research organisations, ESRC grant conditions require each centre to establish a Risk register which is subject to ESRC oversight. During the year ESRC management undertook review of the requirements and has developed additional requirements to improve this mechanism to offer additional assurance in a key area of funded expenditure.

Cross council risk management

During the period the Councils' Operations Management Group took responsibility for oversight of risk at a cross council level including oversight of the full Economic Cost funding framework. In addition a Risk Awareness Network Group has been established by RCUK which meets on a six monthly basis to support sharing of knowledge and approaches to risk management across the Research Councils (and now the SSC).

RCUK Shared Services Centre development

The Shared Service Centre (SSC) project is designated as business critical.

The SSC project will deliver a shared administrative support service for all UK Research Councils. Initially RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd (SSC Ltd) (the separate legal entity which will operate the shared service) will provide HR, Procurement and IS services in the year to 31 March 2009 with Finance in the year ending 31 March 2010 followed by Grants Processing. This project is business critical for ESRC as it fundamentally changes the way in which back-office services are provided by outsourcing them to the SSC Ltd. The SSC project operates across all seven Councils and is directed by a Project Board comprised of representatives of each Council, SSC Ltd and a number of independent members. I chair this Board as Chair of the RCUK Executive Group. The principal risk for the Project, and therefore for the seven Councils, is the potential for cost and time overruns and this is a clear focus for the Project Board. Recently an exercise took place to review the timetable and costs for the whole project. The Project Board has now agreed a revised implementation plan which maintains the overall timetable and includes measures designed to control project costs.

SSC Ltd has a Board of Directors and Audit Committee which provides corporate governance framework in line with statutory and best practice requirements. Directors have been appointed by Research Councils as shareholders, with the ESRC nominee being ESRC's Director of Finance, who is also a member of the SSC Ltd Audit Committee, and who during the year served as chair of the Audit Committee pending appointment of an independent member as chair.

As a stakeholder in this project ESRC has its own Project Board which manages its participation and associated risks in the project. The high level risks and mitigation strategies are regularly scrutinised by ESRC's Directors Group. Governance arrangements are regularly monitored by ESRC's Audit Committee.

Business continuity

ESRC has a Business Continuity Plan and a Business Continuity Team made up of key personnel from across all ESRC's business and support areas.

To facilitate consideration of potential threats to business continuity, and integration with cross-council and IT-specific disaster recovery plans, risks have been grouped into the following categories:

- Disruption of Non-IT infrastructure
- Disruption of IT infrastructure
- Information systems.

A number of different scenarios, under each of these headings, have been identified and analysed. Where applicable, specific contingency arrangements and disaster recovery strategies have been determined for incidents.

The following elements of the plan have been identified as critical and are tested and reviewed on a regular (at least annual) basis:

- Emergency Response
- Disaster Recovery
- Contingency Arrangements.

The Business Continuity Plan has been approved by the Chief Executive's Directors' Group, and has also received the endorsement of ESRC's Audit Committee. It is also subject to independent review, on a regular basis, by the Research Councils' Internal Audit Service.

Chair of ESRC

I have been appointed as Chief Executive and Deputy Chair of ESRC, and upon Lord Turner's relinquishment of the Chairmanship, I have taken up the role of temporary Chair pending the appointment of a new ESRC Chair. In taking on this responsibility, as advised to the ESRC Council at its October 2008 meeting, I established additional processes under which Professor Alexander, a member of ESRC's Council, agreed to deal with any appeals and issues which could be deemed to potentially lead to conflict of interests between my role of Chief Executive and acting Chair. I have in addition established a process for other issues to be jointly discussed at bi-monthly meetings I hold with both Professor Alexander and Mr Brookes, who is also an ESRC Council member, as well as being Chair of ESRC's Audit Committee.

Accounts

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 under the Cross Research annual Funding Assurance Programme which provide assurance on the regularity of research project expenditure at Universities and other research bodies
- Measures in place at a cross Research Council level to obtain assurance on the operation of Transparent Approach to Costing at Universities supporting cost data used in Full Economic Costing of funded research proposals.

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.

The internal control system provides confidence that the risk is managed to a reasonable level and I can provide assurance that it supports the achievement of the ESRC's policies, aims and objectives.

29 June 2009



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the 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 2009 under the Science and Technology Act 1965. These comprise the Statement of Net Expenditure, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

Respective responsibilities of the Council, Chief Executive and auditor

The Council, and Chief Executive as Accounting Officer are responsible for preparing the Annual Report, which includes the Remuneration Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills directions made thereunder 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 and the part of the remuneration report to be audited 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 the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills directions made thereunder. I report to you whether, in my opinion, the information, which comprises the 'financial and other information' section, excluding the paragraph 19 titled 'Evaluation', of the management commentary, included in the Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements. 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.

In addition, I report to you 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 HM Treasury regarding remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Control reflects the Economic and Social Research Council's compliance with HM Treasury's guidance, and I report if it does not. I am not required to consider whether this statement covers all risks and controls, or form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Economic and Social Research Council's 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 paragraph 19 titled 'Evaluation' in the 'Financial and Other Information' section, and the remaining sections of the management commentary, the unaudited part of the remuneration report, vital statistics and the Chairman's statement. 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 opinion

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 Economic and Social Research Council and Accounting Officer 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.

Accounts

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 thereunder by the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, of the state of the Economic and Social Research Council's affairs as at 31 March 2009 and of its net expenditure, recognised gains and losses and cash flows 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 the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills directions made thereunder; and
- Information, which comprises the 'financial and other information' section of the management commentary excluding the paragraph 19 titled 'Evaluation', included within the Annual Report, is consistent with the financial statements.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, 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.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

6 July 2009

Amyas CE Morse
Comptroller and Auditor General
National Audit Office
151 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London
SW1W 9SS

Statement of Net Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

Expenditure	Notes	2008-09	2007-08
		£000	£000
Staff and Council Members' Costs	3	5,974	5,302
Research	4	118,594	105,832
Postgraduate Training	5	59,601	56,349
Knowledge Transfer	6	3,879	4,019
Other Operating Costs	7	7,351	6,702
Total Operating Expenditure		195,399	178,204
Interest receivable		(30)	(36)
Net Operating Expenditure		195,369	178,168
Notional cost of capital	12	(1,157)	(1,069)
Net Expenditure for the Year		194,212	177,099
Reversal of Notional cost of capital		1,157	1,069
Net expenditure for the year after reversal of Notional cost of capital		195,369	178,168
Income and Expenditure Reserve brought forward	13	(36,545)	(14,221)
Grant in Aid received	13	178,000	135,018
Funding Received from Other Bodies	2	27,969	21,244
Transfer from Revaluation Reserve – Depreciation	13	21	54
Transfer from/(to) Restricted Reserve	13	342	(472)
Net Expenditure for the Year	13	(194,212)	(177,099)
Reversal of Notional Cost of Capital	13	(1,157)	(1,069)
Income and Expenditure Reserve carried forward	13	(25,582)	(36,545)

All activities are continuing.

The notes on pages 105 to 117 form part of these accounts.

Accounts

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

	Notes	2009		2008
		£000	£000	£000
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	8 (a)	3,515		5,015
Intangible Assets	8 (b)	635		638
Investment	8 (c)	145		–
			4,295	5,653
Current Assets				
Debtors and Prepayments	9	21,772		14,719
Cash at bank and in hand	15	6,892		4,254
		28,664		18,973
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(56,311)		(57,483)
Net Current Liabilities			(27,647)	(38,510)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			(23,352)	(32,857)
Provision for liabilities	11		(277)	(138)
Net Liabilities			(23,629)	(32,995)
Capital and Reserves				
Income and Expenditure Reserve	13		(25,582)	(36,545)
Restricted Reserve	13		646	988
Revaluation Reserve	13		1,307	2,562
Deficit on Government Funds	13		(23,629)	(32,995)

29 June 2009



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 105 to 117 form part of these accounts.

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

	Notes	2009 £000	2008 £000
Net cash outflow from operating activities	14	(202,411)	(162,710)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance			
Interest received		30	36
Capital expenditure			
Payments to acquire investments		(145)	(-)
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(492)	(470)
Payments to acquire intangible fixed assets		(313)	(-)
Net cash outflow before financing		(203,331)	(163,144)
Financing			
Grant-in-Aid received		178,000	135,018
Funding received from other bodies		27,969	21,244
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the year	15	2,638	(6,882)

Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

	Notes	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Other recognised (losses) and gains on revaluation of land and buildings	13	(1,234)	282

The notes on pages 105 to 117 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 and other fixed assets where material.

ESRC has received a Direction on the form of its Accounts issued by the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. 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 in accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual (FREM).

The accounts have been prepared on the basis of a Going Concern. The Income and Expenditure Reserve at 31 March 2009 shows a deficit of £25.6m. This reflects the inclusion of certain liabilities falling due in future years which will be met by future grant-in-aid from the ESRC's sponsoring department, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. This is because, under the normal conventions applying to parliamentary control over income and expenditure, such grants may not be issued in advance of need.

Grant-in-aid for 2009-10, 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 2010-11. 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 the Department of Industry, as renewed in August 2005.

The management of ESRC fully expect the recorded deficit on the Income and Expenditure Reserve to be extinguished over time, having regard to the resource and capital budgets to which ESRC can be expected to have access. FRS18 also states that for non-trading entities the anticipated continuation of the provision for that service is normally sufficient evidence of going concern. It has accordingly been considered appropriate to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of these financial statements.

(b) Fixed assets and depreciation/amortisation

Capital expenditure includes the purchase of land, buildings, equipment and intangible assets such as data 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.

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/amortisation 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.

Assets in the course of construction are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

(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 and other funding

Grant-in-Aid for revenue and general capital purposes is credited to the Income and Expenditure Reserve. Grant-in-aid for the purchase of specific assets is credited to the Income and Expenditure Reserve and released to the Statement of Net Expenditure over the useful life of the asset in amounts equal to the annual depreciation charge. The receipt of funds from other bodies is also treated as detailed above unless goods and services are provided to the entity giving the funding.

(e) Research and development

As a research funding organisation, the ESRC's research and development expenditure is charged to the Statement of Net Expenditure 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 Statement of Net Expenditure 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

There are no finance leases. Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Net Expenditure on a straight line basis over the period of the lease. An operating lease exists covering ESRC's rental obligations on a London office (see Note 11).

(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 Statement of Net Expenditure.

(h) Value added tax

The ESRC is partially exempt for VAT purposes. All expenditure and fixed asset purchases are shown inclusive of VAT. Residual input tax reclaimable by the application of the partial exemption formula is treated as miscellaneous income.

(i) Research grants

ESRC policy is to accrue for the costs of work undertaken at Higher Education Institutions at the 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 16.

(j) Pensions and early severance costs

Payments are made to the Research Councils' Pension Schemes (RCPS) in respect of superannuation benefits for ESRC staff. RCPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme but ESRC is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities and has therefore taken the exemption available in FRS17 to account for it as a defined contribution scheme.

(k) Notional cost of capital

The financing structure of ESRC does not include specific interest bearing debt but to ensure that the Statement of Net Expenditure 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 per cent (2008 – 3.5 per cent) 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 Reserve.

(l) Provisions

Provisions have been made in accordance with FRS12 for ESRC redundancy costs and redundancy costs and system termination fees arising from the transition to the Shared Service Centre. See note 11 for further details.

(m) Derivatives and other financial instruments

Due to the non-trading nature of its activities and the way in which ESRC is financed, ESRC is not exposed to the degree of financial risk faced by non public sector entities. Moreover, financial instruments play a much more limited role in creating or changing risk than would be typical of the listed companies to which FRS25, 26 and 29 mainly apply. ESRC has very limited powers to borrow or invest surplus funds and 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.

Debtors and creditors which mature or become payable within 12 months from the Balance Sheet date have been omitted from the currency profile.

Notes to the Accounts

(n) Restricted Reserve

The restricted reserve has two components and relates to: (i) funds received by ESRC as beneficiary of a will that can only be used for specified purposes; (ii) deposits received from international bodies for specific future research investment. Any income earned is transferred to the reserve from the general fund.

(o) Investments

Investment is shown at cost.

2 Funding Received from Other Bodies

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Contributions from government departments	8,638	3,119
Contributions from non-departmental public bodies	16,981	17,344
Contributions from other bodies	2,350	781
	27,969	21,244

3 (a) Staff Costs

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Salaries and wages	4,570	4,085
Social security costs	282	270
Superannuation	800	753
Seconded staff costs (SSC)	140	–
Council members' remuneration	182	194
	5,974	5,302

Staff costs include costs for three staff transferred to SSC Ltd under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 but seconded back to ESRC for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

3 (b) Staff Numbers

The average number of staff employed during the year was 139 full time equivalent.

	2008-09	2007-08
Senior Management (Chief Executive and Band H)	4	4
Managerial (Bands C to G)	105	93
Administrative Support (Band B)	30	30
	139	127

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 £413,000 (2007-08 £540,000) and is included under salaries and wages in note 3 (a).

3 (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 or average emoluments any redundancy and injury benefits are administered and funded directly by ESRC.

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. Separate accounts are published for the Pension Schemes. Employees' contributions vary between 1.5 per cent and 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 (2008 – 21.35 per cent).

The RCPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme but ESRC is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities and has therefore taken the exemption available in FRS17. The actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2006 by a qualified independent actuary. The draft report is available and discussions have commenced about a possible increase in the employer contribution rate to 26 per cent from 21.3 per cent, effective from 1 April 2010. The employers' contribution rate of 21.3 per cent therefore applies to these accounts. The full actuarial valuation is carried out every four years, with the next valuation calculated as at 31 March 2010. Details are available in the accounts of the RCPS, which can be found at www.bbsrc.ac.uk.

For 2008-2009, employer's contributions of £799,640 were payable to the RCPS (2007-2008 £753,284) 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.

4 Research

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Research Programmes	17,268	20,379
Research Centres	18,716	14,150
Research Resources	5,952	2,452
Research Grants	43,091	38,510
Fellowships	1,780	2,439
Research Ventures	8,736	4,917
DFID	4,595	2,554
Other Research	1,168	1,182
International Office	725	825
International Subscriptions	232	222
Teaching and Learning	2,470	4,609
Research Equipment and facilities (see note 1c)	13,861	13,593
	118,594	105,832

5 Postgraduate Training

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Standard Course Studentships	996	1,081
Standard Research Studentships	44,131	42,933
Other Studentships	1,609	1,749
Language Based Area Studies	5,920	3,310
Post Doctoral Fellowships	6,945	7,276
	59,601	56,349

Notes to the Accounts

6 Knowledge Transfer

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Knowledge Transfer Activities	2,337	2,988
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	1,542	1,031
	3,879	4,019

7 Other Operating Costs

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Maintenance and IT/IS support	575	648
Office Supplies	292	378
Postage and Telecommunication	83	123
Archive Services	24	17
Management Consultancy and Other Professional Fees	267	193
Research Evaluation and Information Contracts	489	392
Auditors' Remuneration	42	37
Staff Training and Subscriptions	136	123
Publicity and Distribution	2,258	1,895
Travel and Subsistence	434	468
Meetings and Catering	120	121
Conference Costs	6	7
Recruitment	244	171
Staff Relocation	–	3
VAT/NI Services	7	8
RCPO Costs	6	55
Legal Services/Internal Audit	68	62
RCUK	252	573
SSC Implementation Costs	191	365
SSC Service Costs	498	–
Miscellaneous	287	130
Depreciation and Amortisation	1,074	938
Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	(2)	(5)
	7,351	6,702

8 (a) Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings £000	Assets in the Course of Construction £000	IT and office equipment £000	Total £000
Cost/Valuation				
At 1 April 2008	3,477	287	5,986	9,750
Additions	–	403	89	492
Revaluation	(1,292)	–	–	(1,292)
Disposals	–	–	(141)	(141)
At 31 March 2009	2,185	690	5,934	8,809
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2008	–	–	4,735	4,735
Provided in year	58	–	700	758
Revaluation	(58)	–	–	(58)
Disposals	–	–	(141)	(141)
At 31 March 2009	–	–	5,294	5,294
Net Book Value				
31 March 2009	2,185	690	640	3,515
31 March 2008	3,477	287	1,251	5,015

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. Between formal professional valuations appropriate indices are used.

The Assets in the Course of Construction represents ESRC's individual share of the shared service centre currently being developed by the seven Research Councils.

8 (b) Intangible Fixed Assets

	Data Licenses £000
Cost	
At 1 April 2008	1,229
Additions	313
At 31 March 2009	1,542
Amortisation	
At 1 April 2008	591
Provided in year	316
At 31 March 2009	907
Net Book Value	
31 March 2009	635
31 March 2008	638

Notes to the Accounts

8 (c) SSC Investment

	A shares £	B shares £
Opening balance	1	–
Additions	–	144,570
Disposals	–	–
Closing balance	1	144,570

During the year, ESRC added to its investment in the RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd (SSC Ltd) through the acquisition of £1 ordinary B shares. B shares convey ownership rights to the holder, including any distributions or proceeds from sale of the SSC. The seven Research Councils each acquired one £1 A share, carrying a vote per share, in 2007-08. The RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd has been operating a shared service centre, delivering services to the Research Councils, since May 2008. For the period ending 31 March 2009, the draft financial statements for the company show a loss of £1.4m against a turnover of £25.8m. The balance sheet total is £6.5m represented by £7.9m share capital issued to the Research Councils and £1.4m retained loss.

As no research Council owns more than 21 per cent as a result of the one in seven voting rights on the A ordinary shares, the investment has been classified as 'other investment'.

9 Debtors and Prepayments

	31 March 2009 £000	31 March 2008 £000
Debtors		
Contributions (Central Government bodies)	5,951	1,650
Contributions (Other bodies)	985	–
Other debts (Central Government bodies)	124	119
Other debts (Other bodies)	3,491	2,230
	10,551	3,999
Less: provision for bad and doubtful debts	(8)	(10)
	10,543	3,989
Prepayments		
Prepayments (Central Government bodies)	–	25
Prepayments (Other bodies)*	11,229	10,705
	21,772	14,719

*11,060k of the prepayments relate to the postgraduate training scheme where payments are made to HEIs in March to allow students to be paid in April.

10 Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year

	31 March 2009 £000	31 March 2008 £000
Research Accrual (Other bodies)	43,200	43,444
Studentship Accrual (Other bodies)	1,378	707
Prefunding Receipts (Central Government bodies)*	8,368	10,161
Other (Central Government bodies)	3,365	3,171
	56,311	57,483

*Prefunding receipts relate to cash receipts in 2008-09 from co-funders which were paid in advance and will be matched as income against expenditure as it is incurred in future accounting periods.

11 Provisions for Liabilities

	Rental Obligations £000	Other £000	SSC £000	2009 Total £000	2008 Total £000
As at 1 April 2008	68	–	70	138	82
Additional Provisions made in year	–	150	2	152	70
Provisions utilised	(13)	–	–	(13)	(14)
As at 31 March 2009	55	150	72	277	13

Provision is being made for outstanding rental obligations on a London office leasehold property held jointly by the Research Councils. Negotiation of a sub-lease to a third party has left a residual lease obligation of £85,000 per annum over the next five years which totals £425,000. ESRC's provision together with other minor residual liabilities totals £55,000.

A provision of £150,000 has been made in respect of redundancy costs as a result of restructuring back office functions on a cross council basis, which took place prior to the SSC project.

The Research Councils and RCUK SSC Ltd are in the process of developing a Shared Service Centre to carry out the central functions of HR, Finance and IT across the Councils. As a result some Research Councils will incur redundancy costs, particularly where existing staff live a distance away from Swindon where the Centre will be situated.

The Research Councils have collectively agreed that they will be jointly liable for necessary redundancies. The Councils calculated their likely redundancy liabilities in order to make a 2007-08 provision which has been updated for movements during 2008-09. A funding allocation model was developed and agreed by all the Research Councils and this identified the proportion of SSC project spend and liability that each individual Council would incur. The total provision for redundancies has been apportioned using this model. The table below shows, for each Council, the amount that they need to provide for redundancies of their own staff. Some Councils will incur a cost for terminating their existing systems, and these costs are also being shared. It then notes the proportion of the total liability it will incur and the amount of provision that that represents. The figure below this denotes the contributions that an individual Council has from the other Research Councils. The bottom line shows the net provision that has been recorded in each Council's accounts.

SSC Redundancy Cost and System Termination Provisions Allocation

	AHRC £000	BBSRC £000	ESRC £000	EPSRC £000	MRC £000	NERC £000	STFC £000	Total £000
Opening provision required for the council's own redundancies	68	152	–	–	999	1,620	–	2,839
Opening provision required for system termination fee	–	–	–	–	1,000	–	–	1,000
Opening total provision	68	152	–	–	1,999	1,620	–	3,839
Net movement in provisions	–	279	–	–	31	(711)	520	119
Requested total provision before sharing	68	431	–	–	2,030	909	520	3,958
% of liability to be borne by each Council	1.33%	20.54%	1.83%	8.24%	26.98%	20.54%	20.54%	100%
Provision required to be borne by each Council	53	813	72	326	1,068	813	813	3,958

This note has been replicated in each Research Council Annual Report and Accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

12 Notional Cost of Capital

	31 March 2009 £000	31 March 2008 £000
Notional Cost of Capital	(1,157)	(1,069)

In accordance with Treasury guidance the notional cost of capital credit has been written back to the Income and Expenditure Reserve.

13 Reserves and Reconciliation of Movement in Government Funds

	Restricted Reserve £000	Revaluation Reserve £000	Income and Expenditure Reserve £000	Total Government Funds £000
As at 1 April 2008	988	2,562	(36,545)	(32,995)
Grant in Aid received	–	–	178,000	178,000
Funding received from Other Bodies	–	–	27,969	27,969
Revaluation in year	–	(1,234)	–	(1,234)
Transfer from/to Income and Expenditure Reserve – depreciation	–	(21)	21	–
Transfer of Restricted funds	(342)	–	342	–
Net Expenditure for the year	–	–	(194,212)	(194,212)
Reversal of notional cost of capital	–	–	(1,157)	(1,157)
As at 31 March 2009	646	1,307	(25,582)	(23,629)

The movement in the Restricted Fund reflects funds received and from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation that became attributable against research investments in which the foundation wished to co-fund.

14 Reconciliation of the Net Operating Expenditure to Net Cash Outflow from Operating Activities

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Net operating expenditure	(195,399)	(178,204)
Depreciation/Amortisation charges	1,074	938
Increase in Provisions	139	56
Increase in debtors	(8,591)	(990)
Increase in prepayments	(499)	(632)
Increase in creditors	865	16,122
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(202,411)	(162,710)

15 (a) Reconciliation of Movement in Net Funds

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Cash at 1 April 2008	4,254	11,136
Increase / (Decrease) in cash	2,638	(6,882)
Cash at 31 March 2009	6,892	4,254

15 (b) Breakdown of Cash Balance

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Office of Paymaster General	6,246	3,265
Restricted Reserve bank account	646	989
Cash at 31 March 2009	6,892	4,254

16 Commitments

(a) Research Awards

Future commitments on approved research awards to Higher Education Institutions and other approved Research bodies:

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
2008/2009	–	137,873
2009/2010	142,982	84,106
2010/2011	92,418	50,903
2011/2012	50,854	37,920
Later years	26,461	–
	312,715	310,802

(b) Postgraduate Training

Future Commitments on approved postgraduate awards:

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
2008/2009	–	42,779
2009/2010	38,705	33,775
2010/2011	25,563	32,056
Later years	15,131	–
	79,399	108,610

(c) Capital Commitments

Capital commitments as at 31 March 2009 for which no provision has been made are as follows:

	2008-09 £000	2007-08 £000
Shared Services Centre	313	439

The SSC capital commitment represents ESRC's individual share of the future committed spend on the Shared Services Centre. Costs incurred to 31 March 2009 have been recognised through the Statement of Net Expenditure and the SSC Asset in the Course of Construction.

Notes to the Accounts

17 Contingent Liabilities

The Council has no known material contingent liabilities (2007-08 None).

18 Related Party Transactions

The ESRC is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

DIUS is regarded as a related party. During the year, ESRC has had various material transactions with DIUS and with other entities for which DIUS is regarded as the parent Department, viz: Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council; Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; Natural Environment Research Council; Medical Research Council; Science and Technology facilities Council; Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Technology Strategy Board. In addition ESRC has had various material transactions with other Government Departments and other Central Government bodies, viz: Department for Communities and Local Government; Office of the Third Sector; Higher Education Funding Council for Wales; Department for International Development and the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Transactions have taken place between ESRC and RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd in respect of the HR, strategic procurement and IT services being supplied in the year.

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 5 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 Council members who had no direct interest in the award concerned (**Table A**). None of the 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.

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 were the named Principal Investigator. None of the disclosed Board/Council members were involved in the approval of awards to the Institution where they were named as the Principal Investigator. (**Table C**). Under ESRC regulations the Audit Committee chairman reviews and approves all awards to Council and Board members.

Table A

Council Member	Institution	No. of Awards	Amount £
Professor A Buchanan	University of Oxford	88	6,810,994
Professor C Jeffrey	University of Edinburgh	78	5,840,087
Professor M Lamb	University of Cambridge	64	5,762,253
Professor A Pettigrew	University of Bath	15	607,697
Professor A Pettigrew	University of Oxford	88	6,810,994
Professor C Propper	University of Bristol	57	4,036,194
Professor J Rees	London School of Economics	67	6,352,732
Professor M Grant	University College London	76	6,260,063

Table B

Council/Board Members/Senior Staff	Related party	No. of Awards held by related party	Amount paid to Related Party £
Dr K Delamont	Partner	1	1,606,483
Professor J Fairhead	Partner	1	825,154
Dr S Witherspoon	Partner	1	543,671

Table C

Council/Board Members	Institution	No. of Awards	Aggregate Amount £
Dr J Campbell	School of Oriental and African Studies	1	110,916
Dr NJ Brookes	Aston University	1	99,934
Professor A Pettigrew	University of Bath	1	37,057
Professor B Carter	De Montfort University	1	34,717
Professor B Francis	Lancaster University	2	457,784
Professor B Townley	University of St Andrews	1	582,941
Professor BC Hayes	University of Aberdeen	1	16,416
Professor C Howe	University of Cambridge	1	116,314
Professor C Huxham	British Academy of Management	1	34,655
Professor C Jeffery	University of Edinburgh	2	33,509
Professor C Sedikides	University of Southampton	3	85,036
Professor CJ McInnes	Aberystwyth University	1	106,876
Professor EC Page	London School of Economics	1	7,854
Professor GA Boyne	Cardiff University	1	70,000
Professor J Brannen	Institute of Education	1	20,715
Professor J Field	University of Stirling	1	8,220
Professor J Nazroo	University College London	1	87,529
Professor JA Rees	London School of Economics	1	438,848
Professor K Rowlingson	University of Birmingham	1	67,083
Professor M Hughes	University of Bristol	1	34,947
Professor M I Bulmer	University of Surrey	1	107,075
Professor ME Slade	University of Warwick	1	12,898
Professor MM Vihman	University of York	2	335,456
Professor OP Attanasio	Institute for Fiscal Studies	1	205,718
Professor OP Attanasio	University College London	1	157,113
Professor P Elias	University of Warwick	1	238,007
Professor RA Mason	University of Southampton	1	47,985
Professor S Arber	University of Surrey	1	617,294
Professor S Burgess	University of Bristol	2	239,694
Professor S Roper	Aston University	1	7,192
Professor S Wheeler	Queen's University of Belfast	1	25,337
Professor SJ Wood	University of Sheffield	1	37,021

19 Derivatives and other Financial Instruments

Liquidity Risk – ESRC's net revenue resource requirements are financed by resources voted annually by Parliament, and administered as grant-in-aid through the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, just as its capital expenditure largely is. ESRC is not therefore exposed to significant liquidity risks. As described in note one (a) ESRC is dependant on funding from the Department for innovation, Universities and Skills to meet liabilities falling due in future years, but there is no reason to believe that this funding will not be forthcoming.

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.

Currency Profile – At the Balance Sheet date ESRC held no significant foreign currency assets or liabilities.

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.

20 Post Balance Sheet Events

There were no Post Balance Sheet events between the balance sheet date and the 6 July 2009, the date when the Accounting Officer approved the accounts. The Financial Statements do not reflect events after this date.

On 5 June 2009, the Government announced the creation of a new Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) whose key role will be to build Britain's capabilities to compete in the global economy. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS). The sponsorship responsibility for ESRC passed to BIS on that date. There is no reason to believe that the expected government funding underlying ESRC's going concern assertion will be affected by this change.



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

Economic and Social Research Council
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1UJ

Telephone: 01793 413000
Fax: 01793 413001
Email: comms@esrc.ac.uk

www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk



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