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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Digital Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

DATE OF BIRTH: 23 August 1963

NATIONALITY: British

LANGUAGES: native English, basic Spanish

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Digital Development, Programme Management, Programme Evaluation, Participator Video, Evidence-to-Policy

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: sub-Saharan Africa, S.E. Asia, Central America

OVERVIEW

Dr. Tony Roberts is a Research Fellow in the Digital and Technology cluster at the Institute of Development Studies. He has been working at the intersection of digital technologies, international development and social justice since 1988 as a volunteer, lecturer, practitioner, trustee and Research Fellow. After lecturing in New Technology and Education in the 1990s, Tony founded and directed two international development agencies. He led Coda International and then Computer Aid International for a decade each before consolidated 25 years of field experience in doctor research on digital development. His PhD involved research with women technologists in Zambia using participatory video to enhance critical agency.

Tony joined IDS after a period as a Research Fellow in the Gender Technology Lab of the United Nations University, Computing and Society research institute in Macau (UNU-CS). His research has been published in the form of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, conference papers and book reviews. For a full list of Tony's publications and blogs please see his website Appropriating Technology his [Google Scholar page](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=...) or [ORCHID ID](https://orcid.org/...).

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2011 – 2015 **PhD: Critical-Agency in ICT4D:** a case study of women's use of participatory video technology to challenge gender inequality. Royal Holloway, University of London. (December 2015)

2011 – 2012 **PGCert in Teaching to Inspire Learning,** University of London

1994 – 1995 **PGDip in Organisational Development & Training**
University of Leicester.

1987 – 1990 **Bsc (Hons) New Technology & Education**
University of East London

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

Academic

2016 – Present	Research Fellow , Institute of Development Studies, UK Principal investigator GCRF Digital Rights Programme , Research contracts including for DFID, DFAT, SIDA, USAID, SDC. Led programme evaluation for Humanitarian Innovation Fund. Evaluation contracts including Oxfam, GODAN, DIAL.
2015 – 2016	Research Fellow , United Nations University, Macau, China
2013 – 2015	Visiting Lecturer , Royal Holloway University of London
1990 – 1994	Associate Lecturer , University of East London.
<u>Practitioner</u> 1997 – 2010	Founder & CEO , Computer Aid International From concept to £2m turnover and 50 staff Social business provided 250,000 computers to non-profits in 100+ countries. Strategic management, established 15 country programmes.
1989 – 1997	co-Founder & Director , Coda International Institutional From concept to £500k turnover and 20 staff one 3 continents INGO providing institutional capacity building to community-based organisations Leadership, organisational development, project management.
Voluntary	Trustee and Director for four years on the founding Board of the British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND). Founding Trustee & Director of the Restart Project. ex-Chair of Trustees for Coda International. Currently Serving on the International Board of three Zambian NGOs; BongoHive, Asikana Network and Constituency Watch.

AFFILIATIONS

Member of the Development Studies Association

co-Chair of Technology Working Group of BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development)

Development Studies Association conference track chair Digital Rights and Activism 2021

IFIP9.4 Conference Track Chair 2021 Digital Citizenship & Rights

Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries – Reviewer

Information Technology and Development journal – Reviewer

Information and Communications Technology and Development – Conference Paper Reviewer

RECENT RESEARCH FUNDING

Start/End dates	Funding Body	Value of Award	Type of Grant	Role
Jun 2020 – May 2021	GCRF -	£150,000	Network Grant	P.I.
Oct 2019 – Mar 2020	Oxfam Novib	€48,983	Contract for services	Co-I
Oct 2019 – Jan 2020	UKRI	£7,685	Contract for services	Co.I.
Aug 2018 – Mar 2019	Elrha (HIF)	£57,452	Contract for services	P.I.
May 2018 – Jan 2019	DIAL	\$133,641	Research Grant	Co-Lead
Apr 2016 – July 2021	Palladium Int.	£322,538	Research Grant	Researcher

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

2021	Section-Editor Edited six-chapter section on Participatory Digital Research Methods for the SAGE Handbook of Participatory Research and Inquiry.
2020	Principal Investigator, African Digital Rights Network Wrote GCRF-UKRI-DIDA proposal. Coordinated network of researchers from twelve countries. Edited collection of ten country reports and wrote synthesis report. First pan-African analysis of openings and closings of civic space and review of government use of surveillance, disinformation and internet shutdowns.
2019	Principal Evaluator, Humanitarian Innovation Fund, global Conducted retrospective analysis of 60 humanitarian innovation grants for Elrha
2018	Lead Researcher, Science and Technology Agency, Tanzania Led evidence-to-policy diagnostic and training for COSTECH government researchers

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Roberts, T. (forthcoming) (section editor introduction chapter) *Digital Affordances in Participatory Research Methods*, in Burns, D. Howard J. and Ospina S., The SAGE Handbook of Participatory Research and Inquiry.

Roberts, T. Faith, B. Prieto-Martin P. and Hernandez K. (forthcoming) *Digital Technologies and the Future of Poverty and Development*, in Allen T. and Thomas A., *Poverty & Development: in the 21st Century* 3rd Edition, Oxford University Press.

Roberts, T. and Faith, B. (forthcoming) *Digital Aid: understanding the digital challenges facing humanitarian assistance*, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton.

Roberts, T. (editor) (2021) *Digital Rights in Closing Civic Space: Lessons from Ten African Countries*, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, [DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2021.003](https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2021.003)

Roberts, T. and Mohamed Ali, A. (2021) 'Opening and Closing Online Civic Space in Africa: An Introduction to the Ten Digital Rights Landscape Reports', in T. Roberts (ed.), *Digital Rights in Closing Civic Space: Lessons from Ten African Countries*, Brighton: IDS. [DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2021.005](https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2021.005)

Bosch, T. and Roberts, T. (2021) *South Africa Digital Rights Landscape Report*, in T. Roberts (ed.), *Digital Rights in Closing Civic Space: Lessons from Ten African Countries*, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, [DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2021.010](https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2021.010)

Roberts, T. and Hernandez, K. (2021) *Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition: A Literature Review and Proposed Conceptual Framework*, IDS Working Paper 545, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, [DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2021.018](https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2021.018)

Faith, B.; Flynn, J.; Hernandez, K. and Roberts, T. (2020) [The Future of Work: Findings of Research](#) Commissioned by the Oxfam 'Empower Youth for Work' Program, Oxfam Novib.

Hernandez, K. and Roberts, T. (2020). [Predictive Analytics in Humanitarian Action: a preliminary mapping and analysis](#). Emerging Issues 33. Institute of Development Studies.

Clark, L.; Higdon, G.L.; Stanley, A. and Roberts, T. (2020) [Lessons for Open Data for Development Programmes](#), IDS Policy Briefing 171, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies.

Roberts, T. and Hernandez, K. (2019) [Digital Access is not Binary: the 5 'A's of Technology Access in the Philippines](#). Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries.

Roberts, T. (2019) [Closing Civic Space and Inclusive Development in Ethiopia](#), IDS Working Paper 527, Brighton: IDS.

Roberts, T. and Muñiz, S. (2019) [Fifty Years of Practice and Innovation in Participatory Video in: Servaes J.](#) (ed). Handbook of Communication for Development. Springer, Singapore.

Jimenez, A. and Roberts, T. (2019) [Decolonising Neo-Liberal Innovation: Using the Andean Philosophy of 'Buen Vivir' to Reimagine Innovation Hubs](#). In: Nielsen P. and Kimaro H. (eds) IFIP International Conference on the Social Implications of Information Technologies in Developing Countries, Vol 552, pp 180-191.

Hernandez, K. and Roberts, T. (2018) [Leaving No One Behind in a Digital World](#). K4D Emerging Issues Report, Brighton, UK, Institute of Development Studies.

Roberts, T. and Marchais, G. (2018) [Assessing the Role of Social Media and Digital Technology in Violence Reporting](#). Journal article in *Contemporary Readings in Law and Social Justice* Vol.10 (2), pp. 9–42. doi:10.22381/CRLSJ10220181

Faith, B., Roberts, T. and Berdou, E. (2018) [Towards a More Gender-Inclusive Open Source Community](#), Washington, Digital Impact Alliance.

Hossain, N., Khurana N., Mohmand, S., Nazneen, S., Oosterom, M., Roberts, T., Santos, R., Shankland, A. and Schröder P. (2018) [What Does Closing Civic Space Mean for Development?](#) A Literature Review and Proposed Conceptual Framework, IDS Working Paper 515, Brighton.

Poveda, S. and Roberts, T. (2017) [Critical Agency and Development: applying Freire & Sen to ICT4D in Zambia and Brazil](#). Journal article in *Information Technology and Development*, Vol 30(1).

Roberts, T. and Hernandez, K. (2017) [The Techno-centric Gaze: Incorporating Citizen Participation Technologies into Participatory Governance Processes in the Philippines](#), Making All Voices Count Research Report, Brighton: IDS.

Roberts, T. (2017) [Participatory Technologies: Affordances for Development](#). In: Choudrie J., Islam M., Wahid F., Bass J., Priyatma J. (eds) *Information and Communication Technologies for Development*. IFIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology, vol 504. Springer.

Roberts, T. (2016), *Geek Heresy: an heretical view of technology for development* - Book Review in *The Journal Of Community Informatics*, 12(2).

Roberts, T. (2016), [Women's Use of Participatory Video Technology to Tackle Gender Inequality in Zambia's ICT Sector](#), in: Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Information and Communication Technology and Development, 4-6 June 2016, Ann Arbor, USA.

Roberts, T. (2015), [Critical Agency in ICT4D](#), Unpublished doctoral thesis, Royal Holloway University of London.

Roberts, T. (2015), [Critical Intent & Interests: a typology of ICT4D initiatives](#), in: Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on the Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries, 20-22 May 2015, Negombo, Sri Lanka.

Roberts, T. and Lunch, C. (2015), [Participatory Video](#), Encyclopedia chapter, in: *International Encyclopedia of Digital Communications and Society*, London, John Wiley and Sons.

Roberts, T. (2007) *ICTs in Poverty Reduction*, Commonwealth Minister's Reference Handbook, London, Commonwealth Secretariat.

Roberts, Tony (2007) ICTs and the Millennium Development Goals, MDG Review, Corby, VRS Publishing.