


ALEXANDER F. ROBERTSON - CURRICULUM VITAE

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Born 2 August 1942 at Munnar in Travancore State, South India.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1964 M.A. (honours) in Social Anthropology, Edinburgh University
1967 Ph.D. in Social Anthropology, Edinburgh University
1989 Sc.D. (Doctor of Science), Cambridge University

ACADEMIC POSTS (some concurrent):

2005- Honorary Professorial Fellow, School of Social Sciences, Edinburgh University
2005- Emeritus and Research Professor of Anthropology, University of California at Santa Barbara
1985-2005 Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara
1994-95 Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Manchester
1972-80 Director of the Centre for African Studies, Cambridge University
1971-85 Fellow of Darwin College, Cambridge University
1971-82 Assistant Director of Development Studies, Cambridge University
1969-71 Director of Studies in Social Anthropology, Trinity College, Cambridge
1967-69 Research Fellow, Centre for African Studies, Cambridge University

EUROPEAN LANGUAGES:

Varying degrees of competence in English, French, Spanish, German

MEMBERSHIPS & OFFICES:

1966- Fellow, Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI)
(Council Member of the RAI 1981-85, 2010-; Publications Committee 2008-)
1968- African Studies Association (UK)
(President 1982-84, Vice President 1980-82)
1968- Association of Social Anthropologists (UK)
1976- Royal African Society
Past member of the American Anthropological Association, and the African Studies Association (US)

RESEARCH & FIELDWORK

General interests: The social organisation of reproduction; Economic and political processes, with particular reference to Africa and Western Europe.

Current research: Intergenerational relations in Catalonia, Spain; Theorising meaning and growth.

Fieldwork:

- 1963 Tourism and the Peasant Economy of Formentera (Balearic Islands, Catalonia) for M.A. dissertation (2 months fieldwork).
- 1964 Research Assistant, Professor Michael Carter. Study of school-leavers in Sheffield, England (3 months fieldwork).
- 1965-66 Ph.D. fieldwork in Uganda. Thesis: *An Analysis of the Social Change Processes Resulting from the Migration of Diverse Tribal Groups to Bugerere, Buganda, Uganda*. Scottish Education Department, and Edinburgh University Travel Grant (12 months fieldwork).
- 1966-67 'Big Farmers' in Uganda. Two studies, one in Bugerere, one in Busoga. African Studies Centre, Cambridge. Overseas Development Ministry funding (6 months fieldwork).
- 1968-69 Local-national politics in Ahafo, Ghana. African Studies Centre Cambridge. UK Social Science Research Council grant (12 months fieldwork).
- 1972-81 Development in Malaysia. Longitudinal study of planning, especially of Federal Land Development schemes. UK Overseas Development Administration funding (6 months fieldwork, 1972, 1977, 1981).
- 1974 Land development projects in Ethiopia. Overseas Development Administration funding (2 months).
- 1982-85 The structure and dynamism of share contracts in African agriculture. Fieldwork in The Sudan (6 weeks), Lesotho (5 months) and Senegambia (4 months). Full-time research project, funded by UK Overseas Development Administration.
- 1985 Socio-economic aspects of the conservation and development of the Dal Lake, Kashmir. Consultancy for UK Overseas Development Administration and the Government of India (2 months fieldwork).
- 1989- Social change in Catalonia, Spain (ongoing)
- 1991-2003 Doll collectors in the US and Europe (project for student participation).

PUBLICATIONS - BOOKS:

- 1973 *Dependence and Opportunity: Political Change in Ahafo*. (With John Dunn) Cambridge University Press. Pp. xiv, 400. (Reissued 2009)
- 1978 *Community of Strangers: A Journal of Discovery in Uganda*. Scolar Press, London. Pp. xvi, 252. Cloth and paperback editions. Revised edition 1986.
- 1982 *Uganda's First Republic: Chiefs, Administrators and Politicians, 1967-71*. (Edited) African Studies Centre, Cambridge. Paperback edition. Pp. 189.
- 1984 *People and the State: An Anthropology of Planned Development*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. xiii, 332. Cloth and paperback editions. (Reissued 2007)
- 1987 *The Dynamics of Productive Relationships: African Share Contracts in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. xx, 320.

- 1990 *Beyond the Marketplace: Rethinking Economy and Society* (Edited, with Roger Friedland) Aldine de Gruyter, New York. Pp. vi, 365. Cloth and paperback editions.
- 1991 *Beyond the Family: The Social Organization of Human Reproduction* Polity Press Cambridge, and University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles. Pp vi, 231. Cloth and paperback editions.
[* William J. Goode Book Award, American Sociological Association, 1992]
- 1995 *The Big Catch: A Practical Introduction to Development* Westview Press, Boulder. Pp. v, 144. Cloth and paperback editions.
- 2001 *Greed: Gut Feelings, Growth, and History* Polity Press, Cambridge / Basil Blackwell, Cambridge Massachusetts, Pp. x, 278. Cloth, paperback, and e-book editions. Chinese edition: Century Publishing, Shanghai, 2004.
- 2004 *Life Like Dolls: The Collector Doll Phenomenon and the Lives of the Women Who Love Them* Routledge, London & New York. Pp. xix, 284. Cloth and paperback editions.
- 2012 *Mieres Reborn: The Reinvention of a Catalan Community*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa. Pp. xii, 238. Cloth and e-book editions. Reissued in paperback Fall 2022.
- 2014 *El Renaixament de Mieres*. Ajuntament de Mieres, Catalunya. Pp. 107.
- 2016 *Regeneració Rural a Catalunya. Mieres des dels Anys 80 del Segle XX* (Trs. Laura Cardús i Font & Adrià Pujol i Cruells) Pol·len Edicions, Barcelona 2016. Pp 127.
- 2022 *Mieres Reborn: The Reinvention of a Catalan Community*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa. Pp. xii, 238. New paperback edition, Fall 2022.

PUBLICATIONS – ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

- 1965 The Sunshine Revolution: The Impact of the Tourist Industry on a Peasant Community. *Geographical Magazine* 37(12):926-939.
- 1966 Historical Aspects of Current Migration to Bugerere. *Proc. Conf. EASIR*, Makerere, Kampala.
- 1966 Kabu the Madman (Case Study of Mental Illness in an African Immigrant Community). *New Society* 8(23):640-643.
- 1967 An Immigrant Society. *Geographical Magazine* 39(9):711-723.
- 1969 Tradition and Modernity: Government in Ashanti Today. *Cambridge Research* 6(1):7-12.
- 1970 (With J. K. Hart) Ghana. In I. M. Lewis (ed.), *Länderstudien Zum Problem des Tribalismus in Afrika*. *Internationales Afrikaforum* 6(7/8):432-435.
- 1970 African and European Social Clubs in Rural Ghana. *Race* 12(2):207-218.
- 1970 Walking Out in Ghana. *West Africa*, nos. 2785 and 2786.
- 1971 Party Politics and a Rural Immigrant Community. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 9(1):124-130.
- 1971 The Development of Town Committees in Ahafo, Ghana. In Audrey Richards and

- Adam Kuper (eds.), *Councils in Action*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 130-170.
- 1973 Histories and Political Opposition in Ahafo, Ghana. *Africa* 43(1):41-58.
- 1973 Bugerere - A County Case History: The Successful Farmer in an Immigrant Society. In A. I. Richards, F. Sturrock and J. M. Fortt (eds.), *From Subsistence to Commercial Farming in Present-Day Buganda*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 232-268.
- 1975 A New Kind of Malaysian? A Sociological View of the Federal Land Development Authority. *Journal of Administration Overseas* 14(1):30-38.
- 1975 Anthropology and Government in Ghana. *African Affairs* 74(294):51-59.
- 1975 Composition and Procedure in Ahafo Councils. In Jack Goody (ed.), *Changing Social Structure in Ghana*. International African Institute, London, pp. 228-243.
- 1975 Anthropology and the Nomad: Another View of the Afar. *Royal Anthropological Institute News* 8:7-9.
- * [Reprinted in Jonathan Benthall (ed.), *The Best of Anthropology Today* Routledge, London, 2002]
- 1975 Applied Anthropology: A Problem of Disciplinary Competence. *Cambridge Anthropology* 2(3):30-37.
- 1976 Ousting the Chief: Deposition Charges in Ashanti. *Man* (new series) 11(3):410-427.
- 1976 Rules, Strategies and the Development Committee. *Community Development Journal* 11(3):185-191.
- 1977 Paper Lion: A Note on Some Recent Writing on Ethiopia. *Journal of Development Studies* 13(4):433-436.
- 1978 The Professions and the Universities. Three articles introducing and summarising the Darwin Colloquium. *Times Higher Education Supplement*, nos. 331, 332, and 333, March 1978.
- 1978 (With E.V.K.Fitzgerald) The Alpha-Beta Fisheries Project. An Exercise in Project Appraisal. In E.V.K.Fitzgerald, *Public Investment Planning for Developing Countries*. Macmillan, London, pp. 415-438.
- 1978 (With G. A. Hughes) The Family Farm in Buganda. *Development and Change* 9(3):415-438.
- 1980 (With F. A. Bray) Sharecropping in Kelantan, Malaysia. In George Dalton (ed.), *Research in Economic Anthropology* vol. 3, pp. 209-244.
- 1980 On Sharecropping. *Man* (new series) 15(3):411-429.
- 1980 An Impression of Employment Opportunities for Social Anthropologists in the Field of Development. ASA/SSRC Conference on 'The Training and Employment of Social Anthropologists'.
- 1981 Uncomfortable Anthropologists. *Royal Anthropological Institute News* 45:4-6.
- 1982 *Abusa*: The Structural History of an Economic Contract. *Journal of Development Studies* 18(4):447-478.
- 1984 Defending African Studies. *Times Higher Education Supplement* 618:14.
- 1985 Audrey Richards, 1899-1984: An Appreciation. *African Affairs* 84(334):136-138.
- 1985 Doing Research in Africa. (Presidential address to the African Studies Association of the U.K., September 1984.) *African Affairs* 84(335):279-290.
- 1986 The Social Sciences. In I. Sternberg and P. Larby (eds.), 'African Studies.' *British Library Occasional Papers* no. 6, The British Library, London, pp. 17-22.
- 1987 The Dal Lake: Reflections on an Anthropological Consultancy in Kashmir. *Anthropology Today* 3(2):7-13.
- * [Reprinted in W.A.Haviland and R.J.Gordon (eds.) 1992 *Talking about People: Readings in Contemporary Cultural Anthropology* Mayfield, Mountain View]
- 1988 I Contratti di Mezzadria in una Analisi Storico-comparativa. *Proposte e Ricerche* 21:7-

24.

1990 (With Roger Friedland) Beyond the Marketplace. In R.Friedland and A.F.Robertson (eds.), *Beyond the Marketplace: Rethinking Economy and Society* Aldine de Gruyter, New York, pp 3-49.

1993 The Desiccated African in Banyoles. *Anthropology Today* 9(1):2-3.

1994 Popular Scientist: James Jacob Machobane and *Mantsa Tlala*. *African Affairs*, 93 (369):99-121.

1994 Evolving, Aging, and Making Culture. *Ethnos* 59(1-2):1-13.

* [Reprinted in Donna Lind Infeld (ed.) 2002 *Disciplinary Approaches Toward Aging: Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Aging* Routledge, New York]

1994 Reproduction and the Making of History: Time, the Family, and Modernity. In R.Friedland and D.Boden (eds.), *NowHere: Space, Time and Social Theory* University of California Press, Berkeley & Los Angeles, pp 95-126.

1996 The development of meaning: Ontogeny and culture. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (new series) 2(4):591-610.

* [Reprinted in Henrietta Moore and Todd Sanders (eds.) 2005 *Anthropology in Theory: Issues in Epistemology* Blackwell, Oxford, pp 220-232]

2000 African Ethnographies and the Development of Social Anthropology. In Douglas Rimmer and Anthony Kirk-Greene (eds.), *The British Intellectual Engagement with Africa in the Twentieth Century* Macmillan (for the Royal African Society), London, pp 156-178.

2000 Among the neo-functionalists: A review article. *Ethnos* 65(2):275-281

2001 Primitive society. In Paul B. Baltes & Neil J.Smelser (eds.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Elsevier, Oxford, pp 12046-50.

2001 Big Bad Baobab (review article): *The Baobab and the Mango Tree: Lessons About Development - African and Asian Contrasts* (N. Thompson and S. Thompson 2000). *Journal of Political Ecology* vol 8. http://dizzy.library.arizona.edu/ej/jpe/volume_8/501Robertson.html [published May, 2001].

2002 Lyn Schumaker, *Africanizing Anthropology* (review article). *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 36(2):408-411.

2004 'A failure of treatment' by Gilbert Lewis. Contribution to Review Forum in *The Journal of Ritual Studies*, 18(2):121-151.

2006 Misunderstanding Corruption. *Anthropology Today* 22(2):8-11.

2006 The Anthropology of Grey Zones (review article). *Ethnos* 71(4):569-573.

2008 'Trust us – we're anthropologists'. ESRC conference series *Rethinking Economies – III. Rethinking Economic Anthropology: a human-centred approach*. LSE January 2008.

2008 Regeneration in rural Catalonia. *European Journal of Sociology / Archives Européennes de Sociologie / Europäisches Archiv fuer Soziologie*: 49(2): 147-172.

2008 Planning for Life: 'Regeneration', 'Sustainable Communities' and 'Flexible Housing'. Workshop on *Anthropologies of Planning, Local Government and Urban Development*, Gothenburg, Sweden, November 2008

2009 Corporate greed. Association of Social Anthropologists Globalog, 15-30 September 2009. <http://www.theasa.org/>

2010 Conviviality in Catalonia. *Gastronomica* 10(1): 70-78.

2011 How can Lukoho be his own grandfather? Being and becoming in the Cartesian gap. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 17(3):585-603

2016 (With Laura Cardús i Font) Translating Mieres. *Anthropology Today* 32(3): 23-4.

RESEARCH REPORTS:

1967 Big Farmers in Bugerere County. For Overseas Development Ministry, U.K. (ODM)

pp. 184.

- 1968 Land Tenure and Agricultural Enterprise in Busoga. For ODM, pp. 150.
 1970 Local Government in Ahafo, Ghana. For SSRC and the Government of Ghana, pp. 102.
 1973 Sociology and Development in Southeast Asia. For ODM, pp. 30.
 1974 Sociology and Development in Ethiopia and The Sudan. For ODM, pp. 34.
 1977 Development in Bangladesh and Malaysia. For ODM, pp. 42.
 1985 The Structure and Transformation of Sharecrop Contracts. For Overseas Development Administration, U.K. pp. 437.
 1986 Socio-Economic Aspects of the Conservation and Development of the Dal Lake. For ODA and Government of India, Pp. 48.

BOOK REVIEWS FOR:

Africa, African Affairs, American Anthropologist, Anthropology Today, Cambridge Research, Cambridge Anthropology, Canadian Journal of African Studies, Contemporary Sociology, Development and Change, Economic Journal, Ethnos, Journal of Administration Overseas, Journal of African Historical Studies, Journal of Anthropological Research, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, Journal of International Development, Journal of Modern African Studies, Journal of Political Ecology, Journal of Ritual Studies, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Man (Old and New Series), Sexualities, The Times (London) Literary and Higher Education Supplements.

EDITORIAL POSITIONS:

- 1972-85 Coordinating Editor, Cambridge University Press African Studies Series.
 1972-80 Joint Editor, African Social Research Documents Series, Cambridge and Leiden.
 1978-82 Editorial Board, Cambridge Commonwealth Studies Series.
 1979-2005 Editorial Board, *African Affairs*.
 1991- Editorial Board, *Ethnos*; Associate Editor 2005-
 2008- Publications Committee, Royal Anthropological Institute
 2009- Editorial Panel, *Anthropology Today*

EDITORIAL CONSULTING:

Academic Press, Basil Blackwell, Cambridge University Press, Heinemann, University of London (Athlone) Press, Longmans, Polity Press, Routledge, Tavistock, University of California Press, University of Washington Press, Westview Press.