

Robert Chambers

Robert Chambers is a Research Associate in the Participation Group at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex in the UK. He has a background in biology and history, both lapsed, has failed as a manager of rural development and now survives as an undisciplined social scientist. His areas of interest include participatory methodologies, views and experiences of poverty, and why we development professionals are so often wrong when so sure we are right. He was one of the writing team on the Voices of the Poor project which used participatory approaches to enable poor people in 23 countries to express their ideas of wellbeing and illbeing and to express and analyse other dimensions of their lives. His books include Rural Development: Putting the Last First (1983), Challenging the Professions (1993), Whose Reality Counts? Putting the First Last (1997), Participatory Workshops (2002), and Ideas for Development (2005).