

ATINER bio

Ken Roberts is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Liverpool. He is one of European sociology's most experienced youth researchers. He began in the 1960s studying young people's transitions from school to work. Then followed a series of projects on the alternatives to unemployment, the training schemes and courses, then the expansion of 'tertiary' education, that have replaced 'traditional transitions'. From 1991 he began coordinating a series of research projects in East-Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. These investigated how various social groups' circumstances were changing during the political and economic transformations of their countries. His most recent research is into young people in North Africa and East Mediterranean countries during and since the Arab Spring of 2011. A further area of specialisation is the sociology of leisure. He is a former Chair of the World Leisure Organization's Research Commission, and also a former President of the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Leisure. He is a founder member and now honorary life member of the Leisure Studies Association. His books include *Leisure* (1970), *Contemporary Society and the Growth of Leisure* (1978), , *Surviving Post-Communism: Young People in the Former Soviet Union* (2000), *Leisure in Contemporary Society* (2nd edition, 2006), *Youth In Transition in Eastern Europe and in the West* (2009), *The Business of Leisure* (2016), and *Social Theory, Sport, Leisure* (2016). He is also the author of *Key Concepts in Sociology* (2009), *Class in Contemporary Britain* (2nd edition, 2011), and *Sociology: An Introduction* (2012).

Selected research awards

- 1998 INTAS. The reform of human resource management in Kazakhstan. 60K ECUs.
- 1999 INTAS. Young adults in the Russian Federation: socio-cultural orientations, patterns of employment and unemployment, social protection and adaptation. 62K ECUs.
- 1999. Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Pilot British Leisure Survey (with C Gratton, P Taylor, F Coalter and M Collins), Administered at Sheffield Hallam University. £35K.
- 2001 INTAS. Transitions to adulthood in present-day Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia. 150K Euros.
- 2005 INTAS. Education, labour markets and human resource management in Central Asia, 100K Euros
- 2006 INTAS. Youth transitions and their family-household contexts in the South Caucasus, 110K Euros
- 2008 Research to explore how young people formulate their views about the future, Department for Children Schools and Families, Consultant to the project, directed by Dr Graeme Atherton, University of Westminster. £3K.
- 2013 SAHWA: empowering youth in the Arab world. EU framework 7, Liverpool award €104K. Total award €2.5m

Selected papers

'Youth mobilisations and political generations: young activists in political change movements during and since the twentieth century', *Journal of Youth Studies*, 18, 2015, 950–966 ISSN 13367-6261.

‘Youth movements’, in J D Wright, ed, *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Elsevier, Oxford, 2015, pp 847-841.

‘Leisure and the life course’, in T Blackshaw, ed, *Routledge Handbook of Leisure Studies*, Routledge, London, 2015, pp 257-265. ISBN.978-1-138-92461-1.

(with K Green, M Thurston and O Vaage), ‘“We’re on the right track, baby, we were born this way!” Exploring sports participation in Norway’, *Sport, Education and Society*, 20, 2015, 285-303. ISSN 1357-3322.

‘Leisure studies and the sociology of sport’, in Richard Giulianotti ed, *Routledge Handbook of the Sociology of Sport*, Routledge, Abingdon, 2015, 164-173. ISBN 978-0-41582973-1.

‘Youth cultures and the formation of a new political generation in Eastern Europe’, in Matthias Schwartz and Heike Winkel, eds, *Eastern European Youth Cultures in a Global Context*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, 2016. ISBN 978-1-137-38512-3.

‘Unemployment’, in Stephen Edgell, Heidi Gottfried and Edward Granter, eds, *The Sage Handbook of the Sociology of Work and Employment*, Sage, London, 2016, 469-484. ISBN 978-1-4462-8066-9.

‘Class formation and distinction: Twenty-five years of change in Eastern Europe’, in Maya Keliyan, ed, *Middle Class as a Condition for a Sustainable Society: Fifteen Years Later*, Avangard Prima, Sofia, 2015, 93-107. ISBN 978-169-160-504-0.

‘Unemployment’, in Stephen Edgell. Heidi Gottfried and Edward Granter, eds, *The Sage Handbook of the Sociology of Work and Employment*, Sage, London, 2016, 469-484. ISBN: 978-1-4462-8066-9.

‘Young people and social change’ in Ken Green and Andy Smith, eds, *Routledge Handbook of Youth Sport*, Routledge, London, 2016, 10-17. ISBN: 978-0-415-84003-3.

‘Youth leisure as the context for youth sport’, in Ken Green and Andy Smith, eds, *Routledge Handbook of Youth Sport*, Routledge, London, 2016, 18-25. ISBN: 978-0-415-84003-3.

‘Youth cultures and the formation of a new political generation in Eastern Europe’, in Matthias Schwartz and Heike Winkel, eds, *Eastern European Youth Cultures in a Global Context*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, 2016, 45-53. ISBN: 978-1-137-38512-3.

‘The socio-demographic and political contexts and legacies of the “Arab Spring” in North Africa’, *Athens Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, 4, 2, 2016, 295-313. ISSN 2407-9480.

(with S Kovacheva), ‘Use of free time by young people, and social inclusion and exclusion in Lebanon’, *International Journal of Social Science and Economic Research*, 1, 8, 2016, 1190-1214. ISSN 2455-8834.

(with T Fadaak), ‘Women, education and employment in Saudi Arabia: an example of multiple modernities’, *Philosophy of Education*, 18, 2016, 72-93. ISSN 2309-1606.

‘Sport in Europe’s era of austerity: crisis or adaptation’, *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 37, 2017, 123-130. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-11-2014-0102>. ISSN: 0144-333X.

(with S Kovacheva and S Kabaivanov), 'Modernisation theory meets Tunisia's youth during and since the revolution of 2011'. Scientific Report, Sahwa Project, CIDOB, Barcelona, 2017. <http://sahwa.eu/OUTPUTS/Publications/Scientific-Report-on-youth-political-engagement-in-Tunisia>

'Leisure, risk and reflexivity', in K Spracklen, B Lashua, E Sharp and S Swain, eds, *The Palgrave Handbook of Leisure Theory*, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2017, pp 705-718. ISBN 978-1-137-56478-8.

(with S Kovacheva and S Kabaivanov), 'Still troubled: Tunisia's youth during and since the revolution of 2011', *Societies*, 7, 29, 2017. Doi:10.3390/soc7040029.

'Europe and its leisure', in I Modi and T J Kamphorst, eds, *Leisure and Life Through the Ages*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 2017, 13-16. ISBN 978-81-316-0855-5.

'Mapping leisure and life through the ages in England', in I Modi and T J Kamphorst, eds, *Leisure and Life Through the Ages*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 2017, 53-64. ISBN 978-81-316-0855-5.

'Leisure studies and the sociology of sport', in R Giulianotti, ed, *Routledge Handbook of the Sociology of Sport*, Routledge, London, 2018, 164-173. ISBN. 978-0-415-82973-1.

(with S Kovacheva and S Kabaivanov, 'Leisure and the life-cycle squeeze among young adults in North Africa countries', *International Journal of the Sociology of Leisure*, 2018. Dio.org/10.1007/s41978-017-002-6.

'Writing about leisure', *World Leisure Journal*, 60, 2018, 3-13. ISSN 1607-1805.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/16078055.2016.1261645>. Also in B K Nagla and V K Srivastava, eds, *Globalisation, Leisure and Social Change*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 2017, 1-10. ISBN 978-81-316-0818-0.

'Explaining education-to-work transitions: thinking backwards, situating agency and comparing countries', *Review of European Studies*, 10, 1, 2018, 72-83. ISSN 1918-7173. <https://doi.org/10.5539/res.v10n1p72>

(with S Kovacheva and S Kabaivanov), 'Interrogating waithood: family and housing life stage transitions among young adults in North-West Africa countries', *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673843.2018.1430595>

(with S Kovacheva and S Kabaivanov), 'Education to employment transitions in South and East Mediterranean countries', *International Journal of Social Science and Economic Research*, 3, 2018, 532-559. ISSN 2455-8834.

(with T H Fadaak), 'Young adults, new media, leisure and change in Saudi Arabia', *World Leisure Journal*, 60, 2018, 127-139. ISSN 1607-1805

'Youth research meets life course terminology: the transitions paradigm revisited', in S Irwin and A Nilsen, eds, *Transitions to Adulthood Through Recession: Youth and Inequality in a European Comparative Perspective*, Routledge, London, 2018, 17-34. ISSN 978-1-138-29428-8.

(with S Kovacheva and S Kabaivanov), 'Youth in- and out-of-work in Arab Mediterranean countries', *International Journal of Youth Economy*, 2, 2018, 51-66.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18576/ijye/020105>.

(with T H Fadaak), 'Transitions from education to work and non-work in Saudi Arabia', *International Journal of Youth Economy*, 2, 2018, 17-31.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18576/ijye/020103>.

(with S Kovacheva and S Kabaivanov), 'Juventud Arabe Mediterranea: participacion politica y religiosa' (Arab Mediterranean youth: political and religious participation), *Revista Afers Internacionals*, 118, 2018, 103-126. ISSN 1133-6595.

'Youth, political socialisation and political generations', in Andreas Lange, Herwig Reiter, Sabina Schutter and Christine Steiner, eds, *Handbuch Kindheits-und Jugendsoziologie*, Springer, Weisbaden, 2018, 773-784. ISBN 978-3-658-04206-6.

(with S Kovacheva and S Kabaivanov), 'Uses of free time by young adults in Arab Mediterranean countries: exposing and addressing boundary issues in leisure studies', *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Research*, 2018, 4, 10-21, E-ISSN 2371-1655/18. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.6000/2371-1655.2018.04.02>

(with S Kovacheva and S Kabaivanov), 'Class reproduction and reformation during young people's education to employment transitions in South and East Mediterranean countries', *Athens Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, 2018, 4, 170-2000. E-EIIN 2407-9480. DOI: 10.30958/ajms.