



AUT SPORTS PERFORMANCE  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEW ZEALAND



## Action Learning Action Research Association

**11th Action Learning Action Research and 15th Participatory Action Research  
World Congress**

**September 2025**

**Putting Global Collaboration at the Heart of Action Research**

### PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Ludbey, C (2025) **Community Voices, Practitioner Insights: Action Research in Urban Safety**

This presentation explores how systemic action research can illuminate community and professional perceptions of security within urban environments, emphasising practitioner reflections on community data as the core 'action' component. Grounded in a pragmatic philosophy, this research recognises the complex interplay between the objectively constructed urban form and subjective individual experiences of safety and security. Employing a cyclical methodology, the study combines concept mapping, expert semi-structured interviews, and community surveys to iteratively capture and synthesise diverse perspectives.

The primary action research element involves practitioner reflections on community perceptions of security, captured systematically through surveys, with reflections shared by experts during semi-structured interviews. These reflective insights from security and built-environment professionals provide critical analysis of community interpretations and experiences of security measures in public spaces. Preliminary findings highlight significant divergences and convergences between community expectations and professional practices, emphasising the nuanced interplay between visible security interventions and perceived safety and inclusivity.

This presentation will share preliminary data collected from concept maps, community surveys, and expert interviews, alongside initial analytical insights drawn from practitioner reflections.

The research highlights the value of professional reflection on community-driven insights as a critical action in the ongoing cycle of understanding and improving urban safety, demonstrating how practitioner-informed reflections can set the stage for enhancing professional practices and contribute to more inclusive and effective security strategies in public space design and management.

**To be presented:** In person in Sydney