

# Community Assessment and Action (CAA)

**UHI**

Centre for Living  
Sustainability

Ionad  
Seasmhachd Bheò

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*Research Director CLS, UHI Inverness*

Festival of Creativity, UHI/ LTA, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

# CAA: based on Participatory Action Research

- Intergenerational community-driven research: creative social pedagogies
- Handing the power over to participants as experts in their own lives in design, co-designing methods of inquiry, analysis and action planning
- Co-ownership and co-construction of research, departure of separation of researcher and researched - researchers are facilitators rather than extracting data
- Multiple voices heard in communities – research as a political value driven process
- Dialogic method of inquiry – potential to be transformative – it is central to understand changing context, relationships and power dynamics in communities and decision-making processes
- Prevailing norms, attitudes and behaviours are critically questioned in deliberations about future paths

(See references and resources at the end of the presentation)

development focus



# Development Focus

An organisation led by Dr Vicky Johnson and Dr Robert Nurick



CAA was developed as a form of Participatory Action Research to work on issues that are important to people in local communities and to social services.

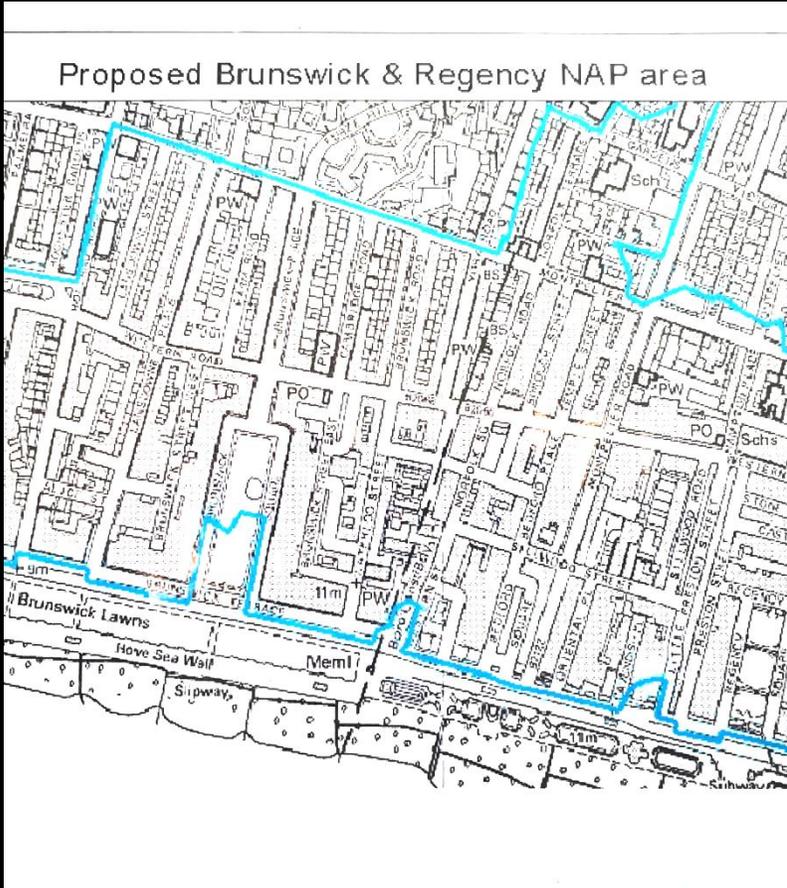




# Co-constructing questions and methods

## Safety and ethical frameworks





AGE GROUP	FEMALE	MALE
1 <16	●	●
2 16-24	●	★
3 25-34	●	★
4 35-49	●	★
5 50-64	●	★
6 65+	●	★

HOUSING

1 PRIVATE RENTED	5 NURSING / CARE HOMES
2 HOMELESS/CENTRES	6 OWNER OCCUPIER FREEHOLD
3 COUNCIL TENANT	7 OWNER OCCUPIER LEASEHOLD
4 TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION	8 HOUSING ASSOCIATION

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

1 STUDENT	5 UNEMPLOYED NOT SEEKING WORK
2 PART TIME EMPLOYED	6 HOMEMAKER
3 FULL TIME EMPLOYED	7 VOLUNTEER
4 UNEMPLOYED SEEKING WORK	8 RETIRED
	9 SELF-EMPLOYED

ETHNICITY

AB BANGLADESHI / ASIAN BRITISH BANGLADESHI	WO WHITE OTHER
AC CHINESE / ASIAN BRITISH CHINESE	MWBA MIXED WHITE & BLACK AFRICAN
	MWA MIXED WHITE & ASIAN

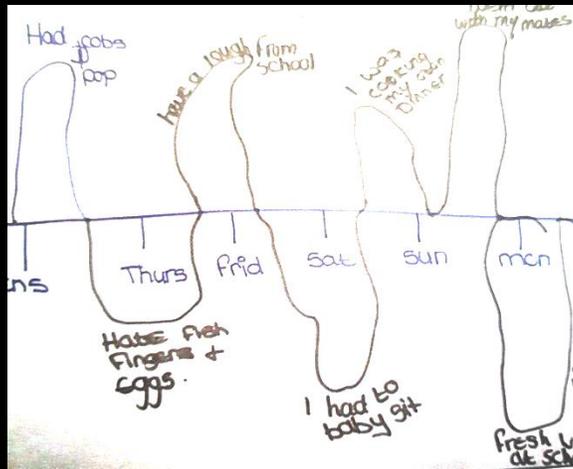
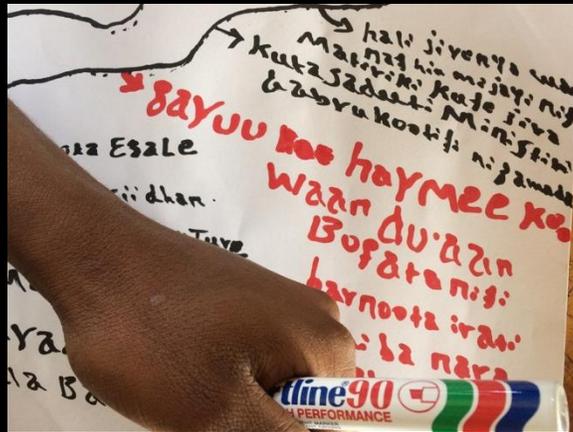
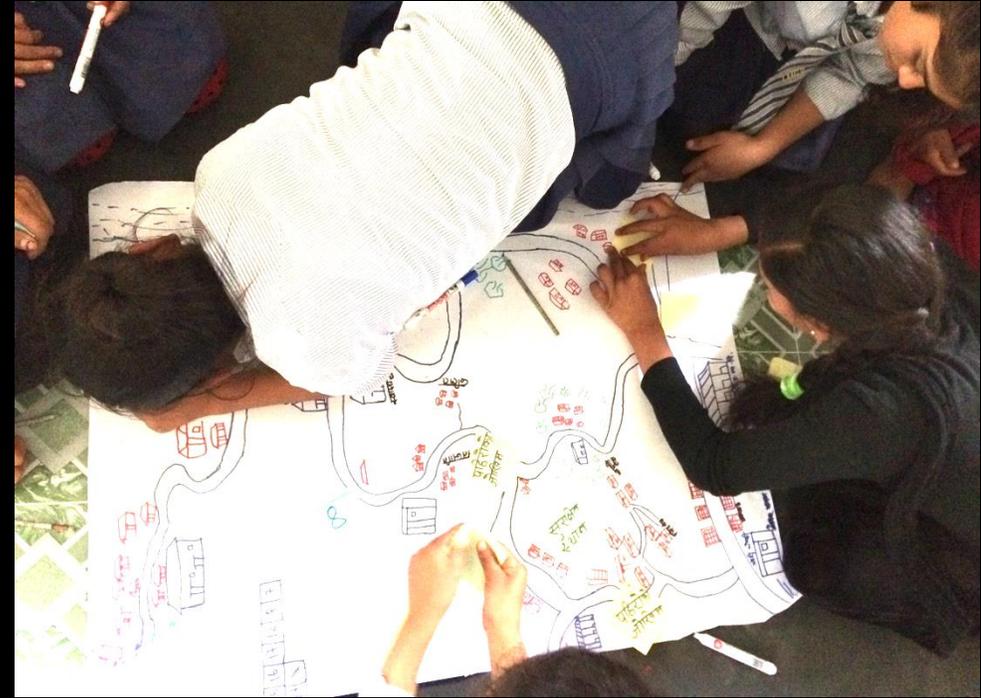
# Applying coding systems



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# Creative praxis/ methods

# Creative methods

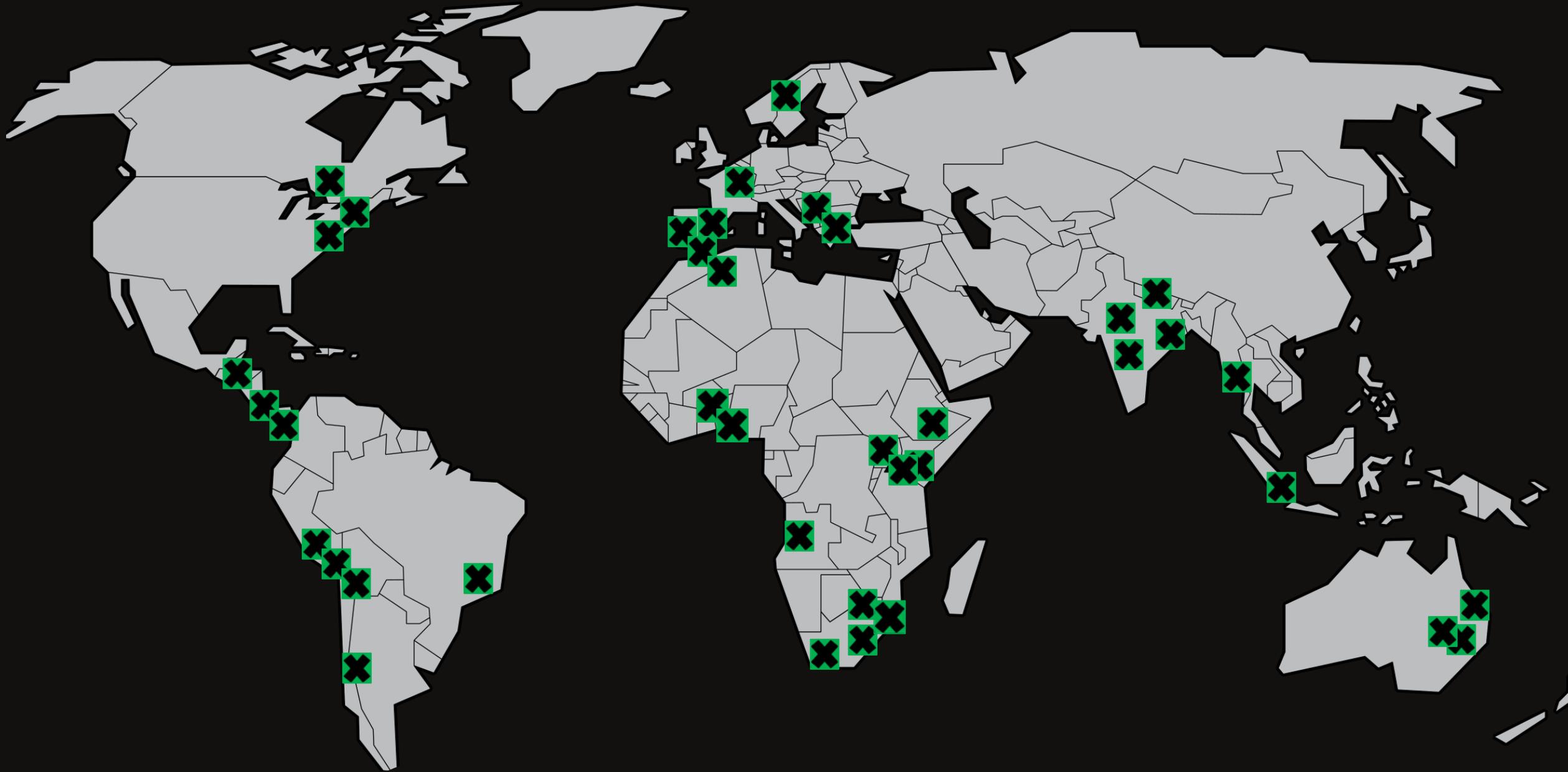






**Connecting people to changing contexts**

Political/ cultural/ social/ environmental



International partnerships



# Capacity Building in Research

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# Co-construction and collaboration

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# Youth-centred intergenerational community driven research



**Rejuvenate**

rejuvenate.global



# Research at The Haven – to increase access to services for families living with children experiencing complex disability – Innovation Voucher





# Research at The Haven Local team in action

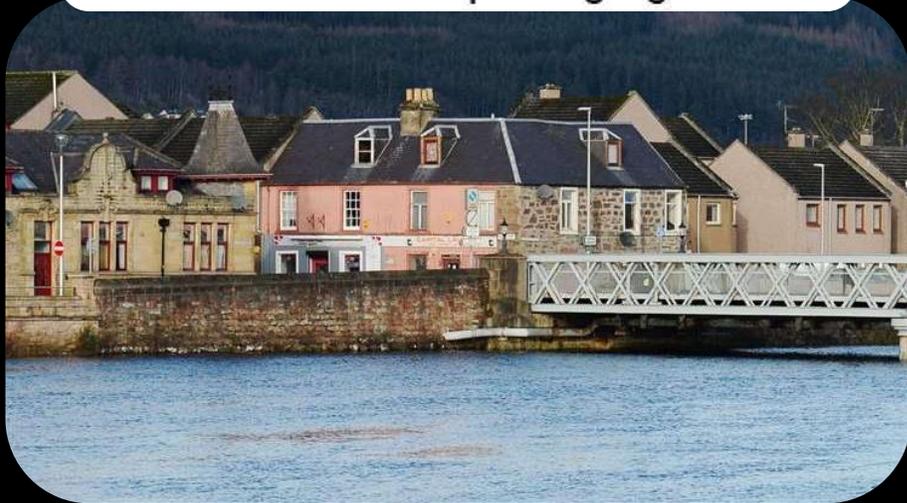
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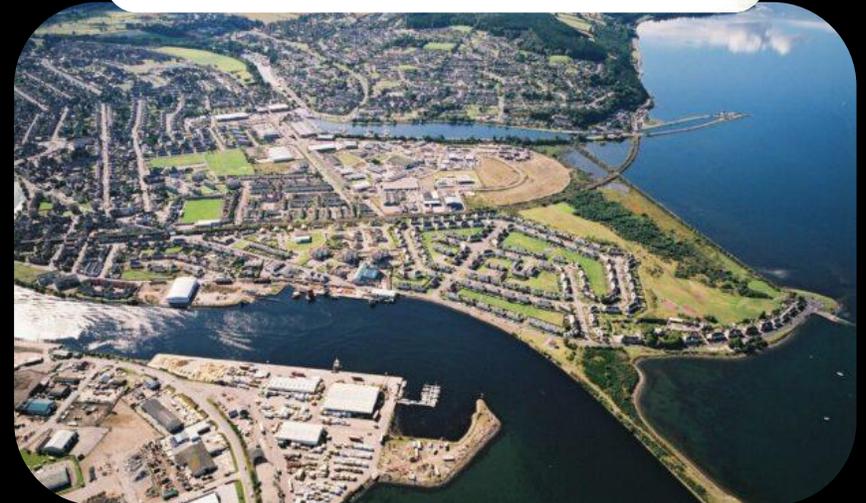
# Changescapes of COVID Recovery

## “A perfect storm”

**The Inverness Courier**  
Incorporating Highland News



**The D & J** SCOTTISH  
DAILY NEWSPAPER  
OF THE YEAR



# IBFC and CLS working together on Nature and People

e.g. National Beaver Strategy and local Ecological and Socio-Cultural research on Beavers

INVERNESS



**NatureScot**

Scotland's Nature Agency  
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba



[NatureScot Research Report 1318 - Nature's contribution to people and community engagement: socio-cultural and economic perceptions of beaver presence in the environment | NatureScot](#)



# Some references and resources...

- Action Research for Development and Social Change, 2012 IDS Bulletin Vol 43, Number 3
- Fals Borda (2006) in Reason P. and Bradbury, H. Handbook of Action Research, London: Sage Publications
- Hickey, S. and Mohan, G. eds. (2004) *Participation: From Tyranny to Transformation? Exploring new approaches to participation in development*, Zed Books, London
- Chambers, R. (2003) 'Reflections on PRA Practice', Cornwall, A. and Pratt, G. (2003) *Pathways to Participation: Reflections on PRA*, ITDG Publishing, UK – also see Chambers archive
- Freire, P. (1972) *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Penguin Books, London – an interview with Paolo Friere about tolerance...  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obYX\\_lqnHuk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obYX_lqnHuk)

# Training guidance and Participatory Learning and Action

- Rejuvenate website with lots of resources about children and young people's participation [www.rejuvenate.global](http://www.rejuvenate.global)
- Participatory Learning and Action - International Institute of Environment and Development archive – see Volume 50 for summaries on different issues

[Participatory Learning and Action: archive | International Institute for Environment and Development \(iied.org\)](#)

- Robert Chambers Archive

<http://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/123456789/29>

- Development Focus Trust

<http://www.childhope.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Childhope-CYPP-Toolkit-FINAL.pdf>

- *Participation: Spice it Up! Dynamix: Serious Fun and Save the Children, Wales*

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/participation-%E2%80%94-spice-it>

**Thank you**  
**Tapadh leibh**

**Questions?**