Abstract:
The Group Areas Act of 1950 was a tool used by the apartheid government of South Africa to separate people geographically by racial classifications. Most neighborhoods and suburbs of Cape Town were impacted by this act either through forced removals or the establishment of new townships. The two areas exempt this act were the Muslim neighborhood of Bo-Kaap and the racially mixed suburb of Woodstock. These neighborhoods are now experiencing an increase in property values, an outward migration of working-class and lower income households, and an influx in the number of wealthy young professionals. The aforementioned indicators are all signs of gentrification and changing residential composition. In the past, the culture and identity of these neighborhoods was largely influenced by their residential resilience against the apartheid regime and exemption from the displacement caused by the Group Areas Act. The gentrifying process is now threatening this identity and the place based culture of the residents who live there.

Bo-Kaap: The Malay Quarter
- Declared Malay Group Area during Group Areas Act and was exempt from forced removals
- Islamic elements serve as a distinguishing factor from the rest of Cape Town and the area receives many tourists because of the scenic views and unique architecture
- Increase in both the number of property transfers and the average amount of each transfer between 2000 and 2007
- Previous residents can no longer afford rising property values and are forced to leave the area
- Older residents fear that the neighborhood will lose its culture that was resilient during apartheid
- Gentrification may also jeopardize the amount of tourism in the area if the cultural identity is compromised

Woodstock: Formal Industrial Area
- Racially and ethnically mixed from the beginning because places of industry were race neutral
- Undergoing gentrification since 1980s, has sped up in the past decade
- Increase in both the number of property transfers and the average amount of each transfer between 2000 and 2007
- Displacement of black and colored residents and an influx of white residents; most famous case is Gympie Street
- Conversion of old industrial spaces into creative industries; most notable is the Old Biscuit Mill
- Mixed-race identity is now threatened by the influx of wealthier individuals and the conversion of former industrial spaces

References: