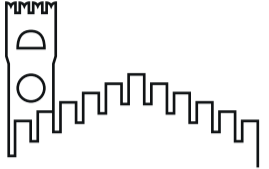




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## Curatorial practice as translation: District Six Museum in Cape Town as case study

**28 novembre 2023**, alle ore 12.15  
Aula 1, Palazzo San Paolo - Treviso Campus  
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Introduce e modera

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The words District Six are synonymous with some of the most horrible signs of the apartheid system for the vast majority of people in South Africa. District Six was established in 1867, one of six districts in Cape Town. District Six was a vibrant centre with close links to the city and the port. People of all colours, races, religions – residents, immigrants, artisans and merchants – owned and rented houses. They lived in harmony and were close to their places of work, school, worship and entertainment. The equalizer between them was poverty. In 1901 all the black people were forced to move out, and as the decades passed by it became a predominantly coloured community until 1966 when the apartheid government declared it a white area under the Group Areas Act. By 1982 District Six was a barren strip of land, and so

it stayed for many years. In 1994, two years after apartheid was abolished, the museum was established in the former residential area in an old church. I want to discuss whether the curatorial processes applied in this museum, indeed translate into people's memory of the sad part of their history. Does the selection and display of personal memoirs and mementos tell of both a happier time before the bulldozers moved in and how the brutality of the apartheid state destroyed the community? Then I would also like to discuss whether interlinguistic and intralinguistic translation were utilised at all, to portray the multi-lingual and multi-cultural aspects of the former residents of this neighbourhood who are represented in the District Six Museum.

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