Cape Town, South Africa:
Cape Town, South Africa is a diverse city that has gone through many changes in the past few decades. The economy has grown 2.57% in the past decade. The unemployment rate is 23.9%. Of those residing in Cape Town, 78.4% live in formal dwellings.

“Coloured” is not a derogatory term in Cape Town, but how people who are mixed race identify.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Coloured”</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choice:
I chose South Africa because I thought that the post-apartheid society may have some salient ideas related to cultural humility. There were also some similarities between Michigan and South Africa. For instance, there is a history of racial/ethnic oppression in both places. Also, there are similarities between the water crisis in Flint and in South Africa. While these similarities on its face is not important for my research, it is relevant for me as a social worker who plans to practice in Michigan when I graduate.

Cultural Humility for Child Welfare Workers in Cape Town, SA
Allie VanSickle
The University of Michigan School of Social Work

Project Information:
Researcher met with ten direct-care workers who are employed within the child welfare system. These employees work in an array of settings, including orphanages, foster care workers, residential programs, and community out-patient programs. Meeting with workers in these diverse settings gave the researcher a fuller picture of the child welfare system. The researcher interviewed the ten direct care workers, asking questions related to cultural humility. The researcher asked several open-ended questions and obtained consent before recording the interviews.

Population Studied
Child welfare workers, with a variety of roles, in post-apartheid South Africa were studied. They were asked about the characteristics of the children they served. Many children were considered “coloured” and black African. There were also a number of children who identified as Muslim, but most were Christian. The children came from a variety of homes of origin, including having parents pass away, having abusive and neglectful family members, and running away. There was a high rate of fetal alcohol syndrome among the children, resulting in developmental delays. Another common problem among the children, especially the infants, is being diagnosed as HIV positive.

Outcomes
Overall, the child care workers seemed open-minded to other cultures and willing to step into the shoes of the children. There was a general acknowledgement that some of the reported abuse or neglect may have a culture basis. There seemed to generally be forgiving attitudes towards the biological families. While there seemed to be a general openness to the children’s cultures, this often acted in isolation of other considerations. For instance, a residential program that specialized in fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), did not teach/promote any other language besides English due to the perceived limited capacities of the children. However, most of the other residential homes were not even familiar with FAS as a diagnosis, much less provide the needed treatment. Interestingly, every child care worker rated their level of openness with the children at an eight, on a scale of 1-10 (or closed to open). This result was particularly interesting because truly humble individuals would not rate themselves at a ten because as many participants said “there’s always room for improvement.” These findings are in the process of being detailed in a report.

References: