

Social Sciences & Humanities NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the First Issue

Welcome to the first issue of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities newsletter at Lakehead University! We are delighted to share our faculty's news and achievements with our many alumni and friends. Connecting with our former students is an important part of our post-fiftieth anniversary celebration, and I sincerely hope that you find this Newsletter interesting and engaging.

An important part of keeping in touch with our Alumni is to hear about your achievements and activities since you completed your education at Lakehead University. We know that a degree in Social Sciences and Humanities can take our Alumni down many different pathways, and so we want to hear from you: your stories, your successes and news about how your Lakehead University experience has made a difference.

Lakehead has always been an important part of the Thunder Bay community, and since 2006, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities has been an integral part of the Orillia Campus expansion, with a vision to create a Lakehead University presence in southwestern Ontario. Additionally, the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies was the twelfth and latest addition to our faculty and offers unique programs in Media Studies and Criminology.

We are excited by the planned launch of a new Masters of Social Justice degree in September 2016, a fully inter-disciplinary degree, the content of which will be delivered from diverse perspectives representing multiple disciplines from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. We look forward to sharing stories from this innovative new program in upcoming newsletters.

As our offerings continue to grow, so too does our draw of students from the local, provincial and, increasingly, international community. We are pleased to welcome students from many different parts of the globe, and look towards a time when our Lakehead alumni network will expand to the farthest reaches of the planet.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincerest best wishes in the hopes that you will enjoy reading our first Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities newsletter and remember to keep in touch!

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans
Interim Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities



“We want to hear from you: your stories, your success and news about how your Lakehead University experience has made a difference”

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Coleman Hell

Musician/Electronic Artist



Pop star and Lakehead grad Coleman Hell (BA '11) has now officially gone SuperNOVA.

Despite rocketing popularity and an extremely busy schedule, Hell took the time to come back home to Thunder Bay to receive SHIFT Thunder Bay's Young Professionals Network's first ever SuperNOVA award on January 22, 2016. Each year, the Northwestern Ontario Visionary Awards (NOVA) recognize 20 young professionals from the region under the age of 40."

"It's a great honour," he said during the ceremony. "I'm excited to be back in Thunder Bay again and to have the support of my hometown – it means a lot to me."

In fact, it was his third visit to Thunder Bay in less than a month. Over the Christmas holidays, he played a sold-out show at Crocks, and in January he performed at the Rogers Hometown Hockey event.

Currently he is on tour with stops across Canada and the United States, riding the wave of his hit single "2 Heads." The song went double platinum in January with 160,000 downloads – not to mention over 50 million streams on Spotify and over 4 million views on YouTube.

Perhaps part of the reason for its success is the song's fresh, new sound that is hard to pigeonhole. Although Hell describes himself as an electronic artist, he also uses hip hop, rock, and even bluegrass elements. (The twangy banjo riff in "2 Heads" is actually played on his keyboard using a sampled note.) But at the heart of his genre-mixing style is a solid song both musically and lyrically sung with his strong, distinctive voice.

"I feel like recently I've put it all together and found my real voice," he said. "What I'm aspiring to, I hope is a little different... I always want to write, good, honest songs, but deliver them in an unconventional way."

Born and raised in Thunder Bay, Hell graduated from Lakehead in 2011. In the early 2010s, he was one half of the hip hop group Burnz N Hell with Joey Burnz. He moved to Toronto for more exposure and opportunities and helped form the Toronto-based music collective called *sideways* "to create a world where accessibility meets innovation." Although not a band in the conventional sense, all four members have similar musical directions and help out on each other's records, right down to the writing.

Hell signed a record deal with Columbia Records last spring and released his self-titled LP on October 23, 2015. Musically, "2 Heads" seems a little out of place on the record; Hell said that his latest hit is more in line with his upcoming full-length album, slated for release sometime in 2016."

Every little milestone has seemed to show more growth," he said. "I've written and recorded a lot of songs people haven't even heard yet. I'm ready."



For most of us, being on top of the world is just a metaphor. But for Scott Kress (HBA Outdoor Recreation, BSc Natural Science, 1993), it's often quite literal. In 2008 he summited Mount Everest and in 2011 he joined the ranks an elite group of mountaineers in the world who have climbed the Seven Summits – the highest mountains on each of the seven continents.

It's an adventure that in many ways started at Lakehead University. Originally from Wasaga Beach, Kress came to Lakehead specifically for our Outdoor Rec program, and for the "rich outdoor environment" that Thunder Bay offered. He enrolled as a mature student, having tried college a couple of times and finding it just wasn't for him.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Lakehead and in Thunder Bay. Those four years were very informative for me and I can trace my first step at Lakehead to where I am today. My fellow classmates were great and the profs were helpful and friendly."

As many students have said in the past, getting to know the professors on a personal level is part of what makes going to Lakehead so special. For Kress, it was no different – though he began exploring the wilds of Northwestern Ontario with them rather than simply sharing a pitcher at the Outpost."

I felt I got to know many of my profs beyond just a teacher-student relationship and would often go climbing and paddling with them," he said.

After graduation, Kress joined the

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Scott Kress

President, Summit
Team Building



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adventure/education organization Outward Bound as an instructor where he honed his outdoor and leadership skills. It was there that climbing became an integral part of his life and he's been leading expeditions ever since.

In 1997, he took that experience to a new level by founding Summit Team Building, a global team building firm based in Toronto. In many ways, his experiences on the mountains helped shape the company's unique approach to team building – the skills and teamwork needed at 29,000 feet can be applied to the boardroom as well. He also went on to complete a Masters degree in Leadership and Training, has taught MBA courses at several schools, and is a sought-after motivational keynote speaker.

He combined his years of experience and insights into his 2012 book, *Learning in Thin Air*. Part adventure story of his Mount Everest climb and part business management book, it takes the lessons of the mountain and applies them to typical business and personal challenges.

As of this writing, his most recent adventure was to Mount Vinson again – the highest mountain in Antarctica – guiding ill and injured Canadian soldiers as part of an initiative through TPL - True Patriot Love.

"Lakehead and the Outdoor Rec program gave me more than I could have ever imagined, and I don't know where I would be today if I did not take this step."

<http://www.summitteambuilding.com/keynote/>

Dr. David Magee

Professor,
Rehabilitation
Medicine

Department of
Physical Therapy
University of Alberta



In certain circles, he's known as Shady. To others, he goes by Fibber or sometimes Yoda. These are not, at first blush, the names typical of those awarded the Order of Canada. But then Dr. David Magee (BA '68) is remarkable in many ways.

No matter what name he goes by, Dr. Magee is known as the guru of physical therapy. His book *Orthopedic Physical Assessment* quickly became the go-to reference tome, a sort of Gray's Anatomy for physiotherapists, massage therapists, chiropractors, and other allied health and medical professionals. First published in 1987, the textbook is now in its sixth edition and is lauded for its comprehensive and practical information on musculoskeletal assessment.

Dr. Magee joined the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Alberta in 1972 after graduating from the same program the previous spring. It was an abrupt turn from his original field of study. Born in Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay) and raised in nearby Atikokan, he went to Lakehead for history and political science. But that interest was quickly overshadowed by another.

While I was doing my arts degree, I was the manager/trainer of the Lakehead University Norwesters hockey team (as they were then called) coached by Henry (Hank) Akervall and I became interested in the 'trainer' part of that activity. When I read up on the training required to be a 'well trained' trainer, everything pointed me towards physical therapy," Dr. Magee said.

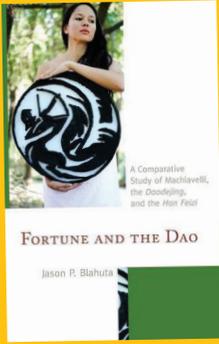
He applied to several physical therapy programs across the country and got his first choice: the University of Alberta. It's been his home ever since.

Although a renowned professor and academic at the U of A, he's always felt that keeping up the practical side of physical therapy was vital to his teaching and has treated patients since graduating. He was drawn to the Edmonton Eskimos and later the Edmonton Oilers where he became infamous for his 6 am rehab clinics for legends such as Wayne Gretzky. (In fact, it was Gretzky that nicknamed him "Fibber" after an old radio comedy show called Fibber McGee & Molly.) He also worked with the Canadian synchronized swimming team for 16 years – a team that never finished out of the medals in that time at World Championships, the Olympics, Pan American Games, and the Commonwealth Games.

Peers, patients, and students alike have nothing but praise for the man and his work. Perhaps the greatest demonstration of that praise came from Cathy Roozen, a patient of his, in the form of a \$1.5 million donation to establish the Dr. David Magee Endowed Chair in Musculoskeletal Research at the U of A.

In 2012, Dr. Magee was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest civilian honours, in recognition for his life's work. Though it was many years ago now, it was Lakehead that ultimately put him on the right path.

BOOKS



Fortune and the Dao

A Comparative Study of Machiavelli, the Daodejing, and the Han Feizi

by Jason Blahuta

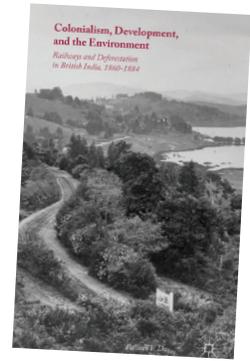
Lexington Books, 2015

Despite their separation in time and location, the *Daodejing* and *Han Feizi*, both from China's Warring States period, bear striking similarities to the writings of Renaissance civil servant, historian, poet, and playwright Niccolò Machiavelli. All three were written to help leaders create a strong, stable state in the face of turbulent times, yet all three had their shortcomings. The significant affinities between the three systems are notable, and are especially remarkable given that the writings of the *Daodejing* and the *Han Feizi* were not available in Europe until long after Machiavelli's death.

Machiavelli's undeserved reputation as a counsellor to dictators typically results in him being likened to the draconian Legalists of China's Warring States period. While there is a certain truth to this comparison, Dr. Blahuta maintains that Machiavelli has much more in common with the *Daodejing* of ancient China than with the Legalism of *Han Feizi*. Focusing on the concepts of Fortune and the Dao, virtù and wu-wei, and the imagery of the centaur and the dragon, Dr. Blahuta argues that the affinities and breaks between Machiavelli's writings and the *Daodejing* shed light on the failings of the *Daodejing*, the *Han Feizi*, and Machiavelli's own political ideas, and offer solutions to the lacunas in Machiavelli's thought.

Dr. Jason Blahuta is Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science at Lakehead University.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498500524/Fortune-and-the-Dao-A-Comparative-Study-of-Machiavelli-the-Daodejing-and-the-Han-Feizi>



Colonialism, Development, and the Environment

Railways and Deforestation in British India, 1860-1884

by Pallavi Das

Palgrave Macmillan, 2015

Most historical studies of colonization focus on its social, economic, and political impacts. What is often left out though is the ecological and environmental impacts of colonialism – and their lasting effects.

Colonialism, Development, and the Environment: Railways and Deforestation in British India by Dr. Pallavi Das examines how the railways in India, built largely by British colonialism, changed the environment in ways that can still be seen today. Much of the deforestation in the Himalayas can be traced back to the second half of the 19th century when railway construction began. The construction and expansion of railways promoted by the British colonial state was designed to enable efficient resource extraction from India. It was this process that depleted India's natural resources, including forests.

Focusing on the colonial encounter between Britain and India, Dr. Das looks at economic development projects – including the scientific and technological changes that spurred them – and their environmental impacts on India. Examining the link between railways and deforestation, Dr. Das shows how deforestation jeopardized railway expansion, which led to state implementation of forest conservation in order to maintain timber supplies.

Dr. Das references government records of various departments, Parliamentary reports, books, scientific journals, and newspapers as primary sources to reveal the documented ecological effects during the time period.

Dr. Pallavi Das is an Associate Professor of History at Lakehead University. Her research interests include global environmental history, environment and development in colonial and post-colonial India, and people's history of climate change.

<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/colonialism,-development,-and-the-environment-pallavi-v-das/?sf1=barcode&st1=9781137494566>



Pets and Domesticity in Victorian Literature and Culture

Animality, Queer Relations, and the Victorian Family

By Monica Flegel
Routledge, 2015

What role, if any, did pets play in writing the “happy ever after” ending for Victorians?

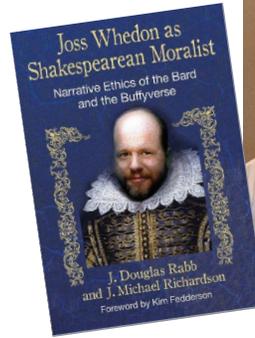
Then, as today, the pet – especially cats and dogs – had a prominent status in many households. In some ways, they were an integral part of the idealized Victorian nuclear family. Yet Victorian England had a wide variety of family units. Not every child had one or both parents, and not every adult was married or had children.

In *Pets and Domesticity in Victorian Literature and Culture: Animality, Queer Relations, and the Victorian Family*, Dr. Monica Flegel explores how pets both constitute and disrupt the domestic ideology of the time. “In particular, I am interested in literary representations of companion animals who stand in as members of the family,” she writes in the introduction. “I... want to examine all the ways that the family pet operated in the Victorian period within the family constellation – pets as children, as siblings, as companions, and as significant others.”

Dr. Flegel explores these ideas through the literature of the time, both in relation to the nuclear family and to the “outcasts” who populate Victorian literature and culture: the orphan, the spinster, the bachelor, and the same-sex couple. She references texts by authors such as Clara Balfour, Anne Brontë, George Eliot, and Charles Dickens. Through studying the role of pets, the book highlights the cracks in the imaginary structure of the Victorian family to highlight the possibilities of family outside this restrictive definition.

Dr. Monica Flegel is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Lakehead. Her research focuses on Victorian literature and culture, animal studies, child studies, and contemporary fan and media studies.

<https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138832831>



Joss Whedon as Shakespearean Moralist

Narrative Ethics of the Bard and the Buffyverse by
Douglas Rabb and Michael Richardson
McFarland, 2015

“Joss Whedon... is the Shakespeare of our time.”

That claim is made “somewhat whimsically” by co-authors J. Douglas Rabb and J. Michael Richardson in the introduction to *Joss Whedon as Shakespearean Moralist: Narrative Ethics of the Bard and the Buffyverse*. To clarify, the comparison between Whedon and Shakespeare relates to their approach to morality, among other things. Whedon, the television and movie writer behind such hits as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *The Avengers*, often places his complex characters in nuanced, morally dubious, situations, much as Shakespeare does.

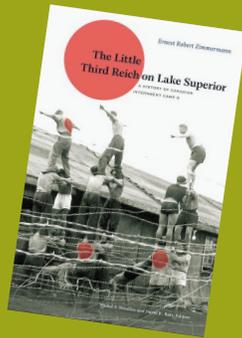
“The Bard, of course, wrote before the influence of the modern moral philosophers.” Rabb and Richardson argue that the postmodern Whedon is more in harmony with the early modern values of Shakespeare than with principle- and rule-based modern ethics, which trace their origin to the rationalism of 17th- and 18th-century moral philosophy.

The authors explore, among other things, whether or not the stories we tell each other, from Shakespeare to Whedon, can help us understand and evaluate alternative moral viewpoints. Reflecting upon complex moral issues is as timely as ever, they note. Both have been involved with the Centre for Health Care Ethics (CHCE) at Lakehead, where new and multifaceted ethical issues with profound consequences present themselves regularly.

“Over the years, we have observed that many of the problems in medical ethics... arise out of developments in medical technology not yet conceivable when these ethical principles were formulated,” they wrote.

Dr. Douglas Rabb is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, founding member of CHCE and former chair of the Philosophy Department of Lakehead University. Dr. Michael Richardson is a Professor of English with special interests in Spenser, drama, Shakespeare, and Joss Whedon. Rabb and Richardson also co-authored *The Existential Joss Whedon* (2007).

<http://www.mcfarlandbooks.com/book-2.php?id=978-0-7864-7440-0>



The Little Third Reich on Lake Superior
 A History of Canadian Internment Camp R
 by Ernest Robert Zimmermann, Michel S. Beaulieu, and David K. Ratz
 The University of Alberta Press, 2015

It was not your typical POW camp. In fact, the experiences at Camp R would go on to form Canada's official POW policies that still live on today, rewriting prisoner classifications and rights within internment camps in Canada.

The Little Third Reich on Lake Superior: A History of Canadian Internment Camp R was the last project started by the late Professor Emeritus Dr. Ernest Zimmermann. It brings the story of an obscure yet vitally important POW camp in North-western Ontario into the historical record.

Through xenophobic and mismanaged tribunals, so-called "dangerous enemy aliens" in Great Britain were rounded up and sent to Canada. Many were long-time residents in Britain with only the faintest connections to Germany. Some were merchant seamen caught up in political manoeuvrings. Many were Jewish and political refugees. Only about 20 percent of the prisoners could seriously have been considered to be Nazis.

Nazis in the camp tried to convert civilian prisoners and create unrest. Jewish prisoners were subjected to abuse and assaults by Nazi prisoners. The disparity of prisoners' backgrounds created chaos in the camps.

The firsthand accounts collected through interviews over the years alone make this book an important addition to the literature, providing a much better understanding about life in a Canadian internment camp.

The book was finished by Dr. Michel Beaulieu, Associate Professor and Chair of the History Department, and David Ratz, a contract lecturer specializing in military and regional history. Both are former students of Dr. Zimmermann.

<http://www.uap.ualberta.ca/titles/354-9780888646736-little-third-reich-on-lake-superior>



“There Was Something Going On Here”

Mark Nisenholt on Education, Technology, and the Thunder Bay Art Scene

“I don't believe in philosophies of art,” said Professor (now) Emeritus Mark Nisenholt. “I'm a flip-flopper, you know. I'm pretty open ended.”

That statement speaks volumes of a man who has spent his artistic career searching for new approaches – and new media – to express his ideas. Even espousing a philosophy of art can negatively impact the art itself. “Don't edit. Don't preconceive too much,” he added.

With Nisenholt's retirement last July, it's worth reflecting on his impact both in terms of the Department of Visual Arts and Thunder Bay's vibrant art scene today. Nisenholt graduated from the University of Manitoba before attending the Pratt Institute in New York to earn his Master of Fine Arts in printmaking. Throughout his academic career, and even before, he was teaching art to others. After graduation from Pratt, he took different teaching positions before coming to Lakehead University, first as a sessional lecturer, and then as an Assistant Professor.

Back then, the painting scene was largely a coffee klatch affair made up of wives of profs or similar students wanting to learn how to paint watercolours as a pastime more than a profession. But there was a spark.

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Sky God 3



Attack

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“There were enough artists in town at the time that made it interesting. There was something going on here,” Nisenholt said. “The art school definitely contributed and generated functioning artists. We kind of spawned our own scene. That’s nice to see.”

Due in no small part to Nisenholt, the department grew over the years, both physically and in scope. It expanded along with the Department of Music to Lakehead’s first off-campus facility, the old Cornwall School, in 1988. Then in 1992, the departments moved back to campus in their own two-storey William H. Buset Centre for Music and the Visual Arts. That, and growing the faculty, were among his most rewarding accomplishments at Lakehead.

“I was there to see the department grow and I certainly had a part in it, so I’m very proud of that,” he said.

Nisenholt’s own artistic directions branched out as well. When the Apple Lisa first hit the market, he saw the computer as a possible artist’s tool to enhance his own printmaking. “What it promised to do was just incredible. Even though it was little, chunky black and white pixels, it was magical.” Nisenholt bought his first computer in 1985 – not a Lisa, but its cousin the Macintosh. He’s been using Macs ever since. “I bought mine and I started making graphics with it,” he said. “What I managed to do is sort of collage a few things together and print them out in these chunky pixel forms. But then I could project them and draw over top [of] the projection – do some compositional work on the computer and then translate it into a drawing.”

“It became an interesting tool and nobody else was doing it at the time, at least in my immediate area, so it was pretty exciting.”

Today, his art involves his own photography more than ever, a trend that started about the time digital cameras became real tools.

“It was fantastically helpful,” Nisenholt said. “I didn’t have to build a darkroom; I didn’t have to get into the chemistry. I was already interested in computers so I just had to plug my camera into my computer and away I went. It was the perfect blend for me.”

An excellent representation of the artistic approach he developed over the years is the installation of three cedar and glass pieces called “Lanterns” that grace the end of Pier 2 at Prince Arthur’s Landing in Marina Park, making him literally part of the Thunder Bay landscape.

“It was a nice moment to have something erected for the public to see and that’s going to be there for a few years.” Of



W.Orb 2

course, for the thousands of students who have passed through the Fine Arts program over the last 35 years, Nisenholt will be remembered for his teaching skills as much as his art. Nisenholt said that a key component in the development of students is learning how to receive criticism.

“My favourite thing to do is to critique the fourth-year students and stand up in front of their work and talk about what I was thinking about it, and deliver those thoughts – without making them cry, which can be a skill.” It’s something that gets easier for students over time, he said. “Whenever I’m talking to a student, I make sure they understand that I’m talking about the artwork, not the artist. That’s a real victory when you can make the person see the thing the way you’re seeing it, with some objectivity, without them losing the attachment they have to it.” Although retired from teaching, Nisenholt is definitely not retired from art. Recently he has been going through his complete portfolio, most of which is stored digitally on his computer, to pick up old threads and find new alleyways to follow. Even that is an art in itself. And when making mistakes is a virtue, there are no wrong turns. “Sometimes I go searching for a particular image I did and I’ll notice another one that grabs my attention instead. I guess I’m easily distracted,” he said with a laugh. “But that’s not a bad thing. It’s not a distraction so much as an exploration. It keeps it fun.”



Dr. Lori Chambers and Dr. Jennifer Roth



Mim by Dr. Laure Paquette

NEWS & NOTES

Niqab Article Recognized

Dr. Lori Chambers and Dr. Jennifer Roth received Honourable Mention in the Canadian Law and Society Association 2015 Articles Prize category for their article Prejudice Unveiled: The Niqab in Court, which appeared in the Canadian Journal of Law and Society in 2014.

Poli-Sci Prof Publishes First Novel

Mim is the first in a cycle of six novels exploring womanhood. Published in 2015 by Éditions Muse in French, the eponymous protagonist explores the difficulties of balancing professional and personal life. Congratulations to Dr. Laure Paquette on her début novel!

<https://www.editions-muse.com/catalog/details/store/es/book/978-3-639-63598-0/mim?search=mim>

LCO's Call for Scores Calls Lakehead

The London Contemporary Orchestra chose a new electroacoustic work by Lakehead music professor Dr. Aris Carastathis to score Valuri, a short film by award-winning Romanian artist Ioana Sisea. This film is one of five of her "Present Continuous" series of films featured during The Hub Sessions in London, UK.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iW7ZxXP57_cltalian



Film Fest Was Molto Bene

The 1st Annual Italian Film Festival, held at Lakehead's PACI Building last October, was a great success. Supported in part by Lakehead's Institute of Italian Studies and Department of Languages, the event spotlighted Italian studies at the university and was a testament to Thunder Bay's rich Italian heritage.



"We included Lakehead University in our Will because we believe in the transformative power of education."

Dr. Bill Heath, Professor Emeritus, Lakehead University
Ms. Betty Heath, Lakehead Alumna

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UNCONVENTIONAL.



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- I have made a provision in my Will to Lakehead University

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For information call Lee-Anne Camlin, Philanthropy Associate (807) 346-7792 Email: rlcamlin@lakeheadu.ca

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