

ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

August 2020

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1, 2020

A message from the Department Head, Prof. Alexia Bloch

Welcome back to faculty, staff, sessional instructors, postdocs, and continuing students, and a warm welcome to new graduate students and to our two new research stream faculty, Drs. Hugh Gusterson and Tracey Heatherington!



As we embark on a new academic year, we have much to look forward to even as we face the challenges of being a virtual community. Over the summer our tireless staff have been working hard to ensure a smooth return to virtual classes, and faculty, staff, and a dedicated group of Graduate Academic Assistants have been busy renewing our Department website, establishing safety protocols for the building, and creating online resources for teaching. Our Department has seen an enormous increase in undergraduate enrolments and the invaluable support provided by TAs will facilitate our course offerings on everything from the supernatural to food to forensics.

Despite the challenges of teaching, learning, and conducting research in the midst of a pandemic, our Department remains a place for thinking outside the box, where research and teaching are infused with our core principles of ethical and respectful practice. And yet, there is much more we can do as we seek ways to address pressing issues of systemic racism and inequality, whether on campus, in our communities, or in our research sites. This year the Department continues to be committed to supporting students, faculty, and staff to foster diversity, resilience, and caring in their teaching, research, and beyond.

Most of us cannot be physically present in our building, but we can look forward to returning to a common physical space for intellectual inquiry and sharing. Our building has undergone significant updates and renovation since we were last all there in March. In addition to faculty office renewals, the Graduate Student Lab and the Digital and Virtual Media Lab are nearly complete. These spaces hold the potential to foster novel ways of working and thinking collaboratively. Upon our return faculty and graduate students will be able to gather again in our updated lounge, which now sports a sink!

While teaching and learning will remain virtual for the 2020-21 academic year, an array of virtual events will keep us connected. The weekly Coffee, Community, and Conversation (3C) hour begins in early September, and later in the fall the Faculty Brown Bag Lunch series will commence. In addition, this year the Department will host regular on-line film nights dedicated to the topic of diversity. Along with these more informal opportunities for exchange, the Colloquia series is slated for Thursdays, 12:30-p.m., and the Anthropology and Sociology Departments will inaugurate an annual invited lecture on the politics of race.

I remind everyone to be kind, be safe, and be calm in what will be a truly historic, if challenging, year as we anticipate the arrival of a vaccine for the global pandemic.

A special welcome to our incoming graduate students!

2020 Cohort:

Younus Ahmed Mushtaq Ahmed (PhD)

Anudeep Dewan (PhD)

Robert Hanks (MA)

Jordanna Marshall (MA)

Tyrone Joe-Mayes (MA)

Lindsey Paskulin (PhD)

Sadie Rittman (MA)

Erin Socholotiuk (MA)

Bing Yan (MA)

Caitlyn Yates (PhD)

Huabin Zhou (MA)

And welcome to our anthropology majors beginning their programs this Fall!

Department Events

Imagine UBC

On **Tuesday, September 8th**, start imagining the possibilities at UBC during the first-day orientation program for undergraduate students in most programs. All classes are replaced by **Imagine UBC** with the single exception of those classes that start at or after 5:00 pm and meet only once per week. This year, you will be able to enjoy Imagine UBC virtually, wherever you are in the world.

Departmental Orientations: Tuesday, September 8th

- 12:00 - 1:00 PM **Incoming graduate student orientation**
<https://cutt.ly/gradorientation>
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM **Orientation Session for TAs & Instructors (Mandatory Attendance)**
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM **Undergraduate Anthropology Fair - student information session**
<https://cutt.ly/imagineanthro>
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM **Anth Prof. Talk Series**
Prof. Wade Davis, (whose article "The Unraveling of America" recently appeared in *Rolling Stone* magazine), along with **Profs. Amir Shiva, Tracey Heatherington, Hugh Gusterson, Zichun Jing, and Bruce Miller**. Each prof will briefly introduce themselves and students will have a chance to interact and ask questions.

Upcoming Events

The Department of Anthropology's **Colloquium Series** brings in exciting and engaging guest speakers whose lectures span all the sub-disciplines of Anthropology and Archaeology. The Colloquium Series runs throughout the academic year; Thursdays, 12:30-2:00 pm.

ANTHROPOLOGY COLLOQUIA

Sept 24, 2020 - Roundtable on Research During the Pandemic: UBC Anth Faculty and Graduate Students.

Facilitators:

Profs. Sara Shneiderman and Hugh Gusterson

Speakers:

Emily Amburgey – PhD student

Cailin O'Hern - MA student

Bill McKellin - faculty

Daisy Rosenblum - faculty

Oct 8, 2020 - Vincent Ialenti, MacArthur Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Public Policy & Global Affairs, UBC

Drum Breach: Error Politics, Operational Temporalities, and the U.S. WIPP Nuclear Waste Repository's Kitty Litter Accident

Nov 5, 2020 - Candis Callison, School of Journalism, UBC; TBA

The weekly **Coffee, Community, and Conversation (3C)** hour begins in early September. This is a social event for Anthropology students, faculty and staff at UBC to come together, enjoy some delicious treats and discuss current Anthropological happenings; **Wednesdays at 10:00-10:45 am. starting Wednesday, September 18th.**



COFFEE, COOKIES & CONVERSATIONS

Wednesdays, 10:00-10:45 am

Stay tuned for the **Faculty Brown Bag Lunch series** that will begin later in the fall. Discussion of the latest departmental updates, book launches, researches, and other related announcements.



*** The Colloquia, 3C, Brown Bag speakers, topics, dates/times and other details to follow.*

Important Deadlines

[The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council \(SSHRC\) Doctoral Fellowships](#) :
Sept. 16, 2020 at 8:00 pm Eastern Time

[Affiliated Fellowships Doctoral Program](#): Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 12:00 pm PDT.

[Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship \(internal\)](#): [October 22, 2020](#)

[Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship](#): [12:00 noon \(Pacific Time-Vancouver time\), Thursday, 3 September 2020](#)

Other Ongoing Events



The Museum of Anthropology is honoured to host the exhibition "Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience" by Cree artist Kent Monkman from August 6, 2020-January 3, 2021. UBC faculty, staff and students enjoy free admission but timed entry tickets should be booked on line in advance at www.moa.ubc.ca.

Photo caption: The Subjugation of Truth, Kent Monkman 2016

Congratulations to this year's Scholarship/Fellowship recipients!

The 2020 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship winners:

[Hilal Kina](#)

Research topic: Engaging with the Traces of a Shared Past: Memory and Subjectivity in Northeastern Turkey. Research supervisor: [Leslie Robertson](#)

[Fumiya Nagai](#)

Research topic: Possibilities and Challenges of Recognising and Implementing Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Land and Territory in Canada. Research supervisor: [Carole Blackburn](#)

Canada Graduate Scholarships Master's program (CGS-M) recipients

Robert Hanks (Supervisor: [Mark Turin](#))
Jordanna Marshall (Supervisor: [Charles Menzies](#))
Sarah Raven (Supervisor: [Susan Rowley](#))
Erin Socholotiuk (Supervisor: [Darlene Weston](#))

Aboriginal Graduate Fellowship recipients

Malika Hays (Supervisor: [Andrew Martindale](#))
Tyrone Joe-Mayes (Supervisor: [Bruce Miller](#))

Faculty Recognition

Nicola Levell for receiving the Canadian Museum Association's 2020 award for Outstanding Achievement in the Exhibition (Cultural Heritage) category for Shadows, Strings & Other Things: The Enchanting Theatre of Puppets (www.shadowstringthings.com/).

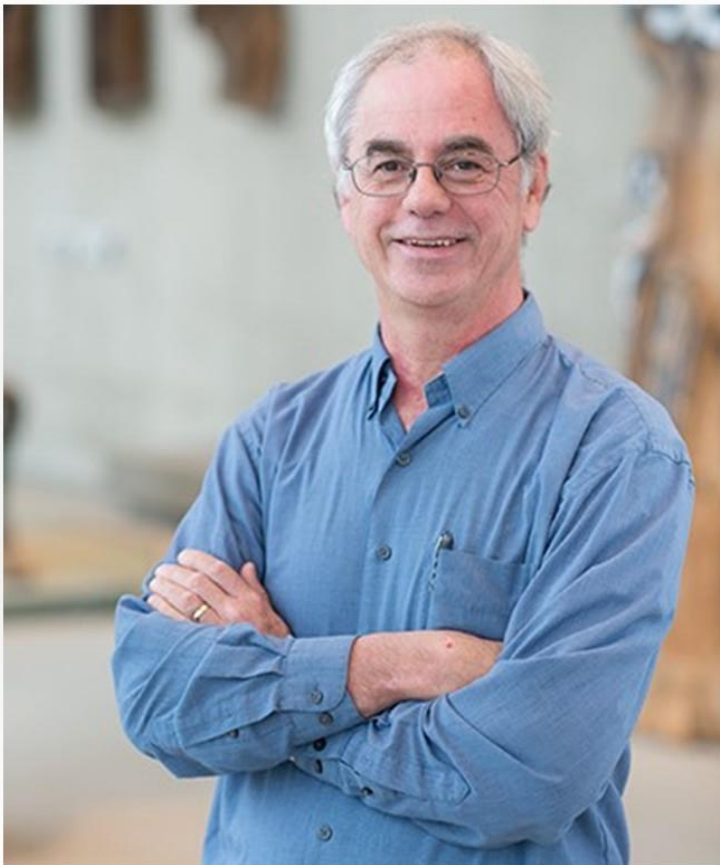
Patricia A. Shaw for being appointed (July 2020) to the Board of Directors of the Endangered Language Fund. You may read the article [here](#).



Celebrating the retirement of:

JOHN BARKER

June 2020



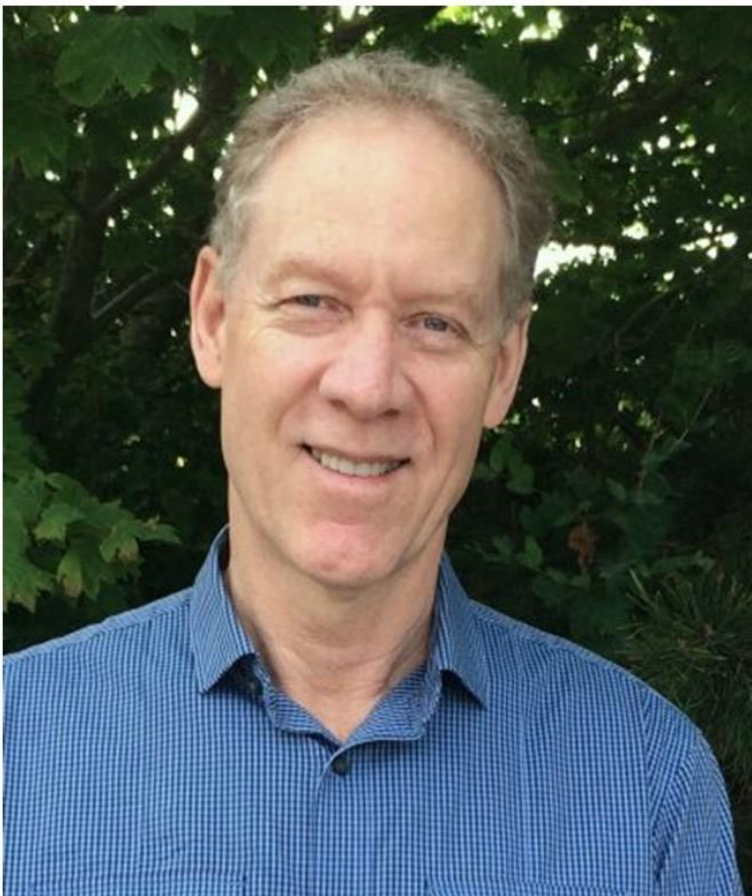
After more than three decades of research, teaching, and service John Barker retired from UBC this year, leaving many of us in Anthropology with a sense of the passing of an era. John has been a stalwart colleague who taught across the core curriculum for our undergraduates, as well as investing significantly in forging the Department's graduate program and supervising graduate students. John has dedicated much of his distinguished career to the study of religion, as well as to the history of Canadian anthropology, the anthropology of art, and the ethnography of the Maisin people of Papua New Guinea. John's extensive contributions to the fields of the anthropology of Christianity and Oceanic studies are most recently evidenced by his book, *Ancestral Lines: The Maisin of Papua New Guinea and the Fate of the Rainforest*, now in its 2nd edition, and his international reputation for research on the long trajectory of Christianity in Oceania and among Indigenous communities in British Columbia is reflected in the many Visiting Professorships he has held, including at the University of

Marseille, the University of Bergen, the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique and the École des Hautes Étude en Sciences Sociales in Paris, and at Australia National University. Throughout his career John has dedicated significant energy to both the Department and to the discipline as a whole, acting as Anthropology Department Head (2008-2014), Associate Editor of Pacific Affairs, chair of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, and Academic Editor of two series published by the University of Toronto Press: *Teaching Culture* and *Anthropological Insights*. Although in the near future John will be occupied with his ongoing research in Papua New Guinea, as well as possibly lecturing at the Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan, we hope he will stop over the border for a visit to the Department from time to time.

Celebrating the retirement of:

MICHAEL BLAKE

June 2020



When Michael Blake announced his retirement from UBC last year, many of us in Anthropology felt a sense of vertigo. Michael has been a key and stable reference point in our community for many decades. His optimism and kindness seemed constant, unflappable, and everlasting. Michael began at UBC in 1986 and is renowned across the world for his pioneering scholarship, much of it focused on Mesoamerica. His recent and award-winning book, *Maize for the Gods: Unearthing the 9000-Year History of Corn* reflects his ability to weave a captivating narrative through complex empirical and theoretical terrain. These skills made him a sought-after teacher and supervisor and earned him a Killam Teaching Prize. Michael's research included close partnerships with local Indigenous communities, especially the Stó:lō Nation. This work was also deeply rooted in his leadership at the Laboratory of Archaeology (LOA) where he shepherded along LOA's \$65 million CFI expansion in partnership with MOA and several First Nations to

renovate collections storage and administration, exhibit space, and laboratories. Michael was unfailingly supporting of the department and led many of its major committees before taking on the Department Chair role until last year. Michael has been a friend, supporter, mentor and colleague to many of us in Anthropology at UBC and we will miss him dearly and are deeply grateful for his energy and care on behalf of our community. While we are saddened by his departure, we are encouraged by the prospect that he plans to make full use of his emeritus status by continuing his research among us.

Celebrating the retirement of:

PATRICIA SHAW

June 2020



As the last academic year came to a close Patricia Shaw retired from an extensive and inspiring career at UBC where she was appointed in the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies, and affiliated with the Department of Anthropology. Patricia's contributions in her over 40 years at UBC are far reaching, with her numerous post-doctoral and graduate student supervisions, tireless institution building, and deep partnerships forged with First Nations communities. Patricia is the Founding Chair (1996-2014) of the FNEL program (known for many years as FNLG) and for several decades has worked in close collaboration with many communities through capacity-building in research skills, pedagogical practices, archiving methodologies, and more, in order to support their commitments to language reclamation. Of significant note is her partnership with Musqueam (1996-present), which began with the development of a formal Protocol Agreement governing UBC-Musqueam community research engagement for

the documentation and revitalization of the *hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓* (Central Coast Salish) language. This has laid the foundation for the unique UBC-Musqueam collaborative teaching and research relationship with the Musqueam community through the Musqueam Language Program (MLP), which offers UBC and Musqueam students the opportunity to learn *hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓* with post-secondary credit. We wish to thank Patricia for her dedication to community research and collaborative teaching that she has brought not only to CIS, Anthropology, and UBC, but also to the wider communities she has served over the years.

Faculty in the News

Wade Davis

Prof. Wade Davis's article, 'The Unravelling of America', appeared in *Rolling Stone* magazine August 6. You may read the article [here](#).

RollingStone

The Unraveling of America

Anthropologist Wade Davis on how COVID-19 signals the end of the American era

By WADE DAVIS



Wade Davis holds the Leadership Chair in Cultures and Ecosystems at Risk at the University of British Columbia. His award-winning books include "Into the Silence" and "The Wayfinders." His new book, "[Magdalena: River of Dreams](#)," is published by Knopf.

The COVID crisis has reduced to tatters the idea of American exceptionalism. Gary Hershorn/Getty Images

Hugh Gusterson

On August 5 the *Financial Times* wrote on Prof. Hugh Gusterson's work on student drinking. You may read the article [here](#).

FINANCIAL TIMES

FT Magazine Coronavirus pandemic

The class of Covid-19: can US college students really go back?

The attitude of some young people to risk will make a safe return to campus challenging

The *Washington Magazine* quoted Prof. Gusterson on August 27, commenting on alternatives to handshakes as a mode of greeting in a time of Covid:

<https://www.washingtonian.com/2020/08/27/grip-and-grin-covid-handshake-greeting/#The-Vulcan-Salute>

The Iranian Labor News Agency interviewed Prof. Gusterson on August 24 about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on arms control.

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/JCPOA-at-a-glance>

Patrick Moore

Prof. Moore's work on the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House Urban Farm project was featured in a *Vancouver Sun* article on August 17. When the pandemic hit, Prof. Moore, engaged his community to build an urban farm in the DTES. With the help of 70+ volunteers, including students, the garden is now feeding 50-to-70 families a week! You may read the article [here](#).

VANCOUVER SUN

Advocates hope garden's success shows viability of urban food growth

Urban farm in DTES an example of community coming together to feed each other.

Denise Ryan | Publishing date: Aug 17, 2020



University of B.C. Prof Patrick Moore. Photo by RICHARD LAM /PNG

Students in the News

Caroline Running Wolf

Indigenous researchers and experts from around the world have teamed up to publish the *Indigenous Protocol and Artificial Intelligence Position Paper*, released on July 14, 2020. The position paper is the result of discussions that took place over 20 months, across 20 time zones, during two workshops, and between a majority Indigenous group from diverse communities in Aotearoa, Australia, North America, and the Pacific organized by Prof. Jason Edward Lewis (Concordia University) and his collaborators.



PhD student Caroline Running Wolf, née Old Coyote (Crow), is one of the contributors to the position paper. Her PhD research with the Kwakwaka'wakw on North Vancouver Island, B.C. explores how immersive technologies can support Indigenous language and culture reclamation efforts. As part of the Indigenous Protocol and Artificial Intelligence (IP AI) Working Group, Caroline and Team Prototype focused on AI applications for Indigenous language revitalization. The multi-tribal team of Indigenous engineers, scholars, and language activists transformed the second workshop in May 2019 to a hackathon and demonstrated 'Indigenous Protocols' in action as they built a Hawaiian language AI prototype: <https://vimeo.com/348661163>. They shared their process and future vision in Chapter 5 *Prototypes*.

The position paper offers a starting place for designing ethical, Indigenous-centered AI through a diverse collection of texts that range from design guidelines to scholarly essays to artworks to descriptions of technology prototypes to poetry. Caroline Running Wolf aspires that the position paper will start a dialogue and build awareness and that Indigenous data sovereignty and protocols will become recognized and respected as basic human rights when designing AI.

“When we talk about data, for Indigenous communities, it’s not just about bits and bytes, it’s the sacred stories and voices of our ancestors,” she says.

The IP AI Working Group has commissioned a translation of the Position Paper into ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, scheduled to be available in the Fall of 2020.

Website: www.indigenous-ai.net

Download: www.spectrum.library.concordia.ca/986506

Video: <https://vimeo.com/348661163>

Publications

Wade Davis

2020. The Unravelling of America. *Rolling Stone*, August 6.

<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/political-commentary/covid-19-end-of-american-era-wade-davis-1038206/>

Hugh Gusterson

2020. Will U.S. University Students Spread covid? *Sapiens*, July 20.

<https://www.sapiens.org/column/conflicted/will-u-s-university-students-spread-covid-19/>

2020. Covid-19 Darwinism. *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*. 28(2):275-6.

Jennifer Kramer

2020 Kramer, Jennifer “Re-Storying Justice: Kent Monkman’s Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience” *MOA Magazine* Issue 09, Spring: 8-11.

Bruce Granville Miller

2020 Review of Brenden W. Rensink, Native But Foreign: Indigenous Immigrants and Refugees in the North American Borderlands. *American Historical Review* 125 (3): 1061-1063.

Brenda Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick, B. (2020). Anthropology and Conflict Transformation: Promises and Dilemmas of Worldview Translation. In A. J. Willow & K. A. Yotebieng (Eds.), *Anthropology and Activism: New Contexts, New Conversations* (pp. 160–174). London: Routledge Press.

Caroline Running Wolf

2020. Running Wolf, Caroline and Dr. Arista, Noelani “Indigenous Protocols in Action,” and Running Wolf, C., Running Wolf, M, et al. “Development Process for Hua Ki’i and Next Steps,” in Lewis, Jason Edward (ed.) *Indigenous Protocol and Artificial Intelligence Position Paper*. Pp. 93-116. Honolulu, Hawai‘i: *The Initiative for Indigenous Futures and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)*.

Mentions

Caroline Running Wolf

July 9, 2020. “Centering Indigenous perspectives in designing AI” article by Krista Davidson mentions and quotes Caroline Running Wolf, a PhD student at the University of British Columbia and one of the contributors to the position paper. <https://www.cifar.ca/cifarnews/2020/07/09/centering-indigenous-perspectives-in-designing-ai>

Presentations

Caroline Running Wolf

Workshop co-presenter with Michael Running Wolf. "Sacred Assets: Data Sovereignty and the Ethics of Collecting Indigenous Data for New Media Development," 6th International Conference of the Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN), online, June 21-25, 2020.

Rafael Wainer

2020. "The metropolis and mental life in the age of COVID-19: Delaying descent into the blasé attitude." Somatosphere. <http://somatosphere.net/2020/metropolis-mental-life.html/>

Special Occasions

Recognition of Patricia A. Shaw's retirement by the UBC First Nations House of Learning, the UBC Institute of Critical Indigenous Studies, and the MIB-UBC Musqueam Language Program:

In lieu of a gathering to express these wishes personally, the First Nations House of Learning raise collective hands to Dr. Shaw for a superlative career and extends warmest wishes for a satisfying and enjoyable retirement.



Photo Caption: Pictures of MIB Blanketing by Marny Point of x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam)

Anthropology Committee Memberships for 2020-2021

Committee	2020-2021
AGSC	Darlene Weston (Chair) Shaylih Muehlmann Bruce Miller
AUSC	Sabina Magliocco (Co-chair) Tracey Heatherington (Co-chair) Zhichun Jing Amir Shiva (T1)
Website/Publicity	Bill McKellin (T1) Nicola Levell Amir Shiva (T2)
MOA Liaison (ex-officio)	Zhichun Jing
Special Events	Sara Shneiderman Hugh Gusterson
LOA Director	Sue Rowley
Department Review	Andrew Martindale
Reconciliation	Andrew Martindale (Chair) Charles Menzies Daisy Rosenblum
Safety	Sue Rowley
Diversity, Inclusion, and Community	Camilla Speller
Awards: Faculty	Carole Blackburn (Chair) Leslie Robertson
Awards: Students	Millie Creighton (Chair) Mark Turin
On Leave or Seconded to other units or programs	W. Davis V. Kamat (both terms) S. Shneiderman (T2) G. Gordillo (both terms) P. Moore (both terms) J. Kramer (both terms)

ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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The Department of Anthropology and the University of British Columbia are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

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Please send future contributions to: anth.web@ubc.ca

The material in this bulletin was contributed by the Faculty, Students, Emeriti, Postdocs, Visitors and Staff at the Department of Anthropology, UBC.

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