



THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**MIDDLE EAST  
HISTORY  
AND THEORY  
CONFERENCE**

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FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 1-2, 2015  
STUART HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual



**Middle East History  
and Theory Conference**

Friday–Saturday, May 1–2, 2015

Stuart Hall  
5835 South Greenwood Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**

## Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference



Illustration of the Battle of Badr (2 AH / 624 CE)  
from an early-14<sup>th</sup>-century manuscript of Bal'ami's *Tārīkh*

*Held at the Freer/Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution*

**Location.** All panel sessions will be held in Stuart Hall (5835 South Greenwood Avenue). Throughout the conference, a registration table will be located on the main floor of Stuart Hall. All panel rooms are on the same floor. Coffee breaks, the reception following the keynote address, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday will take place in Cox Lounge, on the lower level of Stuart Hall. Men’s and women’s restrooms are also on the lower level of Stuart. The keynote address, at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, will be given in Room 122 of the Social Sciences Research Building (1126 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street). All Saturday evening events will be in Ida Noyes Hall (1212 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street). Signs and guides will help direct you from Stuart Hall to the other buildings.

**Internet Access.** Free wireless Internet access is available to conference participants through the “uchicago” network. Join the network and then start up your browser, which will take you to the University of Chicago Wireless Access page. You can gain access by typing the following codes in the CNetID field and leaving the password blank:

Friday, May 1	meeting-5sym
Saturday, May 2	meeting-nxzb

You may also be able to get online via the **eduroam** network. Visit **eduroam.org** to find out if your university is a participating institution. If it is, then you can register for free using your .edu account.

*The 2015 MEHAT Conference was made possible by generous funding from the Franke Institute for the Humanities and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Our sponsors also include the Divisions of the Humanities and the Social Sciences; the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; the Committee on Southern Asian Studies; the Committee on Central Eurasian Studies; the Farouk Mustafa Memorial Fund; and the Council on Advanced Studies. MEHAT’s faculty sponsor is Prof. Orit Bashkin of NELC. Additional support for conference events has come from the Middle Eastern Studies Students’ Association. Special thanks to Thomas E.R. Maguire, Michael Bechtel, Annie Greene, Amir Toft, Mariam Sheibani, and the organizer of the MEHAT Workshop, Jamal Abd Rabbih. The conference organizers also thank the volunteers, discussants, and many others who have made this event possible.*

The 2015 Middle East History and Theory Conference was organized by  
Theodore Beers and Andrew DeRouin.

## Conference Schedule

Friday, May 1, 2015

*Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. in Stuart Hall*

- 1:30–2:50 p.m. Panel session 1, *followed by a coffee break in Cox Lounge (lower level of Stuart)*
- 3:00–4:20 p.m. Panel session 2
- 5:00–6:30 p.m. Keynote address (“When Muhammad Had to Delegate”) by Prof. Michael Cook of Princeton University, in room 122 of the Social Sciences Research Building (1126 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street)

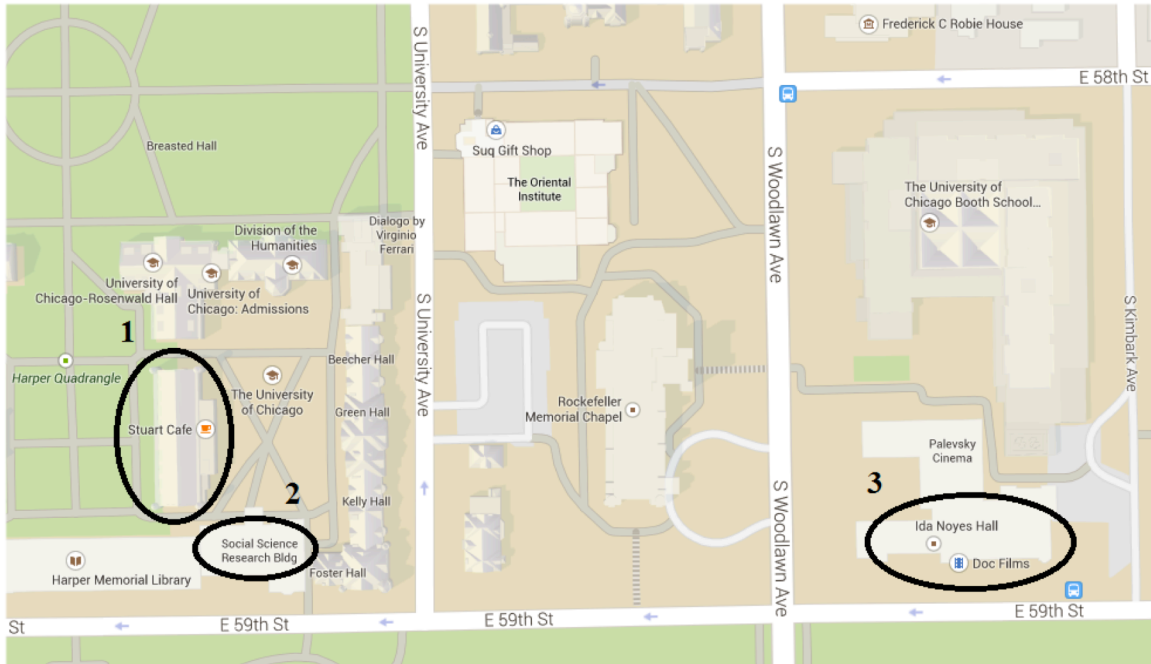
Saturday, May 2, 2015

- 7:30–8:30 a.m. Breakfast in Cox Lounge
- 8:30–9:50 a.m. Panel session 3
- 10:00–11:20 a.m. Panel session 4
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. Panel session 5
- 12:50–2:00 p.m. Lunch in Cox Lounge
- 2:00–3:20 p.m. Panel session 6, *followed by a coffee break in Cox Lounge*
- 3:30–4:50 p.m. Panel session 7

*Saturday evening events will be held in Ida Noyes Hall (1212 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street)*

- 5:00–6:00 p.m. Happy hour, sponsored and organized by the Committee on Central Eurasian Studies
- 6:00–7:00 p.m. Middle East Music Ensemble performance
- 7:00 p.m. Lamb roast dinner, sponsored and organized by the Middle Eastern Studies Students’ Association

## MEHAT Conference Map of Events



**1) Stuart Hall: 5835 South Greenwood Avenue**

*Friday: Registration, panel sessions, post-keynote reception*

*Saturday: Registration, panel sessions, breakfast, lunch*

**2) Social Sciences Research Building: 1126 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street**

*Friday: Keynote address, 5:00 p.m.*

**3) Ida Noyes Hall: 1212 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street**

*Saturday: Happy hour, musical performance, lamb roast dinner*

2015 Middle East History and Theory Conference

**\* Friday, May 1, 2015 \***

*All panel sessions will be held in Stuart Hall*

**Session 1 – 1:30–2:50 p.m.**

**Central Eurasian Studies (sponsored by the Committee on Central Eurasian Studies) – Stuart 101**

*Michael Bechtel (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Kevin Gledhill (Yale University), “Trans-Caspian Diplomacy and the Coming of Qajar Rule in Gilan”

Donohon Abdugafurova (Emory University), “Anbar Otin’s *Treatise on the Philosophy of the Blacks*”

Rahimjon Abdugafurov (Emory University), “The Epic of Lady Mary by Sulayman Baqirghani”

**Identity Formation and Intercommunal Conflict – Stuart 104**

*Matthew Barber (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Hélène Laurence Rey (University of Chicago), “Minority Rights in Iraq and Syria: Constitutional Frameworks and Bleak Realities”

Clarence Moore (University of Wisconsin, Madison), “When Islamists Become Nationalists”

Hassan Awaisi (University of Chicago), “What Makes a Jihadist? The Contributing Factors behind Homegrown Islamist Terrorism in the West”

Shereen Yousuf (DePaul University), “The Right to Offense, the Right to Shiaphobia”

**Education: Form, Function, Factors – Stuart 105**

*Mariam Sheibani (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Sarra Hilali (University of Chicago), “Women and Education in Mamluk Cairo”

Joseph Vignone (Harvard University), “Diet in Medieval Islamic Education”

Erin Glade (University of Chicago), “From Text to Textbook: The Evolution of Franklin Books, Cairo”

Hussam Ahmed (McGill University), “Revisiting the Egyptian Kuttāb”

**Session 2 – 3:00–4:20 p.m.**

**Ottoman Press Culture, 1843–1914 – Stuart 101**

*Madeleine Elfenbein (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Kyle Clark (University of Chicago), “The Effect of Language on Content in *İçtihat*: A Case Study of Selected Issues from September 1904 to June 1906”

Carol Fan (University of Chicago), “Caricature and Satire As a Weapon: James Sanua’s Bilingual *Abou Naddara*, 1885–1890”

Sarah Furger (University of Chicago), “Francophone Press in the Ottoman Empire: The *Journal de Constantinople*”

Kara Peruccio (University of Chicago), “The Woman in the East: A Critical Reading of *Kadınlar Dünyası*’s Ottoman/French Issues, Nos. 124 & 125”

August Samie (University of Chicago), “Serving the Cause of Christ: The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and Their Publication, *Angelioforos çocuklar için*”

*Please note that the above panel has five participants and will likely run a bit past 4:20 p.m.*

*Session 2 panel listings continue on the next page*



2015 Middle East History and Theory Conference

Session 2 – 3:00–4:20 p.m. (continued)

**Arab-Jews, Refugees, and the Question of Return – Stuart 104**

*Orit Bashkin (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Salim Al-Jahwari (Sultanate of Oman), “The Rupture of No Return: The Case of Iraqi Jews, 1948–1952”

Chelsie May (University of Chicago), “On a Contemporary Notion of Arab Jewish Identity: Reading Haviva Pedaya Intersectionally”

Marshall Watson (University of Chicago), “Olim, Refugees, and Victims: Mizrahim and Palestinians in the Arab-Israeli Conflict”

**Beneath the Surface in Modern Middle Eastern Literatures – Stuart 105**

*Cameron Cross (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Elsien van Pinxteren (Harvard University), “Disability in Arabic Literature: The Critical Mirror of Disability in Saudi Arabia in Yousef Al-Mohaimed’s *Fikhākh al-Rā’ihā*”

Anna Cruz (University of California, Berkeley), “From Panegyric to Elegy: Tracing Mythical Representations of Granada in Arabic Poetry”

Alex Taylor (University of Chicago), “Completing the Picture: Kanafani’s Unpublished Works”

Mazyar Faridi (Northwestern University), “Resisting Colonial Narratives of National History: Shamlou and the Making of a Poetics of Relation”

*The above panel is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Farouk Mustafa (1942–2013), who taught modern Arabic literature at the University of Chicago for several decades. The organizers thank Prof. Kay Heikinen and the Farouk Mustafa Memorial Fund for their continued support.*

**Keynote Address – 5:00–6:30 p.m., Friday, May 1**  
**Social Sciences Research Building, Room 122**

The Middle East History and Theory Conference presents

# Michael Cook

Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies,  
Princeton University

## When Muhammad Had to Delegate

*The keynote address will be followed by a reception in Cox Lounge,  
on the lower level of Stuart Hall*

*This lecture is free and open to the public*

**\* Saturday, May 2, 2015 \***

*All panel sessions will be held in Stuart Hall*

**Breakfast (Cox Lounge, Stuart Hall) – 7:30–8:30 a.m.**

**Session 3 – 8:30–9:50 a.m.**

**Senses of the Qur'an – Stuart 101**

*Süleyman Dost (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Lauren Osborne (Whitman College), “Listen to What Is Revealed’: Hearing and Listening in the Qur’an”

Jawad Qureshi (University of Chicago), “Semitic Rhetoric and the Qur’an”

Ida Nitter (University of Chicago), “Repetition in the Qur’an: Just an Error of Adaptation?”

Adam Flowers (University of Chicago), “The Qur’anic Conditional and the Evolution of Early Islamic Apocalypticism”

**State-Building and National Fragments in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century – Stuart 102**

*Timothy Gutmann (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Carl Shook (University of Chicago), “Iraq’s Borders as Historical Texts”

Russell Hopkins (University of Akron), “The Assyrian Genocide and the Construction of Iraqi Nationalism”

Eylem Akdeniz (İstanbul Kemerburgaz University), “State-Building and Demographic Engineering in Early Republican Turkey”

Jonathan Lohnes (State University of New York, Binghamton), “The *Phalanges Libanaises* and Fascist Body Politics”

**Session 4 – 10:00–11:20 a.m.**

**Islamic Law and Doctrine – Stuart 101**

*Jamal Abd Rabbih (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Carlos Grenier (University of Chicago), “‘To String the Pearls of Orthodoxy’: The Dogmatic Content of Sunni Catechistics on the Fifteenth-Century Ottoman Frontier”

Issam Eido (University of Chicago), “The Question of Authenticity and Shaping the Authoritative Islamic Texts”

Rachel Friedman (University of California, Berkeley), “Expanding the Realm of Interpretation: al-Bāqillānī on Qur’an 3:7”

**Perspectives on Shi’i Thought – Stuart 102**

*Shiraz Hajiani (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Andrew Lawder (University of Chicago), “Abū Nasr al-Fārābī, Abū Ya‘qūb al-Sijistānī, and the Ideas of Intellect and Soul in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century”

Mohamad Ballan (University of Chicago), “‘Alī al-Karākī (d. 940/1533) and the Politics of Anti-Sunnism in Early Safavid Iran”

Zach Winters (University of Chicago), “Zaydi Interpretations of *Khurūj* in the Modern Yemeni Context”

*Session 4 panel listings continue on the next page*

**Session 4 – 10:00–11:20 a.m. (continued)**

**Testing the Limits of Language in Classical Arabic Literature – Stuart 104**

*Nathaniel Miller (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Rachel Schine (University of Chicago), “Perceiving Imperceptibility: Ibn al-‘Arabī’s (d. 1240) *Qurrat al-‘Ayn* in Comparative Perspective”

Francesca Chubb-Confer (University of Chicago), “The Mystical Stylings of al-Mutanabbī”

Amir Toft (University of Chicago), “‘I Am Known to the Steed!’: Equine Imagery in the Poetry of al-Mutanabbī (d. 354/965)”

Kevin Blankinship (University of Chicago), “‘It’s the Words of Abu’l-Fatik That Prevent Me’: The Hermeneutics of Lexicography in Two English Translations of the *Book of Misers (Kitāb al-bukhalā)* by al-Jāhiz”

**Session 5 – 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.**

**Ottoman Reforms, Reformists, and the Republic – Stuart 101**

*Toygün Altıntaş (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Fikriye Karaman (İstanbul Şehir University), “Arab Intellectuals under the Young Turks: A Comparative-Historical Analysis of Memoirs (1908–1918)”

Ayşegül Çimen (İstanbul Şehir University), “The Ottoman Criminal Code in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century”

Erol Koymen (University of Texas, Austin), “Musical Eugenics: Ziya Gökalp and Musical Disabling in the Turkish Republic”

**Identity and Politics: Modes of Regional and Religious Legitimation in Pre- and Early Islamic Times – Stuart 102**

*Fred Donner (University of Chicago) and Michael Cook (Princeton University), Discussants*

Nathaniel Miller (University of Chicago), “The Warrior Aristocracy: Images of Rule in Pre-Islamic Arab Tribes”

Michael Payne (Brown University), “Polemical Genealogies: Biblical and Arabian Lineages in Ethnic Formation”

Jessica Mutter (University of Chicago), “Defining Ambiguities: Conversion and Boundary Formation among Christians and Muslims in Seventh- and Eighth-Century Syria”

**Mysticism, Devotion, and Didacticism in Pre-Modern Texts – Stuart 104**

*Austin O’Malley (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Tasi Perkins (Georgetown University), “‘Do Not Let Them Taste a Drop of It’: Understanding Husayn’s Humanity through Tales of Fluids Gained and Lost”

Madiha Shaukat (Stanford University), “Prosimetrum in Medieval Persianate Sufi Texts”

Gwendolyn Collaço (Harvard University), “The Image of Majnūn beyond His Narrative”

Allison Kanner (University of Chicago), “Poetic Teachers of Ibn al-‘Arabī in the *Tarjumān al-Ashwāq*”

**Modern Challenges to the Arab Monarchies – Stuart 105**

*Scott Erich (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Akhil Shah (University of Chicago), “Challenges to Monarchical Rule in Saudi Arabia”

Lauren Carty (University of Chicago), “Soft Power and the Struggle against Political Islam”

Michael Peddycoart (University of Chicago), “Negotiating Domestic Power in Response to Foreign Threats”

Richard Harrod (University of Chicago), “A Wise Policy for a Small Country? Qatar’s Precarious Quest for Relevance, Influence, and Stability in a New Middle East”

**Lunch (Cox Lounge, Stuart Hall) – 12:50–2:00 p.m.**

**Session 6 – 2:00–3:20 p.m.**

**Defining Political Legitimacy in the Middle Periods – Stuart 101**

*Zahit Atçıl (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Golriz Farshi (University of Michigan), “*Tārīkh-i Sultān Muhammad Qutb Shāhī: A Struggle for Legitimacy*”

Marian Smith (University of Michigan), “Poetic Languages of Sovereignty and Sacred Kingship in a Post-Timurid Manuscript”

Ayşe Kara (SOAS, University of London), “Perceptions of the Ottoman World in al-Tamagrūti’s *Musky Breeze to Istanbul*”

Cumhur Bekar (Leiden University), “Remembering Violence, Forgetting Consultation: The Image of Murad IV in the *Şehen-şeh-name-i Muradi* (ca. 1638)”

**Women’s Rights within Islam: Emerging Cases from Egypt, Iran, and Turkey – Stuart 102**

*Ekin Enacar (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Mozhgan Malekan (University of Cincinnati), “Religious Identity and Faith Development among Muslim Iranians”

Ayça Mazman (University of Cincinnati), “Secularism, Islam, and a Broken Democracy”

Fatemeh Masjedi (Zentrum Moderne Orient, Berlin), “Tabrizi Women’s Tactics for Transforming Public Spaces in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries”

**Comparative International Perspectives on the Modern Near East – Stuart 104**

*Samuel Hodgkin (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Samaneh Zandian (University of Warwick), “The Use of Iranian-American Literature in Teaching English”

Abdullah Alrebh (Michigan State University), “The Public Presentation of Authority in Saudi Arabia During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: A Discursive Analysis of the London Times and the New York Times”

Adey Almohsen (University of Minnesota), “Palestinian and German Adventures in the Videosphere: Global Leftist Cultures between Liberation and Technology”

Yikuan Chen (University of Michigan), “Eastern Approaches to Darwinism: A Comparative Study of the Introduction of Darwinism to the Arabs and Its Acceptance among the Chinese”

**The Rhetoric and Practice of Wars in the Middle East – Stuart 105**

*Kaveh Hemmat (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Joel Veldkamp (University of Chicago), “Narrative and Reality in United States Aid to the Syrian Armed Opposition, 2012–2014”

Ahmad Arbaboun (University of Chicago), “Zarif’s Soft War: Religiosity, National Identity, and the Nuclear Talks in the Iranian Foreign Minister’s Facebook Page”

Jameel Haque (City University of New York Graduate Center), “Toward a Theory of Warmongering”

Areeba Hasan (University of Chicago), “Shock Doctrine and the Iraq War”

## 2015 Middle East History and Theory Conference

### **Session 7 – 3:30–4:50 p.m.**

#### **Negotiating Empire in the Near East, 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> Centuries – Stuart 101**

*Rodrigo Adem (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Hannah Lemonick (University of Chicago), “The Mongol Submission Letters and Rashīd al-Dīn”

Jonathan Brack (University of Michigan), “‘Chinggisid Prophethood’: Inter-Ecumenical Debates and Succession Politics in Ilkhanid Iran”

Maryam Kamali (Harvard University), “The Failure of the Khwarazmian Dynasty (1202–1231) in Conquering Baghdad and Western Iran”

Maher Abu-Munshar (Qatar University), “Sultan Nūr al-Dīn Zankī’s Strategic Plans to Liberate Jerusalem from the Crusaders”

#### **Nationalist Histories, National Historiographies – Stuart 102**

*Annie Greene (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Naseraddin Alizadeh and Eleanor Lovinfosse (Ankara University), “Contemporary Iranian Historiography”

Joseph Hermiz (University of Chicago), “Legitimizing Ancient Lineages in the Present: Hormuzd Rassam and the Making of an Assyrian/Chaldean National Identity”

Sami Sweis (University of Chicago), “Remembering al-Kura: Contested Space and Memories in Transjordan, 1921”

Rao Mohsin Ali Noor (University of Chicago), “Ghazi, Unifier, and Civilizer: Depicting, Appropriating, and Vindicating Sultan Mahmud of Ghazna in Muslim Nationalist Discourses in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century South Asia”

#### **The Muslim West, ca. 1100–1800 – Stuart 104**

*Mohamad Ballan (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Andrea Castonguay (University of Notre Dame), “Re-thinking the Almoravids, Re-thinking Ibn Yāsīn: Investigating Almoravid Theology in al-Bakrī’s *Kitāb al-masālik wa-al-mamālik* and Qādī Iyād’s *Tarīkh al-madārik wa-taqrīb al-masālik*”

Ali Asgar Alibhai (Harvard University), “Melodies of Power: Understanding Sacred Sound and the Demarcation of Space in Almohad al-Andalus and the Maghrib”

Zainab Cheema (University of Texas, Austin), “Poetics of Exile: Examining the Dialogue between Spain’s Sixteenth-Century Maurophilic Ballads and North Africa’s Malhoun Poetry”

Imri Grinberg (University of Chicago), “Using an Obituary List to Write a History of Jenne, Mali in the Mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century”

#### **Trends and Challenges in Contemporary Arab Societies – Stuart 105**

*Thomas E.R. Maguire (University of Chicago), Discussant*

Taylor Capps (University of Chicago), “Hezbollah’s Islamic Health Unit: A GIS Analysis”

Colette Salemi (University of Chicago), “Cairo’s ‘Professional Woman’: Gender, Symbolic Capital, and Hiring Bias in the Egyptian Labor Market”

Sofia Fenner (University of Chicago), “Generation after Generation: Familial Ties and Opposition Resilience in Authoritarian Regimes”

## Concluding Events

*Saturday evening events will be held in Ida Noyes Hall*

**Happy Hour – 5:00–6:00 p.m.**     *Sponsored and organized by the Committee on Central Eurasian Studies*

**Middle East Music Ensemble Performance – 6:00–7:00 p.m.**

**Lamb Roast Dinner – 7:00 p.m.**     *Sponsored and organized by the Middle Eastern Studies Students' Association*

After the conclusion of Saturday evening events, MEHAT Conference participants and guests are invited to the Pub, located in the basement of Ida Noyes. The Pub offers a wide selection of beers on tap, mixed drinks, and wine, and it often runs specials on Saturday nights. The Pub is a private club, but non-University of Chicago guests may enter with a University affiliate for a fee of \$3.







THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**



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