
WHAT SHOULD

THE ROLE OF

RELIGION

BE IN

**21st CENTURY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS?**

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMY FOR EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

OCTOBER 3-5, 2007



Academy for Educational Studies

Third Annual Conference

October 3 - 5, 2007

Missouri State University
Springfield, Missouri

Conference Overview for Wednesday, October 3rd

11:30-4:00	Registration	Plaster Student Union (PSU), 3 rd floor
12:45	Welcoming Remarks, Steven P. Jones	PSU 308
1:00-2:20	<u>First Concurrent Session</u>	
	Educational Vouchers and School Choice	PSU 308
	Federal Policies and the Public Schools	PSU 317
	Religious Talk and School Counseling	PSU 314
2:30-3:50	<u>Second Concurrent Session</u>	
	Religion and School: What Students Say	PSU 308
	Getting Students to Think Critically About Religion	PSU 314
	Religion Class and Religious Literacy	PSU 317
4:00	<u>Keynote Address</u>	Plaster Student Union Theater
	Religion and Public Schools: A Comparison of the Law in the United States and Other Countries	
	Jeremy Gunn, ACLU	

The mission of the Academy for Educational Studies is to foster a community of inquirers and provide a public space for debate and dialogue about important questions in education. The Academy encourages those interested in education, teaching, and learning to engage in thoughtful reflection, discussion, and critique of educational theory and practice. Involving people from across the state, region, and country, the Academy promotes this vital dialogue by arranging education conferences and symposia and by creating publishing opportunities connected with Academy events. The Academy supports research efforts of graduate and undergraduate students and assists in the design and delivery of teacher education courses at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

Cover design by **Daniel Zender**
Student, Missouri State University Design Program

Conference Overview for Thursday, October 4th

8:00	Continental Breakfast	Plaster Student Union, 3 rd floor
All Day	Walk a Labyrinth	PSU West Ballroom
8:45- 10:05	<u>Third Concurrent Session</u>	
	School Prayer and the Law	PSU 317
	Using Expressive Techniques to Explore Spirituality	PSU 308
	Religion and the Schools: Implications for Teacher Educators and School Administrators	PSU 314
10:15-11:35	<u>Fourth Concurrent Session</u>	
	The Public Religion of the Public Schools	PSU 308
	Religion and Teacher Education	PSU 314
	Religion in the Disciplines: Math, Music, and ESL	PSU 317
11:35-1:00	Lunch	
	Featured Lunchtime Discussion: The Role of Spirituality in Higher Education	PSU 308
1:00-2:20	<u>Fifth Concurrent Session</u>	
	Religion and Literature	PSU 308
	Listening to the Philosophers	PSU 314
	The Effusion of Religion and Spirituality in the Classroom	PSU 317
2:30-3:50	<u>Sixth Concurrent Session</u>	
	Student and Parent Voices	PSU 314
	Religion and the Teaching of Science	PSU 308
	International Perspectives	PSU 317
4:00	<u>Keynote Address</u>	Plaster Student Union Theater
	Understanding Unbelief as part of Religious Education	
	Nel Noddings, Stanford University	

Conference Overview for Friday, October 5th

8:00	Continental Breakfast	Plaster Student Union, 3 rd floor
8:30-9:50	<u>Seventh Concurrent Session</u>	
	Religion and the Schools: The View from a Faith-based Liberal Arts College	PSU 315
	Students, Communities, and Religious Sentiments	PSU 317
	Dogma, Privilege, and Lifestyle Issues	PSU 308
10:00-11:20	<u>Eighth Concurrent Session</u>	
	Religion, Schools and the Law	PSU 317
	The Religious Voice	PSU 308
	Technology, War, and the Internet	PSU 315
11:30-12:15	Conference Luncheon	Plaster Student Union Ballroom
12:15-1:05	<u>Keynote Address</u>	Plaster Student Union Ballroom
	Jordan Lorence, Alliance Defense Fund	
1:15-3:00	Panel Discussion:	Plaster Student Union Ballroom
	What Role Should Religion Play in the 21st Century Public School?	

Wednesday, October 3rd

First Concurrent Session

1:00 – 2:20

Educational Vouchers and School Choice

Presentation of Papers, PSU 308

The Effects of Vouchers on National Cohesion

Craig S. Engelhardt, Baylor University

Lightly regulated religious school vouchers present an opportunity to draw in the disaffected by placing the claims of the liberal polity within religious school communities.

Choice Programs and Schooling in Religion

Steven Adams, Florida State University

This paper examines the free exercise of religion and school choice programs designed with religious goals. It proposes ideas based on a framework developed from Dewey's concept of social reconstruction.

The Economic, Political, Social, and Educational Implications of Vouchers

Nithya Narayanaswamy Iyer, SUNY Oneonta

Suzanne Wegener Soled, Northern Kentucky University

The paper attempts to shed light on the economic and political agendas that influence the policies regarding school vouchers, with consideration of the social and educational implications of such policies.

Educational Vouchers: What are the Benefits?

Daqi Li, SUNY Oneonta

Lisa Tang, SUNY Oneonta

This study takes a look at the history of educational vouchers and examines the research findings about vouchers. The presenters will discuss the benefits of vouchers for schools and students.

Federal Policies and the Public Schools

Presentation of papers, PSU 317

Christianity and the IDEA: Parallel Principles in the Teaching of Students with Special Needs

Jerry Whitworth, Texas Woman's University

The influence of religion in our public schools can be seen in parallel principles of Christianity and many of our modern teaching methods for students with special needs.

No Child Left Behind's Implementation in Urban School Settings: Implications for Serving Students with Emotional and Behavior Disorders

Michael Fitzpatrick, New Mexico State University

This paper presentation will present literature regarding NCLB's basic principles, its issues in urban school settings, and its impact on students identified as EBD receiving services in urban school settings.

Religious Talk and School Counseling

Small Group Discussion, PSU 314

Someone Said "God" and I Panicked! Religious Talk and School Counseling

Scott A. Wickman, Northern Illinois University

Merit Skoutal, Northern Illinois University

We offer for discussion a postmodern integration of personal and professional identities for working on spiritual matters with students, based on conflicts between identity facilitation and church/state separation.

Second Concurrent Session

2:30 – 3:50

Religion and School: What Students Say

Panel Discussion, PSU 308

Differing Student Perspectives on the Role of Religion in a Contemporary Public School

Kenneth Elkins, Central High School (Springfield, MO) & Missouri State University

From Central High School: Alexandria Baker, Craig Hartenberger, Elizabeth Hendrix, Matthew Jones, Rachel Kling, Michael McCoy, Daniel Schultz, Amanda Sheets

This panel discussion will allow some students from a public school to add their voices to the ongoing public discussion/debate on the role(s) of religion in public education.

Getting Students to Think Critically about Religion

Presentation/Discussion, PSU 314

Religion as a Curricular Subject in Public Schools: An Inquisitive Discussion through the Utilization of a Spiraling-Question Methodology

Sean Lennon, Valdosta State University

Scott Grubbs, Valdosta State University

The introduction of a spiraled questioning technique to spur an open and congenial dialogue over the contentious issue of religion or religion based education classes in a public school setting.

**The Discourse of Religiosity in American Culture Relative to Teaching
Critical Thinking Skills in a Senior Seminar Format at the University Level**

Gustavo D. Albear, Eastern Illinois University

Bettina T. Becker, Eastern Illinois University

This interactive session discusses the issue of teaching critical thinking relative to reified religious discourses within American culture. The issues will be presented from historical, cognitive, and critical cultural perspectives.

Religion Class and Religious Literacy

Presentation of papers, PSU 317

The Role of Religion in the 21st Century Public Schools: A Curriculum Design

Lynda George, Central Connecticut State University

Participants explore a constructivist curriculum design of the moral/ethical codes embedded in major world religions. These codes reveal more unity than diversity regarding how the faithful should live their lives.

Should There be a Fourth R in the Future of Public School Teaching?

Marietta Giovannelli, University of Illinois at Chicago

Although little research has been done on the topic of the teaching of religion in public schools, the author of this paper has gathered scholarly works and other documents in an effort to argue the value of this addition to the curriculum.

The Anatomy of Religious Literacy

Sara Shrader, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This paper aims to shed some light on the different perspectives surrounding the re-introduction of religion into the curriculum, focusing on a simple but fundamental question: *What is religious literacy?*

Keynote Address

4:00

**Plaster Student Union Theater
Open to the Public**

**Religion and Public Schools:
A Comparison of the Law in the United States and
other Countries**

Jeremy Gunn, ACLU

Thursday, October 4th

Continental Breakfast

8:00, Plaster Student Union, 3rd floor

Walk a Labyrinth

PSU West Ballroom

(all day, open to the public)

Hosted by:

Barbara Michels, Missouri State University

Debra K. Maxwell, Springfield Technology

Third Concurrent Session

8:45 – 10:05

School Prayer and the Law

Presentation of papers, PSU 317

**Thwarting the Court: How Interest Groups have sought to Undermine
Federal Court Decisions Related to Religious Expression in Public Schools**

Craig Alan Smith, Missouri State University

An historical and legal perspective of Supreme Court decisions related to religious expressions in the public schools and the reactions of those groups or individuals most opposed to these decisions.

**The Role of Prayer in 21st Century Public Settings: Should Legislative
Bodies and the Military be the only Exceptions to the Rule?**

Constance R. Bridges, University of Missouri at Kansas City & Rockhurst University

This study examines the three tests for determining the constitutionality of whether or not a governmental action has violated the Establishment Clause regarding religion comparing how military and civilian courts look at the issue.

Prayer in the Public Schools: Forming a More Perfect Union?

Susan Waters, Missouri State University

The origins of the debate and court rulings concerning prayer in the public schools will be examined. Morals and ethics can be taught in the public schools without school sponsored prayer.

Using Expressive Techniques to Explore Spirituality

Interactive session, PSU 308

Piecing Together the Multicultural Quilt: Integrating Expressive Arts and Spiritual Diversity

Kristi Perryman, Missouri State University

Lisa Nash, Missouri State University

Teresa A. King, Missouri State University

Debbie Hubbell, Missouri State University

Deb Williams, Missouri State University

Tana Clardy, Missouri State University

Emily Pearch, Missouri State University

This paper focuses on the importance of spirituality in human development and the usefulness of expressive techniques to facilitate this exploration in a school setting.

The Labyrinth: History and Mystery—Known and Unknown

Barbara Michels, Missouri State University

Debra K. Maxwell, Springfield Technology

The session is designed to illustrate and explain the historical uses of labyrinths and current use in schools and other settings. Participants will have an opportunity to hear about, create, and experience a labyrinth.

Religion and the Schools: Implications for Teacher Educators and School Administrators

Presentation of papers, PSU 314

Intellectual Agnostics: Preparing Public School Teachers to be Interpreters in the Religion/Public School Debate

Don Hufford, Newman University

Teachers with academic preparation as "Intellectual Agnostics" are better able to creatively use the complexities, controversies, and epistemological variety which religious and secular sensitivities bring to the educational arena.

On Being a Mormon Teacher Educator

Thomas Smith, Northwest Missouri State University

This paper explores how one researcher balances his Christian (Mormon) beliefs with his work as an educational researcher who approaches his work from a democratic, justice-oriented perspective.

Where's the Balance? Today's Look at the Separation between Church and State

David Bell, Arkansas Tech University

Glenn Sheets, Arkansas Tech University

This presentation will provide a brief history of the background of the separation between church and state. Results from a survey concerning religious issues in the public schools will be shared.

Fourth Concurrent Session

10:15 – 11:35

Featured Session:

The Public Religion of the Public Schools

Philip Cusick, Michigan State University
PSU 308

Religion and Teacher Education

Symposium, PSU 314

Teaching the Fourth R to Teachers: The Role of Religion in Teacher Education

Sara Shrader, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Jeffrey Thibert, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Nathan Raybeck, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

In exploring the role of religion in public schools, this symposium looks to examine the specific challenges presented to teacher education by a serious commitment to religion in the public schools.

Religion in the Disciplines: Math, Music, and ESL

Presentation of Papers, PSU 317

Natural Integration of "Religion" and Mathematics?

Kurt Killion, Missouri State University

Is there a natural (non-offensive, and justified by educational goals) integration of spiritual concepts in the teaching of mathematics? Classroom examples will be shared.

Sacred Music in the Public Schools: Necessity or Convenience?

Justin Ormsby, Missouri State University

Jonathan Hall, Missouri State University

Sacred Music in the Public Schools focuses strongly on the role that sacred music plays in ensuring a well-developed, quality music education for secondary music students.

Spirituality and Climate Change in Secondary ESL

Jason Goulah, DePaul University

This session presents findings from a case study that examined secondary-level ESL students' formal study of spirituality and environmentalism.

Lunch (on your own—box lunch available for purchase)

11:35 – 1:00

Featured Lunchtime Discussion, PSU 308

Bring your lunch -- Open to the Public

The Role of Spirituality in Higher Education

Frank Kauffman, Missouri State University

Jane Hoogestraat, Missouri State University

Kathryn Hope, Missouri State University

Pan Sailors, Missouri State University

Kathy Pulley, Missouri State University

The role of spirituality is examined within the framework of contemporary higher education that values a diverse community in which members from different backgrounds and cultures are free to participate.

Fifth Concurrent Session

1:00 – 2:20

Religion and Literature

Presentation of papers, PSU 308

“How not to grow up a mind without a soul”: The Special Case of Literature and Religion in a Public University

Jane Hoogestraat, Missouri State University

Literature often requires the context of religious history to be understood. A substantial body of literary theory addresses religious and ethical concerns in literature, providing frameworks for informed, respectful discussions.

To Hell and Back: Teaching Faith-based Literature in the Modern Classroom

Ryan Kennedy, University of Missouri

Teaching *Paradise Lost* and *Inferno* has often gone without question. This presentation examines the issues that might occur when teaching these works in public high schools, especially with Christian students.

Religious Censorship in Children’s Literature

Roxanne Fillmore, Northeastern State University (Tahlequah, OK)

Bonnie Giese, Northeastern State University

Deborah Landry, Northeastern State University

This paper addresses the role of religion in 21st century schools through the use of literature as curriculum. Because of pressure from external groups, the presenters feel that religion is taught as hidden curriculum in literature, furthering religious agendas.

Listening to the Philosophers

Presentation of papers, PSU 314

Learning from Comenius: Restoring Understanding, Wisdom, and Love to American Education

Jeff Hittenberger, Evangel University

American education is dominated by test scores, economic competition, and marketing. This paper suggests an alternative set of priorities; understanding, wisdom, and love. The ideas of Jan Amos Comenius are examined as a model of this alternative approach.

Religion (or irreligion) and the Moral and Spiritual Development of Students

Pauline Nugent, Missouri State University

This paper substantiates the abiding moral and spiritual yearning of the human heart throughout millennia, and supports the necessity for public educators to provide holistic instruction in matters of the spirit.

William James’ Radical Empiricism and its Educational Implication for Religious Education

Yueh-Mei Lin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This presentation addresses the application and implications of William James’ philosophy of radical empiricism as it relates to the role of religious education in multicultural, multireligious democratic societies.

The Effusion of Religion and Spirituality in the Classroom

Presentation of Papers, PSU 317

Religion in the Public Schools: A Reflective Analysis on the Issue

Samuel B. Hardy, III, Augusta State University

The controversy surrounding the so called danger to today’s public schools posed by those with strong religious beliefs is examined and reflected upon in an effort to contextualize the true nature of the threat.

Spirituality in Curriculum

Kathy Spillman, Oklahoma State University

As curriculum has become inert and lifeless through the technology of standardization and testing, intuition tells us that something is missing. Spirituality may be the breath of life for education.

Elephant in the Classroom: Christianity’s Prominence in Public Schools

Amy Simpson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Rather than debate religion in schools as a matter of legality, this article focuses on the cultural hegemony of Christianity in today’s public schools.

The Missing Component in American Education

Thomas Deering, Augusta State University

In claiming to educate the whole child American schools are failing miserably. While focusing on knowledge and skills the system completely ignores the spiritual side of human nature.

Sixth Concurrent Session

2:30 – 3:50

Student and Parent Voices

Presentation of Papers, PSU 314

Other Perspectives: Student Views on the Role of Religion in a Public High School Early in the 21st Century

Kenneth Elkins, Central High School (Springfield, MO) & Missouri State University

While much has been written, both pro and con, about what the role of religion should be in public schools, students in one of those schools have their own perspectives on this crucial topic.

Spirituality and Morality in the Foreign Language Classroom: Transformative Foreign Language Learning

Jason Goulah, DePaul University

This session presents findings from a case study that examined secondary-level students' engagement in transformative learning approaches to spirituality, environmentalism, and culture in an introductory foreign language class.

Student Success in Service-Learning: Building Ethical Citizen Scholars

Susan Waters, Missouri State University

Elizabeth Carmichael Burton, Missouri State University

Developmental moral schemas were investigated using pre- and post-tests of service-learning students; a control group of students, community partners and business owners. The findings illustrate the ethical impact of service-learning engagement.

Religious Diversity in Public, Private and Home Schools: A Study of Trends and Practices in Southwest Missouri

Paul M. Ajuwon, Missouri State University

Brenda Bradshaw, Missouri State University

A growing emergence of alternative forms of K-12 education begs the question of how satisfied some parents are with the secular approach to religion in America's public schools of today.

Religion and the Teaching of Science

Presentation of Papers, PSU 308

Is the Fate of American Science Education to Perpetuate Inevitable Ignorance?

Kenneth S. Schmitz, University of Missouri at Kansas City

Using the words of its proponents, intelligent design is best described as empty science based on shallow religious views. Dilution of mainstream knowledge only weakens America's influence on world events.

Cultural Influences on Biology Students' Acceptance of Evolution

Georgianna Saunders, Missouri State University

Investigation: Relative contribution of school and cultural factors to predict acceptance of evolution among biology majors. Finding: Teaching about evolution will probably not increase acceptance of the more controversial concepts.

Metaphysics, Metaphor, and Meaningfulness: How to "Teach the Controversy" in Science Class

Steve Broidy, Wittenberg University

The controversy over a role for faith-based learning in science classes is a good opportunity to teach the logic and the value of educational questions that are important to students.

International Perspectives

Presentation of Papers, PSU 317

Humlehavekolen: A Case Study in Multicultural and Religious Integration in a Danish Public School

Karla Smart-Morstad, Concordia College (Moorhead, MN)

David Morstad, University of North Dakota

Humlehavekolen, a K-10 public school in Odense, Denmark, has evolved from over 95% Danish Christian to over 95% non-Danish, non-Christian. How do they overcome the barriers of religious differences? What lessons for American public schools?

Finding a Place for Religion in American Public Education Using Insights from International Forms of Religious Education

Jeffrey R. Thibert, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This paper examines international forms of religious education, with a focus on the UK, to draw insights that can help us determine the place of religion in American public schools.

Not at Arms-Length. Religion in Education and Government in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan: An American's Perspective

Willie Edwards, Missouri Southern State University

The presentation will highlight the role of religion in an Islamic nation from the perspective of an American. Perspectives on the role of Islam in Pakistani life, government, and education will be shared with the audience.

Keynote Address

4:00

Plaster Student Union Theater

Open to the Public

Understanding Unbelief as part of Religious Education
Nel Noddings, Stanford University

Friday, October 5th

Continental Breakfast

8:00, Plaster Student Union, 3rd floor

Seventh Concurrent Session

8:30 – 9:50

Religion and the Schools:

The View from a Faith-based Liberal Arts College

Panel discussion, PSU 315

**The Role of Religion in 21st Century Public Schools: Perspectives from
Teacher Education in a Lutheran Liberal Arts College**

Michael Wohlfeil, Concordia College (Moorhead, MN)

Karla Smart-Morstad, Concordia College

Sara Triggs, Concordia College

Public schools face challenge serving multicultural, religious, and non-religious students. Panel perspectives on issues including vouchers, vocation, school prayer, censorship, historical church and literacy relationships, and international education comparisons.

Students, Communities, and Religious Sentiments

Presentation of Papers, PSU 317

**Learner-Centered Instruction: An Ethical, Evidence-based Model for
Holistic Student Success**

Jeffrey H.D. Cornelius-White, Missouri State University

Adam P. Harbaugh, University of North Carolina-Charlotte

We discuss our model of Learner-Centered Instruction that prioritizes spirituality, represented by the socially connective qualities of empathy, honesty, challenge, adaptation, and love, as the core of its approach.

**School as *Prytaneion*: Considering the Question of the *Vital* Center of
American Communities**

Kathryn Richardson-Jones, The Citadel

Using the historical concept of the *prytaneion*, this paper will include discussion about “community centers,” religious beliefs, and the expressed purposes for public education in America.

**Religious Understandings and Questions Students Bring with them to the
Public School Classroom**

Steven P. Jones, Missouri State University

This paper examines the kind, depth and probable effect of the religious understandings students bring with them to the classroom.

Dogma, Privilege, and Lifestyle Issues

Presentation of Papers, PSU 308

Constructing an Emotionally Connected Rationality within Dogmatic Belief Systems

Andrew N. McKnight, University of Alabama at Birmingham

This piece looks at constructing pedagogical efforts toward decentering the primacy of dogmatic belief systems by helping students to compartmentalize these beliefs within a larger rational-emotional philosophical framework.

Pierce, Parent, and Privatization: When do the Civic Needs of the State Trump Parental Rights?

Samuel J. Katz, Ohio Wesleyan University

A class based system of distributing educational access leads to schooling becoming the agent of class ossification and thus becoming an active agent in the decline of American political stability, as democratic values are lost in the marketplace..

Flaunting It: Private Practices, Public Educators, and Covering the Lifestyle Problems in the Profession

Therese Quinn, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Erica Meiners, Northeastern Illinois University

Theorizing the relationship between private beliefs and the public good in teacher education, this paper explores tensions that emerge when examining faith-based, private colleges that possess anti-homosexuality "lifestyle covenants" and produce public educators.

Eighth Concurrent Session

10:00 – 11:20

Religion, Schools and the Law

Presentation of Papers, PSU 317

College Fraternity and Sorority Membership, Religious Affiliation, and the Separation of Church and State

Daniel Cohen, University of Missouri

Should fraternities or sororities requiring Christian religious affiliation be permitted at state-funded universities? An exploration of competing constitutional rights, the separation of church and state, and religious freedom.

Are Public Schools Public? Diversity and the Conflict between Public School Practices and Religious Belief in the United States

Donna Gardner, William Jewell College

This paper timelines the historical/legal events of conflict between U.S. public school practices and citizens' religious beliefs, contending that conflict became magnified as the nation acknowledged its diversity.

An Historical Perspective of U.S. Supreme Court Decisions Regarding Religion and Schools

William Agnew, Missouri State University

This presentation focuses on a broad overview of US Supreme Court cases in the arena of church v. state.

The Religious Voice

Panel discussion, PSU 308

Dan Friberg, Messiah Lutheran Church, pastor

Sean McKinney, Grace Chapel Church, youth director

Wilson Phillips, Abundant Life Covenant Church, senior pastor

Troy Rhoden, 1st Baptist Church of Ozark, pastor

Technology, War, and the Internet

Presentation of Papers, PSU 315

Fantasy, Technology, and Decadence: Identifying Impediments to Environmental Trusteeship

Jim Hillesheim, University of Kansas

Scott Smith, University of Kansas

This paper asserts environmental trusteeship as a necessary element to any moral-spiritual disposition. Through an explication of the concept of decadence, the paper identifies impediments to encouraging sensitivity to the natural world in children.

What Does it Mean to Education When the Internet Dominates Children's Lives? A Discussion from the Perspective of Holistic Education

Wanju Huang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This paper analyzes the nature of the Internet and examines the influence of the Internet on children's moral and spiritual development from the perspective of holistic education.

The Necessity of Just War Theory Instruction in American Public Schools

Eric Sheffield, Missouri State University

Recent political events, especially the "war against terrorism" and the war in Iraq, suggest a need for a just war theory as a part of the moral, ethical, and spiritual equipping of students.

Conference Luncheon

11:30 – 12:15

Plaster Student Union Ballroom

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Dates of the 4th Annual Conference
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October 1-3, 2008
Plaster Student Union
Missouri State University

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