FAU ENGLISH

Annual Newsletter of the Department of English



EVENTS

- Jan 14 <u>Distinguished Lecture Series</u>: **Stacy Lettman**, "Butta Pan Kulcha': Reagan, Neoliberalism, and Jamaica's Culture of Panhandling from the IMF" 4PM PA 101
- Jan 29 <u>Off the Page:</u> MFA alumna, **Stephanie** Anderson, Brittany Ackerman, Mary Sheffield-Gentry read from their books 7 PM Majestic Palm Room, Student Union.
- Feb 7 <u>Off the Page:</u> Agent, **Renee Zuckerbrot** 7PM Majestic Palm Room, Student Union.
- Feb 14 <u>Off the Page:</u> Sanders Writer-in-Residence and poet/performer, **Danez Smith** 7PM Majestic Palm Room, Student Union
- Feb 28 Mary Blossom Lee poet, **Sy Hoahwah**, 7PM Majestic Palm Room, Student Union
- Mar 21 Fiction writer, **John Keene** 7PM Majestic Palm Room, Student Union

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



A belated welcome back to FAU! We are all excited for a great 18-19 school year in the English department.

Last year was a time of transformation and excitement in the English Department, and we expect 18-19 to be as well. As I do each year, I would like to first and foremost congratulate our graduates and award winners, listed in the newsletter. This past year, we were thrilled to welcome Paul Lisicky, author most recently of the memoir *The Narrow Door*, as our Lawrence A. Sanders Writer in Residence. We also hosted readings and lectures by poets, novelists, memoirists, agents, and scholars, including poet P. Scott Cunningham, Mary Blossom Lee poet Bob Hicok, agent Jeff Ourvan, poet Adrian Matejka, poet and memoirist Ira Sukrungruang, scholar Chandra Mohan, and novelist Carole

Maso. Audiences were delighted and enthralled by all of the above! Another successful year was also completed in our Honors program in literary studies and in creative writing. For the third year in a row, Honors students were able to present their work in a public forum, receiving feedback and applause. As we look forward to the upcoming year, we are thrilled to welcome three new tenure-line faculty members: Shelby Johnson (Early American literature), Clarissa Chenovick (Renaissance/Early Modern literature), and Carla Thomas (Medieval literature and Digital Humanities). Recent Visiting Instructor Nico Cassanetti has been made a full-time Instructor, and we welcome aboard Curtis Dickerson and Cora Bresciano as new Visiting Instructors. Details about all of these newcomers are in the pages that follow. We also welcome back Profs. Becka McKay and Kate Schmitt from their half-year sabbaticals. They return with an armful of new poems and a renewed vigor. This year, Profs. Papatya Bucak (Fall 18), Oliver Buckton, Devin Garofalo (Spring 18), John Leeds (Spring 18), and Don Adams (full year) take sabbatical leave to dig deeply into their scholarship and/or creative work. Congratulations to them for winning these competitive awards! We sadly say a more permanent farewell to Prof. Dan Murtaugh who has chosen to retire after a long and illustrious career. He will be missed! This year, we look forward to another "Off the Page" Creative Writing series, which will include a reading by Prof. Andrew Furman from his latest novel, Goldens Are Here, along with visits by three alumni of the MFA program in creative writing, all of whom come armed with new books: Britanny Ackerman, Stephanie Anderson, and Mary Sheffield-Gentry. These familiar faces at FAU are joined by nationally acclaimed poets Danez Smith and Sy Hoahwah, multigenre writer John Keene, and agent/editor Renee Zuckerbrot. In addition to a public reading, Danez Smith, our Lawrence Sanders Writer in Residence, will teach a week-long course to our graduate students in mid-February. While last year saw the debut of our national literary journal, The Swamp Ape Review (www.swampapereview.com) in print form, this year we hope to continue the tradition of both a print and online issue. Meanwhile, *Coastlines* will continue to showcase the work of our undergraduates. Additional events will be posted on our departmental website (www.fau.edu/english). Please pay close attention to the site as we head into a pulse-pounding new year!

Eric Berlatsky Professor and Department Chair

MEET THE NEW FACULTY



Clarissa Chenovick (cchenovick@fau.edu) Assistant Professor of British Renaissance Literature. She received her PhD in English from Fordham University (2017) and holds an M.Phil in Renaissance Literature from the University of Cambridge (2008). At Florida Atlantic, she teaches courses in Renaissance poetry, prose, and drama. Dr. Chenovick's research focuses on the intersections between science, religion, and literature in late medieval and early modern England. Her current book project "Repentant Readers" examines how pre- and post-Reformation penitential writings use medical language to describe the spiritual and physical cures they offer their readers. She is also at work on a second project, tentatively titled "Embodying Grace in Seventeenth-Century England," which will focus on seventeenth-century uses of the concept of medical spiritus as an analogy for divine grace, especially in the work of the poet George Herbert. Her work has appeared in English Literary History, The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and The Huntington Library Quarterly.



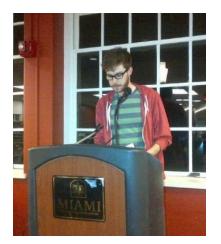
Shelby Johnson (shelbyjohnson@fau.edu) Assistant Professor of Colonial American Literature. Shelby received her PhD from Vanderbilt University in 2017, where her research focused on the intersections between race, spirituality, and colonial ecologies. Her current book project, A Piece of Earth: A Revolutionary Finite in African American and Native American Literature, 1760-1840, traces iterations of Psalm 115:16, "The earth was given to the children of men," in both influential texts in eighteenth-century political theory and in African American and indigenous writing. She considers how writers of color repeatedly draw from this scriptural tenet, and from a broader spiritually inflected imaginary of a finite earth, to express alternative arrangements of landed belonging. In doing so, these writers both contest Enlightenment modes of infinite earthly plentitude and excess, and critique melancholic representations of imperial decline. Her work has appeared in MELUS and The Burney Journal and is forthcoming in English Language Notes, The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation, as well as an edited collection on eighteenth-century women travel writers (Bucknell UP).



Carla María Thomas (carlathomas@fau.edu) Assistant Professor of Medieval Literature. She received her PhD from New York University in 2016, and her current book project traces the development of a specific devotional verse form in Early Middle English from Latin and Old English predecessors and the ways that the multicultural and multilingual environment of thirteenth-century England made such a form not only possible but popular for English and non-English readers alike. She is guest editing a special issue on "New Feminist Voices in the Heroic Age" for The Heroic Age: A Journal of Early Medieval Northwestern Europe, and her research this year has focused on Old English homiletic influence in a Middle English devotional poem; multilingualism, remediation, and manuscript studies in the digital humanities; theorizing the personification of transience in a twelfth-century collection of verse homilies; and approaching the medieval literature classroom in a way that decenters England, the Anglocentric, and the monolingual and emphasizes the global Middle Ages.



Cora Bresciano (cbrescia@fau.edu) Visiting Instructor. Currently teaching composition and literature, Cora earned her MFA in Creative Writing from FAU, where she received the Frank and Courtney Brogan Award for Fiction, and she is currently pursuing a PhD in Comparative Studies, also here at FAU. Her research focuses on the use of myth in its denotative aspect by Spain's Franco regime to disgrace and disappear undesirables and the subsequent use of myth in its connotative aspect by contemporary writers who seek to reinscribe those *desaparecidos* into the country's national narrative. Cora is also the co-founder of Blue Planet Writers' Room, a ten year-old global education non-profit that connects classes of Florida students with groups of their peers around the world in arts- and writing-based story exchanges. She has published on global education in *Teaching Artist Journal* and *Getting Smart*.



Curtis Dickerson (cdickerson@fau.edu) Visiting Instructor. Curtis received his MA in English with a concentration in Fiction Writing from Miami University (Ohio) in 2014. His writing has most recently appeared in the literary journals *Midwestern Gothic* and *New South*. He taught previously at Miami University and Sinclair Community College, held various positions in the fields of secondary and international education, and is currently at work on a book-length project.

2017–2018 English Honors Program

The Honors in English Literature Program provides the opportunity for qualified majors to undertake advanced literary research in a community of their undergraduate peers over the course of an academic year. On Tuesday, April 24, the 2017-2018 English Honors Program students presented their thesis research to faculty, family, and their peers.

For more information, see http://www.fau.edu/artsandletters/english/englishhonors/

Beatriz Acosta-Tsvilin

"The Nightmares of History and Dystopian Fiction: The Formidable Force of the Historical Past, the Discernible Present, and the Dystopian Future"

Chandra Bhairo

"Hero or Villain?: The Great Snape Debate, Reader Response and J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter Series"

Alyssa Daily

"Understanding Humanity in a Postcolony from an Anti-Humanist View: Indra Sinha's Animal's People"

Cherokee Dane

"The Reimagining of Gothic Horror: Edgar Allan Poe and his influence on Howard Phillips Lovecraft"

Laura Minosyants

"The Representation of Childhood Trauma and Societal Issues of America in Stephen King's It"

Jonathan Rawson

"Angel-Headed Super Tramps: Shooting for the Margins in American Literature"

Natalie Tribbey

"Survival of the Socially Privileged: American Science Fiction and Human Exceptionalism"

Kira Wolak

"Leveraging Language in Urban Fantasy: How The Night Watch Estranges Morality"

Heather Wolverton

"Scientific Literature: A Merging of the Two Cultures"



Photo: Heather Wolverton, Cherokee Dane, Kira Wolak, Beatriz Acosta-Tsvilin, Chandra Bhairo, Alyssa Daily, Jonathan Rawson, Natalie Tribbey, Laura Minosyants Students in the Honors Creative Writing Program enroll in Honors Creative Writing Seminar (Spring) in order to facilitate the completion of the creative writing thesis and expand students' understanding of the craft of writing. The Honors Creative Writing students read from their theses on April 20th. For more information, see <u>http://www.fau.edu/english/creativewritinghonors.php</u>.

Kerry Boehm, "S.O.S." Bryce King, "True Religion" Jonathan Rawson, "Jersey Shore Junkie" Kira Wolak, "Metanoia" Heather Wolverton, "Tainted"



Photo: (Left to right) Andy Furman, Heather Wolverton, Kira Wolak, Bryce King, Kerry Boehm, Jonathan Rawson.



Kerry Boehm reads from her creative writing thesis



Bryce King reads from her creative writing thesis



Jonathan Rawson reads from his creative writing thesis

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



The English Dept. recognized Heather Wolverton (pictured below reading from her Honors Creative Writing thesis) as the 2018 Outstanding English Senior Award recipient. Nominated by multiple faculty members who praised her performance in

challenging courses, her contributions to creating an intellectual environment in class discussions, and her strong writing and research skills, Heather graduated with honors in both Literature and Creative Writing.



Kira Wolak (right) was selected as the 2017 Undergraduate Researcher of the Year for the College of Arts & Letters. Student scholars were nominated and

selected based on their research and scholarly endeavors and nominations were sent to College Deans for final selections. She received a \$500 award from the Office of Undergraduate Research and was formally recognized at the Annual Honors Convocation in April 2018.

Undergraduate Writing Awards

Best Essay ENC 1101 Alyria Quaid Best Essay ENC 1102 Jacob Middleton Best Essay LIT 2010/30/40/70 Joshua Droira



English major **Gabrielle Gibson** (left) was named an Owl Star.

SIGMA TAU DELTA

Sigma Tau Delta is the national English Honors Society. Members attain academic recognition for their studies in English. Members may submit critical papers and creative work to the Society's annual publications, The Sigma Tau Delta Rectangle and The Sigma Tau Delta Review, or two the Society's has two online publications, The Sigma Tan Delta Newsletter and WORDY by Nature (blog). Students are able to present research at the Annual Convention. A series of scholarships (valued up to \$5,000) and internships are also available. Overall, the membership allows a student to be recognized for their academic achievement, while connecting them to career and academic opportunities and merits.

The Sigma Tau Delta Kappa Rho Chapter aims to share a love of literature with its fellow FAU students and the community. Fall term will begin with the Induction Ceremony/Creative Reading night in the Jaffe Center on October 25. The chapter will also be coordinating writing events with the English Club, including a voting drive on October 24, and a "mini-horror story" contest at Halloween. In the spring, we are working to coordinate a workshop on writing and publishing science fiction. If you would like more information about upcoming events and/or membership, please contact Jacob Domosh, President, STD Kappa Rho Chapter at jdomosh2014@fau.edu or Shelby Johnson, faculty advisor at <u>shelbyjohnson@fau.edu</u>.



Photo Caption: Sigma Tau Delta inductees Sarah Delderfield and Prana Ramirez pictured with English faculty Tom Martin and Stacy Balkan at the Fall 2017 ceremony at the Jaffe Center for Book Arts.

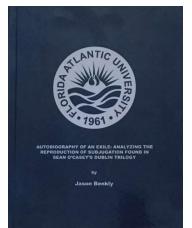
ENGLISH CLUB

The FAU English Club is back with quite an agenda for the 2018/2019 academic year! The Club's Fall 2018 activities shall include: monthly meetings and creative workshops; attendance at formal readings, including the Department's "Off the Page" series and the Miami Book Fair; mid-term election information drives; film screenings, including a November screening of Annihilation; and more! The Club is open to all English majors and minors and serves as an expressive outlet for students with similar interests and goals. Through events on and off campus, Club members can forge new social networks, cultivate scholarly and creative projects, and join the greater literary community beyond the classroom. Ultimately, the English Club's purpose is to enrich the lives of students attending Florida Atlantic University.

English Club Advisor: Stacey Balkan, <u>sbalkan@fau.edu</u> Fall 2018 office hours: Wednesday & Friday, 3:30 – 5:30pm

President: Claire Macena, <u>cmacena2015@fau.edu</u>

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS



The 2017-2018 Howard Pearce MA Thesis Award to Jason went for his Benkly "Autobiography of an Exile: Analyzing the Reproduction Subjugation of Found in Sean O'Casev's Dublin Trilogy." Jason is

now enrolled in the Ph.D. in English program at University of New Mexico. **Cailley Millar's** "Let's Get Real: Shifting Perspectives of Virtual Life" was selected as the runner-up. The Swann Awards support graduate summer travel to conduct research for a writing project. **Mary Mattingly** used the funding to help defray her expenses for the <u>Prague Summer Workshop</u>, where she focused on her thesis. **Caitlyn Davidheiser** used the money toward her attendance at the <u>Tin House Craft Intensive</u> in New York and to do thesis research in the city. Adam Sword used his award to travel to the International Bluegrass Museum in Kentucky, where he hopes to learn more about the Scottish roots of bluegrass music.

The Angela Griffin Award goes to graduate students who have the highest academic achievement in their first year in their respective program(s).

<u>MA</u> Mailyn Abreu

<u>MFA</u> Corinne Binnings, Benjamin Kerns, Cherri Buijk, Emily Donovan

<u>Outstanding GTA Award</u> Madison Garber and Michelle Rovere

MFA graduates (Fall 17-Summer 18) Nicholas Becher, Dustin DiPaulo, Kathleen Martin, Christopher Notarnicola, Anthony Padavano, Natalie Rowland, Trina Sutton. MA Graduates (Fall 17-Summer 18): Claudette Batchelor, Marisol Bulacio-Watier, Nicole Council, Jessica Gray, Denario Kelly, Micah Moreno, Ashley Nugent, Paul Probst, Nicole Straussman, Jodi Turchin, Tahmina Urmi.



ENGLISH GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIETY

Happy new academic year from the 2018 to 2019 English Graduate Student Society (EGSS) board!

President: Emily Donovan Vice President of Graduate Studies: Cynthia Wedding Vice President of GTAs: Meryl D'sa Treasurer: Isaac Zepeda Secretary: Emily White Graduate Student Liaison: Jacqueline Toland

This year's EGSS board is proud to pick up the mantle of supporting FAU MAs and MFAs and definitely is not continuing any alleged tradition of illicit off-campus hangouts that aren't technically allowed to be sponsored by an official student organization.

We've already started kicking our mission up a notch this year. We created a new board position – the "Graduate Student Liaison" – specifically for a first year MA or MFA student to fill in an effort to increase first-year engagement and awareness of resources. We also collaborated with our FAU PhD student friends over at the Comparative Studies Student Association (CSSA) and faculty to offer a creative reading and critical discussion as part of the CSSA annual fall conference, which had record attendance.

We look forward to channeling the increased enthusiasm for official EGSS events into a successful spring 2019 EGSS conference and creative reading. Our annual conference is the perfect opportunity for EGSS members and guests to share their work and receive feedback in a supportive environment, as well as to learn critical and pedagogical tips and tricks from peers. FAU MAs and MFAs – and FAU PhDs and visiting scholars – keep an eye out for our call for papers!

Until then, you'll run into us around the department, or you can shoot us an email with suggestions or questions at <u>fauegss@gmail.com</u>. See you soon.

MFA students read their prose to a record audience size at the EGSS creative reading and discussion during the fall CSSA conference.

DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS, PROMOTIONS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND AWARDS

Don Adams published "Saving Face: Learning Vietnamese (or not) in Vietnam" in *Anak Sastra*, "To Begin With" in *Subprimal Poetry*, and "At Happy Hour" in *Connotation Press*. He earned a full-year sabbatical for 18-19.

Instructor and MFA grad Stephanie Anderson published "No More Sunsets" in *Permanent Vacation, vol. 2: 18 Writers on Work and Life In Our National Parks,* "Summers Like Watermelons" in *The Pinch* and "The McFarthest Spot" in the Summer 2018 issue of *Midwestern Gothic.*

Stacey Balkan published a "key concept" essay on the "Anthropocene" for the University of Virginia Global South Studies Initiative, "A *Memento Mori* Tale: Indra Sinha's *Animal's People* and the Politics of Global Toxicity" in *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 25.1 (2018): 115-133, a review essay in *Public Books* on "India's Garbage Politics" and a review essay on climate change, sf, and activism in *Mediations: Journal of the Marxist Literary Group.* She was named Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Affiliate faculty.

Barclay Barrios published the latest edition of *Emerging: Contemporary Reading for Writers.*

Eric Berlatsky delivered a lecture on Jews and Superheros as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series in Spring 2018. He reviewed *The Blacker the Ink*, a collection dedicated to "constructions of black identity in comics and sequential art," for *Imagetext*. Steve Blakemore was granted emeritus status.

RJ Boutelle published "Greater Still in Death': Race, Martyrology, and the Reanimation of Juan Placido" in *American Literature* 90.3 (2018): 461-93.

Papatya Bucak published "Am I White?" in *Asterix Journal* and a review of Lauren Groff's *Florida* in *Fiction Writer's Review*. Her short story collection, *The Trojan War Museum*, will be published by Norton in August 2019. She earned a one-semester sabbatical for Fall 2018.

Oliver Buckton delivered a lecture on James Bond as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series in Spring 18. He published "The Sordid Shame of the Great City':Sexuality and Aesthetics in Oscar Wilde's Representations of London" in *Quintessential Wilde* and earned a Fall 18 sabbatical.

Skye Cervone published a review essay on *Jurassic World* in *Science Fiction Film and Television*.

Melissa Criscuolo published "Becoming Onelia" in *Hinchas de Poesia*.

José de la Garza Valenzuela was selected for the SITPA program at Duke University.

Kelly De Stefano was promoted to Senior Instructor.



Mary Faraci published "Angela Thirkell and Special Collections" in "Pre-Divagations, Raphaelite Papers: She Said He Said She Said" in the William Morris Newsletter, and "Burne-Jones Blue: The Stunning Pre-Raphaelite Hour in The Lord of the Rings" in the PRS Review. She was honored at the Spring

2018 awards ceremony for her 45 years of

research, teaching, and service at Florida Atlantic University.

Andrew Furman published the novel Goldens Are Here, the essay "Swimmingly" in Sport Literature, and "Yellow-Crowned Night Heron" in Flyway.

Jeff Galin published the book *Sustainable WAC: A Whole Systems Approach to Launching and Developing Writing Across the Curriculum Programs* (National Council of Teachers of English).

Devin Garofalo published the review essay "From Orchids to Exoplanets" in *Collation* and earned a \$1000 Faculty Travel Research Support Award.

Ph. D. student/English GTA **Charlie Gleek** published "Kant We Hegel Our Way Out of This?" in *Penumbra*.

Taylor Hagood was named as one of the inaugural class of notable alumni from Ohio University. He published an essay on football on television in the South in *Small Screen Souths* (LSU Press), "Humanism, Faulkner, and the Digital" in *Mississippi Quarterly's* roundtable on *Digital Yoknapatampha*, several entries in *The Mississippi* Encyclopedia, a short essay on "Southern Literature" in *The Routledge Handbook of the American South*, and "Reading the Rural in Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*"in *Cycnos*.

Wendy Hinshaw published "Bending Bars: A Dialogue between Four Prison Teacher-Researchers" in *Survive and Thrive: A Journal of Medical Humanities and Narrative as Medicine.*

John Leeds earned a semester sabbatical.

Tom Martin earned a promotion to Full Professor.

Becka McKay published several poems, including "[INHABATIVENESS: The Desire to remain in one place]" in *Ploughshares*, "Wood-Want (from the Dictionary of Misremembered English" in *Forklift Ohio*, "PecariTajacu as Mistranslation" in *Ninth Letter*, and "Aeshna umbrosa as Mistranslation" in Iron Horse Review. Her poems also appeared in *Cimmaron Review*, Juxtaprose, Bennington Review, Ghost Town Magazine, Copper Nickel, and The Journal.

Susan Mitchell published "Object" and an accompanying essay in *Provincetown Arts.* Another of her poems "Fragment of a Woman of Kos" was reprinted in 25th Anniversary Kingsley and Kate Tufts Poetry Awards.

Dan Murtaugh retired after 20 years at FAU.

MFA student **Craig Ryan** published "Portraits of Adolescence" in *Topic Journal*.

Emily Stockard published "Violent Brothers, Deadly Antifeminism, and Social Sucide in *The Revengers Tragedy* and *The Duchess of Malfi*" in *Renaissance Papers 2016* and "The Journals of Denton Welch: Material Culture and Trauma" in *The Cambridge Quarterly*.

Kate Schmitt published a new poem, "Love in 3 Parts" in *Driftwood Press*.

Jason Schwartz published new stories "Promenade" in *The White Review* and "Tablature" in *Diaphanes*. His first book of stories, *A German Picturesque*, was also reprinted in England by Little Island Press.

Suzanne Sink was promoted to Senior Instructor.

Mary Sheffield-Gentry welcomed a son, Julian Louis Gentry.

Julieann Ulin published "Philatelic Ulysses" in Joyce Studies Annual 2018.

Julianne Zvolensky was promoted to Senior Instructor.

ALUMNI NEWS

Jason Benkley (MA) began his doctoral work at the University of New Mexico's Ph.D. in English program.

Nick Becher (MFA) published "Fold" in *The Manhattanville Review*.

Robert Curran (BA, MA) began his doctoral work at Florida State University's Ph. D. in English program.

Laura Diaz de Arce (MA) published her short story collection *Monstrosity*.

Dustin DiPaulo (MFA) published "The Masculinity Test" in *The Manhattanville Review*.

Beau Ewan (MFA) won the Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at Kapi'olani Community College.

Rebecca Jensen (MFA) published "On Forgetting" in *Crabfat Magazine*.

Khristian Mecom's (BA, MFA) chapbook, *Things That Cannot Be Tamed*, was a semifinalist for the Honeysuckle Press 2017 Chapbook Contest and is now available for purchase.

Christopher Notarnicola (MFA) published "Touching" in *The Southhampton Review*.

Jamie White (MFA and former instructor) published a new poem in Lambda Literary and had his poem "[Im]migratory Patterns" (originally published in River Styx) posted by Poems Daily. He published "Like Straw, or Butter, or Gold" in Washington Square Review, "Florida Trick" in Flyway: Journal of Writing & Environment, and his poem "Astrobiology" was selected for the Best New British and Irish Poets 2018 (Eyewear Publishing) by Maggie Smith.

GIVING TO THE FAU ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Tax-deductible donations to the Department of English are always needed and appreciated. Donations help support our undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the various departmental programs seen throughout this newsletter.

To make a gift, mail your check payable to the FAU Foundation, Inc. to:

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