

# MICHAEL PERRY KWEKU OKYEREFEO

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Nationality: Ghanaian. Languages: English, German, French, Sekpele, Ewe, Akan

## PROFILE

Sociologist of Culture & Sociologist of Religion, with interests in the nexus of religion and culture, and a host of socio-economic, political, and health processes in contemporary Ghana and human capital formation among Ghanaians in the Diaspora.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate Professor & Head, Department of Sociology** 2015 - present  
**University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana**
- Visiting Lecturer in the English Department/Sociology Department** 2014  
**Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany**  
- Taught Postcolonial Theory
- Visiting Lecturer in the Social Work Department** 2013 - present  
**University of Applied Sciences, St. Pölten, Austria**  
- Taught International Research and Innovations
- University of Oslo Study Abroad Programme in Ghana** 2012  
- Taught a course on Ghanaian Culture
- Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology** 2011 - present  
**University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana**  
- Lecturer 2002 - 2010  
- Taught sociology to graduate and undergraduate students  
- Supervised graduate theses and undergraduate projects
- Deputy Head, Centre for Gender Studies & Advocacy** 2010 - 2012  
**University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana**
- Founder and Executive Director** 2006 - present  
**The Rudolph Johnson Apietu Memorial Foundation**  
- Responsible for Foundation management and fund-raising  
- Oversee completion of the Apietu Research Centre and establishment of studentships at St. Paul's Secondary School
- Ghana Coordinator, Heart for Children** 1999 - present  
**Austrian Charity for Children with Orthopaedic Disabilities**  
- Manage funds for surgery and rehabilitation, and provide care for children
- Post Graduate Teaching Practicum** 2000 - 2001  
**Hedingham School and Swavesey Village College, UK**  
**Post Graduate Certificate in Education Programme in Cambridge, UK**  
- Taught Religious Studies and Social Issues

## **PASTORAL EXPERIENCE**

<b>Catholic Chaplain, University of Ghana</b>	2002 - present
<b>Chaplaincy and Parish Work</b>	1992 - present
<b>Vienna, Austria, Cambridge, UK, and Legon, Ghana</b>	
- Active in six Catholic parishes/chaplaincies, with memberships of 200 to 3000	
<b>Ordained Catholic Priest</b>	1992

## **EDUCATION**

D.Phil. (Sociology), University of Vienna, Austria	1997 - 1999
M.Phil. (Philosophy), University of Vienna, Austria	1995 - 1997
B.A. (Study of Religions with Sociology), University of Ghana	1989 - 1991
Qualified Teacher Status - Department for Education and Skills, England	2001
Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Secondary Religious Studies)	
University of Cambridge, UK	2000 - 2001

## **FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS**

Research Fellow, Pius Parsch Institut, Klosterneuburg, Austria	2010 - present
Visiting Fellow, University of Cambridge Centre of African Studies	2007 - 2008
Homerton College Award, University of Cambridge, UK	2000 - 2001
Financial Support for Doctoral Studies, Catholic Archdiocese of Vienna	1997 - 1999
Masters' Degree Scholarship, Austrian Catholic Bishops' Conference	1995 - 1997
German Language Course Award	1994 - 1995
Overall Best Student Award, St. Peter's Regional Seminary, Ghana	1992

## **MEMBERSHIPS & MENTORSHIPS**

Fellow, Wolfson College, Cambridge, UK	2007 - present
Member, Homerton College, Cambridge, UK	2000 - present
Member, Thomaskolleg, Vienna, Austria	1994 - present
Member of the Catholic Chaplaincy Board, University of Ghana	2002 - present
Member, Panel to conduct Appraisal of Methodist University College, Ghana	2016
Member, Search Panel for Senior Administrative Positions	2016
Member, LOC, Times Higher Education (THE)	2015 - 2016
Vice-Chancellor's Appointee, Centre for Social Policy Studies (CSPS)	
Management Committee, University of Ghana	2015 - present
Vice-Chancellor's Representative, ISSER	
Management Committee, University of Ghana	2015 - present
School of Social Science (SSS) Management Committee, University of Ghana	2015 - present
School of Continuing and Distance Education Management Committee, University of Ghana	2015 - present
Member, Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee, University of Ghana	2012 - 2013
Member, Academic Board, University of Ghana	2010 - 2013
Member, Inter-Faculty Board, University of Ghana	2010 - 2013
Member, Committee on Designing and Producing a Course Reader on Critical Thinking and Practical Reasoning	2010

Member, Board of Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ghana	2009 - 2013
Board Member, ActionAid International, Ghana	2011 - 2013
Board Member, Queens International School, Accra	2004 - 2013
Editorial Board Member, Legon Journal of Sociology	2009 - 2015
Coordinator, Conferences and Seminars, Department of Sociology	2008 - 2013
Member, Various Committees of the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy	2006 - 2013
Member, Board of Examiners, Faculty of Social Sciences	2006 - 2007
Reviewer, Journal of Science and Technology, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana	2006 - 2007
Mentor, One World Africa Youth Summit	2004 - 2005
Mentor, Student Association on Campaign for Awareness of the Needs of Students and People with Disability	2005 - 2012
Course Advisor Level 100	2002 - 2013

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR)  
African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR)  
African Literature Association (ALA)  
African Studies Association (ASA)  
Ghana Studies Council  
International Sociological Association (ISA), Board Member of Research Committee 22  
International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR)

### **CORE RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Exploration of religious expression in Ghana and challenges to Public Health; religion as a tool to deepen democratic engagement  
Examination of Migration, Citizenship, and Belonging; Transnational Pentecostal Movements of Ghanaian Origin  
Sociological analysis of African novels in understanding the socio-cultural underpinnings of African societies – how African novels mirror African societies  
Investigation of the role of education in promoting equal opportunities, focusing on the promotion of education across ethnicity, class and gender

### **CURRENT RESEARCH**

Assessment of non-prescription drugs use among Ghanaian HIV-positive persons on antiretroviral therapy (ART): a pilot study, with Amos Laar, School of Public Health, University of Ghana  
Migration, Cultural Memory and Identity in Benjamin Kwakye's *The Other Crucifix*, with Helen Yitah, Department of English, University of Ghana

### **TEACHING COURSES**

#### **Undergraduate Courses**

- Principles of Social Organization
- Diversity of Peoples and Cultures

## Graduate Diploma Courses

- Comparative Religious Institutions

## Postgraduate Courses

- African Social Thought
- Perspectives in Social Theory

## Supervision

- Number of completed MPhil theses supervised: 20
- Number of ongoing MPhil theses supervised: 3
- Number of completed Ph.D. theses supervised: 2
- Number of ongoing Ph.D. theses supervised: 3

## RESEARCH GRANTS

US\$ 30,000 CODESRIA Grant on African Diaspora Support to African Universities programme, Co-Investigator with Abdoulaye Gueye, University of Ottawa, Principal Investigator, et al., 2015 – 2019.

€ 21,910 Grant from Abbey Klosterneuburg, Austria, for Sabbatical Research, March 2013 – February 2015.

GH¢ 24,999 University of Ghana Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) Grant, on Assessment of non-prescription drugs use among Ghanaian HIV-positive persons on antiretroviral therapy (ART): a pilot study, Co-Investigator with Amos Laar, Principal Investigator, et al., June 2013 – June 2015.

Fellowship worth £10,000, Visiting Fellowship on Religion and Public Culture, University of Cambridge Centre of African Studies. Duration: October 2007- March 2008.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books Authored

1. **Okyerefo, M.P.K.** (2001). *The Cultural Crisis of sub-Saharan Africa as Depicted in the African Writers' Series: A Sociological Perspective*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang Verlag.

### Books Edited

1. Oduro, A. D., & **Okyerefo, M. P. K.**, (Eds.). (2010). *Critical Thinking and Practical Reasoning*. Centre for Distance Education, University of Ghana, Legon.

### Book Chapters

1. Adomako Ampofo, A., & **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2014). Men of God and gendered Knowledge. In B. Cooper & R. Morrell (Eds.), *Africa-centred Knowledges: Crossing Fields and Worlds* (pp. 163-177). Oxford: James Currey.
2. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2014). The Upsurge of Pentecostalism in Ghana: 1980-2012. In D-B. S. Dzorgbo & S. Tonah (Eds.), *Sociology and Development Issues in Ghana: A*

*Reader in Sociology* (Social Science Series Vol. 9, pp. 104-114). Accra: Woeli Publishing Services.

3. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2013). Scottish Missionaries in Ghana: The Forgotten Tribe. In A. Adogame & A. Lawrence (Eds.), *Africa in Scotland, Scotland in Africa: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Hybridities* (pp. 251-262). Leiden: BRILL.
4. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2013). African Catholic Communities in Europe: A Nostalgic Lived Experience. In J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, A. Fröchtling, & A. Kunz-Lübcke (Eds.), *Babel is everywhere! Migrant readings from Africa, Europe and Asia* (pp. 215-224). Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang International Academic Publishers.
5. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2013). Spirituality and Historic Mission Christianity in Africa: Ghanaization in Roman Catholicism. In W. Ma & K. R. Ross (Eds.), *Mission Spirituality and Authentic Discipleship* (Vol. 14, pp. 38-46). Oxford: Regnum Books International.
6. Adomako Ampofo, A. & **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2013). Neo-popular Femininity Discourse in God's Name: Ambivalent Masculinity Rhetoric. In S. Owoahene-Acheampong (Ed.), *African Studies and Knowledge Production, University of Ghana Readers* (pp. 125-144). Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers.
7. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2011). The Gospel of Public Image in Ghana. In H. Englund (Ed.), *Christianity and Public Culture in Africa* (pp. 204-216). Ohio: Ohio University Press.
8. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2010). Was ist Kausalität im interkulturellen Dialog? In M. Benedikt, R. Knoll, F. Schwediauer & C. Zehetner (Eds.), *Verdrängter Humanismus - Verzögerte Aufklärung: Philosophie in Österreich 1951 bis 2000 Auf der Suche nach authentischem Philosophieren* (Vol. 6, pp. 1104-1111). Vienna: Wiener Universitätsverlag.

### **Peer-review Journal Articles**

1. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2015). "I AM AUSTRIO-GHANAIAN" - Citizenship and Belonging of Ghanaians in Austria. *Ghana Studies* 18, 48-67.
2. Fiaveh, D. Y., **Okyerefo, M. P. K.**, Fayorsey, C. K. (2015). Women's Experiences of Sexual Pleasure in Ghana. *Sexuality & Culture*, DOI 10.1007/s12119-015-9290-5.
3. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2015). "Legon Day of Prayer": A contested religious activity in the Academe. *Contemporary Journal of African Studies*, 3(1), 15-34.
4. Fiaveh, D. Y., Izugbara, C. O., **Okyerefo, M. P. K.**, Reyssoo, F., & Fayorsey, C. K. (2015). Constructions of masculinity and femininity and sexual risk negotiation practices among women in urban Ghana. *Culture, Health & Sexuality: An International Journal for Research, Intervention and Care* 17(5), 650-662, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2014.989264>.
5. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2014). "I experience serenity and convenience in the forest" - Achimota Forest turned sacred space to confront the vicissitudes of life. *The Journal of the Sociology and Theory of Religion* (JSTR), 3.
6. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2014). The role of Pentecostal Churches as an influential arm of Civil Society in Ghana. *Ghana Social Science Journal* 11 (2), 77-101.
7. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2014). Transnational dynamics in African Christianity: How global is the Lighthouse Chapel International missionary mandate? *Journal of Africana Religions* 2(1), 95-110.

8. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2013). Social realism in *The Sun by Night* – A novel by Benjamin Kwakye. *Globus: Journal of Methodist University College Ghana* 2, 122-140.
9. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2011). Pentecostalism in the city of Accra: a Blossom on functional appeal and urban fecundity. *American Journal of Sociological Research* 1(1), 27-34.
10. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.,** Fiaveh, D. Y., & Lamptey, S. N. L. (2011). Factors prompting pupils' academic performance in privately owned Junior High schools in Accra, Ghana. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology* 3(8), 280-289.
11. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.,** Fiaveh, D. Y., & Asante, K. T. (2011). Religion as a tool in strengthening the democratic process in Ghana. *Journal of African Studies and Development* 3(6), 124-130.
12. Fiaveh, D. Y., **Okyerefo, M. P. K.,** & Fayorsey, C. K. (2011). HIV counseling and testing among men in the University of Ghana: Implications for gender-based HIV and AIDS prevention interventions. *Journal of AIDS and HIV Research* 3(5), 90-99.
13. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2011). "Ausländer!" Pfingstbewegung als human Sozialkapital und Netzwerk für Ghanaer in Wien. *Protokolle zur Liturgie – Veröffentlichung der Liturgiewissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft Klosterneuburg* 4, 297-326.
14. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2010). Christianising Africa: A portrait by two African Novelists". *Studies in World Christianity* 16(1), 63-81.
15. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2009/10). Spiritualität und christliche Missionsgeschichte in Afrika: "Ghanaization" in der römisch-katholischen Kirche. *Protokolle zur Liturgie – Veröffentlichung der Liturgiewissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft Klosterneuburg* 3, 268-281.
16. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2009). Pentecostalism and the promotion of human capital in Ghana. *Trinity Journal of Church and Theology* 17(2), 54-68.
17. Adomako Ampofo, A., **Okyerefo, M. P. K.,** & Pervarah, M. (2009). Phallic competence: Fatherhood and the making of men in Ghana. *Culture, Society & Masculinities* 1(1), 59-78.
18. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2008). "Ausländer! ": Pentecostalism as social capital network for Ghanaians in Vienna. *Ghana Studies* 11, 77-103.
19. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2006/7). Trust God! Religious expression at the University of Ghana. *Ghana Social Science Journal* 3&4(1&2), 18-32.
20. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2005). Pursuing an effective pre-university education in Ghana: theory and praxis. *Legon Journal of Sociology* 2(1), 33-51.

### **Book Reviews**

1. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2010). *Religion and Social Change in West Africa: An Introduction to the Sociology of Religion* by Max Assimeng, (Woeli Publishing Services, 2010). *Universitas: University of Ghana Inter-Faculty Journal* 12, 166-168. Also in *The Mirror* (20<sup>th</sup> March 2010).

### **Encyclopaedia Entering**

1. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2012). Ghana. In *Encyclopedia of Global Religion* 443-444. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

### **Refereed Conference Papers**

1. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2015). Angst oder Innovation: die Prägung katholischen Liturgie durch Pfingstgemeinden in Ghana. In A. Redtenbacher (Ed.), *Liturgie lernen und leben – zwischen Tradition und Innovation: Pius Parsch Symposium 2014* (pp. 326-335). Freiburg im Breisgau: Herder Verlag.
2. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2012). “I am Austro-Ghanaian” - Citizenship and belonging of Ghanaians in Austria. *Collected Papers - Migration, Citizenship, and Belonging: African, Caribbean, and European Perspectives*, 157-173.
3. **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2009). Spirituality and Historic Mission Christianity in Africa: Ghanaization in Roman Catholicism. West Africa regional study process on Edinburgh 2010 on the theme ‘African spirituality, Christian mission and discipleship’ at Akrofi-Christaller Institute for Theology, Mission and Culture.  
<http://www.google.com.gh/search?hl=en&source=hp&q=%27African+Christian+Spirituality+and+Mission%27+%E2%80%93+Akrofi-Christaller>

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES**

- 1- **Okyerefo, M.P.K. & Fiaveh, D.Y.** (2016). *Health Beliefs and Health-Seeking Behavior among Prayer Groups in Accra*. Paper presented at the School of Social Sciences Conference, University of Ghana, Legon, 14-15 April, 2016.
- 2- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2014). “*Ausländer!*” *Pentecostalism as social capital network for Ghanaians in Vienna*. Paper presented at the Africa-Collquium, Institut für Afrikawissenschaften, University of Vienna, Austria, 18 March, 2014.
- 3- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2014). *Angst oder Innovation: die Prägung katholischen Liturgie durch Pfingstgemeinden in Ghana*. Paper presented at Internationales Liturgiewissenschaftliches Symposium, Pius Parsch Institut, Klosterneuburg, Austria, 13-16 March, 2014.
- 4- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2013). “*I am Austro-Ghanaian*” - *Citizenship and belonging of Ghanaians in Austria*. Paper presented at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York City, USA, 10-12 August, 2013.
- 5- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2012). “*I am Austro-Ghanaian*” - *Citizenship and belonging of Ghanaians in Austria*. Paper presented at a Seminar on Migration, Citizenship, and Belonging: African, Caribbean, and European Perspectives, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana, 11-12 September, 2012.
- 6- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2011). *African Catholic communities in Vienna and Oslo: A Ghanaian nostalgic experience*. Paper presented at Religion, Migration and Identity: Perspectives from Asia, Europe and Africa Conference, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana, 8-12 November, 2011.
- 7- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2010). *Religion as a tool in strengthening the democratic process in Ghana*. Paper presented at the International Association for the History of Religions

(IAHR): XXth IAHR Quinquennial World Congress, Toronto, Canada, 15-21 August, 2010.

- 8- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2009). *Pentecostalism: The trigger of religious pluralism in Ghana*. Paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR) Conference, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 27-31 July, 2009.
- 9- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2009). *Scottish Missionaries in Ghana – The Forgotten Tribe*. Paper presented at the University of Edinburgh Centre of African Studies conference on ‘Africa in Scotland, Scotland in Africa’, Edinburgh, UK, 29 April - 1 May, 2009.
- 10- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2009). *Spirituality and Historic Mission Christianity in Africa: Ghanaization in Roman Catholicism*. Paper presented at Akrofi-Christaller Memorial Institute, Akropong-Akwapim, Ghana, 23-25 March, 2009.
- 11- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2008). “*Ausländer!* ” *Pentecostalism as social capital network for Ghanaians in Vienna*. Paper presented at the First International Sociological Association (ISA) Forum of Sociology on Sociological Research and Public Debate, Barcelona, Spain, 5-8 September, 2008.
- 12- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2008). *The gospel of public image in Ghana: religion and public culture in Africa*. Paper presented at the University of Cambridge Centre of African Studies Conference, Chancellor College, Zomba, Malawi, 5-9 July, 2008.
- 13- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2008). *The gospel of public image in Ghana: religion and public culture in Africa*. Paper presented at the University of Cambridge Centre of African Studies Conference, Cambridge, UK, 29 February – 1 March, 2008.
- 14- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2007). *Upsurge of new religious movements in Ghana: The mega Church archetype*. Paper presented at the Faculty of Social Studies Colloquium, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana, 26-27 April, 2007.
- 15- **Okyerefo, M. P. K.** (2006). *Social realism in The Sun by Night - A novel by Benjamin Kwakye*. Paper presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA), Accra, Ghana, 20 May, 2006.

## GUEST LECTURES

- 1- “Gender, Morality and Non-Communicable Diseases: Health Beliefs and Health-Seeking Behavior among Prayer Groups in Accra”, Institut für Soziologie, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, 27 May 2014.
- 2- “‘Legon Day of Prayer’: A Contested Religious Activity in the Academe”, Sociolinguistics Lecture, Institut für Anglistik, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, 12 May 2014.
- 3- “‘I experience serenity and convenience in the forest - Achimota Forest turned Sacred Space to confront the vicissitudes of life’”, Religious Studies Seminar, University of Edinburgh School of Divinity, 30 October 2013.



- 4- “The Gospel of Public Image in Ghana”, St. Edmund’s College Seminar, University of Cambridge, 7 February, 2008.
- 5- “The Pentecostal Challenge: Emphasizing Catholic Model of the Church as Family of God”, Heythrop College University of London Seminar, 31 January, 2008.
- 6- “Group Dynamics”, African Medical Students Training Congress (AMSTC), applicant of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA), on the Theme: ‘Health and Development in Africa’, University of Ghana, 28 December, 2004 – 3 January, 2005.
- 7- “Catholicism and the Church in Ghana”, Course on Christianity as a World Religion, University of Cambridge Board of Continuing Education, June 2001.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

1. CODESRIA Diaspora Research Partnership Launching Workshop, Nairobi, 13-17 September, 2015.
2. Convenor, Global South Doctoral Workshop, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Accra, 11-18 August, 2012.
3. Participant, 11<sup>th</sup> Women’s World Congress, Ottawa, 4-7 July, 2011.
4. The Ark Foundation Ghana, Gender for Men Workshop, Accra, 19-20 June, 2007.
5. Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, University of Ghana, Curriculum Development Workshop II, Ho, 8 -11 May, 2007.
6. Institute of Adult Education, University of Ghana, Course Writing Workshop II, Ho, 17 – 21 December, 2006.
7. Institute of Adult Education, University of Ghana, Course Writing Workshop I, Agona Swedru, 18 – 22 October, 2006.
8. Participant, The Challenge of Sexuality in Education Conference, Kenyan Association of Professional Counsellors (KAPC), Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 September, 2006.
9. Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, University of Ghana, Curriculum Development Workshop I, Sogakope, April, 2006.
10. ‘Preparing Effective Lesson Notes’, Teachers’ Workshop, Queens International School, 1 September, 2004.
11. Discussant: ‘Higher Education for the Needy and Disabled: A Collective Social Responsibility’, University of Ghana, 17 – 21 May, 2004.
12. ‘Challenge posed by the New Age Movement (NAM) and Islam’, Catholic Archdiocese of Accra, October, 2002.

## REFERENCES

Professor Reinhold Knoll

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A-1090 Vienna. Austria

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