

A photograph of the De La Salle University building, featuring its neoclassical architecture with columns and a pediment. The words 'DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY' are visible on the pediment. A large, semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title and author information.

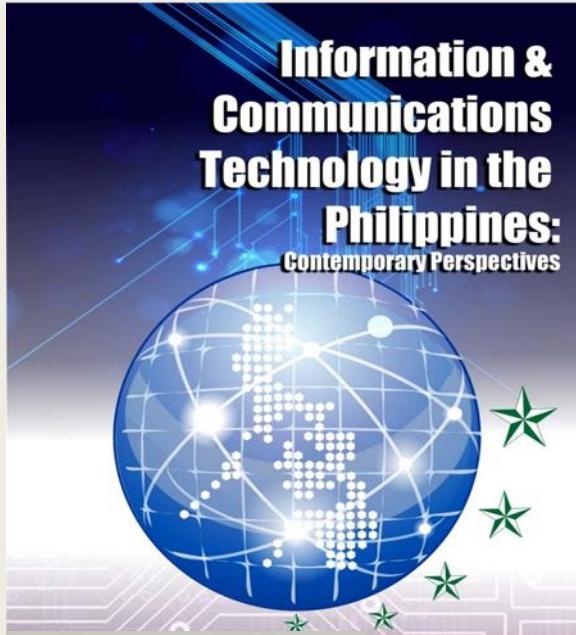
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

SECURITY GOVERNANCE AND COVID-19: POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PHILIPPINES

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Professional Background



- Chair, Political Science Department, DLSU
- **Areas of Interest:** Human Security and Non-Traditional Threats, Cybersecurity, E-governance and Open Government
- Associate Professor of Political Science and Development Studies-DLSU (2013-Present) & Associate Professor of Information Technology-DLSU (1994-2013)
- Technical Consultant for Enterprise Interoperability and Data Governance for UN-APCICT (2019), Commission on Higher Education-USAID (2016-2018), DOST (2012-2013) and CICT (2006-2008)
- E-Participation, Open Government, and Disaster Informatics projects for the IDRC-Canada and the Web Foundation (2011-2013); Newton Fund-UK (2016-present)
- Fellow, Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC), DILG
- Auxiliary Officer with the rank of Commander, Philippine Coast Guard
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Discussion Outline

- Presentation of concepts: Securitization-Desecuritization Process and the importance of Security Governance
- Securitization of Global Health: SAR and Ebola Outbreaks
- Securitization of the COVID-19 pandemic: A glimpse of emerging practices
- COVID-19 and the Philippines: Highly securitized approach and the challenges of desecuritization
- Security Governance and Policy Implications





Securitization and Non-Traditional Threats

■ Securitization and the Study of Security

- *Focused on Traditional Threats: Conventional Wars (e.g. NATO vs. Warsaw Pact)*
- *Securitization: “National Security” and “Existential Threat” framing that results to a break from normal political discussion to a level of emergency politics*

■ Non-Traditional Security Threats

- *Terrorism, Cybersecurity, Climate Change, Pandemics, etc.*
- *Moving towards Human Security: Development-oriented with people-centric solutions*

Understanding the Process: Securitization-Desecuritization (Waever, 2011)

Securitization

Securitizing actor (Political actor) frames a problem as an existential threat

Often performed through speech acts and non-linguistic methods that convinces an audience about the threat

Securitization lifts the issue out of the regular political regime in order to access extraordinary measures

Desecuritization

Restoration of the securitized issue to its normal level of negotiations in a political sphere

Security Governance

Manage securitization to avoid chaotic situation by instituting mechanisms to reduce the need for emergency politics

Securitization of Global Health: SARS & Ebola Outbreaks

- **Lessons from the two outbreaks:**
 - *Underscored the need to strengthen national/global laboratory networks*
 - *Improve surveillance and information sharing capabilities*
 - *Creation of rapid intervention teams that can be deployed to infection hotspots*
 - *Strong community involvement for monitoring and coordination of infections/ promote trust*
 - *Traditional customs that have a positive impact on health should be encouraged*
 - *Increase the emergency response capacities of governments*
 - *Need for effective leadership and political commitment*
 - *Emphasize the importance of transparency and openness*
 - *Use of mobile telephony should be promoted*
- WHO created the concept of Global Health Security (GHS) for states to reexamine its role and the role of its citizens as well as the need for international cooperation
- Instituted the International Health Regulation to strengthen disease surveillance and encourage investments to strengthen the public health system

Securitizing Pandemics: What are the Risks? (Palomba, 2008)

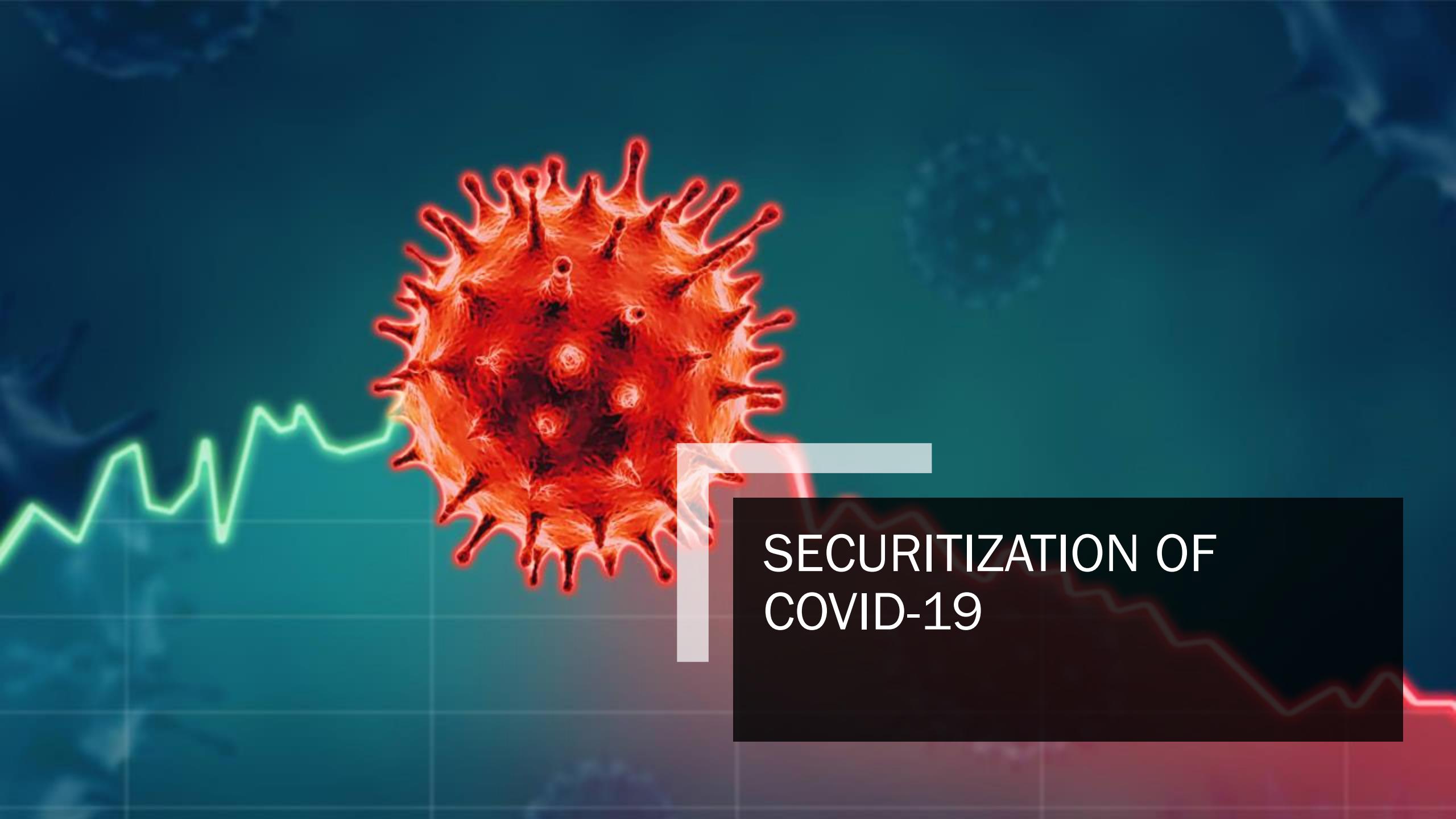
- Securitization is often framed using a national defense view
 - *May lead to garrison mentality (virus is equated to an invasion) with national-oriented strategies to mitigate its effects*
 - *Powerful countries dominate the health agenda of international organizations (e.g. EVD outbreak in West Africa)*
 - *Resources are diverted from civilian to military programs*
- Securitization tends to ignore the human and physiological aspects of the disease and focus merely on risk/danger of the disease
- Abuse of emergency powers/validity of the emergency becomes indefinite

Security Governance: “Managing Desecuritization”

Institutionalized
approach:
Policies and
Programs (Webber,
2007)

Formal and
Informal
Regimes (Eilstrup-
Sangiovanni, 2014)

By addressing
legitimate
security
concerns (Roe,
2006)



SECURITIZATION OF COVID-19

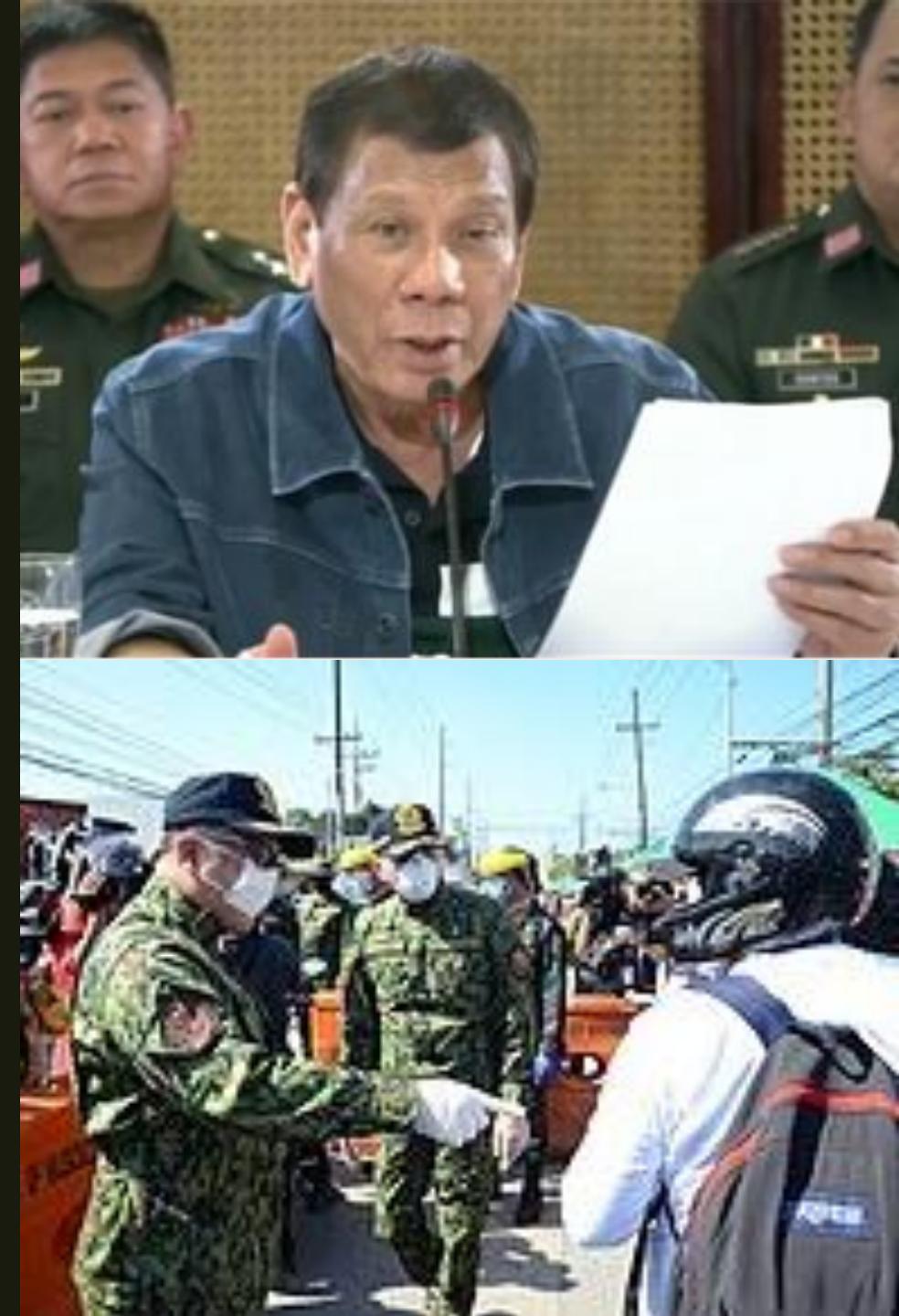


Securitization of COVID-19

- Declared by the WHO as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020 and encouraged states to take aggressive actions to mitigate the adverse effects of the virus
- Highly Securitized Approach: Total Lockdowns, Curfews, Travel Bans, Mobilization of security forces, whole of government approach, special powers among others
 - *Israel and Thailand: Use of their security apparatus to control its population*
 - *Citizens are generally receptive to the idea of emergency powers due to uncertainties and fear*
 - *Critics are concern about potential abuse and corruption*
- Moderately Securitized Approach: Stressed the security implications but avoided total lockdowns and general curfews.
 - *Taiwan and South Korea: Regarded as global best practice: Learning from SARS and MERS-COV experiences*
 - *Stressed the importance of innovation and good governance to maintain trust of their citizens*
 - *Frequent official pronouncements*

COVID-19 and the Philippines: Highly Securitized

- Indefinite state of national emergency since September 4, 2016 (Due to Lawless Violence) (PP 55)
- Securitization through images and speech acts
 - *COVID-19 as the invisible enemy; whole of government approach*
 - *Defense and Law Enforcement agencies share the spotlight with Public health authorities*
- March 08, 2020: Public Health Emergency with intensified disease surveillance as mandated by RA 11332 (PP 922)
- March 16, 2020: State of National Calamity (PP 929)
 - *Total Lockdown of NCR and the Luzon ECQ*
 - *Imposition of Curfews*
 - *Deployment of AFP and PNP units to manage the ECQ*
- March 26, 2020: Bayanihan Act of 2020
 - *Granted emergency powers to PRRD*
 - Exemptions to the Procurement Law
 - Power to reallocate the budget for COVID-related actions
 - Stand by power to take over private businesses



Managing Desecuritization: PH Style

Address legitimate security threats

- **Public Health:** Testing, Contact Tracing, Treatment and Containment; Guidelines on how to address the possible resurgence of the virus (2nd Wave)
- **Economic aspect:** Job security, Restarting the economy through phased reopening of industries, etc.
- **Social Safety Nets:** Ensure efficacy of programs e.g. SAP, 4Ps etc.
- **Internal Security:** ensure peace and order

Formal & Informal Regimes

- New laws: Bayanihan Act of 2020 and the importance of oversight
- Good governance: Importance of transparency, communication and trust
- Stronger national-local coordination

Institutional Approach: Policies and Programs

- Review of national security policies
- Revise the current modernization programs of the AFP, PNP and PCG

Desecuritizing the Current Situation: Policy Implications

Reexamine National Security Policies

Pandemics as prominent non traditional threats

Medical Supplies & equipment as a strategic industry

Review modernization programs of the AFP, PNP and PCG

Build Stronger Communities/ Develop Agile Institutions

Review the possible amendments to the DRRM and the Disease Surveillance laws

Consider proposals to expand the RITM and the creation of the PCDC

Pursue digital transformation through Ease of Doing Business and National ID Laws

Promote research and development

Forge greater international cooperation

Role of ASEAN: HADR to Pandemics

Participation in WHO initiatives related to COVID 19

SECURITY GOVERNANCE IS ABOUT LEARNING FROM OUR EXPERIENCES

End of Presentation

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