



YORK CENTRE FOR
ASIAN RESEARCH

York Centre for Asian Research Update

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YCAR News: Research Associate Sashar Zarif recipient of New Pioneers Award for the Arts

YCAR Research Associate Sashar Zarif is the 2008 recipient of the New Pioneers Award for the Arts, presented by the organization Skills for Change. Zarif is recognized as being an artistic ambassador for multiculturalism and diversity in the arts community. Sashar's message is that that art can have an impact on social issues and play a significant role in change, resonating with the community at large.



In 1988, Sashar Zarif immigrated to Canada from Turkey as a Stateless Refugee of the United Nations. In 1993, he founded and directed the Sashar Zarif Dance Theatre and the Canadian Academy of Azerbaijani Dance. In 2001, Sashar founded, and continues to direct, Dancers for Peace, an international festival reflecting a vision of hope and peace that transcends barriers between nations, races and religions. Three years later, he received his MA from the York Faculty of Fine Arts, in Dance and Dance Ethnology.

Skills for Change (www.skillsforchange.org) has been in operation for 25 years and has provided an invaluable bridge, linking thousands of newcomers to Canada with employers across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. (*skillsforchange.org photograph*)

Opportunity: Thursday is the deadline for YCAR graduate student awards

YCAR would like to remind Graduate Associates that Thursday is the deadline for applications for the YCAR Language Award and the Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award.

The **YCAR Language Award** is open to graduate students enrolled at York and registered for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS) administered by YCAR. It will provide up to two awards annually in an amount up to \$1,500 each to reimburse costs directly related to language study. The application deadline is **Thursday, 31 January 2008**.

The **Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award** will be awarded for the first time this year. It is open to York graduate students who are also graduate associates of YCAR. Priority will be given to students who apply to do research in fulfillment of the fieldwork requirement of the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS). The deadline is **Thursday, 31 January 2008**.

For more information or to download application forms, please visit www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/YCAR_Awards.html or contact ycar@yorku.ca.

Opportunity: New academic alliances between Canada and developing countries

In early December 2007, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canada Research Chairs Program launched an initiative to pair leading researchers from universities in Canada with those in developing countries to collaborate on issues of mutual concern. Each team will receive up to CA \$1 million over five years to address key development challenges while mentoring a new generation of scholars and practitioners.

The International Research Chairs Initiative will support the creation of up to five IDRC Research Chairs based at universities in the developing world. Each Chair will define a five-year research program in collaboration with a top Canadian researcher.

Researchers and representatives from Canadian universities or from universities in eligible developing countries are invited to apply for funding under this initiative, which will encourage research in four areas: Environment and natural resource management; Information and communication technologies for development; The impact of science, technology and innovation policies on development; Social and economic policy related to poverty reduction, growth, health and human rights. In addition to identifying new avenues for knowledge, policy, and technology transfer, these partnerships will provide university students with unique training and fieldwork opportunities under the mentorship of the chair holders.

For more information about the International Research Chairs Initiative including eligibility and selection criteria, and application and evaluation procedures, please consult: www.idrc.ca/irci or Isabelle Bourgeault-Tassé at 613 236 6163, ext. 2343 or ibourgeault-tasse@idrc.ca.

Previously-posted Opportunities:

* **Grants on offer from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (15 February 2008)**

For more information: www.asiapacificresearch.ca/grants/2008_09/index.cfm.

* **Language training program for Southeast Asian scholars (15 February 2007)**

For more information: www.seassi.wisc.edu or seassi@intl-institute.wisc.edu

* Summer Internship Opportunity for graduate students (28 February 2008)

For more information: www.researchimpact.ca or Krista Jensen (kejensen@yorku.ca)

* Scholarships for international students in Taiwan (14 March 2008)

For more information: www.dpu.org.tw/ or intstudent@ntu.edu.tw

Upcoming Event: United South Asians at York launches South-Asian-Canadian-Unabridged conference

Monday, 28 January 2008 * 6 to 9pm * 304 Accolade West Building * York University

The United South Asians at York invite you to participate in the first conference entitled, *South-Asian-Canadian Unabridged. The event is Monday, January 28 from 6 to 9pm at 304 Accolade West Building, York University.

With this theme we will critically examine the many meanings of what the hyphen, like Indo-Canadian etc., mean to you while celebrating diversity. This can be discussed by using the phrase hyphenated identity, or further into hybrid identities. This month's speakers are Eve Haque, Jaipreet Kohli, and Angela Aujla. The first of a series of conferences is intended to create an alternative platform to express and frame contemporary South Asian diaspora issues. Each month of the regular fall/winter semester we will be bringing you a conference with panelists and discussions to engage your minds in issues that relate directly to you. Refreshments will be served.

Rethinking Chinese Imperial Art Collecting

28 January 2008 * 4 to 6pm * Robarts Library 14-087 * 130 St George Street * Toronto



The Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto is pleased to present a special lecture by Prof. Patricia Ebrey (University of Washington) based on her latest book on reevaluating the practice of art collecting inside (and outside) the court of Song Emperor Huizong (r. 1100-1125). Prof. Ebrey is author of dozens of books on China, including *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. The EAS lounge is on the 14th floor of Robarts library at 130 St. George St. Please take the elevators from the 2nd floor. (<http://faculty.washington.edu/ebrey/> photograph)

Upcoming Event: Chiang Ching-kuo and Taiwan's Political Culture

Tuesday, 29 January 2008 * 3 to 5:30pm * 390 York Lanes * York University

This afternoon symposium will consider CCK's legacy and its expression in Taiwan's contemporary politics. The 13 January 2008, the day after Taiwan's Legislative election, is also the 20th anniversary of the death of Chiang Ching-kuo (1910-1988). His legacy in Taiwan - and his personal merits or demerits, are currently the subject of much debate in Taiwan. The lines of the debate not surprisingly fall along the "Green/Blue" political divide. For the rest of us "CCK" is a rather overlooked and underestimated figure, but his importance in Taiwan's history cannot be underestimated.



The program is as follows:

- 1) Chiang Ching-kuo and his legacy in Taiwan, an introductory talk by YCAR Research Associate Michael Stainton
- 2) 2008's elections in perspective, a reflection by University of Toronto Asian Institute Director Joe Wong
- 3) What is at stake in the 2008 Presidential Election, commentary from Albert Lin and Donald Chen from Toronto's 'Green' and 'Blue' camps.
- 4) General Discussion

Toronto TV (www.torontotv.org) will be filming the event.

Both academic and Taiwanese community members are invited to share on this event. This event is co-sponsored by the ATOT (Association of Taiwanese Organizations in Toronto). (www.britannica.com photograph)

Upcoming Event: A Glacial Reception: Li Siguang Quaternary Geology and Scientific Identity in China

Tuesday, 29 January 2008 * 12:20pm * 112 Stong College * York University



On 29 January, Professor Grace Shen, Division of Humanities, Faculty of Arts, will present a seminar title, "A Glacial Reception: Li Siguang Quaternary Geology and Scientific Identity in China". Shen's seminar will tell the story of Li Siguang (1889-1971), a geologist and founder of geological mechanics, who was born in Huanggang, Hubei Province, China. Specifically, Shen will address Siguang's controversial theory of quaternary glaciation in central China. The fortunes of his theory have turned on matters of not only evidence and expertise, but also politics and performance. By tracing the trajectory of the theory from the Chinese Republican period (1911-1949) to the Communist era, Shen will frame scientific identity in China as a negotiation between establishing science in China and establishing China. (www.nigpas.ac.cn photograph)

Upcoming Event: Celebrating the Year of the Rat: Chinese New Year at the Bata Shoe Museum

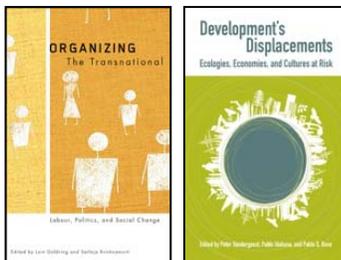
Wednesday, 30 January 2008 * 6 to 8 pm * The Bata Shoe Museum, 327 Bloor Street West

YCAR Associate Director Wendy Wong will be the keynote speaker at the Bata Shoe Museum's Chinese New Year Event on 30 January. Other special guests include Sonja Bata and Canadian Senator Vivienne Poy. Dim Sum and tea will follow the event, which also includes a special presentation of Chinese artifacts highlighting the rat motif (on loan from Glenn Robert). Tickets are \$15 per person; \$10 for students and free for members from 416.979.7799x225 or by emailing tickets@batashoemuseum.ca. For more information, please visit www.batashoemuseum.ca/.



Upcoming Event: YCAR members' publications featured at dual book launch

Thursday, 31 January 2008 * 3 to 5pm * Founders College



Please join YCAR and CERLAC on January 31 for the launch of two publications edited by York professors and graduate students.

Development's Displacements: Economies, Ecologies and Cultures at Risk was released in July and is edited by outgoing YCAR Director Peter Vandergeest, Social Science Professor Pablo Idahosa and former York graduate student Pablo Bose, who is now doing postdoctoral studies at the University of Vermont.

The second publication, *Organizing the Transnational: Labour, Politics and Social Change*, is edited by Associate Professor of Sociology Luin Goldring and Social and Political Thought doctoral student Sailaja Krishnamurti. Both books are published by UBC Press.

For more information on the event, please contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Jinyan Li will present at this week's 'Feminist Fridays' event

1 February 2008 * 1:40 to 3:30pm * 221 Osgoode Hall Law School * York University



The Institute for Feminist Legal Studies is sponsoring the next 'Feminist Fridays' seminar on 1 February 2008. The speakers include YCAR Research Associate Professor Jinyan Li (Osgoode) who will present on "Private Pensions and Public Policy: Selected Issues". Other speakers include Professor Pina D'Agostino (Osgoode), "IP, Technology and Women's Health" and Professor Poonam Puri (Osgoode), "Governance, Corporate Law and Feminism". The event will be chaired by Professor Shelley Kierstead (Osgoode) and commentary will be provided by Professor Mary Condon. It will be held in the Faculty Common Room (221) of Osgoode Hall Law School from 1:40 to 3:30 p.m. with a reception to follow. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming Event: York welcomes Canada Research Chair Abidin Kusno to speak at York

Monday, 4 February * York University

YCAR is happy to welcome Abidin Kusno, University of British Columbia Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Asian Urbanism and Culture to speak at York University on 4 February. He will give a public lecture and also speak to Lisa Drummond's graduate student class, 'The Making of Asian Studies: Critical Perspectives.' This is the core course for YCAR's Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies.



The topic for Dr Kusno's public lecture, a part of the Social Sciences Speaker Series, is "Exemplary State: Governing Urban Subjects in the New Indonesia."

Indonesians today are remembering a decade after the fall of President Suharto (1966-1998). However, no one seems to feel sure how different is the era they are now living in today in comparison to that of Suharto. A profound sense of anxiety has developed in regard to how things have changed and become different since 1998.

Dr Kusno's talk will contribute to the study of the post-Suharto era in at least two ways: By looking at the role of a new urban infrastructure and imagistic urban project in defining social changes associated with the new Indonesia, and by examining the role such technologies play in the formation of social and political identities. It will focus on some of the discourses around the busway and the superblock in Jakarta as examples of urban violence, spectacle and governmentality and show how these discourses constitute a symbolic passage between Suharto and the post-authoritarian spatial order.

The talk is kindly sponsored by the Urban Studies Programme, the Social Science Speakers Series, the CITY Institute, Department of Geography and YCAR.

Upcoming Event: Geography's Adam Lukasiewicz will present YCAR's first BrownBag graduate student seminar

Tuesday, 5 February 2008 * 1pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B



Everyone is welcome to join us for the first graduate student seminar of the Winter 2008 term on 5 February at 1pm. Geography doctoral student Adam Lukasiewicz will speak on Situating migration, gender, and class in the agrarian transition of the Philippines.

Future presenters include Carolyn Hibbs, Doris Sung, Sean Starrs, Shannon Arnold, Nand Bardouille and Laura Tan-Starling. If you are interested in sharing your research in a BrownBag seminar, please contact Alicia at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: Atkinson welcomes author Hiromi Goto to York

Thursday, 7 February 2008 * 7pm * 206 Accolade West Building * York University

The Atkinson Canadian Writers in Person will welcome Hiromi Goto to York on Thursday, 7 February at 7pm. Goto is the British Columbian author of *Chorus of Mushrooms* (NeWest 1994), which won the Canada-Japan Book Award and the Commonwealth Writers Prize for 1995. Subsequent books include *The Water of Possibility* (Couteau 2000), *The Kappa Child* (Red Deer 2002) and the short story collection *Hopeful Monsters* (Arsenal 2004).



The event will take place in 206 Accolade West Building. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please visit www.atkinson.yorku.ca/cdnwriters or telephone 416 736 2100 ext 20482.

Upcoming Event: Chinese Design. Everyday

8 February 2008 to 13 April 2008 * Design Exchange * 234 Bay Street

'Chinese Design. Everyday' is the title of YCAR Associate Director Wendy Wong's February exhibit at Toronto's Design Exchange, which will run from 8 February to 13 April.

Contemporary Chinese culture is a fascinating mix of diverse influences, combining the millennia-old Chinese cultural heritage with the most current Western and international trends. This show defines "Chinese Design" in terms of Style, Locale and Ethnicity. It provides a foundation for understanding contemporary Chinese culture and everyday life through design artifacts with a focus on graphic design.

On display will be a selection of design work from the Chinese-speaking region: China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, and from designers of Chinese ancestry residing in North America.

The Opening will be held on 8 February 2008 with a reception sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Toronto. The Curatorial lecture will be held on 15 February 2008 at 5pm, also at the Design Exchange.



Upcoming Event: First Faiz Peace Festival honours renowned Urdu poet

16 February 2008 * 5pm * Port Credit Secondary School, 70 Mineola Road East, Mississauga

The 97th birth anniversary of the renowned Urdu poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz (1911-1984) will be celebrated at the 1st Faiz Peace Festival in the Greater Toronto Area. Faiz is widely remembered and loved as a poet who embodied the ideals of the generation that was breaking out of colonial domination. His poetry reflects his deep concern with the experience of the individual human in the life-long journey of revolutionary struggle. He was a keen student of various traditions of classical poetry in Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, Arabic, Persian, and English and himself has been translated into many more languages.



His daughter, Muneeza Hashmi will address the Festival and show a new film on his life. Poets, dancers, musicians, and political commentators from throughout the South Asia and Palestine will connect Faiz' life-work with the current literary and political situation in the region.

The South Asian Peoples Forum is organizing this festival and five hundred people are expected to attend. The Festival is on February 16th at Port Credit Secondary School, 70 Mineola Road East Mississauga at 5 pm sharp. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Toronto Women's Bookstore

(downtown Toronto, Harbord and Spadina) from January 18th onwards; for tickets in other locations, to make a donation, or to sponsor the event, call 416-653-4391 (west and downtown Toronto), 416-399-7602 (Mississauga), or 416-856-7212 (east Toronto) (himalmag.com photograph)

Upcoming Event: Commemorating the 65th anniversary of Canadian Anglican Bishop White's "Chinese Jews"

Monday, February 25, 2008 * 280 York Lanes * York University

YCAR and the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University are pleased to announce *Bishop White's "Chinese Jews,"* an event to be held on Monday, February 25 to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the release of Bishop White's book on Chinese Jews.

Speakers for the half-day event will include Dr Andrew Plaks, Professor of East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature at Princeton University, Missions Historian Dr Alwyn Austin and Sara Irwin, the Asia curator for the Royal Ontario Museum.

One of the curious footnotes in Jewish history is the so-called "orphan colony of Chinese Jews," who were discovered by Matteo Ricci in 1605. Ten or twelve families were living in Kaifeng, which used to be the rich and sophisticated capital city of China. They had arrived along the Silk Road hundreds of years before, and lost touch with their old homelands. Although they had become "Chinese," they retained kosher diet (like the Muslims): they were known as the people who did not eat sinews.

One of the scholars of these Chinese Jews was a Canadian missionary, Bishop William Charles White, bishop of the Anglican diocese of Henan and, on his retirement, head of the School of Chinese Studies and the Far Eastern Department at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). He is remembered by the Bishop White Gallery. Since he was stationed in Kaifeng, he contacted the remaining families and acquired some of their objects for the ROM, which were exhibited at Holy Blossom Temple. In 1946 he published a three-volume compendium called *Chinese Jews*, which remains a primary source.

This event brings together three scholars who present three intertwined stories: the encounter between Bishop White and the Chinese Jews, and his book; the Chinese Jews themselves, and their history; and the "Chinese Judaica collection" in the ROM.

For more information, please contact Michael Stainton at michaels@yorku.ca. To confirm your attendance, please email ycar@yorku.ca. All are welcome. (http://maetravels.blogspot.com/2007_09_01_archive.html photograph of the Bishop White Gallery at the ROM).

Call for Papers: Hybrid Moments

The Sociology and Anthropology Graduate Students' Association (SAGSA) at Concordia University (SAGSA) is proud to present its seventh annual bilingual conference which will be held on Saturday, 15 March 2008.

The goal of this conference is to provide graduate students the invaluable opportunity to present their work within an academic setting, providing them with confidence and constructive feedback from peers and professors. Participants will present their research in a topic panel corresponding to the theme of their proposed abstracts. The time allotted to each discussant is 15 minutes.

The conference also offers three workshops - two for graduate students and one for undergraduate students - to facilitate the transition between levels of study and guide students through the research and writing processes. The call for papers has begun. Abstracts must be submitted before **31 January 2008**. Information is available [here](#). You may send your abstracts to the following email address: sagsaconference@gmail.com.

Call for Papers: The Colonial Commons: land/law/living/labour

While the study of commons in Britain and continental Europe is well advanced, and with some notable Indian and North American exceptions, few historians have investigated shared property rights in colonial regimes.

"The Colonial Commons: land/law/living/labour" conference seeks to redress this by examining a range of issues that arise when the terms 'commons' and 'colonialism' intersect. By "commons" we mean both formally-dedicated "Commons" and the wide variety of informal commons on waterways, Crown Land, rangelands, reserves, reservations, bush, wastes and many other colonial spaces.

The conference invites papers that present original research on the history of formal and informal common land and resources in colonial societies, including colonies of non-European powers.

The conference will be held at the University of British Columbia on 29-30 May 2008 and is organized by researchers affiliated with Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE) and the Faculty of Arts, University of Wollongong [Australia]. Accommodation provided for presenters 28/29 May. Publication of the proceedings is anticipated, and it is expected that participants will submit their texts for review.

250-word outlines should be sent to Dr Ben Maddison, School of History and Politics, University of Wollongong, NSW Australia 2522 OR benm@uow.edu.au by **31 January 2008**.

Call for Papers: Globalized Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

The Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia is pleased to invite paper proposals for a three-day graduate student conference entitled: Globalized Asia: Challenges and Opportunities. The conference will be held at UBC from 28 February to 1 March 2008. The Keynote speaker will be Dr. Mike Douglass, Director of the Globalization Research Center and Professor at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii. This conference will provide an important opportunity for students from a broad range of research backgrounds related to Asia to come together in a collegial atmosphere to share their work and discuss new ideas.

The organizers invite papers on case studies, field experiences, policy analyses, empirical findings, research methodologies and theoretical work with a focus on Asia. The conference is open to graduate students from all disciplines in the humanities, social sciences and applied sciences.

This year's conference will include a keynote address and panel sessions. Panel topics could include: Policies and Case Studies, Development and Growth, Nationalism and Political Authoritarianism, Converging and Diverging Paths to Development, Environmental issues, Local Knowledge versus Western Theory, Inter-Asian/Regional Relations, and Intercultural & Historical Connections. While these are all possibilities for panels this year, the conference committee encourages submissions that deal with new themes not mentioned here, and we would like to emphasize that the focus of the conference is Asia in the broadest sense and that we seek to hold a conference in the spirit of inter-disciplinary scholarship. Therefore students from all disciplines are encouraged to submit previous or current work.

Submission: Abstracts for panel presentations (250-350 words) should be sent electronically to: pmassot@interchange.ubc.ca by **Friday, 5 February 2008**. (Late submissions will be considered on a first-come first-served basis depending on space availability.) For further details, please contact Pascale Massot at pmassot@interchange.ubc.ca.

Call for Papers: Lives in Motion: The Transitional and Transnational Status of Displacement

The Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) Student Caucus is pleased to announce that the Annual Graduate Student Conference will take place on 24 and 25 April 2008 at York University. This event offers graduate students across disciplines the opportunity to present and discuss their research ideas with fellow students

in a professional, non-intimidating forum.

The theme for this year's conference is The Transitional and Transnational Status of Displacement. The theme is intended to accommodate a wide range of discussions around such issues as: Internal Displacement, Diasporic and Refugee, Communities & Transnational Relationships, Ethnicity, Identity and Cultural Politics, Immigration/Refugee Law and Practice, Globalization, Development, Environment, Conflict Induced Displacement, Gender and Displacement, Human Trafficking, War and Children, Emergencies and Humanitarian Assistance, Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, Repatriation and Reintegration, Imagined Communities: Attachment and Belonging, Integration: Redefining Community.

We also encourage submissions from the visual, sound and performing arts. All accepted art submissions will be exhibited at the conference location.

At this year's conference two prizes will be awarded for best paper: one paper will be published in *REFUGE*, Canada's periodical on refugee issues. The second winner will get the opportunity to present her/his paper at the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies inaugural conference (June 15-18, 2008). Further details about both awards will be provided at a later date. More info about CARFMS can be found at <http://www.yorku.ca/crs/>.

We encourage all students interested in presenting at the conference to submit paper abstracts. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and should be accompanied by a short personal profile of no more than 5 lines. We are open to accepting 'ideas in progress' to accommodate students who are in the initial phases of their research projects.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically at CRS_caus@yorku.ca no later than **2 March 2008**. For more info please contact the conference co-ordinator Paula Popovici at paulap@yorku.ca.

Previously-posted Call for Papers:

* **Fourth Annual Loyola University Chicago History Graduate Student Conference (15 February 2008)**
For more information: www.luc.edu/orgs/hgsa/ or sress@luc.edu

* **Call for Papers: The Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia dissertation workshop (28 February 2008)**
For more information: losbanosworkshop@yahoo.com or Keith Barney at kbarney@yorku.ca.

* **The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations (ISCSC) 47th ISCSC World Conference, University of New Brunswick (1 March 2008)**
For more information: www.ISCSC.net or ISCSCabstracts@yahoo.com or rduchesn@unbsj.ca

* **Still the Asian Century? (31 March 2008)**
For more information: D.Norman@Asiacentury.net.

***Call for Papers: Transformations: Researching Asia (1 April 2008)**
For more information: transformationsasiaconference@gmail.com or www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/graduate_conference.html.

***ASPAC 2008 - Crossing Boundaries in the Asia-Pacific: Regional and Disciplinary Intersections, Victoria BC (15 April 2008)**
For more information: <http://capiconf.uvic.ca/index.php?cf=3>

***Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (1 May 2008)**
For more information: www.Colorado.EDU/CAS/WCAAS.html.

* **Third Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia, National University of Singapore (16 May 2007)**

For more information: valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg or
www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=747

York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) To comment or for more information, contact ycar@yorku.ca
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