

**B. Brian Foster, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor of Sociology**

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**—EDUCATION—**

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- Ph.D.**      **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**  
Sociology, 2017
- MA**        **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**  
Sociology, 2013
- BA**        **University of Mississippi**  
African-American Studies, Cum Laude, 2011

**—ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS—**

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- 2021-**      **University of Virginia**  
Associate Professor of Sociology
- 2016-21**   **University of Mississippi**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology and Southern Studies

**—RESEARCH AREAS—**

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Race and Place; Rural/Urban Sociology; Black Racial Attitudes; Popular Culture

**—METHODOLOGICAL EXPERTISE—**

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Ethnography, In-Depth Interviewing, Oral History, Participatory Mapping, ArcGIS

**—PUBLICATIONS—**

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**Books**

Foster, B. Brian. 2020. *I Don't Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life*.  
Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

—reviewed in *Oral History Journal*, *Library Journal*

—mentioned on *ESPN's Outside the Lines* and *Coffee & Books* podcast

**Peer Reviewed Journal Articles**

Foster, B. Brian. 2014. "‘Everybody Gotta Have a Dream’: Rap-centered Aspirations among Young Black Males Involved in Rap Music Production." *Issues in Race and Ethnicity: An Interdisciplinary Global Journal* 2(2):25-47.

**Invited Journal Articles**

Foster, B. Brian and James M. Thomas. 2022. "Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Onward!" *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 8(1):1-5.

**Chapters in Edited Volumes**

Foster, B. Brian. 2018. "Rewriting Wright: A Note on Perspective in Method and Writing." Pp. 19-29 in *The New Black Sociologists: Historical & Contemporary Perspectives*, edited by M. Hunter. New York: Routledge.

## Public Sociology (Writing & Digital Storytelling)

- 2021 “We Dance” (Short Film) Southern Foodways Alliance and Wideman-Davis Dance.
- 2021 “An Artist Yet: The Possibility of M.B. Mayfield.” *Mississippi Folklife*.
- 2021 “Can America Break up with the Confederacy.” Ford Foundation.
- 2021 “Antebellum Houses of the American South: What Happens Now?.” *Veranda*.
- 2021 “We’ll be going home.” *Mississippi Today*.
- 2020 “We Travel” (Short Film). Southern Foodways Alliance  
- First Place, Berlin Independent Film Festival  
- “Director’s Spotlight Award,” Ouray Film Festival  
- First Place, Atlanta Underground Film Festival
- 2020 “How We Got Here: Four Stories from a Mississippi Family.” *Gravy*.
- 2019 “Cedric Burnside: As Real as the Mississippi Hills.” *Bitter Southerner*.  
—“Best Stories of 2019” - *Bitter Southerner*
- 2018 “Not Studying the Blues.” *Oxford Magazine*.
- 2017 “Confederate monuments are more than reminders of our racist past. They are symbols of our racist present.” *Washington Post*.
- 2017 “The Black Women who Demanded the Surrender of the University of Mississippi’s State Flag.” *CNN*.
- 2017 “This Ain’t Just a Blues Place.” *CNN*.

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## —WORKS FORTHCOMING—

Foster, B. Brian. 2022. “Mine.” *Bigger Than Bravery: Black Writers Respond to the Pandemic, Shutdown and Uprising of 2020*. Wilmington, NC: Lookout Books.

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## —WORKS IN PROGRESS—

### Book Manuscripts

Frishman, Richard and B. Brian Foster. In Preparation. *Ghosts of Segregation*. New York: Celadon Press.

Foster, B. Brian. In Preparation. *Casino Town*. To be submitted for publication to Oxford University Press.

Foster, B. Brian. In Preparation. *Out of Mississippi: Essays*. To be submitted for publication to Oxford University Press.

## Public Sociology (Writing & Creative Work)

Foster, B. Brian. In Preparation. “We Remember” (Short Film). In Progress.

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## —GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS—

### Awarded

\$5,000 “Casino Town: Race, Belonging, and Makeshift Economies in the Rural South.” Summer Stipend. University of Virginia. Role: PI. 2022.

- \$7,100 “The Siggers High School Oral History Project.” Mississippi Humanities Council, Oral History Grant. Role: Program Director. 2021.
- \$5,000 College of Liberal Arts (COLA) Junior Faculty Grant for Research and Creative Achievement, University of Mississippi. 2020.
- \$5,000 Summer Course Development Grant, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, University of Mississippi. 2018.
- \$7,500 COLA Summer Research Grant, University of Mississippi. 2018.
- \$7,500 COLA Summer Research Grant, University of Mississippi. 2017.
- \$18,000 American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship. 2015.
- \$7,850 Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowship, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Graduate School. 2015.
- \$34,000/yr National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. 2012-15.
- \$37,180 NICHD/Carolina Population Center Pre-doctoral Fellowship. 2011.

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### —HONORS & AWARDS—

- 2020 “Teacher of the Year.” Mississippi Humanities Council.
- 2020 “Faculty Person of the Year” (for serving as chapter advisor for UM chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.). University of Mississippi Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- 2018 “Faculty Person of the Year” (for serving as chapter advisor for UM chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.). University of Mississippi Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- 2018 Chapter Advisor of the Year. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. State of Mississippi.

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### —PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & ACTIVITY (SINCE 2016)—

#### Papers Presented

- 2021 “I Don’t Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life.” Departmental Colloquium. University of Southern California. Virtual.
- 2021 “I Don’t Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life.” Race Workshop. Duke University. Virtual.
- 2019 “That’s for the White Folks: Black Racial Attitudes and Place Unmaking in the Rural South.” Presented at the Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity Workshop: Investigating Institutional Ethnic Inequalities: an International Perspective. Manchester, England.

- 2018 “That’s for the White Folks: Black Racial Attitudes and Place Unmaking in the Rural South.” Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 “That’s for the White Folks: Black Racial Attitudes and Place Unmaking in the Rural South.” Presented at the 2018 W. E. B. DuBois-Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium on Race. Atlanta, GA.
- 2017 “‘Never been to a blues show’: Black Racial Epistemologies in a Southern Town.” Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Greenville, SC.
- 2016 “‘Never been to a blues show’: Development Debates and Racial Epistemologies in a Rural Southern Town.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Association of Black Sociologists. Memphis, TN.
- 2016 “‘Never been to a blues show’: Racial Projects and Epistemologies in a Rural Southern Town.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA.
- 2016 “Born by the River: Race, Place-Making, and the Post-Blues Mississippi Delta.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 “The Impact of Discordant School Attitudes on Long-term Educational Attainment.” Presented at the 2016 Race in Higher Education Conference. Durham, NC.

### Panel Participation

- 2021 **Author.** I Don’t Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life. Author Meets Curious Readers (with Dr. Zandria Robinson, Dr. Joseph Ewoodzie, and Dr. Danielle Purifoy). Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Virtual.
- 2021 **Panelist.** “Deep Rivers: The Arts & Music of Racial Reckoning.” Black Communities Conference. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Virtual.
- 2018 **Critic.** “*Citizen Outsider: Children of North African Immigrants in France.*” Author-Meets-Critics Session at Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 **Panelist.** “Southern Sociology in the Era of Trump?” Thematic Session at Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 **Panelist.** “Truth and Lies: Race, Media, and Politics.” Panel Discussion at Parren Mitchell Symposium, University of Maryland. College Park, MD.

## **Discussant/Presider**

- 2018 **Presider.** “Race and Place” Session at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 **Discussant.** Chocolate Cities Symposium, Rhodes College and Center for Southern Literary Arts. Memphis, TN.
- 2018 **Discussant.** Scholars Roundtable at the Southern Music Symposium, hosted by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2018 **Discussant.** Black Leadership and Academic Conference, Western Kentucky University. Bowling Green, KY.

## **—CAMPUS/DEPARTMENTAL TALKS & WORKSHOPS (SINCE 2016)—**

- 2021 “I Don’t Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life” Department of Sociology and Anthropology. University of Mississippi.
- 2021 “I Don’t Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black life,” with Zaire Love. SouthTalk Brownbag Series. Center for the Study of Southern Culture. University of Mississippi.
- 2021 “Introductions, Conclusions, and Abstracts” Thesis Workshop. Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. University of Mississippi.
- 2020 “Whose Blues.” Virtual Conversation. Center for the Study of Southern Culture. University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2020 “On This Occasion.” Keynote. Black Student Union Black History Month Gala. University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2019 “Emmett Till: A Discussion on Race, Memory, and Responsibility.” Panel. Emmett Till Legacy Alliance. University, MS.
- 2019 “The Black Fantastic.” Keynote. Black Male Leadership Summit. Delta State University. Cleveland, MS.
- 2019 “Jukebox: The Sound of 300 Voices (and Memories).” Keynote. Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Spring Honors Convocation. University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2018 ““Some things never change, and I’m glad about it.’: The Cultural Significance of Black History Month.” Keynote. Center for Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Engagement Black History Month Celebration. Oxford, MS.
- 2017 “We Ain’t the Blues no mo: Black Southern Stories of Memory and Desire.” Brown Bag. University of Mississippi Department of Sociology and Anthropology. University, MS.

- 2017 “Dreamville: Geographies of Desire in Southern Rap.” Special Lecture. Delta Psi Fraternity Special Lecture Series. University, MS.
- 2017 “That’s for the White Folks: Black Racial Attitudes and Place Unmaking in the Rural South.” Brown Bag. University of Mississippi, Center for the Study of Southern Culture. University, MS.
- 2017 “When the South STILL Got Something to Say: A Conversation between Kiese Laymon and Regina Bradley About Hip Hop in the South.” Center for the Study of Southern Culture Lecture Series. Oxford, MS.

**—PUBLIC/COMMUNITY TALKS (SINCE 2016)—**

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- 2021 “Getting Something to Eat in Jackson: Race, Class, and Food in the American South.” Conversation with Dr. Joseph Ewoodzie, Jr. Harvard Bookstore.
- 2021 “I Don’t Like the Blues: A Conversation on Race, Place, and Mississippi.” Northeast Mississippi Community College.
- 2021 Conversation with Dr. William Ferris. Square Books. Oxford, MS.
- 2020 Conversation with Kiese Laymon. Powell Books. Portland, OR.
- 2020 Inaugural Juneteenth Commemoration for the town of Clarksdale, Mississippi. The Echo Project. Clarksdale, MS.
- 2020 “Engaging a Community.” Workshop. Mississippi Teacher Corps. University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2019 “Engaging a Community.” Workshop. Freedom Summer Collegiate (Non-Profit Organization). Milsaps College. Jackson, MS.
- 2019 “Stories of Place.” Workshop. Spring Initiative, Inc. (Mississippi Delta Non-Profit Organization). University, MS
- 2018 “Listening and Finding Myself Through the Blues.” TedxUniversity of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2018 “Overcoming Hurdles in the University-Community Relationship: A Discussion.” 50th Anniversary, Poor People’s Campaign Conference. University, MS.
- 2018 “Engaging a Community.” Workshop. Freedom Summer Collegiate (Non-Profit Organization). Milsaps College. Jackson, MS.
- 2018 “Remembering Elwood Higginbottom.” Planning and MC. Lynching Memorialization for Mr. Elwood Higginbottom. Equal Justice Initiative and William Winter Institute. University, MS.

2017 “Dr. King’s ‘Quiet’ Legacy of Resistance.” Keynote. Lafayette—Oxford—  
University Dr. Martin Luther King Day Community Service Awards Keynote.  
Oxford, MS.

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## —TEACHING & SERVICE—

### Teaching Interests

Race and Ethnicity; Race, Place, and Space; (Black) Popular Culture; Ethnographic  
Methods and Writing; Qualitative Methods; Sociology of Music

### Courses Taught

Sociology Graph: Ethnographic Methods and Fieldwork (Graduate) • The Race Maps:  
The Black American Experience • The Inquisitors: Introduction to  
Sociology • Black Village: The Sociology of African American Communities  
• Black Renaissance: American Society and Popular Culture

Southern Mississippi Jukebox: A Masterclass on Interviewing and Storytelling  
Studies (Honors) • 'Sipp: Mississippi Culture and History since 1960 • The  
Southern Protest Mixtape (Honors) • The Underground: Methods and  
Writing in Southern Studies (Graduate) • The S.O.U.T.H.x Tour: Music and  
Southern Society • Traces of History: Oral History of Southern Social  
Movements

### Service to Department and University

2021- **Faculty Affiliate**, The Equity Center, University of Virginia.

2021- **Member**, Rising Scholars Advisory Committee, University of Virginia

2021- **Member**, Search Committee, Pre-Doctoral and Postdoctoral Carter G.  
Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies Fellowship,  
University of Virginia

2021-22 **Member**, Undergraduate Studies Committee, University of Virginia

2020-21 **Director**, The Mississippi Hill Country Oral History Collective, University of  
Mississippi

2019-21 **Member**, Publicity Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology,  
University of Mississippi

2018-21 **Faculty Sponsor**, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Minority  
Engagement Council, University of Mississippi

2018-21 **Faculty Sponsor**, Emmett Till Legacy Alliance, University of Mississippi

2018-21 **Member**, Fraternity & Sorority Life Advisory Committee, University of  
Mississippi

2017-21 **Advisor**, Eta Beta Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, University of  
Mississippi

2017-18      **Co-Chair**, Critical Race Studies Working Group, University of Mississippi

### **Service to Discipline**

2021-      **Co-Editor**, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*

2021-22      **Reviewer**, Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship

2021-      **Member**, Editorial Board, *Social Currents*

2019-      **Member**, Publications Committee, Southern Sociological Society

2018-      **Member**, Editorial Board, *Social Problems*

2017-18      **Member**, Nominations Committee, Southern Sociological Society

### **Reviewing (since 2014)**

*The High School Journal*, Princeton University Press, Rowman and Littlefield, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Urban Review*

### **—STUDENT MENTORING—**

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#### **Individual Graduate Student Work**

2021-      **Member**, Dissertation Committee, Abigail Moore. Sociology. University of Virginia.

2021-      **Chair**, M.F.A. (Documentary Expression) Final Project Committee, Danielle Buckingham. “Black Queer Souths.” Southern Studies. University of Mississippi.

2019-21      **Member**, M.A. Thesis Committee, Keon Burns. “Black Grocers, Black Activism, and the Spaces in Between: Black Grocery Stores during the Mississippi Freedom Struggle Movement.” Southern Studies. University of Mississippi.

2019-20      **Member**, M.A. Thesis Committee, Tierney Bamrick. “Holding Space: Learning from a Black Art Organization.” Sociology. University of Mississippi.

2019-20      **Member**, M.F.A. (Documentary Expression) Final Project Committee, Zaire Love. “The Men I know.” Southern Studies. University of Mississippi.

2019-20      **Member**, M.F.A. (Documentary Expression) Final Project Committee, Andrea Morales. “Roll Down Like Water.” Southern Studies. University of Mississippi.

2019-20      **Member**, M.A. Thesis Committee, Kelly Spivey. “‘Raised in Their Mother’s Kitchens’: The Southern Evolution of Domestic Science.” Southern Studies. University of Mississippi.



- 2019-20 **Member**, M.A. Thesis Committee, Olivia Terenzio. “Feijoada and Hoppin’ John: Comparing Foodways of the African Diaspora in Brazil and the United States.” Southern Studies. University of Mississippi.
- 2017-19 **Member**, M.A. Thesis Committee, Denae Bradley. “School and Community Factors that Contribute to Educational Resiliency among African American Students.” Sociology. University of Mississippi.
- 2017-18 **Member**, M.A. Internship Committee, Kyle Chandler. An internship with the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement. Sociology. University of Mississippi.
- 2017-18 **Member**, M.A. Thesis Committee, Je’Monda Roy. “Birds of a Feather: The Effects of Segregation Preservation in Rural Mississippi Public School Systems.” Sociology. University of Mississippi.

### **Individual Undergraduate Student Work**

- 2020-21 **Faculty Mentor** Tyler Roy. “Out of the Cell, Into the Open: The Black Panthers, The Carceral State, and the Surveillance of Blackness, A Case Study.” Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. University of Mississippi.
- 2020-21 **Faculty Mentor**. Zy’Miria Thompson. “Re-Imagining Pleasure as Self Care: An Examination of Dirty Computer Through the Lens of the Erotic.” Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. University of Mississippi.
- 2019-20 **Faculty Mentor**. Ke’shunta Drake. “When will they see us?: Black Woman(ism), Me, Myself, and the Life and Times of Assata Shakur.” Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. University of Mississippi.
- 2019-20 **Member**, Honors Thesis Committee, Kendall Kern. “Teaching Leaders: A Literature Review of Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Achievement Gap.” Honors Thesis for Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. University of Mississippi.
- 2019-20 **Faculty Mentor**. Latrice Johnson. “My name is Latrice.’: Negotiating Racial Politics and Navigating Discrimination through Black Names and Naming.” Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. University of Mississippi.
- 2019-20 **Member**, Honors Thesis Committee, Rachel Winstead. “Basements Below the Sanctuary: A Story of the Church School.” Honors Thesis for Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. University of Mississippi. (Award Winner)
- 2018-20 **Member**, Honors Thesis Committee, Leah Davis. “Making it Make Sense: Black Undergraduate’s Attitudes and Lived Experiences of LGBTQ+”

Christian Identity and Inclusivity for the Black Church.” Honors Thesis for Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. University of Mississippi.

- 2018-19 **Member**, Honors Thesis Committee, Devna Bose. “Mississippi in Technicolor: Portraits of Strength.” Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. University of Mississippi.
- 2018-19 **Faculty Mentor**. Makayela Bouldes. “The Blacker the Berry: Race, Colorism, and Social Media.” Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. University of Mississippi.
- 2017-18 **Faculty Mentor**. Deja Boler. “Black Racial Identity and Academic Achievement.” Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. University of Mississippi.

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### —SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2021 [“Can America’s Blackest State Go Blue.”](#) Media Appearance. AJ+.
- 2021 [“A Pea for the Past, A Pea for the Future.”](#) *Gravy*. Southern Foodways Alliance.
- 2021 [Radio Interview](#). Let’s Grab Coffee with Dr. SunAh Laybourn.
- 2021 [“I Don’t Like the Blues” Book Profile](#). New Books Network.
- 2020 [Mississippi Arts Hour Podcast Interview](#). *Mississippi Public Broadcasting*.
- 2020 Andrews, Becca. [“The Racism of ‘Ole Miss’ is Hiding in Plain Sight”](#). *MJ*.
- 2019 Witz, Billy. [“Kneeling During the Anthem at Ole Miss: ‘I needed to Stand Up for My Rights.’”](#) *New York Times*. Feb. 27.
- 2019 Henderson, Sarah. [“Brian Foster urges students to ‘think deeply’ about memories at Honors Convocation.”](#) *Daily Mississippian*. Feb. 20.
- 2017 Alsup, Blake. [“Southern studies professor asks students to ‘mix’ things up.”](#) *Daily Mississippian*. Feb. 24.

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### —PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association; Association of Black Sociologists; Southern Sociological Society; Society for the Study of Social Problems

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### —REFERENCES

**Karolyn Tyson, Ph.D.**

Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Associate Chair  
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

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**Zandria Robinson, Ph.D.**

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Georgetown University  
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Mason Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Department Chair  
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**Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Ph.D.**

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Duke University, Department of Sociology  
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**Kiese Laymon**

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University of Mississippi, Department of English  
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