

Subject: ASAA/NZ December 2016 Newsletter

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From: Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand on behalf of Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand

To: Lorena Gibson

ASAA/NZ December 2016 Newsletter

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In this issue:

- [Season's Greetings from ASAA/NZ](#)
- [Welcome from our Chairperson](#)
- [Redundancies in anthropology at Otago](#)
- [ASAA/NZ AGM 16 Feb 2017](#)

- [SITES](#)
- [Recent achievements by ASAA/NZ members](#)
- [Books to read over the summer](#)
- [Inaugural Medical Anthropology in Aotearoa Annual Symposium, 15 February 2017](#)
- [2016 Kākano Fund Awards](#)
- [Filmmaking for Fieldwork](#)
- [2016 Anthropology Seminar Series Roundup](#)
- [Letter to the editor](#)

Season's Greetings from ASAA/NZ

Tēnā koutou katoa ASAA/NZ members,

This issue of our newsletter is bittersweet; it opens with the ASAA/NZ statement about the recent redundancies in anthropology at the University of Otago, which many of us are struggling to comprehend. This is followed with a number of more positive news items and a roundup of anthropology seminars held at various universities in Aotearoa in 2016.

Lorena Gibson



This is my last newsletter as ASAA/NZ Secretary as I will step down from the role at our AGM in February 2017. I have enjoyed working with you in this capacity and look forward to seeing everyone in the near future - hopefully at the 50th anniversary celebrations of Cultural Anthropology at Victoria University of Wellington in May 2017.

Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou.

Nāku noa, nā

Lorena Gibson, ASAA/NZ Secretary

Welcome from our Chairperson



Dear colleagues,

This was a rocky year for Anthropology in Aotearoa and there seemed to be more bad news than good news.

We made the difficult decision to cancel this year's annual conference, due to the ill health of Professor Patrick McAllister. Patrick passed away on 21 September after a short battle with an aggressive form of cancer. We were also saddened to hear

the news that Tony Hooper passed away on 14 December.

The job cuts in social Anthropology at Otago are threatening the major and the situation at Canterbury is equally worrying.

Having conveyed the bad news there were also many good things happening with colleagues in Auckland and Wellington receiving Marsden funds, record numbers of students and great new publications to read. Cultural Anthropology at Victoria University is well supported and even growing. I hope that many of you will be able to come to either the February workshop on Medical Anthropology with our AGM attached to it or to visit for our May events when we commemorate our 50th anniversary.

Most importantly, I hope that you all enjoyed the new ASAANZ website that Lorena Gibson set up and organised for us. Lorena was, and still is, an amazing secretary of ASAANZ. She is stepping down to be able to concentrate on her Marsden project. I could not have been the chair of our association without her, indeed she in effect run the show and still is running. Thank Lorena, from me and on behalf of all of us.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that part of your membership fees go towards supporting graduate anthropology students in the form of the Kākano Award Fund. We are always happy to accept donations for the Fund. I wish everyone a restful holiday period and look forward to seeing you in 2017.

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Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, ASAA/NZ Chairperson

[Donate to the Kākano Fund](#)

Redundancies in anthropology at Otago

Two social anthropologists, Associate Professor Jacqueline Leckie and Dr Gautam Ghosh, have been made redundant from the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Otago through a 'Management of Change' process. There will now be two social anthropologists teaching in a department of eight permanent academic staff.

The job cuts are a result of a significant reduction in government funding to all tertiary institutions from 2011. In 2009 former Tertiary Education Union president Tom Ryan, whose union represents almost 1400 staff at Otago, told the [Otago Daily Times](#) that the Government's decision to cut tertiary funding during a recession was "bizarre economics" and if the Government did not change its mind, New Zealand institutions would "slip down the ranks internationally" and would have trouble

attracting students, staff, researchers and research funds. Victoria University of Wellington and the University of Waikato are also undergoing 'change proposals,' with job cuts signalled in the humanities.

ASAA/NZ Chairperson, Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, has described the Otago redundancies as short-sighted. "Internationally, the number of students taking anthropology is in growth mode," she said. "The high enrolments we are experiencing at Victoria University of Wellington is not a bubble. Otago's decision to cut two social anthropology positions will make it difficult for the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology to offer a viable programme and suite of papers. It will also compromise the Department's ability to maintain the high quality of teaching and research for which its staff are internationally recognised."

One of those made redundant is Otago ASAA/NZ representative Associate Professor Jacqueline Leckie. She has 27 years of service in the Department and was appointed as its first female lecturer in Social Anthropology. Jacqui's PhD is from the University of Otago and she lectured for 7 years at the University of the South Pacific and Kenyatta University before returning to her home town of Dunedin where she lives with her partner and daughter, who is doing a degree in Humanities at Otago.

At the end of 2016 Jacqui finished two terms as Head of Department and is a former Convenor of the Social Anthropology Programme. She has established popular courses on Pacific anthropology, the anthropology of work, and a postgraduate course on anthropology and development of the Pacific. Jacqui has supervised 17 PhD and 12 MA students to completion, currently is supervising 5 PhD students. In 2016 she was the Department's Graduate Convenor, Student Exchange Officer, and Pacific Student Support Officer.

Jacqui is a foundational member of anthropological research in the Pacific and South Asia, and she has long been at the heart of a variety of international networks (including the ASAA/NZ, the [Association of Social Anthropologists of Oceania](#), and the [Pacific History Association](#)). Her current research specialities include Asia Pacific, diaspora and migration, heritage and identity, gender, and Pacific biocultural health. She was awarded a University of Otago Prestigious Writing Grant in 2016 to complete a manuscript on [Colonizing 'Madness' in Fiji](#) for University Hawai'i Press and plans to extend this to research the impact and entanglement of psychiatry and global mental health strategies on Pacific Peoples. Jacqui has also begun a new project entitled *Lost and Forgotten Diseases of Asia-Pacific: Yaws and Syphilis* and is a Principal Investigator with the [Otago Asia-Pacific Biocultural Health Research Theme](#). She had intended to develop new research on migration and refugee settlement in Dunedin. She is a Co-Director of the 2017 Otago Foreign Policy School on ['Open and Closed Borders: The Geopolitics of Migration.'](#)

Jacqui's research includes 2 major monographs, 6 edited books and over 70 peer-reviewed chapters and articles with local and international publishers. In view of such a prolific career and service to Otago, it is inconceivable that Jacqui was made

redundant.

We also struggle to understand the rationale behind Gautam's redundancy. In addition to having a strong international presence in the international anthropology community (including being on the editorial board of one of the premier anthropology journals, *Anthropology Quarterly*), Gautam is an award-winning teacher.

Anthropology is especially well placed to teach future global citizens and meet the demands of an increasingly multicultural society. The department at Otago has a prestigious history and its strong presence on the South Island makes a necessary contribution to New Zealand society. These redundancies are a further threat to the maintenance of a vibrant tertiary education system in New Zealand.

Responses

Professor Richard Walter, Head of Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Otago, contacted us about our statement, which [we posted on our website](#). We have reproduced [his email](#) with permission on our website. Please feel free to comment on our blog with your thoughts, or to continue the conversation via our [e-list](#). The Pacific History Association has sent a letter in support of Jacqui Leckie to Otago management and the ASAA/NZ Executive is working on a similar response.

ASAA/NZ AGM 16 Feb 2017

The 2017 ASAA/NZ AGM will be held on:

Thursday 16 February 2017, 10am-12pm
Alan MacDiarmid Building, room AMLT105
Victoria University of Wellington Kelburn Campus

All welcome! The venue has videoconferencing facilities so please let [Lorena](#) know if you would like to attend via videoconference by Friday 20 January 2017.

Call for agenda items

An agenda and executive reports will be circulated in early February. If you have any items you wish to add to the agenda, please contact [Lorena](#) before Friday 20 January 2017.

Call for nominations

As per our Constitution, we will elect our Executive

SITES

SITES has just published its on-line version of its 2016 General Issue, [Vol 13 No 2](#). This multi-disciplinary issue canvasses issues of Māori indigeneity and economics; the powerful influence of place; several topical social issues, such as racism, homelessness and student drinking culture; and music and trade negotiations as facets of globalisation. Who and what is a 'native' in doing ethnography, and experiments with writing ethnography also feature.

Officers, and Committee Members, and Representational Officers at the AGM. Lorena is stepping down from her role as Secretary so nominations for that role are now open. Nina Harding is also stepping down from her role as Postgraduate Student Representative. The current Executive Committee and all positions are on our website (<http://www.asaanz.org/executive-committee/>). Please email your nominations for these positions to [Lorena](#) by Friday 20 January 2017.

SITES invites submissions from authors in the fields of anthropology, culture studies, indigenous studies, Māori studies, sociology, history, gender, linguistics, and ethnomusicology. For more information, [contact the editorial team](#).

Recent achievements by ASAA/NZ members

Dr Graeme Macrae and Professor Thomas Reuter have been awarded a three-year Australian Research Council Discovery Project research grant for their project 'Food System Resilience in Indonesia: A Moral Economy Approach.' This project aims to understand and enhance food security in Indonesia and beyond. It examines culture-specific moral concepts, embedded in food systems and daily practices, that affect food security. For 60 years, the dominant approach to food security has been to boost supply by industrialising agriculture and liberalising trade, but this market-based approach has failed. One billion people are food insecure. The project will conduct case studies of three food systems to examine how moral economies ameliorate market failures locally and how different rural development programs disrupt or enhance their capacity to do so. The data produced could inform food security-friendly development of trade policies and provide the evidence base for UN efforts toward a global food solidarity pact.

Associate Professor Jeff Sissons was awarded a Marsden grant of \$390,000 for his project [The mysterious disappearance of tūāhu](#).

Dr Trisia Farrelly has received funding under the [Our Seas programme](#) of the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge to conduct [a discourse analysis of Social License to Operate \(SLO\) in New Zealand](#). This is a three-year project.

Dr Phyllis Herda was awarded a Marsden grant of \$530,000 for the project *Ancient Futures: Late 18th and early 19th century Tongan arts and their legacies*.

Dr Jacqui Leckie was awarded a Prestigious Writing Grant from the University of Otago 2016 for '[Colonizing 'madness' in Colonial Fiji](#)' (under preparation with University of Hawai'i Press)

Dr Lorena Gibson was awarded a Marsden Fast Start grant of \$300,000 for her project *East Side Orchestras: Music, poverty, and social change*.

Books to read over the summer



Tupuna Awa: People and Politics of the Waikato River, by [Marama Muru-Lanning](#), examines how changing discourse around the Waikato River affects the relationships between the Crown, commercial operators like Mighty River Power, and the people of the region for whom it is a 'Tupuna Awa', a river ancestor. In this book Marama explains how Māori of the region, the Crown and Mighty River Power have talked about the

ownership, guardianship and stakeholders of the river. By examining the debates over water in one New Zealand river, over a single recent period, she provides a powerful lens through which to view modern iwi politics, debates over water ownership, and contests for power between Māori and the state. [Read more.](#)



Conflict, Negotiation, and Coexistence: Rethinking Human-Elephant Relations in South Asia is a collection edited by [Piers Locke](#) and [Jane Buckingham](#). Arising from an international symposium Piers Locke convened in 2013, this book brings anthropologists, biologists, ecologists, geographers, historians, political scientists, and Sanskrit literature specialists into conversation with each other to explore humans, elephants, and

environments in South Asia from the multispecies, interdisciplinary perspective of ethnoelephantology. [Read more.](#)



Chris Howard recently published his first monograph, ***Mobile Lifeworlds: An Ethnography of Tourism and Pilgrimage in the Himalayas***. This book illustrates how the imaginaries and ideals of Western travellers, especially those of untouched nature and spiritual enlightenment, are consistent with media representations of the Himalayan region, romanticism and modernity at large.

Blending tourism and pilgrimage, travel across Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, and Northern India is often inspired and oriented by a search for authenticity, adventure and Otherness. Such valued ideals are shown, however, to be contested by the very forces and configurations that enable global mobility. [Read more.](#)



Petroleum Development and Environmental Conflict in Aotearoa New Zealand: Texas of the South Pacific is Terrence Loomis's latest work. It examines the dilemmas associated with economic growth through the expansion of resource extraction. He analyzes the circumstances under which environmental opposition

to state policies to promote oil and gas development — in collaboration with the petroleum industry — has led to far-reaching changes in institutional relations between the state and civil society. [Read more.](#)

Inaugural Medical Anthropology in Aotearoa Annual Symposium, 15 February 2017

The [Society of Medical Anthropology in Aotearoa](#), which is affiliated with ASAA/NZ, will be launched in February 2017. SOMAA aims to support medical anthropological research and teaching in and about Aotearoa (New Zealand), and seeks to spotlight the relevance of medical anthropological knowledge in public debates about health and wellbeing in Aotearoa.

SOMAA's launch will be marked by a one-day symposium at Victoria University of Wellington, with Professor Marcia Inhorn (Yale University) as the keynote speaker. The symposium will showcase current work in medical anthropology, with a particular focus on how work from/on the New Zealand context innovates, challenges and contributes to core theoretical debates in medical anthropology internationally.

For more information, contact [Catherine Trundle](#).

2016 Kākano Fund Awards

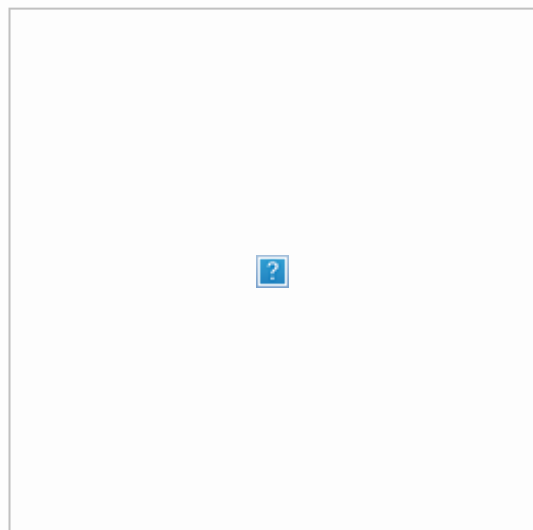
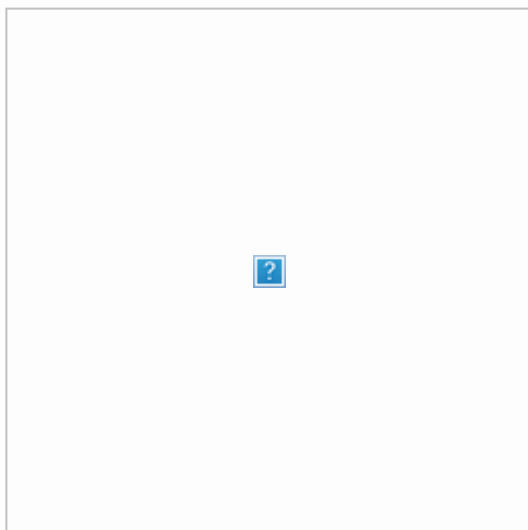
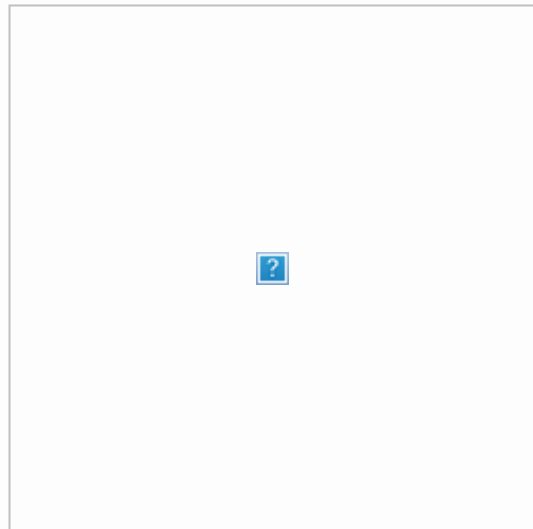
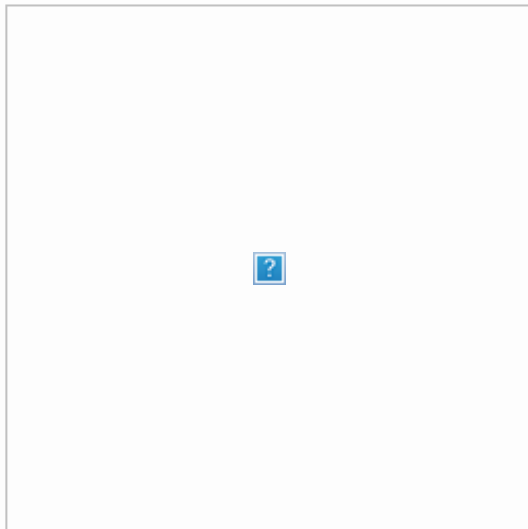
The following graduate students received Kākano Fund Awards in 2016:

Veronica Adams, MA, Victoria University
Sharayane Bennett, MSocSci, Waikato University
Dylan Gaffney, MA, Otago University
Molly George, PhD, Otago University
Heather Mann, MA, Massey University
Ariadne Menzel, PhD, Massey University
Seipua O'Brien, MA, Massey University

Filmmaking for Fieldwork

Sita Venkateswar completed an ethnographic filmmaking workshop, [Filmmaking for Fieldwork \(F4F\)](#) at Manchester in July 2006, supported by a Harriette Jenkins award she

received in 2015. The 2 week, intense, hands on programme offered the opportunity to learn the craft of ethnographic filmmaking encompassing filming, sound recording and editing through completing 3 short films during the course. Each participant worked in small groups to complete each film, learning to handle and use all the relevant equipment while collaborating with others to complete each assigned task. "For many of us at Massey, that is a familiar teaching strategy and it was very interesting and enjoyable to be part of a role-reversal for a time!" said Sita.



2016 Anthropology Seminar Series Roundup

This is a snapshot of anthropology seminars hosted at various universities in Aotearoa.

Otago Anthropology-Archaeology Seminars

Sabine Sten, Professor in Osteoarchaeology, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University Campus Gotland, Sweden

"Osteoarchaeology & Zooarchaeology in Sweden: Analyses of human and animal bones, unburnt and cremated, from burials and settlements dating from Prehistory to the Middle

Ages”

Professor Angela McCarthy, Department of History and Art History, University of Otago
"James Taylor and Cross-Cultural Encounters in Ceylon"

Dr Kate Stevens, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History and Art History, University of Otago
"Mono'i: Repackaging Tradition in Tahiti?"

Gianna Leoni, Phd Graduate, Māori Studies, University of Otago
"Mā te taki te kāhui ka tau - Writing a PhD in te reo Māori"

Associate Professor Jacqui Leckie, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, University of Otago
"Missing or Misdiagnosed? General Paralysis of the Insane, Yaws and Syphilis in Fiji, 1884-1940"

Sylvia Frain, PhD Candidate, Department of History and Art History and National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago and Micronesian Area Research Centre, University of Guam
"Indigenous Resistance to American Colonization and Militarization in the Marianas Archipelago"

Naomi Woods, PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, University of Otago
"Household Narratives from a Colonial Frontier: A Widow's Tale"

Irene Hundleby, PhD Candidate, Department of Music, University of Otago
"Lullabies, Laments & Everyday Rituals - Women's Music of North Malaita, Solomon Islands"

Dr Justin Maxwell, Post Doctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, University of Otago
"Investigating Fire Regimes, Vegetation Change, Cultivation & the Chronology of Change in New Zealand Archaeology Using Paleo-ethnobotanical Techniques"

Professor Michael Harkin, Department of Anthropology, University of Wyoming (William Evans Fellow, University of Otago, 2016)
"The Emotional Archive"

Professor Brij Lal, Professor of Pacific and Asian History, Australian National University
"Islands of a Silenced Dawn: The Making, Unmaking and Re-making of Modern Fiji"

Matthew Carter, PhD Candidate, Department of Archaeology and History, La Trobe University
"Te Horeke to New Deptford: the archaeology of a Pākehā shipbuilding yard in pre-colonial New Zealand"

Dr Catherine Smith, Centre for Materials Science and Technology, University of Otago
"Grasping the Ephemeral: Methods for Extracting Cultural Data from Archaeological Textiles"

Dr Dimitri Anson, Honorary Fellow, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, University of Otago
"Commercial Domestic Pottery at Benhar: Excavations of waste pottery dumps at the McSkimmings and Son's pottery factory, South Otago"

Daniel Osland, Lecturer in Classics, Department of Classics, University of Otago
"Urban Space in the Late Roman City: Archaeological Research in Mérida, Spain"

Pounamu Jade Aikman, School of Culture, History, and Language. Australian National University
"Terra In Our Mist: A Terra-torial Ethnography of the Children of the Mist"

Vicki Macknight, Researcher, Centre for Science Communication, University of Otago
"The Public Face of Economics: What do people see of the dismal science?"

**Victoria University of Wellington
Cultural Anthropology Seminars
Collectively convened**

**University of Waikato
Anthropology Seminar Series
Convenor: Fraser Macdonald**

Dr Barbara Andersen, "Gender, Infrastructure, and Health Care in Papua New Guinea"

Dr Caroline Bennett, "Sublime bodies and mortal remains: the nameless dead in the culture of impunity in Cambodia"

Professor Toon van Meijl, "Doing Indigenous Epistemology: Internal Debates about Inside Knowledge in Maori Society"

Dr Nayantara Sheoran, "Bio-crossing(s) in India"

Dr Hal Levine, "World Values Fiji/Samoa Anthropology"

Dr Matt Tomlinson, "Thinking Critically About Interdisciplinary Dialogue: What Do Anthropology and Theology Talk About When They Talk With Each Other?"

The program ran a seminar series through the year with contributions from:

- Fraser Macdonald
- Benedicta Rousseau
- Terry Loomis
- John Campbell
- Tom Ryan
- Serge Tcherkézoff
- Des Kahotea
- Andrew Hernann
- Julie Barbour
- Philipp Schorch
- Philippa Miskelly
- Daniel Hernandez
- Keith Barber and Mrs Tran Thi Lanh
- Toon van Meijl

Katherine Peet and Dr Jo Smith, "Reflections on Treaty-based Multiculturalism and Host/Guest"

Dr Lorena Gibson, "Visual ethnographic research with young people"

Dr Eli Elinoff, "Concrete and Corruption: On the Materiality of Power in Thailand"

Letter to the editor

Hey you guys,

Look for my admiring critique of Fiona McCormack's articles on neoliberal governance and the Maori in the [latest issue of Sites](#), along with her reply (which, so far, I have been afraid to read).

Also look for the recent books published by a guy who is clearly a world-class sociologist at the University of Auckland for seven years now: [Colin/Ciara Cremin](#). Here is a leading critical mind, right in our midst. In there with Žižek and the rest of the new critical theorists, but solidly historical materialist.

After talking with a few graduate students at the last ASAA/NZ conference, and hearing a few department seminars at University of Auckland (Sociology as well as Pacific Studies and Anthropology), I am reassured that some solid radical critique is developing in the NZ Universities, regardless of the shamelessly reactionary regimes that are running them.

Along this line, also have a look at the gently in-your-face critiques of NZ university managerialism that [Cris Shore](#) (our own Professor of Social Anthropology!) has been publishing ever since his inaugural lecture back in 2004?! (How did this guy ever get appointed in this reactionary institution?) The staff-inspiring (just call it stiffing) stuff that the University of Auckland VC has come up with makes me feel ill, but reminds us that power need not listen to truth unless seriously pushed (despite such criticism, this crap restructuring has been going on in all our universities since the 1980s).

Thanks to these new directions, although I have been out of the loop since retiring in 1998, I am rediscovering the scholarly excitement that I enjoyed at University of Auckland since 1972-1998. Thank you ASAA/NZ for keeping me in the loop! Let's remember the good works of 'the gang of four' in Soc.Anthro 1980s-90s (Garth Rogers, Nancy Bowers, and Max Rimoldi); we need such as them: may they not rest in peace.

Cheers,

Steven Webster

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