

#### WHO WE ARE

Established in 2011 and incorporated in 2015, The Arctic Institute is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization headquartered in Washington, D.C with a network of researchers across the world. We envision a world in which the diverse and complex issues facing Arctic security are identified, understood, and innovatively resolved. Rigorous, qualitative, and comprehensive research is the Institute's foundation, upon which our global team develops solutions to challenges and injustices in the circumpolar north.

#### WHAT WE DO

The Arctic Institute's mission is to help shape policy for a secure, just, and sustainable Arctic through objective, multidisciplinary research of the highest caliber. Our research agenda is constantly evolving to reflect a rapidly changing Arctic. Institute projects, publications, and events span the most pertinent security issues of the circumpolar region, developed by direct engagement and collaboration with young scholars, emerging regional actors, and northern communities. We provide freely available data, analysis, and recommendations to policymakers, researchers, the media, and the interested public about circumpolar security challenges. Beyond our work, the Institute is building the future of Arctic research through partnerships with organizations across the globe.

#### WHERE WE WORK

We are a think tank for the 21st century. Our network of multidisciplinary scholars work in North America, Scandinavia, and continental Europe and represent expertise in many different disciplines. Together, we are dedicated to research of and engagement in the many dimensions of Arctic security.

#### **USA & CANADA /**

Austin, TX Calgery, AB Anchorage, AK Ottawa, ON Boston, MA Toronto, ON New York, NY Vancouver, B.C. San Francisco, CA Washington DC

#### **EUROPE /**

Vienna, Austria Ghent, Belgium Copenhagen, Denmark Tallinn, Estonia Helsink, Finland Berlin, Germany Leipzig, Germany

## Bodo, Norway Oslo, Norway Tromso, Norway

Trondheim, Norway Stockholm, Sweden Durham, UK London, UK Swansea, UK

#### ASIA /

Shanghai, China Kobe, Japan Bishkek, Kyrgzstan Nepal

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LETTER FROM
OUR PRESIDENT /
VICTORIA HERRMANN

# ACHIEVING INCLUSIVITY BY REDEFINING OUR THINK TANK



In 1675, Sir Isaac Newton wrote that, "If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants." As a young leader of a younger organization, it is perhaps predictable that I look to America's giants in think tank history for inspiration. As a world war loomed globally and the Great Depression devastated households in every corner of the nation, America's earliest think tanks advised U.S. government officials on which policies would result in the greatest return for society. The research and analysis of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where I held my first job out of college as a Junior Fellow, and The Brookings Institute next door?, helped to define the European Recovery Program and the United Nations Charter. In leading one of America's top-100 think tanks in 2019, I cast my gaze a century rearward to surmise how we too can inform the paramount policy decisions of today.

Of course, the enterprise of policy problem-solving has come a long way since the early days of advancing world peace and domestic policy progress. But the fundamental function of a think tank has not changed. Regardless of geography, discipline, or mission, a think tank continues to be a place, physical or virtual, where people come together to resolve the public's most pressing challenges. As a regional nonprofit that aims to create spaces to activate ideas through the networking of individuals, The Arctic Institute serves as the ultimate incubator for change. We ought to, at our core, expand what problems society thinks are possible to solve by paving new pathways for intellectuals to work together. In order to achieve this aspiration, The Arctic Institute must ensure that our organizational strategies foster inclusive management structures, research groups, and networks that reflect those whom we seek to serve.

In 2019, The Arctic Institute's team pushed research, communication, and outreach further to expand our reach and our inclusive community. To co-create inclusive, equitable research projects, policies, and support systems for the Arctic, we created the Network North event series. Focusing on young professionals and emerging leaders, but welcoming to all, Network North events offer an informal space to chat, share, and find new friends. From bars in Oslo, Norway to bookstore cafes in Washington, DC, we hosted regular Arctic happy hours in cities across North America and Europe.

And to share our research virtually, The Arctic Institute published new science infographics, maps, policy reports, app updates, and podcasts in 2019 to help readers understand the impact of a rapidly changing region. Through the use of our active social media channels, close cooperation with media, and organization of conferences and workshops, the Institute continued to reach today's policy makers, and more importantly, the coming generation, which will be confronted with the challenges and opportunities of an uncertain circumpolar region.

To act ambitiously on the greatest environmental, security, and economic policy issues of our time, we must have the courage in 2020 to simultaneously pursue the development of a diverse team that can turn research into cooperative action. We must be purposeful in including youth, women, scholars of color, and experts with non-traditional credentials. This is no easy task, and will require the involvement of every team and Board member. But it is essential if The Arctic Institute is to be a true, visionary leader in the ever-evolving policy and social landscape of the 21st Century.

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2019 5

### BY THE NUMBERS

80+ / commentaries, infographics, and reports published

209 / Readers from 209 countries

75 / Presentations made by TAI team members

Events held across
North America & Europe

100 / High North News articles written

6000+/ news stories shared in The Arctic This week





4,213 16.8K 739





1,564

WHAT WE CREATE /

## INCLUSIVITY

In over 80 publications in 2019, The Arctic Institute brought together career diplomats, scientists, youth leaders, practitioners, and academics in a vibrant virtual dialogue on some of the most pressing challenges and promising opportunities of the circumpolar north.

As written by Arctic Institute contributor Morgan Seag, "The history of women in polar research is a story of movement from exclusion toward inclusion, led by inspiring women who broke one "ice ceiling" after another." This history gives us reason to celebrate how far female polar researchers have come in recent decades, and it can inform our work to create more inclusive polar research communities, today, and in the future."

The Institute began our year with a continuation of our 2018 Breaking the Arctic's Ice Ceiling series, edited by Managing Director Dr. Victoria Herrmann. Our 2019



collection of six commentaries, articles, and multimedia posts highlighted the work of women working and living in the Arctic. From female climate change champions to being vegan at sea, we are using our publishing platform to elevate a more inclusive Arctic dialogue.

Languages play a crucial role in both social and cultural development. They are intimately linked to people's own sense of identity, to their lands, and to their environments. In line with the United Nations' 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, The Arctic Institute's Indigenous Languages in the Arctic, edited by Research Associate Romain Chauffart, celebrated the linguistic and cultural diversity of Indigenous languages across the North. In a series of articles, commentaries, and op-eds, the contributing authors seek to raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities facing Indigenous languages and to highlight the immense value of linguistic diversity across the Circumpolar North. Our series included an intimate story of the meaning of words in the Dene language, a look at the climate solutions embedded in the revitalization of the Eskaleut languages, and an argument for stronger policy support in community designed and owned language initiatives across the Arctic.

As the only think tank dedicated to circumpolar security studies, The Arctic Institute's team is dedicated to providing our readers with nuanced, up-to-date evaluations of the region's evolving Arctic security policies on land and at sea. Senior Fellow Dr. Andreas Østhagen critically examined the U.S. Coast Guard's newly released Arctic Strategy. As the only such strategy from an Arctic coast guard, it takes up everything from China's Northern ambitions to what it sees as a severe capability gap in the US Arctic. Across the Atlantic, Research Associate Nima Khorrami interviewed government officials to publish a guideline on Sweden's Arctic strategy as stipulated within the larger framework of its foreign and domestic policy making. Led by our Editorial Team of Senior Fellow Greg Sharp, Associates Mieke Coppes and Ryan Uluja, and Intern Alina Bykova, our timely publications ensure the Arctic community has free access to critical, multidisciplinary analysis throughout the year.

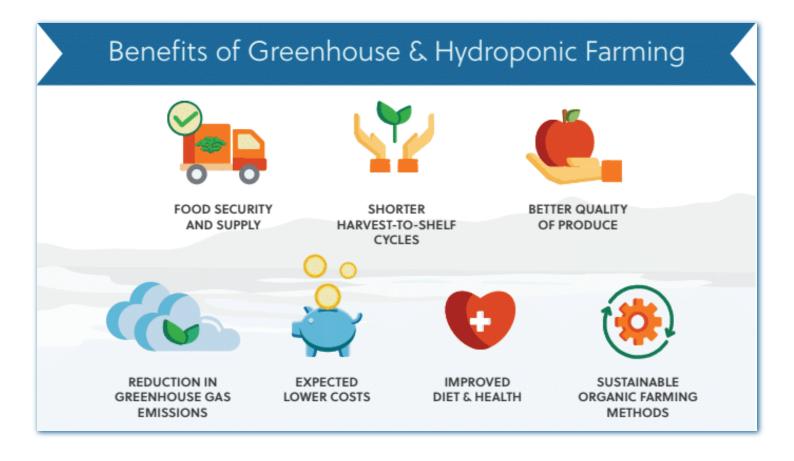
In 2019, The Arctic Institute embarked on a new initiative to publish science education and policy infographics. Led by Visual Editors Doris Friedrich and Val Muzik and researched by Visiting Fellow Dr. Nina Joffe, our data-driven infographics help illustrate scientific concepts, changes, and novel Arctic studies.

#### **ARCTIC DISEASES**

The spread of infectious diseases in the Arctic is an important and actively evolving public health issue, but many small communities are not equipped to handle it adequately. Our June vector infographic offers a glimpse into a complex and challenging problem affecting all regions of the Arctic in different ways.

#### **ARCTIC FARMING**

The Arctic's lower temperatures and permafrost result in short growing seasons and slower growing processes. Our August infographic illustrates the challenges of vegetable production in the Arctic, as well as possible solutions offered by Arctic farming for a better, more affordable, and more sustainable supply of fresh vegetables.



#### ARCTIC FIELDWORK

A worldwide understanding of its societal impacts is an important first step in making sure Arctic research gets the support it needs to continue. That's why our September infographic provides a peek at the wide breadth of research that takes place in the Arctic, spanning from sociolinguistics to microbial ecology, and where major hubs of research are located.

#### **ARCTIC LICHENS**

Lichens are essential to Arctic tundra ecosystems, but their decline is problematic for caribou and the people who depend on them. Our November infographic paints an understanding of the importance of lichens and the current factors leading to their decline in the Arctic as a result of climate change.







Fruticose



Foliose



Squamulose

#### What are Lichens?

Fungus + Cyanobacteria = Lichen

Fungus + Algae + Cyanobacteria = Lichen

Fungus + Algae = Lichen

#### LICHENS ARE COMPOSITE ORGANISMS.

A composite organism is made up of two or more independent organisms. Lichens are comprised of a fungus containing algae and/or cyanobacteria living with the fungal filaments. The algae and cyanobacteria provide nutrients to fungi in the form of carbohydrates. In return, they receive protection and nutrients from the fungi, making this a mutually beneficial relationship.

An association with cyanobacteria also benefits fungi in another way: the cyanobacteria take nitrogen from the atmosphere and convert it into a form that fungi need for essential life functions.

#### MAP OF THE MONTH

This year The Arctic Institute debuted a new Map of the Month initiative, pioneered by Research Intern Rylin McGee. Each month, the Institute highlights the various ways the Arctic is changing by showcasing maps created by geographers, cartographers, and organizations around the world.

WHAT WE SHARE /

## **NEWS**

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday our team delivers the latest Arctic news and analysis to thousands of readers across the globe in our newsletter, app, and bulletin roundup.

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Making informed decisions about the Arctic requires every individual to have free, easy access to new research, policies, and current events in the circumpolar north. That's why The Arctic Institute partnered with High North News to write over 100 articles in 2019. TAI team members interviewed Norwegian politicians, Greenlandic scientists, and Alaska business leaders to bring readers the most comprehensive coverage of an ever-changing region.

#### THE ARCTIC THIS WEEK

Through our weekly news brief, we deliver readers the latest Arctic news summarized, organized, and interpreted, with links to interesting, inventive, and enjoyable stories. The Arctic This Week, managed by Associate Erika Vartdal and written by our dedicated team of Research Interns, is read in over 90 countries and includes local, regional, and international perspectives on recent events. This year, we celebrated our 50,000th new story shared in our email newsletter.

#### APP & TAKE FIVE

The Arctic This Week App, created by team members Lee Williamson and Romain Chuffart, continues to expand our reach by delivering the latest news and analysis to subscriber's smartphones at the start of the week. And on Friday, the Institute's news roundup gives readers everything they need to know about what's happening in the Arctic. Short in length but big on insight, from politics and culture to the environment and security, Take Five's writers, Karen Marie Oseland and Liubov Timonina, look beneath the headlines to see what's really going on. The quick and fun redux breaks down the five biggest circumpolar stories with fresh editorial analysis to catch readers up on the region in under five minutes.

WHAT WE SHARE /

## MEDIA

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Being a 21st century think tank requires our team to meet our global audiences where they are – whether that be in professional Linkedin groups or in Instagram stories. Led by Senior Fellow Ragnhild Groenning and Social Media Manager Lillian Hussong, we are making the Institute's team more accessible to audiences through sharing the photos, questions, and stories that drive our work. In 2019, we grew out Twitter outreach to over sixteen thousand followers, and our Facebook page to nearly four thousand subscribers, but our goal is an evolving ambition: to fully engage Arctic decisionmakers, knowledge holders, and lifelong learners with what we share.

As the Arctic Council Chairmanship passed from Finland to Iceland in 2019, The Arctic Institute partnered with both countrys' Senior Arctic Officials and Ambassadors to share their thoughts on the future of the Arctic on social media. From Finland's Ambassador to the US to the Senior Arctic Official Chair, government representatives shared their hopes and advice for a successful transition.

#### MEDIA APPEARANCES

From news that U.S. President Donald Trump was considering the purchase of Greenland to a tumulus Arctic Council meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland, 2019 was a year full of extraordinary headlines. At every event, the Arctic Institute's Fellows and Associates were at the ready to provide on-air expert opinions and analysis. Managing Director Dr. Victoria Herrmann appeared on NPR, the BBC, and ABC news to discuss climate change impacts in the Arctic, while Founder and Senior Fellow Malte Humpert was interviewed by Der Spiegel, the Washington Post, and The Atlantic on Arctic shipping. In Europe, Senior Fellow Dr. Marc Jacobsen commented on President Trump's Greenland interests in France's Le Monde, Norway's Aftenpolen, and Denmark's Politiken.





WHAT WE BUILD/

## **NETWORKS**

Across Europe and North America, The Arctic Institute convened hundreds of Arctic scholars, knowledge holders, and decision makers to foster cooperation and coordination within the research community to build cross-sectoral and international projects.

#### **NETWORK NORTH**

Across the Arctic region, young professionals are championing a just, secure, and sustainable Arctic through their work in research, policy, science, advocacy, and security. The Arctic Institute created the Network North event series to connect these young leaders through meetups across to share ideas, collaborations, and interests. In 2019, The Arctic Institute hosted Network North events in Washington, DC; Berkley, California; Oslo, Norway; and Brussels, Belgium. In bars, on university campuses, and over meals, we gather Arctic friends old and new to meet others working in the field and informally present opportunities to further pursue their interests through fellowships, job opportunities, internships, and volunteering.

#### SVALBARD ALUMNI NETWORK \_

Each year, over one thousand researchers from approximately 30 nations participate in research studies, projects, and monitoring programs in Svalbard. The vast majority of these students and research professionals only spend a finite time conducting activities in Svalbard and engaging on-the-ground with the Svalbard research community before returning to their home countries and institutions. Current programs on research cooperation and coordination are targeted at those individuals currently working in Svalbard, failing to engage the thousands of alumni of university programs, research stations, and short-term summer schools. This narrow focus misses an opportunity to foster data sharing, facilitation proactive planning of collaborations, and increase coordination of integrative research teams and grant applications for secondary and tertiary Svalbard-based projects for both STEM and social scientists.

In 2019, The Arctic Institute created the first-ever Svalbard alumni network focused on early career scholars, with an emphasis on bridging the chasm between social and natural scientists. We kicked off this network with a workshop in Oslo to identify, define, and develop a network of Svalbard-related young scholars, and are excited to grow the network in 2020.

WHAT WE BUILD /

## KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge is power. That's why Institute members made more than 75 public presentations in 2019 to share their research and ideas on Arctic policy.

#### **EMERGING LEADERS IN A NEW ARCTIC**

In summer 2019, The Arctic Institute led an Emerging Leaders Panel at the A New Arctic: 8th Symposium on the Impacts of an Ice-Diminishing Arctic on Naval and Maritime Operations. The panel featured a moderated discussion on how inclusivity, equity, and multidisciplinary initiatives can drive solutions to the challenges born from an ice-diminishing Arctic. Panelists discussed barriers to, benefits of, and opportunities for multi-generational collaborations between established and emerging Arctic leaders in naval and maritime operations, search and rescue, and research across the region. The discussion concluded with considerations for how to better incorporate these principles for better outcomes as a changing of the scholarly guard takes place from one generation to the next in a time of rapid change.

#### SHARING STORIES AT ARCTIC CIRCLE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Good stories are powerful. The narratives that stories tell build and legitimize a specific vision or voice just as they silence and marginalize others. They delineate a particular cast of characters, frame which issues are perceived as problems, and suggest a range of options for dealing with these challenges. The Arctic Institute gathered story-tellers and researchers to cast light on the stories we tell about the Arctic. Which stories get told and why? Who is narrating them? What perspectives are missing from these narratives? And, ultimately, what are the implications? To engage with these questions, Senior Fellow Greg Sharp brought together a diverse array of up-and-coming scholars to wrestle with one of the many stories we tell about the Arctic in varied mediums, using images, words, video, sound, and news media assets





#### WHAT WE DO /

## INFORM POLICY

Urbanization, globalization, security threats, and the impacts of climate change are activating simultaneous policy challenges across the Arctic region in new and unpredictable ways. While The Arctic Institute's research and events help inform policy through open access to intellectual debate, our team also engages in more formal policy dialogue nationally and regionally.

In 2019, Research Associate Pavel Devyatkin contributed a chapter on Russia's interests and recent activities in the Arctic, and how they have been focused on multilateral cooperation and securing access for northern shipping routes and energy extraction, to a U.S. Department of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategic Multilayer Assessment white paper. And to better inform Arctic legislative decision making,

Managing Director Dr. Herrmann joined a U.S. Senate roundtable in the spring to consider the United States' overall role in the Arctic from a domestic perspective, including natural resource development and environmental stewardship. In fall, Dr. Herrmann provided testimony before the Subcommittee of Transportation & Maritime Security of the Committee on Homeland Security in the U.S. House of Representatives on homeland security priorities in the Arctic.

In Europe, Senior Fellow Dr. Marc Jacobsen began his engagement with the Kingdom of Denmark to revise and expand their national Arctic strategy, which will be published in 2021, while Senior Fellow Dr. Kathrin Stephen continued her work as part of the German observer delegation to the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council.







## WHAT WE DO! RESEARCH

#### YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Since 2007, the High North Dialogue conference series has brought together emerging and established Arctic leaders to Bodø, Norway to discuss the dimensions of the changes taking place in the Arctic. In 2019, The Arctic Institute helped bring hundreds of students, diplomats, and business professionals to the High North again to learn from and debate with different perspectives on the future of the Arctic. In 2019, we awarded 50 000 NOK to Piper Foster Wilder and her startup, 60Hertz, in our High North Young Entrepreneur competition. Three start-ups had an opportunity to pitch their business ideas to 350 conference participants and compete for the main prize. 60Hertz offers software for managing, maintenance and operations of microgrid power networks in remote areas.

#### **EQUITABLE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS: ARCTIC 3.0**

Data-driven governance and fiber optic cables are making their way north. Through collaborative research, the Arctic Institute's team is investigating what these new technologies mean for Arctic cities, surrounding settlements, and international connectivity? Through a partnership with J. Lindeberg, The Arctic Institute spent 2019 investigating pathways to equitable technology access by and for the Arctic. A key factor for the expanding global economic connectivity is its underlying digital infrastructure. The Arctic's location at the top of the world gives the region both a climatic and geographical competitive advantage in this new era of digital connectivity, with less energy needed to cool down data centers. Fiber optic cable projects are currently underway to better connect North America, Europe, and Asia, aiming to use the Arctic Ocean as a profitable shortcut.. Arctic 3.0 explores how digital connectivity could offer the possibility for Arctic entrepreneurship and related start-ups to displace incumbent companies and have an impact beyond the regional sphere.

#### THE ARCTIC OCEAN AS OUR BLUEPRINT \_ \_ \_ \_

If we want to understand how best to facilitate sustainable management of marine resources, we need to understand both the dynamics of disputes over these resources, and how marine resource governance regimes are adapting to manage these disputes. Through interdisciplinary studies connecting resources and issues prominent in the Arctic to governance mechanisms and developments taking place globally, the Arctic Institute is understanding of sustainable ocean resource management and the global processes shaping it. Our ongoing work with the High North Center's AlaskaNor project aims to accomplish this by improving and sharing new research on the blue economy in Alaska and North Norway.

#### **SMART CITIES**

Globally, the smart city concept has been developed as a method to portray cities as attractive places for working and living, promising better life quality through the smart management of city assets and the use of modern technology. In the Arctic, smart cities can be a crucial step towards a sustainable future, contributing to 'smarter' economic, social, and environmental development. The Arctic Institute's team is on the cutting edge of circumpolar smart city research. In 2019, Senior Fellows Dr. Andreas Raspotnik, Ragnhild Grønning, and Dr. Victoria Hermann published their research on creating a smart city metric for the Arctic using Anchorage (United States), Bodø (Norway) and Oulu (Finland) as case studies in Polar Geography.



#### WHO WE ARE /

## **PEOPLE**

The Arctic Institute is led by President and Managing Director Dr. Victoria Herrmann. To ensure transparency and organization-wide consensus, senior management collaborates with a four-person Leadership Team of Senior Fellows. Together with the Board of Directors and distinguished Board of Advisers, they guide the Institute's research agenda and foster an environment where innovation, diversity of thought, and multidisciplinarity thrive.

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Lee Williamson

Research Intern

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**Rylin McGee**Research Intern

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**Eiterjord** 

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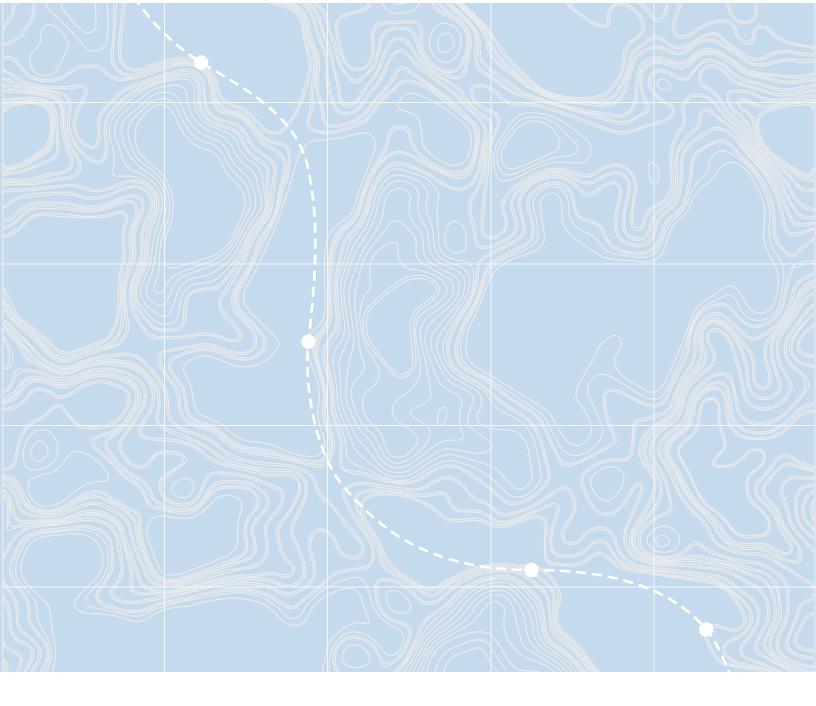
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