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Social Facts Newsletter

University of Maine Department of Sociology

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DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY

Our Department

Faculty

- Amy Blackstone, Chair
Associate Professor
- Steven Barkan
Professor
- Steve Cohn
Professor
- Kim Huisman
Associate Professor
- Ann Leffler
Presidential Professor
- Kyriacos Markides
Professor

Adjunct Instructors

- Diane Belanger
- Patrick Downey
- Glenn Eichel
- Mary Okin

Staff

- Laurie Cartier
Administrative Specialist

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Social Facts

Newsletter of the University of Maine
Department of Sociology

Spring 2014

From the Chair

A hearty hello from UMaine Sociology! In addition to our usual slate of wonderful student and faculty projects, the past year has been a time of reflection and planning in the department. We underwent an external program review which gave us the chance



to think about our many strengths as well as opportunities for growth as we continue to meet the needs of students and our community in this increasingly complex world.

As a result of feedback from our students and alumni, we offered a pilot internship course this spring that placed several of our majors in exciting positions throughout the community. The students share more about

their experiences in the following pages. We also learned from several guest speakers about ways to continue to build our emphasis on community engagement and public sociology.

Please enjoy our news from the 2013-14 year. I invite you to keep in touch with us through our department's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/UMaineSociology?fref=ts) and webpage (umaine.edu/sociology/). Of course, we'd also love to hear from you in person. Do please drop in to Fernald Hall if you find yourself on campus!

-Amy Blackstone, Department Chair

Student Highlights—Internships!

Linda Fogg

My internship was with the Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast (RJP), a 501 (c)3 non-profit court diversion and intervention program in Belfast, Maine. RJP focuses on mentoring recently released or soon to be released adult offenders and providing community resolution conferencing. Although their primary focus is on juvenile offenders, the process of a community resolution conference can be used with any situation and any age group. A community resolution conference takes place in a circle with the offender, their family and any support persons they want to have, the person(s) directly affected and members of the community. Additionally there are two facilitators who are there strictly to keep the conversation respectful

and moving forward and a mentor for the offender provided by RJP. All offenders who go through RJP have a mentor that they meet with at least once a week for an hour to help them complete their repair agreement tasks; tasks that are brainstormed by the circle in order to repair the harm committed. Following completion of the repair agreement, the juvenile is sent back to the Juvenile Community Corrections Officer (JCCO) in charge of their case and the court system lessens or eliminates the charges against them.



Sarah Mattox, Director, & Linda Fogg at the RJP office

(Continued on page 5)

Faculty News

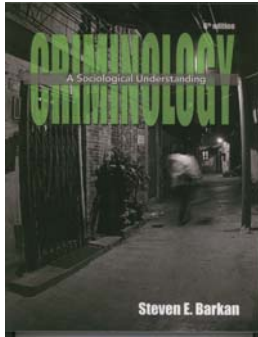
Steve Barkan

Books

Steven E. Barkan. Under contract. *Health, Medicine, and Society: An Introduction to Medical Sociology.* Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Steven E. Barkan. 2015. *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*, 6e. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Steven E. Barkan and George J. Bryjak. 2014. *Myths and Realities of Crime and Justice: What Every American Should Know*, 2e. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett.



Anthology Articles

Steven E. Barkan. 2014. "Sociology for Whom? Why Sociology Textbooks Do a Diservice." Pp. 207-213 in A. Javier Treviño and Karen M. McCormack (eds.), *Service Sociology and Academic Engagement in Social Problems.* Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing.

Encyclopedia Articles

Steven E. Barkan and **Steven F. Cohn.** 2013. "Recruitment." In David A. Snow, Donatella della Porta, Bert Klandermans, and Doug McAdam (eds.), *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social and Political Movements.* Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

Journal Articles

Steven E. Barkan, Michael Rocque '05*, and **Jason N. Houle '05***. 2013. "State and Regional Suicide Rates: A New Look at an Old Puzzle." *Sociological Perspectives* 56:287-297.

Amy Blackstone

Blackstone, Amy and **Amy Greenleaf '13***. Forthcoming. "Childfree Families." In *Families as They Really Are, 2nd edition*, edited by Barbara Risman and Virginia Rutter. New York: Norton.

Blackstone, Amy, Jason Houle '05*, and Christopher Uggan. Forthcoming. "I didn't recognize it as a bad experience until I was much older": Age, Experience, and Workers' Perceptions of Sexual Harassment." *Sociological Spectrum*.

Gardner, Susan K. and **Amy Blackstone.** Forthcoming. "Confronting Faculty Incivility and Mobbing: An Organizational Culture Perspective,"

in *Disrupting the Culture of Silence: Women Navigating Hostility and Making Change in the Academy*, edited by Kris De Welde and Andi Stepnick. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.

Gardner, Susan, **Amy Blackstone**, Shannon McCoy, Daniela Veliz*, and Ellen Newell*. 2/11/2014 2 Forthcoming. "The Effect of State Budget Cuts on the Department Climate." *Academe*.

Blackstone, Amy. 2014. "Doing Family without Having Kids." *Sociology Compass* 8: 52-62.

Silka, Linda, Robert Glover, Karen Hutchins*, Laura Lindenfeld, **Amy Blackstone**, Catherine Elliott, Melissa Ladenheim, and Claire Sullivan. 2013. "Moving Beyond the Single Discipline: Building a Scholarship of Engagement that Permeates Higher Education." *Tamara – Journal of Critical Organization Inquiry* 11: 41-52.

Professor Blackstone was interviewed on the Katie Couric Show Sept 16, 2013.

For the link to this interview and many more visit our website www.umaine.edu/sociology

Media coverage

- Reproductive Left podcast interview on childfree choice, March 11, 2014
- "Baby? Maybe?" Two part special report on CBS WABI-5 Bangor, February 24, 2014
- "More Couples Choose Life Without Kids," CBS WGME-13 Portland, February 20, 2014
- "The Ticking Clock: What's True (and False) About Female Fertility," *Dame magazine*, October 21, 2013
- "Setting the Record Straight on 6 Myths about Childless Adults," *Bangor Daily News*, September 17, 2013
- "Child Free By Choice," interviewed for story on *Katie*, hosted by Katie Couric, September 16, 2013
- "Has feminism become uncool?" *The Loop*, September 6, 2013
- "Living near family low on home search wish lists, poll finds," *TODAY Moms*, August 29, 2013
- "Living Without" *Crosscurrents*, San Francisco Public Radio, August 14, 2013, childfree adults
- "Fur Babies – An Alternative to Having Kids?" *The 'How-to' Dog Blog*, August 6, 2013

Faculty News

- “Studies show more people choosing to start families – without kids,” WLBZ 2 NBC Bangor, August 1, 2013

Presentations:

October 2013, *Mobilization in Response to Harassment: Lessons from One University Setting*, Amy Blackstone and Susan Gardner, National Social Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

Kim Huisman

Publications:

Huisman, Kimberly A. and Elizabeth Joy. '13* (2015, forthcoming). The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood Revisited: Continuities and Changes. In *Intensive Mothering: The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood*, edited by Linda Ennis. Toronto, Canada: Demeter Press.

Presentations:

- “Examining the Challenges, Successes, and Outcomes of the Mother-Daughter Project.” Making Mother Visible: (Re)Writing the Narrative of Contemporary Mothers.” Museum of Motherhood. New York City. March 7, 2014.
- “The Maine Mother Daughter Project: Using Public Sociology to Foster Dialogue and Community Engagement in Maine Communities.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. March 21-24, 2013.

Honors:

Named a Research Faculty Fellow for the Center for Undergraduate Research.

Training:

Held a Maine Mother-Daughter Project conference and training at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, Nov 1-2, 2013.

Ann Leffler

Refereed Syllabi

Leffler, Ann, “Wealth, Poverty, and Power,” *Trails*. Washington, D.C.: American Sociological Association, 2013

Refereed Articles

Leffler, Ann, Dair L. Gillespie, and Elinor Lerner, “When worlds collide: identity and money in the leisure hobby of serious dogs,” under ‘revise and resubmit’

* UMaine Students and Alumni

Kyriacos Markides

Research and Publications

“**Inner River: A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Christian Spirituality.**” *Watkins Mind Body Spirit* (London based International Magazine, November 2013) Vol. 36. Pp. 18-19.

Polish Publication--Translation: His article “Eastern Orthodox Mysticism and Transpersonal Theory” *Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, V. 40 No. 2 2008 pp. 178-198, was translated and published in Polish journal *Medytacja*, Winter 2014.

New edition of article with Steven Cohn. *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*, “Religion and Spiritual Experience: Revisiting Key Assumptions in Sociology (forthcoming).

Book Review (forthcoming) *The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*. Jonathan Sacks, *The Great Partnership: Science, Religion, and the Search for Meaning*. New York: Chocken Books 2011.

Lectures/Workshops (Maine/National/International)

- Maine Holistic Center (Bangor) Opening Keynote Speaker September 28, 2013.
- Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels, Stamford, CT. November 3, 2013.
- Greek Orthodox community, Lancaster, PA December 6-7 2013.
- Sivananda Yoga Center, Paradise Island, Bahamas (a series of four lectures) December 24, 2013-January 3 2014.
- Princeton New Jersey, Eastern Orthodox Community, March 29, 2014.
- St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Schenectady (Albany) New York. Lecture/workshop April 25-27, 2014.

Other Professional Activities/Media Presentations

- Appeared on national public television in Cyprus for a 90-minute exclusive interview in program “*Elita*” July 2, 2013.
- Extended interview article about his work in *Phileleftheros* Greek Cypriot Daily, by Antigone Drousiotou. October 8, 2013.

Congratulations to Professor Steve Barkan on 35 years in the Sociology Department at UMaine!

Student News - Focusing on Internships!

Internships - Tri-County Technical Center Elleena Petersen and Mark Tudor



Hiking at Moxie Falls from left: Elleena Petersen, TCTC Pre-Tech Instructor Steffan Duplessis, Mark Tudor, and Gemma Douglas, exchange student from England.

My internship at TCTC has allowed me to gain a better understanding of how a high school can help “at risk” student’s graduate. At TCTC I primarily worked in the pre-tech program helping out “at risk” students with day to day classroom activities. Working with at risk students creates a number of challenges. The students require constant encouragement, building trusting student-teacher relationships, and a lot of patience. Working with them has allowed me to improve my ability to work effectively with students as well as other staff co-workers.

My duties at TCTC also extend outside the classroom. I’m invited to attend weekly staff meetings as well as smaller meetings with parents or other staff members. I’m consistently asked for my opinion about school programs and I’m responsible for writing an end of the year paper about the pros and cons of the pre-tech program that will be reviewed by the schools administration. I’ve also been given the responsibility of organizing a school fieldtrip to a job fair hosted by EMCC.

My internship was both educational and fun. I enjoyed working with the staff that are always passionate and positive about their work and the experience that I’m gaining is invaluable if I ever want to pursue a career in this field.

-Mark Tudor, Sociology Major ‘14

This semester, starting in January I began my first ever internship at a technical center for high school students in Dexter Maine. Tri-County Technical Center is a technical center that offers multiple programs in technical and trade jobs. TCTC is a great place that takes in kids at risk of dropping out of school, as well as kids who are highly interested in learning a trade. I worked primarily in the pre-tech

program where the students were introduced to how to properly use tool and how to create alternative energy options. I primarily worked with the kids one on one helping with quizzes and assignments while also working in the lab with kids. One of my biggest projects was organizing a field trip for the kids to attend EPIC Maine, a local job fair held in Bangor. EPIC Maine is a annual event EMMCC puts on where high school kids can go to talk to counselors about higher education options and kids can talk one on one to professionals in their desired job fields. I chose this internship because I really like working with teenagers, and the kids at this school really loved what they were doing. I gained a ton from the experience! I really learned how to connect to kids and help them with their personal and educational needs, and I also think I helped some of the kids think about college or furthering their education, something most of these kids hadn’t considered. I’m graduating in May and I plan to continue working with kids.

-Elleena Petersen, Sociology Major ‘14

Josh Morse

My internship was with Jenn Hooper, a UMaine graduate student who is working to start her own non-profit called Spark. The mission of this organization is “to be a catalyst for community engagement by prompting conversation, stimulating community vibrancy, and helping others move forward with their own ideas.” Though the organization is in its natal stages, it is already progressing towards its goal of community vibrancy.

My work for Spark was primarily research, with some administrative and operational tasks. I focused my efforts on helping Spark become a recognized non-profit and to accomplish its goals. This was done through researching non-profits as well as similar events and efforts done by other organizations and what we needed to do for our own events and efforts.

When I joined the organization as an intern, the organization needed the IRS’s 501(c)3 non-profit recognition for tax-exemption purposes. One of my first projects was to figure out all of the steps needed to complete in order to gain that status from the IRS. I then set up a plan with definitive steps on how to reach that goal.

From here, we moved on to more creative projects. I worked to prepare for a future festival for which we used the working title “Sparkfest.” It is hoped this

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Student News

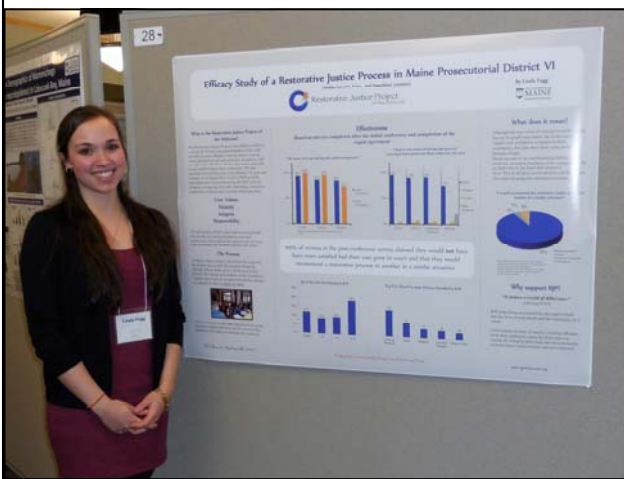
(Continued from page 1)

Aside from being involved in the everyday activities of RJP and serving as a conference facilitator, I had the opportunity to present research and data on the restorative process at the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) Academic Showcase in April. The CUGR showcase is a great experience because you have the chance to show the academic community, and anyone else who shows up, what research you've done and you have the chance to see what other students in different disciplines have been doing. Participating in the showcase and speaking about RJP and their research has also provided me with a an opportunity to practice for presenting at the ASA Honors Program, held in San Francisco this August. I will be traveling there with



Students from the Sociology Club planting flowers and cleaning up around Fernald Hall on Maine Day 2014.

Linda Fogg at the 2014 CUGR Showcase



two other undergraduate sociology majors. At the program we will have to speak about research we have done to a small group of other students. It is invaluable to get the practice for this that I did by participating in the CUGR showcase.

Overall, I don't think anything has impacted me quite as much as this internship. I chose it because I have always been interested in the penal system and in juvenile crimes. However, I had never heard much about restorative practices. What I know now, seeing the differences it can make in people's lives and how beneficial it is to the community as a whole, has changed my life. I cannot imagine myself after graduation working at a 9-5 job behind a desk. I crave being out in the community and helping others and RJP has given me a fantastic outlet.

-Linda Fogg, Sociology Major '14

(Morse Continued from page 4)

festival will be similar to Waterfire in Providence, RI. The focus would be around the river canal area in downtown Bangor with live music and floating fire pits nested in the canal. To assist with this project, I did research on the Waterfire events held in Providence and Sharon, PA in order to assess the needs of our festival and what situations may arise. I also researched the festivals happening within the Bangor area to ensure that "Sparkfest" was a novel idea and would fit within the culture of events that Bangor has to offer. On top of this, I did research into potential budgeting and expected attendance, as well as helped Jenn brainstorm different ideas to incorporate into the festival.

I ended the semester by getting other people involved in the organization. We spent our last meeting detailing two plans for the next steps organizationally: one involving a board of directors, board of advisors, and groups of volunteers dedicated to a plethora of projects and the other placed Spark under the umbrella of the Downtown Bangor Arts Collaborative.

Spark, due to its localized, grassroots nature, has a good chance for success. She'll need to stir interest within the Bangor and surrounding communities to gain that support, but with her vision, simple publicity should raise that support. For more information on Spark, visit their facebook page Spark Bangor.

-Josh Morse, Political Science Major, Sociology Minor '14



Sociology Student Award Winners

Sociology Department Awards

Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize:
Shannon Brenner

Top Graduating Seniors:
Shannon Brenner and Linda Fogg

Service Excellence Award:
Linda Fogg, Elleena Petersen and Emily Puleio

Outstanding Visiting Student Award:
Charlotte L. Woodthorpe.

Charlotte spent this year as an exchange student visiting from England. All but one of the courses she took at UMaine were sociology courses which she will use toward her sociology degree at the University of Lancaster in England.

The Kornetsky Prize

The Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize Fund was established in the University of Maine Foundation in 2008 for the benefit of the University of Maine, Orono, Maine, with a gift from Conan Kornetsky, Ph.D., a member of the Class of 1948 and their two children, David and Lisa, in loving memory of his wife of 58 years, Marcia Smargon Kornetsky, who was also a member of the Class of 1948. Mrs. Kornetsky graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in sociology. She subsequently was awarded a MSSW from the Boston University School of Social Work and enjoyed a rewarding career in social work with a special emphasis on children. She was a second generation student at the University of Maine. Her father, Isaac Smargonsky, was a 1919 graduate of the University. The 2014 recipient of the Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize is **Shannon Brenner**

Phi Beta Kappa

2014 Recipients of Phi Beta Kappa: **Shannon Brenner, Linda Fogg** and **Benjamin Hanson**.

**Congratulations
to all our graduates!**

AKD—The Sociology Honor Society

This year the AKD members who were inducted as juniors last year were active in revitalizing the sociology club as a wonderful resource for all sociology majors and minors. The UMaine Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, Alpha of Maine, is proud to announce that the following graduating seniors have met the criteria of a minimum 3.5 grade point average in sociology and a minimum 3.3 grade point average overall: Seniors: **Meghan Blackford, Rowena Clukey, Abigail Elwell, Ashara Slagger**, and Juniors: **Chelsea Hickey, Abigail Linn, and Michael Lucas**.

American Sociological Association

Four of our top students were awarded the American Sociological Association (ASA) Department Prize: **Shannon Brenner '14, Abigail Elwell '14, Linda Fogg '14** and **Abigail Linn '15**. Each student receives a membership in ASA and accompanying journals.

Linda Fogg and **Abigail Linn** have accepted their nomination to participate in the ASA Honors Program and will be attending the ASA annual conference in San Francisco in August 2014.

Dean's Lists

Spring 2013

Colin Audette
Meghan Blackford
Ashlyn Boyle
Shannon Brenner
Mark Brunton
Brittney Chase
Brandon Davis
Linda Fogg
Nicole Golden
Benjamin Hanson
Mary Hunt
Elizabeth Joy
Carmen Linden
Abigail Linn
Kathryn Eaton
Autumn Murtagh
Elleena Petersen
Kimberly Samuels

Fall 2013

Shannon Brenner
Mark Brunton
Brittney Chase
Carly Cosgrove
Kendall Croteau
Abigail Elwell
Mikaela Gustafsson
Benjamin Hanson
Chelsea Hickey
Mary Hunt
Abigail Linn
Michael Lucas
Sarah Mullis
Marley Rosen
Allison Thompson
Autumn Murtagh
Brian Woodbury

Alumni and Sociology Club News

The Sociology Club

This year the Sociology Club was reactivated by the AKD members. Emily Puleio served as president. Ben Hanson Vice president. Mark Brunton was treasurer, until end of the first semester then Lana McHugh became treasurer for the remainder of the year. Over the year Molly Hunt and Linda Fogg shared duties secretary.

The club held several movie nights, showing films of interest and then discussing the various sociological messages and themes throughout the movie.

A panel of UMaine Soc graduates was put together in April to talk to the current undergrads about why they chose sociology, and how it has helped them in the careers they have pursued. Participants included Muna Abdullahi '11, Carmen Linden '13, and Michael Rocque '05.

For their last major event, the club participated in Maine Day. Club members raked, planted flowers, and cleaned up the front and side of Fernald Hall.

-Emily Puleio, Sociology Club President



Sociology Club members on Maine Day 2014

Officers included are: Lana McHugh, treasurer (2nd from left); Emily Puleio, president (3rd from left); Ben Hanson, vice president (3rd from right); Linda Fogg, secretary (2nd from right); and Ellee Petersen.

Alumni News

- **Michael Rocque '05** has accepted a faculty position at Bates College in Lewiston ME. He will start there in Fall 2014.
- In November 2013, **Michael Rocque '05** then Director of Research for the Maine Department of Corrections, heard from **Jason Houle '05**, assistant professor at Dartmouth, that one of Houle's students referenced a paper written by Rocque for a paper in his class. Houle comments "It's a small world when students are being taught by a UMaine-trained sociologist while (independently) presenting on the work of another UMaine-trained sociologist."
- **Dawn Norris' '05** article *Beat the Bourgeoisie: A Social Class Inequality and Mobility Simulation Game Teaching Sociology* was published in the American Sociological Association's *Teaching Sociology* journal.

As always, we encourage our alumni to let us know what you are doing! You can contact the department directly or use the form on our website at www.umaine.edu/sociology/alumni.

Let us hear from you!

We extend deep appreciation to the family of **Herbert Maccoby**, chair of the UMaine sociology department from 1971 to 1985, who has established the **Herbert Maccoby Sociology Fund**.

The purpose of this fund is to provide financial assistance to students majoring in sociology and planning a career in sociology. It will enable recipients to engage in professional sociology activities such as attending the American Sociology Association annual meeting or the Eastern Sociological Society's annual meeting to present their research project. Recipients will be announced on our website and in the annual newsletter.



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**Sociology
Department**

Social Facts: The Newsletter of the Department of Sociology

Graduation 2014



Attending the 2014 Graduate and Award Breakfast: (L to R): Valerie Greene (Noyes) '14, Chelsey Hickey '15, Benjamin Hanson '14, Linda Fogg '14, Shannon Brenner '14, Chair Amy Blackstone, Emily Puleio '14, Elleena Petersen '14, Hilary Provencher '14, Meghan Blackford '14.



Insert: Painting by Emily Puleio, double major in Art, presented to the sociology department for the Class of 2014.

2014 Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Prize Winner—Shannon Brenner!

I will be graduating this spring with a degree in Sociology and a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. I will be defending my honors thesis, *Bridging Gaps, Building Solidarity: The potential of social relationships to build community around local food systems in late May*. At the University of Maine I have been active in the Maine Peace Action Committee, the Black Bear Mentors program, and served as the co-chair of the Student Women's Association. Additionally, I've enjoyed volunteering with community organizations such as Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, and Food and Medicine.



Shannon Brenner '14 receiving the Hands of Peace award Oct 2013.

Following my newly developed passion for local food, I will be working on an organic vegetable farm this upcoming season while taking a year off before pursuing graduate studies. I am still exploring my options but am looking at schools that offer food systems and related programs as I hope to work towards building just, sustainable, and community centered food systems in the future. I am extremely proud to be a graduate of this sociology department and would like to thank all of the amazing faculty and staff who have helped to shape not only my academic experience, but my sociological world view that fuels my desire to effect change in our communities.

- Shannon Brenner '14

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