



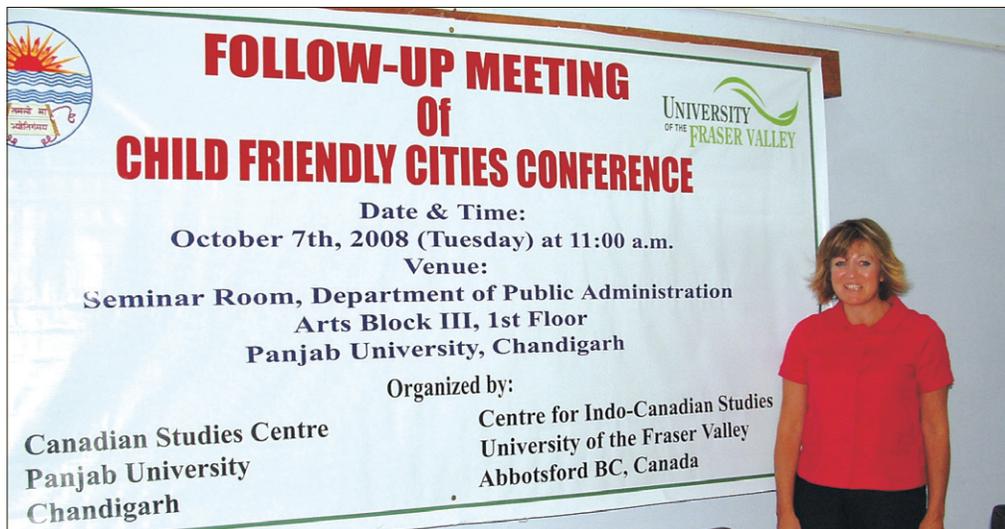
CICS REPORT

A newsletter from the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley

Child Friendly follow-up forum in Chandigarh

Prof. Cherie Enns, department of geography, together with the Canadian Studies Centre in collaboration with the department of public administration at Panjab University (P.U.), organized a forum on child-friendly cities at Panjab University on October 7, 2008.

The forum was organized as a follow-up of the international conference on child-friendly cities that was held at P.U. in February 2008. Thirty advocates for children’s spaces and city planning came together to provide input into future initiatives. Addressing the meeting, Canadian Studies Centre coordinator and dean of the Faculty of Arts, Panjab University, Prof B.S. Ghuman added, “India houses the largest number of children in the world and therefore recognition of children as equal citizens is extremely important from a public policy perspective in India.” Prof. Enns, who is a child-friendly cities expert from UFV, shared the outcomes of the workshops held in Chandigarh in which students attached highest value to religious symbols, green spaces/nature, transportation, play, and houses. Enns illustrated successful child-friendly examples around the world, such as having a child-friendly legal framework and children’s budget for cities, noting that local communities played a pivotal role and encouraging the residents of the city to take charge of child-friendly projects. Baldeep Toor, a student intern from UFV who worked on the logistics and planning of the follow-up forum, said there is a dire need to initiate projects that provide a platform for children to exhibit their creative activities.



Cherie Enns in Chandigarh

Upcoming events and visiting scholars:

- Gup Shup afternoons** – every second Friday at U-House
- Visiting Scholar** – Anjali Banerjee
Feb 24, 2009
- Panel Discussion** – by RBC, KPMG and the BC Regional Innovation Chair on the global financial crisis and its impact on opportunities in India – Date TBA Late Feb/ Early March
- Ehsaas Film Festival**
– March 12, 19, 26, 2009
- Writer-in-Residence** – Jaspreet Singh
Feb-April 2009
- “Youth Teaching Youth” program**
– in partnership with Mission Community Services Society – February 2009
- Visiting Scholar, Psychology department**
– Dr. Harinder M. Sandhu, April 2009
- Symposium on Cross-border Governance and Citizenship** – John Belec, June 2009

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UFV Delegation Visits India – Signs MOU with Mumbai University



\$20,000 cheque presentation from UFV to Mumbai University. Left to right: Dr Nilufer Bharucha, English department head, Dr.P.K.Venkataramani, Registrar of the university; Dr V.N Magare, Director of the Board of College and University Development, Dr. Sawant, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai; Dr. Dianne Common, Vice-President Academic & Provost, UFV; Satwinder Bains, Director of the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at UFV; Yvon Dandurand, Associate Vice President Research and Graduate Studies at UFV.

Dr. Dianne Common, Vice-President Academic & Provost; Yvon Dandurand, Associate Vice President Research and Graduate Studies; and Satwinder Bains, Director of the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies were in India from July 11 – 21, 2008 and met with various UFV partners. The UFV delegation met with Dr. A.D. Sawant, Pro-Vice Chancellor University

of Mumbai; Dr V.N Magare, Director of the Board of College and University Development; Dr. P.K.Venkataramani, Registrar of the University; and Dr Nilufer Bharucha at the university’s administration offices in their heritage building in the heart of Mumbai to sign the official MOU.

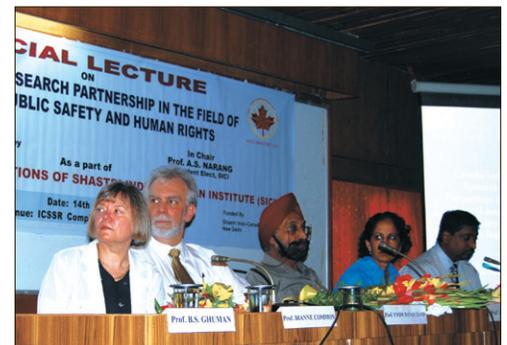
The UFV delegation presented a \$20,000 cheque to develop co-operation between the two institutions and their Centres. The focus will be on joint academic activities, student and faculty exchanges and research collaborations. The delegation traveled next to Chandigarh, where they formally welcomed the third batch of new students to the UFV community and Dr. Common personally congratulated each of the seven second- and third-year students who made

the Dean’s list. Yvon Dandurand made a presentation at Panjab University on potential partnerships between India and Canada on the issues of public safety and crime prevention. Dr. Amarjit Singh Narang, President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute moderated the presentation that was hosted by Dr B.S. Ghuman as part of the Canadian Studies Centre at Panjab University. The presentation was very well received and much discussion ensued with participants on the potential for future collaborations.

The UFV delegation then traveled to Delhi, where they met with members of the India Council of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. The meeting discussions focused on the role of the Canadian Studies centres in India and the collaboration with Canadian universities. At the meeting, twenty-three University India members were represented. The Canadian High Commission made a presentation about their expectations and program funding opportunities in India.



Dr. Common addressing UFV Chandigarh students.



Dr. Dianne Common, Vice-President Academic & Provost; Yvon Dandurand, Associate Vice President Research and Graduate Studies; Dr Amarjit Singh Narang, President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute; Satwinder Bains, Director of the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies; DJ Sandhu, BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development.



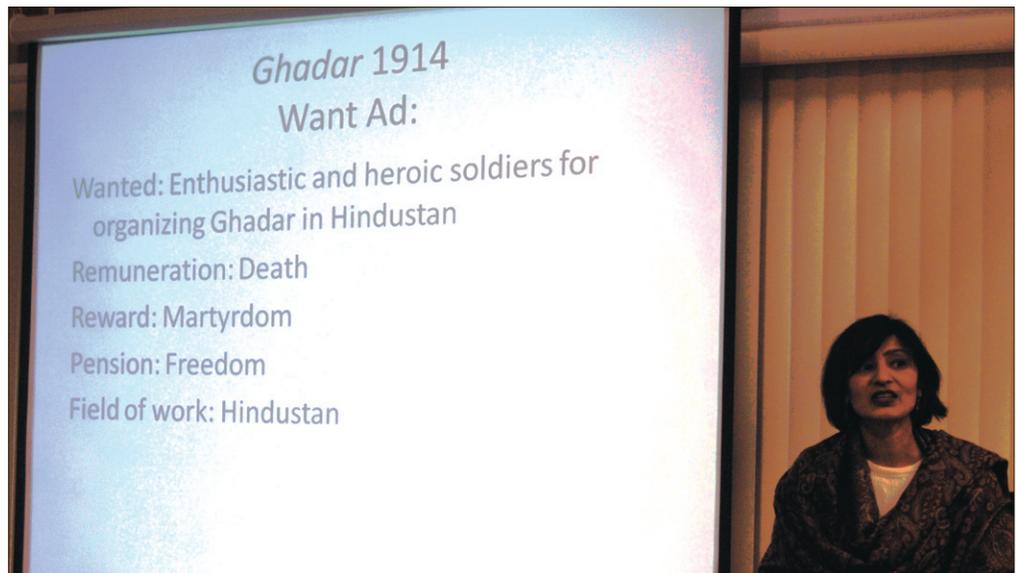


CICS marks anniversary of 'Continuous Journey' – Canada's blockage of South Asian immigrants

A dark mark on Canada's history was remembered across the lower mainland and the Fraser Valley in November 2008. On November 21, the CICS hosted an open discussion and debate to mark the 100-year anniversary of the Canadian government's move to block immigrants from South Asia into the country. UFV instructors shared insights into the Continuous Journey legislation, cross-border issues, trade issues with India and Pakistan, and working on urban planning with cities in India. Speakers included political science instructor Dr. Rita Dhamoon, Dr. John Belec and Cherie Enns from the Geography department, and UFV's director of institutional research Dr. Zareen Naqvi.

In 1908, there were nearly 5,000 South Asian immigrants living in B.C. In November of that year, the Canadian government introduced legislation to prohibit further South Asian arrivals. It was called the Continuous Journey Act: prospective immigrants would not be allowed to land in Canada unless they traveled on a continuous journey, which was impossible at that time for people from the Indian subcontinent.

In 1914, Gurdit Singh chartered the Komagata Maru and a group of 376 South Asians passengers sailed to Canada to challenge the Continuous Journey legislation. Although they were not allowed to enter Canada and were forced to return to India, they dealt a serious blow to the racist 'Keep Canada White' policies of the white settler society.



Dr. Rita Dhamoon addressing the audience.

UFV President, Dr. H.A. Bassford and BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development, DJ Sandhu attend Higher Education Conference in New Delhi

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized a Global Conference on "Higher Education at the Crossroads: Imperatives for Policy and Practice" on November 25 & 26, 2008 in New Delhi. The event was supported by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India with Canada as the partner country. Other delegations came from UK, USA,

Australia and Africa. Through this summit, the focus was to bring together educationist and policy-makers to define a road map for accelerating policy change and growth in higher education and to establish India's leadership in knowledge economy. Dr Bassford spoke at the conference, highlighting UFV initiatives in India/Canada relations.





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Faculty profile: Dr. Rita Dhamoon, Philosophy and Political Science department

Tell us a little about yourself.

My family is from Punjab, India, and carries a strong history of resisting colonialism in India. I was born in London, UK, surrounded by my immediate and extended family. I grew up in London at a time when issues of race, class, and gender politics were front and centre. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was then in the process of changing the face of working life and unions; police brutality against non-whites was a major political issue among South Asian communities; and women's organizations were challenging racism, violence, and discrimination against women. When my family moved to Canada, I chose to join them. I joined UFV in August 2008, after having the opportunity to undertake two post-doctoral fellowships – one at the University of Alberta and one at the University of Victoria. These fellowships provided the opportunity to develop my research program on issues of identity and difference politics.

How did you get interested in political science?

I developed my consciousness about political issues through my family and community. The violence facing my community was particularly relevant in prompting me to think about equality, justice, racism, and sexism. I also happened to stumble into a course on politics and government when I was sixteen. The teacher, Andy Brown, got me thinking about questions of power in ways that opened up a new world for me. After that I had the good fortune to be taught by some excellent people, including an English teacher, Dr. Chilver, who taught me the skill of analyzing texts. While doing my undergraduate degree I got involved in student union politics, and I did activist work in women's organizations and anti-

racist groups. When I moved to Canada I knew I wanted to continue my studies in the field of politics. I took some courses by Dr. Barbara Arneil in the department of Political Science at UBC, who supported my intellectual interests in politics and who has remained my mentor in the academy.

Where did you earn your degrees?

I did my BA in Politics and Social Administration at the University of Loughborough, and my MA at the University of Essex (both in the UK). I completed my Ph.D. at the Department of Political Science at UBC.

How did you zero in on your dissertation topic and how did you come to focus on South Asia?

My dissertation topic on multiculturalism, culture, identity, and difference politics was rooted in my lived experiences and those of my family. It was a way to theorize those experiences, to make sense of what was going on around me. My focus was not explicitly on South Asia, but my research has included an analysis of the relationships between non-white women, immigrants, and the Multani case (on the kirpan), as well as case studies on deaf culture, transsexuality, sexual minorities, and Aboriginal women's perspectives on anti-colonialism.

What attracted you to pursue teaching at UFV?

Teaching is an opportunity to think, share, and guide. UFV's commitment to teaching was a definite appeal, an opportunity to learn from other teachers who have thought carefully about pedagogical issues. As well, the links emphasized between teaching, research, and community at UFV were appealing. This emphasis signaled an



Rita Dhamoon

opportunity to work with local communities, including the sizable local South Asian community. I was also drawn by the Centre of Indo-Canadian Studies — its work, mandate, people, and philosophy.

How does the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies impact your research and teaching at UFV?

The Centre creates a space to talk about and research issues related to South Asians. Since I've only been at UFV a few months, my hope for the future is to connect with students through research projects and events organized by the CICS, and then link these connections back to teaching. Projects undertaken by the Centre, such as the Udaari Pioneer project, will no doubt inform the material I use for future courses and research. My current and future research plans include a study of the relationship between multiculturalism and security in the pre- and post-9/11 context. One of my case studies will be on Sikhs in Canada. The Centre provides a place to engage students and faculty in this research. I look forward to working with and contributing to the Centre work.



CICS REPORT



Dr. Panja on “Shakespeare in Bollywood Today” and “Shakespeare on the Indian Stage”



UFV student Sajal Goswami with Dr. Panja

UFV and the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies hosted a lecture on November 17 by Dr. Shormishtha Panja, Professor of English at Delhi University and President of the Shakespeare Society of India. Professor Panja’s talk focused on Vishal Bhardwaj’s adaptation of two Shakespeare plays into films. Bhardwaj, a noted Indian

director, producer, screenwriter, and composer, son of the poet and lyricist, Ram Bhardwaj, has adapted Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* into a film called *Maqbool* (2004), about gangsters involved in Bollywood film industry. He’s also made *Omkara* (2006), an adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Othello*, and he is planning a third movie in his “Shakespeare trilogy,” this one based on

Romeo and Juliet. Dr. Panja’s talk showed how Bhardwaj combines two types of Indian cinema, the realistic new wave movie and the Bollywood potboiler, to create films that have been successful both with the critics and at the box office.

Bhardwaj radically adapts the Shakespearean text for the cinematic medium, using local dialects and considerable rough language. His own original music as well as beautiful cinematography round out the films’ aesthetic palette. In *Maqbool*, he uses the discontinuous and illogical space of film to emphasize the growing disorientation of the *Macbeth* figure. In *Omkara*, the emphasis on race that is present in Shakespeare’s *Othello* gives way to tensions around caste. Dr. Panja’s talk elicited numerous questions from the audience, on topics ranging from Indian film audience expectations to comparisons between Anglo-Scottish tensions and tensions between India and Pakistan.

EHSAAS: a South Asian film festival (Fall 2008)

Presented by the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies and the UFV English department.

A Punjabi/Hindi word, “ehsaas” means “to reflect” or “to come to a realization”. This annual festival showcases a number of powerful films that emphasize social consciousness. This year, the theme of the festival was India’s 1947 Partition, in coordination with the course English 245 (Introduction to South Asian Literature: Partition Literature and Film), which was offered in the Fall 2008 semester. The films

showcased were *Khamosh Pani* (Silent Waters, 2004), directed by Sabiha Sumar; *1947 Earth* (1998), directed by Deepa Mehta; and *Partition* (2007), directed by Vic Sarin.

Each film has significant historical and current relevance, while highlighting social justice issues that were of concern during

the partitioning of India into East Pakistan, West Pakistan, and India. The goal of the festival was to raise awareness, initiate dialogue, and encourage understanding on a topic that is globally significant and yet has local relevance. Open to the public, the festival was attended by local residents of the Fraser Valley, students, and many others from the UFV community.





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RBC Royal Bank launches Business Guide on India with the BC Regional Innovation Chair at the Vancouver Board of Trade



Carol Borghesi addressing the audience.

At a lunch sponsored by RBC Royal Bank at the Vancouver Board of Trade, DJ Sandhu, BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada India Business and Economic Development, launched the Business Guide

on India with keynote speaker Ms. Carol Borghesi, customer management consultant. Borghesi shared her expertise on doing business in India, which she says is an exploding consumer market undergoing “hyper growth.” Borghesi shared what she had learned since her own “missteps” when she joined an Indian telecommunications company as director of customer service. The simple fact that poor infrastructure creates challenges has helped the mobile phone market to become the fastest-growing in the world, attracting seven to eight million new customers every month.

On arrival in India, Borghesi quickly learned that culturally, “relationship-building comes first, business afterwards.” Although most of the vast population lives in small towns and villages and is not very well off, anyone from a rickshaw carrier to a driver has a mobile phone.

She told of how infrastructure is improving and some facilities, like Mumbai airport, are fantastic. A new road is being built to connect north and south and an example

of the sudden affluence springing up in India is an area boasting 16 shopping malls all next to each other. The economy is expanding at twice the average global growth but a lesser known fact is that at least 70 per cent of the population is under the age of 35, representing “a potential customer base that is eye-wateringly large.”

By 2015, India is predicted to have the eighth biggest consumer economy in the world, ahead of Canada. Estimates of the growing middle class range from 100 million to 593 million, but it represents a huge market potential through sheer numbers.

She advised that having a business facilitator, guide, and partnerships are crucial to business success, and that anyone starting up should take their own middle-management expertise and be prepared to rethink their business model when it comes to negotiations. “This is a truly entrepreneurial country and I think it will continue to be so,” Borghesi concluded.

Senior Associates appointed to the Centre

The CICS has appointed seven faculty as senior associates for undertaking research and consultations in collaboration with the Centre in the past year. Their contributions help build the research agenda and international collaboration of the Centre.

Adrienne Chan – School of Social Work and Human Services

Cherie Enns – Geography department

DJ Sandhu – BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development

David Milobar – History department

Ding Lu – Economics department

Satwinder Bains – India-Canada Studies program

Yvon Dandurand – Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies



CICS REPORT



UFV photo exhibit chronicles Sikh pioneers in B.C.



Dr. Dianne Common, Vice-President Academic & Provost; Mr. Jack Uppal, MLA Hon. Michael de Jong; Abbotsford City Councillor Patricia Ross; MLA Dave Hayer; Mr. Bimbh Banga; Mr. Nash Gill.

The Udaari Pioneer photography exhibit ran from Oct. 24 through Oct. 31 at the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies on the UFV Abbotsford campus. The Centre has been instrumental in recording, writing, and presenting the history of Indian pioneers in British Columbia.

The exhibit kicked off with a special opening ceremony on Friday, Oct. 24. Several of the pioneer families profiled in the exhibit were in attendance and had the opportunity to talk about their family's journey, such as Nash Gill and Jack Uppal. The exhibit was part of the BC 150 celebrations.

Student researchers Bal Mandair and Karen Kang worked diligently interviewing pioneer Indo-Canadian families in order to preserve and share the stories of some of the first pioneers in Canadian society. The long-term goal of the CICS is to produce both a history book and an academic study of the first century of Indo-Canadian presence in B.C.

The CICS wanted the community to embrace this project and contribute to it by sharing what has been done so far by presenting a photo exhibit along with stories narrating those photos. The Centre encourages more families to get in touch with staff and share their stories.

Photos from several local pioneer families and individuals, including the Banga family, Dharam Singh Gill, Gurbaksh Dhaliwal, Indar Singh Gill, the Thandi family, Amrao Bains, Sohan Singh Deo, Gurbakhsh Nurang, and Jack Uppal were on display. There were also photo displays of the Komagata Maru and the Abbotsford National Heritage Temple.

The Udaari photo exhibition after a very successful displaying at the CICS moved to The Reach Museum and Cultural Centre in Abbotsford until Jan 2009. From there it went to Dasmesh Punjabi School for a one week display for students and families.

UFV India-Canada students receive boost from TD Canada Trust bursary

UFV students with an interest in India/Canada relations will soon have added assistance in meeting the cost of their education thanks to a bursary created by TD Canada Trust. The TD Canada Trust India-Canada Studies Endowment Bursary will help ensure that students who otherwise could not afford to study this discipline will have the opportunity to do so. The bank's total gift of \$50,000 will be paid out over five years, with \$1,000 available each year as a bursary and the balance set aside as an endowment fund. At the end of the five years the built up endowment will ensure an annual award in perpetuity.

"TD recognizes the importance and value of higher education," says Mauro Manzi, TD's VP of commercial banking for the Fraser Valley district. "We're pleased to support the University of the Fraser Valley in its commitment to make this program more accessible to those students who are not only interested but who may also be challenged in financing their education."

The announcement of this bursary is welcome news to those who have championed the certificate program and its students. "It's a great show of support by TD Canada Trust towards UFV students," says UFV Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies director Satwinder Bains. "Now if someone wants to follow their dream of an education in India-Canada Studies, they know there will be specific financial assistance available. This bursary will open doors for someone who would not otherwise get the chance to study in this program."

The first TD India Canada Studies Endowment Bursary will be available in May 2009.





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Raji Heer Co-Chair SAPNA Profile

I was born and raised in West Bromwich, England. During my second year at university, while undertaking an undergraduate degree in drama, my family decided to relocate across the world to be closer to family. I stayed in England to complete my degree and joined them in 2005. I worked for three years on and off in BC, unsure of what I wanted to do.

Over the course of the last three years I volunteered with many organizations and had the opportunity to meet many inspiring people. It was evident that I wanted to work with people in need as this is when I was most happy and satisfied, so I decided to enroll in the Social Services program at UFV.

While doing my full-time studies, I work part-time as a research assistant at the Centre of Indo-Canadian Studies. The South Asian community interests me because the Indo-Canadian population is still very much a new culture in Canada. It is an honour to be part of the Centre and work on projects that highlight the struggles and promote the successes of Indo-Canadians since their arrival.

As part of the work I do at the Centre, I chair the student advisory committee for the Centre and have further strengthened the South Asian Peer Network Association (SAPNA) along with other UFV students. SAPNA's purpose is to form strong ties between students and bring different



Raji Heer

cultures together through fun activities. Twice a month students are invited to Gup Shup afternoons, where we share food, thoughts, and play games.

Student Association raises funds for food bank with fun filled comedy night and celebrates Diwali on campus



UFV student Sunee Dhaliwal's live comedy performance.

The CICS Student Association — the South Asian Peer Network Association (SAPNA) — organized a comedy night at Casey's on campus on October 27 to raise money for the Abbotsford Food Bank. Sunee Dhaliwal and Ivan Decker, both students of

UFV, entertained a full house with comedy. SAPNA managed to fundraise over \$500 from ticket sales and donated the proceeds to the Abbotsford Food Bank.

SAPNA, along with the International Studies department and Student Life, sold samosas and chai to celebrate the festival of light – Diwali. With Bollywood music blaring on the green, international students from around the Abbotsford campus were able to enjoy this day, which is normally celebrated all over the Diaspora with gifts for family, lighting up of homes, streets with oil-filled lamps, home-made South Asian sweets, and fireworks. Martin Kelly, Student Life assistant, participated in this event by lighting up Diwali lanterns illuminating campus pathways.

CICS Report
The newsletter for the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies

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