



THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE

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# Annual Report 2012



# The QoG Institute

## Annual Report 2012

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# Foreword

It is a great pleasure for us to present this Annual Report for the QoG Institute that we started in 2004. As an independent research institute within the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg our aim is to promote research on the causes, consequences and nature of the Quality of Government (QoG) — that is, trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted and competent government institutions.

»As a concentrated research unit, the QoG Institute is now the largest operation in the world which focuses on this topic«

QoG research is thus focused on what many policy organizations have labeled »good governance« which is seen as central for development and the fight against poverty. As a concentrated research unit, the QoG Institute is now the largest operation in the world which focuses on this topic.

We are especially pleased that we in 2012, together with more than sixty colleagues from fifteen other European countries, have been able to launch the large ANTICORRP project. This is, to date, the largest research project on corruption which has ever been organized and we very much look forward to collaborating with our twenty-one European partners.

Much of the research that is being conducted at the institute is focused around the QoG databases that have been built up for the past 9 years. The databases contain all relevant data that exist for measuring QoG together with large sections of data that are relevant for explain-

ing the effects of variations in QoG.

In addition, the databases also contain all relevant data that we have found

which can serve to explain why different countries have different levels of QoG. Since the very start of this operation, our data has been in the public domain and we are very pleased to see that it is now used by scholars and students in many disciplines all over the world.

During 2012, we have also worked to produce a data visualization tool that will make it very easy to use the databases also for people who have not acquired statistical skills or tools. Our hope is that this will be used in e.g. high school classrooms to get students acquainted with this type of data and help them understand how it can be used to analyze what we believe is a central problem for humanity.



**Bo Rothstein**  
bo.rothstein@pol.gu.se



**Sören Holmberg**  
soren.holmberg@pol.gu.se

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bo Rothstein'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sören Holmberg'.

# Summary

The year 2012 was the ninth year in operation for the QoG Institute and the sixth and formally the last year of the »large research program« grant from the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond), thanks to which the QoG Institute has been successfully operative.

Due to additional funding from the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation as well as a three year support from the Central Administration of the University of Gothenburg for the Institute's administrative infrastructure, the operations of the Institute will continue on the same scale during the coming years.

## Research

As far as research is concerned, the most important thing that happened in 2012 was the start of the five year ANTICORRP (Anticorruption Policies Revisited: Global Trends and European Responses to the

Challenge of Corruption) project on March 1st. It consists of 21 research groups in 16 European countries and the total budget is about 10 million euros. The central objective of this research project is to investigate factors that promote or hinder the development of effective anti-corruption policies. It will investigate the causes of corruption, how corruption can be conceptualized and measured as well as the impact of corruption on various aspects of human wellbeing.

The project covers a long array of topics and is truly interdisciplinary. The QoG Institute is one of the largest research groups in the project and is responsible for the coordination of the project. In May the QoG Institute hosted the project's kick off meeting, which was attended by some 60 scholars from all the 21 participating research groups. More information can be found at the project's newly launched website ([www.anticorpp.eu](http://www.anticorpp.eu)).

Last year, the QoG Institute's scholars continued to get attention for their research. During 2012, about 20 articles were published in international peer reviewed journals and a total of 19 working papers were produced. In addition, the book *Good Government. The Relevance of Political Science* (edited by Sören Holmberg and Bo Rothstein) which contained 16 chapters by QoG authors, was published by Edward Elgar in July.

When it came to conferences, 2012 brought some disappointment for those who were due to attend the APSA meeting in New Orleans in August. Due to the hurricane Isaac, the meeting was cancelled at the very last minute. However, the QoG Institute was well represented at several other international conferences (see list on page 12). Since the winter conference was moved forward to January 2013, only one internal conference was held during 2012.

A total of 15 papers were presented at the three-day stay in June on Tjörn, an island on the West coast of Sweden, and



Challenge of Corruption) project on March 1st. It consists of 21 research groups in 16 European countries and the total budget is about 10 million euros. The central objec-

as usual some of these papers were later published as working papers and have been submitted for publication in international journals.

## Visiting scholars and lunch seminars

The QoG visiting scholar program continued to draw a lot of interest during 2012. The Institute has received an increasing

number of requests by interested scholars from all around the world. During the year a total of 5 scholars spent one or two weeks at the

Institute, during which they gave seminars and interacted with the QoG scholars. In addition it should be mentioned that in April, Associate Professor Feng Ping Zhao, School of Public Administration at Zhengzhou University in China, came to the Institute as a long term visiting scholar. The visiting scholar program seems to be very much appreciated from both sides. The lunch seminars were frequent as well. During the year 22 such seminars were held (see list of visiting scholars and lunch seminar guest on page 13).

## Education

The QoG institute has continued to be involved in the interdisciplinary program International Administration and Global Governance (IAGG), which is focusing on the analysis and understanding of problems related to governance issues in the international arena and it also continues to financially support field trips for Master's students writing their theses on QoG related subjects. In 2012, two students had their applications accepted.

## New recruitments

In 2012 the QoG Institute continued to expand its administrative capacities.

In March Dalila Sabanic was recruited, primarily as project coordinator of the ANTICORRP project, but also as part time program coordinator of the QoG Institute. About the same time, program coordinator Veronica Norell left the Institute. She was

replaced in September by Alice Johansson, who will work full time as program co-

ordinator. Moreover Petrus Sundin joined the data management team, which now consists of three persons.

## Other activities

The QoG Institute was involved in several other activities during the year, some of which are described in greater detail elsewhere in this report. Apart from the highly successful practitioners conference in May, it should only be mentioned that the Institute welcomed delegations from the EU Commission (DG Home Affairs) as well as from the Chinese Party School, which both generated very interesting seminars and discussions.

**Andreas Bågenholm**, Program Manager  
(andreas.bagenholm@pol.gu.se)

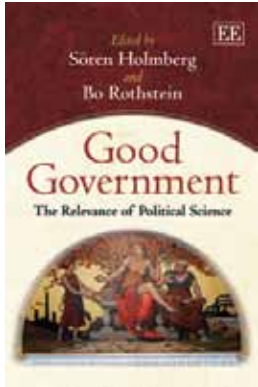


Funding agencies

# Publications 2012

## Reviews of

»Good Government - The Relevance of Political Science« edited by Sören Holmberg and Bo Rothstein



»The book's contributors demonstrate the relevance of political science«

Margaret Levi, University of Washington

»This book will prove invaluable to academics and policy makers alike«

Sheri Berman, Barnard College

»...the focus on corruption is particularly fascinating«

Steven Steinmo, European University Institute

## Books

**Holmberg, Sören & Bo Rothstein** (eds.) (2012) *Good Government - The Relevance of Political Science*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

## Book chapters

**Bauhr, Monika & Mathias Färdigh** (2012) »Korruption i Sverige 2011 - Förekomst och acceptans« in Lennart Weibull, Henrik Oscarsson & Annika Bergström (eds.) *I framtidens skugga Göteborg*. SOM-institutet, Göteborgs universitet.

**Dahlström, Carl** (2012) »Politics and Administration«. In Peters, B. Guy & Jon Pierre (eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Public Administration* (second edition). London: Sage.

**Gustavson, Maria & Bo Rothstein** (2012) »Tillit till makten att granska« in Marta Reuter, Filip Wijkström & Bengt Kristensson Ugglå (eds.) *Vem i hela världen kan man lita på? - Förtroende i teori och praktik*. Studentlitteratur och PWC i Sverige AB.

**Niklasson, Birgitta** (2012) »Sweden«. In Sandra van Thiel, Koen Verhoest, Geert Bouckaert & Per Laegreid (eds.) *Government Agencies: Practices and Lessons from 30 Countries*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Pierre, Jon** (2012) »Governance and Institutional Flexibility« in David Levi-Faur (ed.). *Oxford Handbook of Governance*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Rothstein, Bo** (2012) »Good Governance«, in David Levi-Faur (ed.) *Oxford*

*Handbook of Governance*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## Peer-reviewed articles

**Anthonsen, Mette, Åsa Löfgren, Klas Nilsson & Joakim Westerlund** (2012) »Effects of rent dependency on quality of government«. *Economics of Governance*. (Published online 17 January 2012)

**Bach, Tobias, Birgitta Niklasson & Martin Painter** (2012). »The role of agencies in policy-making«. *Policy and Society*. 31(3): 183-193.

**Bauhr, Monika & Naghmeh Nasiritousi** (2012) »Resisting Transparency. Corruption - Legitimacy and the Quality of Global Environmental Policies.« *Global Environmental Politics*. 12(4):9-29.

**Charron, Nicholas, Carl Dahlström & Victor Lapuente** (2012) »No law without a state«. *Journal of Comparative Economics*. (Published online 19 January 2012)

**Cornell, Agnes** (2012) »Does regime type matter for the impact of democracy aid on democracy?«. *Democratization*. (Published online 5 April 2012)

**Dahlström, Carl & Anders Sundell** (2012) »A losing gamble how mainstream parties facilitate anti-Immigrant party success«. *Electoral Studies*. (Published online 13 March 2012)

**Dahlström, Carl, Johannes Lindvall & Bo Rothstein** (2012) »Corruption, Bureaucratic Failure and Social Policy Priorities«. *Political Studies*. (Published online 19 November 2012)

**Dahlström, Carl, Victor Lapuente, & Jan Teorell** (2012) »The Merit of Meritocratization: Politics, Bureaucracy, and the Institutional Deterrents of Corruption«. *Political Research Quarterly*. 65(3): 658-670.

**Grimes, Marcia** (2012) »The Contingencies of Societal Accountability: Examining the Link Between Civil Society and Good Government«. *Studies in Comparative International Development*. (Published online 13 November 2012)

**Harring, Niklas** (2012) »Understanding the Effects of Corruption and Political Trust on Willingness to Make Economic Sacrifices for Environmental Protection in a Cross-National Perspective«. *Social Science Quarterly*. (Published online 19 September 2012)

**Lindberg, Staffan I.** (2012) »Have the cake and eat it: The rational voter in Africa«. *Party Politics*. (Published online 22 February 2012)

**Linde, Jonas & Gissur Ó Erlingsson** (2012) »The Eroding Effect of Corruption on System Support in Sweden«. *Governance*. (Published online 21 November 2012)

**Niklasson, Birgitta & Jon Pierre** (2012). »Does agency age matter in administrative reform? Policy autonomy and public management in Swedish agencies«. *Policy and Society*. 31(3): 195-210.

**Persson, Anna & Martin Sjöstedt** (2012) »Responsive and Responsible Leaders: A Matter of Political Will?«. *Perspectives on Politics*. 10(3):617-632.

**Persson, Anna, Bo Rothstein & Jan Teorell** (2012) »Why Anticorruption Reforms Fail—Systemic Corruption as a Collective Action Problem«. *Governance*. (Published online 7 September 2012)

**Sjöstedt, Martin** (2012) »Ecosystem Services and Poverty Reduction: How Do Development Practitioners Conceptualize the Linkages?«. *European Journal of Development Research*. 24(5):777-787.

**Sjöstedt, Martin** (2012) »Horizontal and vertical resource dilemmas in natural resource management: the case of African fisheries«. *Fish and Fisheries*. (Published online 21 June 2012)

**Stensöta, Olofsdotter, Helena** (2012) »Political influence on street-level bureaucratic outcome: Testing the interaction between bureaucratic ideology and local community political orientation«. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. 22(3):553-571.

**Sundström, Aksel** (2012) »Corruption and regulatory compliance: Experimental findings from South African small-scale fisheries«. *Marine Policy*. 36(6):1255-1264.

## Report

**Teorell, Jan and Agnes Cornell** (2012) *Leder demokratibistånd till demokratisering?* SADEV Report 2012:1.6

## Doctoral thesis

**Gustavson, Maria** (2012) *Auditing the African State: International Standards and Local Adjustments*. School of Public Administration, University of Gothenburg.



## Working papers

All our working papers are available to download from our website:

[www.qog.pol.gu.se/publications/workingpapers](http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/publications/workingpapers)

# Practitioners conference

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Read more about the practitioners conference on our website:

[www.qog.pol.gu.se/  
QoG-institutet/  
ominstitutet/  
Konferens15maj2012](http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/QoG-institutet/ominstitutet/Konferens15maj2012)



On the website, you can download a report which include summaries of the seminars and several presentations. You can also find links to SVT's (Sweden's Television) broadcasts from the conference (available on SVT Play until the 15th of May 2013).

On the 15th of May 2012, more than 150 people gathered at the University of Gothenburg's Conference Center Wallenberg to take part in a practitioners conference organized by the QoG Institute. The main purpose of the one-day conference was to communicate the results of five years of research. Another purpose was to create a forum for Swedish practitioners to meet and discuss issues related to quality of government and corruption.

The majority of the participants were public sector officials from

local, regional and national government agencies but also present were many journalists, politicians and representatives from the business sector and different interest groups.

Among the participants were **Carl Bennet** (leading Swedish industrialist and chair of the University board); **Jan Landahl** (Auditor General); **Sofia Djibaridis** (investigative TV reporter); **Alf Johansson** (Chief anti-corruption prosecutor) and **Anna Johansson** (Councilor and chair of the Social Democratic Party in Gothenburg). The mix of people created a dynamic atmosphere and many people used the occasion to make new contacts and widen their networks.

The conference opened with a press conference styled plenary session. During

one hour, eleven researchers, representing different research areas, gave short, five-minute presentations about their respective field of interest.

After lunch, two sessions with parallel seminars commenced. The eight interactive seminars covered topics such as »What causes corruption?«, »The negative

effects of a politicized administration«, »Gender and corruption« and »How do corruption affect international aid?«. Each seminar had an invited guest discussant whose role it was to represent the practitioners.

The discussants included **Eva Lindgren**, former

Auditor General at the Swedish National Audit Office, **Maria Derner**, Regional manager at the Swedish Federation of Business Owners and **Molly Lien** from the anti-corruption unit at Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).

The conference closed with a lively and entertaining panel discussion followed by an informal drinks reception which gave the participants an opportunity to mingle and talk with the researchers.

The QoG Institute would like to thank all participants and extend a special thank you to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond for funding the conference.

**Miriam Liberman**,  
Research Information Officer  
([miriam.liberman@gu.se](mailto:miriam.liberman@gu.se))

The main purpose of the one-day conference was to communicate the results of five years of research







# Communication

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## The Gothenburg Book Fair

The Gothenburg Book Fair is the biggest meeting place for the book trade in the Nordic countries. The first Fair was held in 1985 and had 5,000 visitors. Since then, it has grown year after year and in 2012, more than 99,000 people visited the fair.

[www.bokmassan.se/en](http://www.bokmassan.se/en)



## The International Science Festival in Gothenburg

With hundreds of activities and about 70,000 visitors the International Science Festival in Gothenburg is one of Europe's leading popular science events and the only one of its kind in Sweden.

[www.vetenskapsfestivalen.se/english](http://www.vetenskapsfestivalen.se/english)

Communicating our research to practitioners, the media and the general public is an integral part of the QoG Institute's core activities. In order to reach as many people as possible, we use several different communication channels.

## The website

At the beginning of February 2012, the institute launched a new website. It meant a »facelift« as regards both the design and functionality. The QoG Institute's website now resides within the University of Gothenburg's web portal and is available in both English and Swedish.

The website is aimed at all our main target groups and contains for instance all our publications and working papers, a media archive and not least our award-winning databases (read more about the QoG datasets on the next page). It is safe to say that the website is our most important communication channel. During 2012 the website had 20.500 unique visitors from all parts of the world.

## Newsletter

The QoG Institute has an electronic newsletter called QoG NEWS which, at the time of writing, has about 1100 subscribers. It is distributed via e-mail about every six weeks. Among the subscribers are academics and students from all parts of the world as well as journalists and public sector officials from Sweden and abroad. In the newsletter we communicate information about new publications and working papers, upcoming public lectures and other types of events.

## Events and public lectures

The QoG institute and its scholars regularly organize and/or take part in public events such as for instance conferences, seminars, workshops and panel discussions.

The biggest event in 2012 was the Practitioners conference in May which you can read more about on pages 8-9. Other



The QoG Institute's booth at the Gothenburg Book Fair

public events which took place during 2012 was a well-attended panel discussion about corruption at the International Science Festival in Gothenburg in April and in September, for the third year in a row, the QoG Institute had its own booth at the Gothenburg Book Fair.

Moreover, at the beginning of the summer, the institute had the honor of welcoming two international delegations. On the 31st of May, a delegation from the Chinese Party School visited the QoG Institute as part of a ten day trip to Germany and Sweden and one month later, the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, visited the institute together with her entire cabinet.

**Miriam Liberman,**  
Research Information Officer  
([miriam.liberman@gu.se](mailto:miriam.liberman@gu.se))

# Datasets

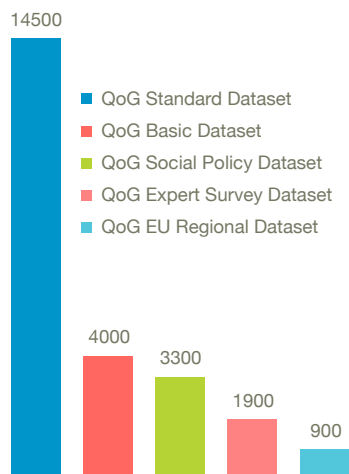
2012 was yet another eventful and successful year as far as the QoG datasets are concerned. In April, an updated version of the QoG Social Policy Dataset was released and at the beginning of the summer we launched a new dataset called QoG Basic.

The idea behind the QoG Basic Dataset is to offer the most used and the most qualitative variables from the QoG Standard Dataset in a more accessible package. The QoG Standard Dataset remains our »flagship« and is our most downloaded dataset, but as the QoG Standard Dataset has continued to grow, we have noticed an increase in the demand for a dataset which is more compressed and easier to overview and we therefore chose to launch the QoG Basic Dataset. Judging by the numbers of visitors on the QoG Basic webpage, it is very popular among our data users. In less than 7 months, it had 4,000 unique visitors from all parts of the world, making it the second most popular dataset.

In August it was time to release an updated version of the QoG Expert Survey Dataset. The new version meant an increase in the number of countries represented in the survey and we were particularly pleased to notice an increase in the number of experts on African

## The new version meant an increase in the number of countries represented in the survey

countries. The 2012 version of the Expert Survey includes 123 experts on African countries and the number of African countries covered is 30. Unfortunately we were less successful when it came to recruiting experts in the Middle East.



Number of unique visitors during 2012  
(Source: Google Analytics)

Our aim is therefore to increase experts from this region in future versions of the QoG Expert Survey. In the autumn we also released new, more user friendly, versions of our codebooks. By introducing hyperlinks and an easier variable overview, our hope is that it will be easier to quickly find the variables that you are looking for.

Moreover, in an attempt to make our data accessible to even more people, we have acquired a visualization software which makes it possible to create interactive maps and graphs. A beta version

was presented in our booth at the Gothenburg Book Fair in late September and just before Christmas we launched the finished version on our website. At the same time, we also restructured the data webpages and made them easier to navigate.

**Stefan Dahlberg**, Dataset Manager  
([stefan.dahlberg@pol.gu.se](mailto:stefan.dahlberg@pol.gu.se))



## Download

You can download our datasets at:

[www.qog.pol.gu.se/data](http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/data)

# Academic conferences

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## ANTICORRP

March 1st, 2012 was the formal start date for a new comprehensive research project which goes under the acronym ANTICORRP (Anti-Corruption Policies Revisited: Global Trends and European Responses to the Challenge of Corruption).

The project is funded by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme and consists in total of 21 research groups in 16 European countries.

The QoG Institute is the single largest research group in the project and is also responsible for project management and administrative coordination.

Read more at the project's own website: [www.anticorpp.eu](http://www.anticorpp.eu)

### Anticorrp Kick-Off Conference

20-22 May, Gothenburg, Sweden  
71 participants

### QoG Summer Conference

18-20 June, Tjörn, Sweden  
19 participants  
15 papers

## International conferences

The list below is a selection of international academic conferences which QoG scholars attended during 2012.

**Varieties of Autocracy: Institutions, Performance, and Survival**, University of Heidelberg, Germany, 2-3 March 2012.

**19th Council of Europeanists**, Boston, USA, 22-24 March 2012.

**70th Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference**, Chicago, USA, 12-15 April 2012.

**Building State Capacity: The Other Side of Political Development**, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, USA, 4-5 May 2012.

**Transatlantic Conference on Transparency Research**, Utrecht University, Netherlands, 8-9 May 2012.

**IIAS Quality of Governance Study Group Conference**, VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 2012.

**The Joint Experts Group Meeting and Capacity Development Workshop on Preventing Corruption in Public Administration: Citizens Engagement for Improved Transparency and**

**Accountability**, United Nations (UNDESA), New York, USA, 25-28 June, 2012.

**The International Political Science Association XXII World Congress**, Madrid, Spain, 8-12 July 2012.

**Civil Society Organizations Fighting Corruption: Theory and Practice Workshop**, University of Surrey, UK, 9-10 July 2012.

**The 34th annual conference of the European Group of Public Administration**, Bergen, Norway, 3-4 September 2012.



**Global Challenges in Modern Europe**, Aarhus University, Denmark, 24 October 2012.

**Assessing the Quality of Governance in China**, the Center for Development, Democracy and the Rule of Law at Stanford University, USA, 11-13 November 2012.

**The Northeastern Political Science Association 44th Annual Meeting**, Boston, USA, 15-17 November 2012.

# Lunch seminars and visiting scholars

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## January

**Professor Richard Rose**, University of Strathclyde

## February

**Dr Gjalt de Graaf**, University of Amsterdam

**Dr Håkan Tropp**, Programme Director at the UNDP Water Governance Facility at Stockholm International Water Institute

## March

**Dr Adel Daoud and Professor Björn Halleröd**, University of Gothenburg

**Dr Afolabi G. Samuel**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

**Professor Daniel Waldenström**, Uppsala University

## April

**Dr Ivar Kolstad**, Research Director at the Chr. Michelsen Institute

**Associate Research Professor Susan Ariel Aaronson**, George Washington University \*

**Professor Andreas Schedler**, CIDE, Mexico \*

## May

**Dr Mette Frisk Jensen**, Aarhus University \*

**Professor Joshua Tucker**, New York University

**Professor Paul Heywood**, University of Nottingham \*

**Davide Torsello**, University of Bergamo \*

## September

**Jonas Moberg**, Head of EITI's

International Secretariat, Oslo

**Dr Jordi Munoz**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

## October

**Dr Anand Kumar**, Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi

**Dr Ann-Sofie Isaksson**, University of Gothenburg

**Professor Margaret Levy**, University of Washington \*

**Professor Per Lagreid**, University of Bergen

**Associate Professor Fengping Zhao**, Zhengzhou University, China \*

## November

**Dr Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling**, University of Nottingham

**Nils Resare**, Swedish author and investigative journalist



\* visiting scholars

# 2012 in numbers

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Variables in the QoG Standard Dataset (cross section)

867

150

Participants at the 2012 practitioners conference

Countries represented in the ANTICORRP project

16

22

Lunch seminars during 2012

Working papers during 2012

19

1076

Subscribers to the newsletter, QoG NEWS

Unique visitors on the website during 2012

20500



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