

Lidia Bonifati

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General information

- Date of birth: 18/09/1993
- Personal website: www.lidiabonifati.com
- Citizenship: Italian
- ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6087-105X>

Current Positions

- Since March 2024: **Postdoctoral Researcher** – Baffi Centre on Economics, Finance and Regulation, Bocconi University.
- Since June 2023: **Affiliated Researcher** – Research Group on Government and Law, University of Antwerp.
- Since Sept 2018: **Teaching Assistant of Comparative Constitutional Law** – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna.

Research Interests and Methods

Primary interests: *Minority rights and diversity governance* – constitutional design for divided societies; territorial and non-territorial autonomy; asymmetric federalism; federalism and legal pluralism.

Secondary interests: *AI and armed conflicts* – dual-use technologies and fundamental rights; autonomous weapons systems and armed conflict; AI and peace-building; digital colonialism.

Methods: comparative research methodologies; decolonial comparative law; empirical legal studies.

Academic Positions

March 2024 – present **Postdoctoral Researcher**
Bocconi University – Baffi Centre on Economics, Finance and Regulation
Title of the research project: “Decision-Making in the Age of Emergencies. New Paradigms in Recognition and Protection of Rights [DeMa]” (PRIN 2020).
Principal investigator: Prof. Arianna Vidaschi.

Education

2019 – 2023 **Ph.D. in Legal Studies**
University of Bologna and University of Antwerp (Joint Ph.D.)
Research area: Comparative Constitutional Law – Final grade: Excellent
Thesis’ title: “Comparative Constitutional Design for Divided Societies: A Model to Explain Constitutional Asymmetries”.
Supervisors: Prof. Susanna Mancini, Prof. Patricia Popelier.

2019 **Seminar in Parliamentary Studies and Research “Silvano Tosi”**
University of Florence – Department of Legal Studies
Coordinators: Paolo Caretti, Giovanni Tarli Barbieri, and Massimo Morisi.

2016 – 2018 **Master’s degree in International Relations (cum laude)**
University of Bologna – Department of Social and Political Sciences

Thesis' title: "The Future of Power Sharing in European Multi-National States: The Cases of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Northern Ireland".

Supervisors: Prof. Susanna Mancini, Prof. Filippo Andreatta.

2013 – 2016

Bachelor's degree in Social, Political and International Sciences

University of Bologna – Department of Social and Political Sciences

Thesis' title: "La Corte Europea dei Diritti dell'Uomo Condanna la Bosnia-Erzegovina: Verso una Costituzione Non Discriminatoria?"

Supervisor: Prof. Pieralberto Mengozzi.

Work Experience

Nov – Dec 2024

Research Assistant

Oxford Internet Institute – University of Oxford (United Kingdom)

Title of the research project: "The Ethics of AI in National Defence."

Principal Investigator: Prof. Mariarosaria Taddeo

June 2023 – present

Affiliated Researcher

Research Group on Government and Law – University of Antwerp, Antwerp (Belgium)

Director: Prof. Patricia Popelier

Sept 2018 – present

Teaching Assistant of Comparative Constitutional Law

Department of Legal Studies – University of Bologna, Bologna (Italy)

Chair: Prof. Susanna Mancini

Feb – Dec 2023

Junior Researcher

Institute for Comparative Federalism – EURAC Research, Bolzano/Bozen (Italy)

Supervisor: Dr. Alice Valdesalici

Dec 2019 – May

Junior Researcher

2023

Research Group on Government and Law – University of Antwerp, Antwerp (Belgium)

Director: Prof. Patricia Popelier

Mar – May 2020

Trainee

Venice Commission – Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France)

Supervisor: Dr. Gaël Martin-Micallef

Nov 2016 –

Academic Tutor

Jun 2017

School of Political Sciences – University of Bologna, Bologna (Italy)

Coordinator: Prof. Daniela Giannetti

Oct 2016 –

Research Assistant

May 2017

Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (CCSDD), Bologna (Italy)

Director: Prof. Justin Orlando Frosini

Research Stays and Visits

Jan – Mar 2024

Visiting Research Fellow

Oxford Internet Institute – University of Oxford (United Kingdom)

Sponsor: Prof. Mariarosaria Taddeo

Sept – Oct 2022

Visiting Scientist

Institute for Comparative Federalism – EURAC Research, Bolzano/Bozen (Italy)

Supervisor: Prof. Francesco Palermo

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|-------------------------|---|
| Feb – Apr 2022 | Visiting Joint Ph.D. Researcher |
| Mar – May 2021 | Research Group on Government and Law – University of Antwerp(Belgium) Supervisor: Prof. Patricia Popelier |
| Sept 2021 – Jan 2022 | Visiting Ph.D. Student Department of Law – European University Institute (EUI), Florence (Italy) Supervisor: Prof. Gábor Halmai |
| Nov 2018 | Visiting Research Associate School of Law – Queen’s University of Belfast (United Kingdom) Supervisor: Prof. Christopher McCrudden |

Publications

Books

Bonifati, Lidia. *Asymmetries, Courts, And Comparative Constitutional Law. A Dynamic Accommodation of Diversity in Divided Multi-Tiered Systems*. Leiden and Boston, Brill (under contract).

Articles

1. Bonifati, Lidia. “Dual-use technology e tutela dei diritti fondamentali: alcune riflessioni a partire dall’uso dei droni.” *BioLaw Journal – Rivista di Biodiritto* (under review).
2. Bonifati, Lidia. “Constitutional Asymmetries in Multi-Tiered Systems: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Divided Societies.” *International Journal of Constitutional Law* (under review).
3. Bonifati, Lidia. 2024. “Le ‘corti ibride’ negli ordinamenti multinazionali: una prospettiva comparata.” *DPCE Online*, vol. 66, Special Issue 2 (forthcoming).
4. Bonifati, Lidia. 2024. “Constitutional Asymmetries and Mixed Legal Systems: New Itineraries for Legal Comparison.” *Rivista di Diritti Comparati*, no. 3: 1-30
5. Bonifati, Lidia. 2024. “La questione nordirlandese alla luce della Brexit. Quale futuro per Belfast?” *Costituzionalismo Britannico e Irlandese* 1: 245-264.
6. Bonifati, Lidia. 2023. “Constitutional Design and the Seeds of Degradation in Divided Societies: The Case of Bosnia-Herzegovina.” *European Constitutional Law Review* 19, no. 2: 223-248.
7. Bonifati, Lidia. 2021. “Towards a Comprehensive Theory on Self-Determination? Some Remarks Starting from a Recent Book by Pau Bossacoma Busquets.” *Osservatorio Costituzionale* 4: 1-27.
8. Bonifati, Lidia. 2020. “Molto rumore per nulla? Dieci anni dalla sentenza Sejdić-Finci.” *Forum di Quaderni Costituzionali* 1: 60-70.
9. Bonifati, Lidia. 2019. “Democrazie consociative e trattati di pace: un’analisi comparata di Bosnia-Erzegovina, Irlanda del Nord e Macedonia del Nord.” *Federalismi* 18: 2-20.
10. Bonifati, Lidia. 2019. “Il Parlamento Europeo: dagli Stati ai popoli?” *Osservatorio sulle Fonti*, Special Issue no. 2 “Tosi Ricerca 2019”: 174-188.
11. Bonifati, Lidia. 2019. “The Impact of Brexit on the Constitutional Status of Northern Ireland.” *Percorsi Costituzionali* 2018, no. 1: 209-224.

Book chapters

1. Bonifati, Lidia. “The ‘Constituent Peoples’ Case’ and its Impact on The Multinational Nature of Bosnia and Herzegovina.” In *Comparative Constitutional History. Volume 3: Landmark Judgments*, edited by Francesco Biagi, Justin O. Frosini, and Jason Mazzone. Leiden and Boston: Brill (forthcoming 2025).
2. Bonifati, Lidia. 2022. “Constitutional Design v. Constitutional Degradation. Strengthening the Rule of Law in Bosnia-Herzegovina.” In *Framing and Diagnosing Constitutional Degradation*, edited by Tania Groppi, Valentina Carlino, and Gianmaria Milani, 83-92. Genova: Consulta Online.

Case notes

1. Bonifati, Lidia. 2023. “Kovačević c. Bosnia ed Erzegovina: un nuovo affondo alla Costituzione di Dayton.” *Quaderni Costituzionali* 4: 922-925.

Conferences

International Conferences

1. Sept 17-18, 2024: Annual Conference of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies – IACFS (University of Antwerp, Belgium): Presentation of the paper: “*Constitutional Asymmetries and Constitutional Courts: (Re)shaping Federal Dynamics*”.
2. Jul 8-10, 2024: 10th Annual Conference of the International Society of Public Law – ICON-S (IE University Law School, Madrid, Spain). Presentation: “*Decision-Makers and New Technologies in Humanitarian Missions: A Constitutional Perspective on Humanitarian Drones*”.
3. Oct 26-27, 2023: Inaugural Conference of the ICON-S Benelux Chapter (University of Maastricht, Netherlands). Presentation: “*The European Union as a Driver for Constitutional Change in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Northern Ireland: Past and Present Challenges*”.
4. Sept 14-15, 2023: 5th Illinois-Bologna Conference on Constitutional History: Comparative Perspectives (University of Bologna, Italy). Presentation of the paper: “*The ‘Constituent Peoples’ Case’ and its Impact on the Multinational Nature of Bosnia-Herzegovina*”.
5. Dec 5-9, 2022: 11th World Congress of the International Association of Constitutional Law – IACL (University of Johannesburg, South Africa). Presentation of the paper: “*Seeds of Degradation? The Role of Imposed Constitutional Design and International Presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina*”.
6. Sept 1-2, 2022: 1st International Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (Netherlands Academy for Empirical Legal Studies, Amsterdam, Netherlands). Presentation: “*The Role of Causality in Comparative Legal Research and the Use of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)*” (with Alberto Nicotina, University of Antwerp).
7. Jul 4-6, 2022: 8th Annual Conference of the International Society of Public Law – ICON-S (University of Wrocław, Poland). Presentation of the paper: “*Seeds of Degradation? The Role of Imposed Constitutional Design and International Presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina*”.
8. May 26-27, 2022: British Association of Comparative Law (BACL) Postgraduate Workshop (University of Kent, United Kingdom). Presentation: “*Comparative Constitutional Design for Divided Societies: A Model to Explain Constitutional Asymmetries*”.
9. Oct 7-8, 2021: Conference “The Dust of Time? Towards a 21st Century Constitutionalism” (European University Institute, Fiesole, Italy). Presentation: “*The Impact of European Integration and Disintegration on Power-Sharing Democracies*”.
10. Dec 4, 2020: Rijeka Doctoral Conference RIDOC 2020 (University of Rijeka, Croatia). Presentation: “*Asymmetric Federalism and Divided Societies: A Synthesis Between Integration and Accommodation?*”.
11. Sept 10, 2020: International Doctoral Seminar in Law IDSL 2020 (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia). Presentation: “*Comparative Constitutional Design for Divided Societies: A Model to Explain Constitutional Asymmetries*”.

National Conferences

1. Nov 21, 2024: Seminar of the Association of Comparative Public and European Law – DPCE (University of Trento). Presentation of the paper: “*Dual-use Technology e Tutela dei Diritti Fondamentali: Alcune Riflessioni a Partire dall’Uso dei Droni nei Contesti di Emergenza*”.
2. Oct 18-19, 2024: 5th Annual Conference ICON-S Italian Chapter (University of Trento, Italy). Presentation of the paper : “*I droni umanitari nei contesti di emergenza. Alcune riflessioni a partire dal caso ucraino*”.

3. May 16-17, 2024: Joint AIDC/DPCE Young Scholars Conference (Link Campus University, Rome, Italy). Presentation of the paper: *“Asimmetrie Costituzionali e Sistemi Giuridici Misti. Nuovi Itinerari di Comparazione”*.
4. Oct 13-14, 2023: 4th Annual Conference ICON-S Italian Chapter (Bocconi University, Milan, Italy). Presentation: *“Il Federalismo Bosniaco alla Luce della Giurisprudenza della Corte Costituzionale”*.
5. Sept 15-16, 2023: 9th Annual Conference of the Association of Comparative Public and European Law – DPCE (University of Milan, Italy). Presentation of the paper: *“Le Corti ‘Ibride’ negli Ordinamenti Multinazionali”*.
6. Sept 16-17, 2022: 3rd Annual Conference ICON-S Italian Chapter (University of Bologna). Presentation: *“Symmetry or Asymmetry, that is the Question. The Cases of Italy and Spain During the Pandemic”* (with Nicolò Paolo Alessi, University of Verona/Fribourg).
7. Jun 22-23, 2021: DIPEC Workshop “Framing and Diagnosing Constitutional Degradation: A Comparative Perspective” (University of Siena, Italy). Presentation of the paper: *“Constitutional Design v. Constitutional Degradation: Strengthening the Rule of Law in Bosnia-Herzegovina”*.
8. Jun 5-6, 2020: Joint AIDC/YCC Young Scholars Conference (University of Perugia). Presentation: *“A Diachronic Comparison of Brexit: The Transformative Role of the Speaker of the House of Commons in Constitutional Distress”* (with Stefano Bargiacchi, University of Siena).

Teaching Experience

- Lecture in Italian (2 hours) on **“Federalismo Asimmetrico e Tutela delle Minoranze”**: invited speaker in the course Diritto Comparato dei Gruppi e delle Minoranze (Prof. Elena Ferioli) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2023/2024, 2022/2023).
- Lecture in English (2 hours) on **“Constitutional Asymmetries in Multi-Tiered Systems: A Comparative Perspective”**: invited speaker in the course Comparative Federalism (Prof. Patricia Popelier) – Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp (A.Y. 2021/2022).
- Lecture in English (2 hours) on **“Consociational Democracies: A Comparative Analysis”**
 - o Recurrent invited speaker in the course Comparative Constitutionalism (Prof. Susanna Mancini and Prof. Francesco Biagi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2022/2023, 2021/2022, 2020/2021, 2019/2020, 2018/2019)
 - o Invited speaker in the course Comparative Constitutional Law (Prof. Enrico Campelli) – Department of Law, Economics, Politics and Modern Languages, LUMSA University (A.Y. 2022/2023).
- Lecture in English (2 hours) on **“SOGI Refugees and International Protection: Peculiar Aspects and Legal Framework”**: recurrent invited speaker in the course Gender and the Law (Prof. Susanna Mancini and Prof. Francesco Biagi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2024/2025; 2023/2024, 2022/2023, 2021/2022, 2020/2021, 2019/2020, 2018/2019).
- Lecture in Italian (2 hours) on **“Democrazie Consociative: Una Prospettiva Comparata”**
 - o Recurrent invited speaker in the course Diritto Pubblico Comparato (Prof. Susanna Mancini, Prof. Francesco Biagi, Prof. Elena Ferioli) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2024/2025; 2023/2024, 2022/2023, 2020/2021, 2019/2020, 2018/2019).
 - o Invited speaker in the course Diritto Pubblico Comparato (Prof. Leonardo Pierdominici) – Department of Legal Studies – Ravenna Campus, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2023/2024).
 - o Invited speaker in the course Diritto Pubblico Comparato (Prof. Nicolò Paolo Alessi) – Department of Economics and Political Sciences, University of Aosta Valley (A.Y. 2022/2023).

- Lecture in English (2 hours) on “**Brexit and The Constitutional Status of Northern Ireland**”: invited speaker in the course Comparative Constitutionalism (Prof. Susanna Mancini and Prof. Francesco Biagi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2019/2020).
- Lecture in English (2 hours) on “**Brexit and Parliamentary Procedures**”: invited speaker in the course Comparative Constitutionalism (Prof. Susanna Mancini and Prof. Francesco Biagi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2019/2020).
- Lecture in Italian (2 hours) on “**Brexit e le Procedure Parlamentari nella Camera dei Comuni**”: invited speaker in the course Diritto Pubblico Comparato (Prof. Susanna Mancini, Prof. Francesco Biagi, Prof. Elena Ferioli) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2019/2020).
- Lecture in Italian (2 hours) on “**Il Divieto di Mandato Imperativo: Una Prospettiva Comparata**”: invited speaker in the course Diritto Parlamentare (Prof. Tomaso Francesco Giupponi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2019/2020).

Trainings

- Masterclass “Colonial Legacies in Public Law,” taught by Prof. Philipp Dann – Queen Mary Centre of Law and Society in a Global Context (London, Jan 14-16, 2025)
- Training “ERC: Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant Schemes” – Bocconi University (Milan, June 2023)
- Webinar series “Democratic Constitution Making. Between Deliberative And Crowd-Sourced Forms of Constitutionalism” – STALS – Sant’Anna Legal Studies (online, May 2023)
- Workshop “ICON-S Writing School” — International Society of Public Law (online, February 2023)
- Workshop “Social Science Methods for Legal Scholars” – European Society of International Law and Geneva Graduate Institute (online, Oct – Nov 2022)
- Winter School “Advanced Qualitative Comparative Analysis” — European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) (online, 14-18 Feb 2022)
- Summer School “Qualitative Comparative Analysis” — European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) (online, 9-13 Aug 2021)
- Post-graduate Training Program “Territory and Institutions” — University of Rome Sapienza (online, Dec 2020 – Feb 2021)
- MOOC “Introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis” — University of Rotterdam (online, Dec 2020)
- MOOC “Federalism and Decentralization” — University of Leiden (online, Sept 2020)
- Winter School “Federalism and Language” — EURAC Institute for Comparative Federalism (Innsbruck/Bozen, Austria/Italy, 17-28 Feb 2020)
- Summer School “Mediation Theory and Skills” — Central European University (Budapest, Hungary, 2-6 July 2018)
- Advanced Diploma “European Affairs” — Italian Institute for International Political Studies (Milan, Italy, Mar 2017 - Mar 2018)
- Summer School “Fundamental Rights and EU Trade Agreements” — University of Bologna (Bertinoro, Italy, 25-30 June 2017)
- Summer School “European Union and Legal Reforms” — Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (Igalo, Montenegro, 11-15 July 2016)
- Study Visit “Sarajevo Study Trip” — Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 17-20 January 2016)

Languages

Italian (mother tongue); **English** (C1); **French** (B2)

Scholarships and Awards

- 2021: Research grant (3 months) financed by the BOF Fellowship for Joint PhDs of the University of Antwerp
- 2020: Research grant (3 months) financed by the Program “Marco Polo” of the University of Bologna
- 2019: Ph.D. scholarship (3 years) financed by the Project “Department of Excellence” of the Italian Ministry of Education

Memberships

- **Associazione di Diritto Pubblico Comparato ed Europeo – DPCE** (ordinary member)
- **Associazione Italiana di Diritto Comparato – AIDC** (member of the Young Comparatists Group)
- **International Association of Constitutional Law – IACL** (individual member; “New Frontiers of Federalism” Research Group)
- **International Society of Public Law – ICON-S** (regular member; Italian and Benelux Chapters; Interest Group *Constitutionalism from the Global South*)

Editorial Activities

- **From January 2025 – Member of the Editorial Board – Percorsi Costituzionali**
Scientific journal edited by Jovene (Napoli, Italy) – ISSN: 1974-1928. Director: Prof. Giuseppe de Vergottini.
- **From January 2020 – Member of the Editorial Board – Sant’Anna Legal Studies (STALS)**
Peer-reviewed and open-access scientific journal based at the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa (Italy) – ISSN: 1974-5656. Directors: Prof. Giuseppe Martinico, Prof. Giacomo Delledonne, Dr. Filippo Fontanelli.
- **December 2024 – External Reviewer – *Constitutional Acts of Scotland***
Blind review of a chapter in the volume *Constitutional Acts of Scotland*, edited by Alessandro Torre, Justin O. Frosini, Ugo Bruschi for Devolution Club.
- **December 2023 – External Reviewer – Nordic Journal of Social Law (Nordisk Socialrättslig Tidskrift)**
Peer-reviewed scientific journal based at the Universities of Gothenburg, Uppsala, and Stockholm (Sweden) – ISSN: 2000-6500.
- **November 2023 – External Reviewer – Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (CCSDD)**
Research partnership between the School of Law of the University of Bologna and the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, Italy (SAIS Europe).

Organization of Conferences and Workshops

- Conference “Intersezionalità, diritti fondamentali e rapporti sociali nel diritto comparato”, AIDC Young Comparatists Group (University of Bologna, 6 December 2024, and University of Trento, 21 March 2025)
– Member of the scientific committee and main reference for the University of Bologna.

- Conference “Diritto e...”, AIDC Young Comparatists Group (Bocconi University, 5 December 2023, and University of Palermo, 22 March 2024) – Member of the scientific committee.
- Conference “Il Futuro dello Stato”, 3rd Annual Conference ICON-S Italian Chapter (University of Bologna, 16-17 September 2022) – Member of the organizing committee.
- Conference “Sostenibilità e Innovazione: Prospettive di Diritto Comparato”, AIDC Young Comparatists Group (University of Salerno, 13 May 2022) – Member of the scientific committee.
- Seminar series “Migro Perché Sono: Problematiche e Storie dell’Immigrazione LGBT”, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2018/2019, 2015/2016, 2014/2015) – Concept developer, organizer, and tutor.

Other Activities

- **2021-2022** – Ph.D. Student Representative (Ph.D. in Legal Studies, University of Bologna): preparation and collection of surveys on the educational activities of the Ph.D., liaison between Ph.D. students and the Ph.D. coordinator and faculty members, organization of Ph.D. students’ panels in various conferences (e.g., XXVI Biennial Colloquium of the Italian Association of Comparative Law; 3rd Annual Conference of the Italian Chapter of the International Society of Public Law).
- **2017-2021** – Member of the Editorial Team of *Lo Spiegone* (online magazine on international politics): recurrent author for the Europe and Law desks (40+ articles published) on topics related to South-Eastern Europe politics, EU enlargement policy, comparative constitutional law, British and Northern-Irish politics. Positions held: Europe desk editor (2018-2019), Deputy Editor-in-Chief (2020), Head of Administration (2021).

IT Skills

- Proficient user of Microsoft Office Package (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Proficient user of Google Package (Gmail, Drive, Calendar, Meet, GSuite)
- Proficient user of references management platforms (Zotero)
- Proficient user of co-working platforms (Slack, Microsoft Teams, Webex, Zoom)
- Basic user of R (especially “QCA” and “SetMethods” packages)

References

Susanna Mancini (Ph.D. Supervisor)

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University of Bologna
Department of Legal Studies
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Francesco Palermo (EURAC Director)

Director of the EURAC Institute for Comparative
Federalism
Full professor of Comparative Public Law
University of Verona
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Giuseppe Martinico (STALS Director)

Full professor of Comparative Public Law
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DIRPOLIS Institute
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Patricia Popelier (Ph.D. Supervisor)

Full professor of Constitutional Law
University of Antwerp
Faculty of Law
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