

Does family matter for immigrants' life satisfaction?

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Motivation and research questions

Family is central to many aspects of the migration experience. Family can be a safety net and a source of stress.

- Q1. How do living arrangements influence immigrant's life satisfaction at different times after arrival?
- Q2. How do living arrangements influence changes of satisfaction with life in Canada over time?

Data and methods

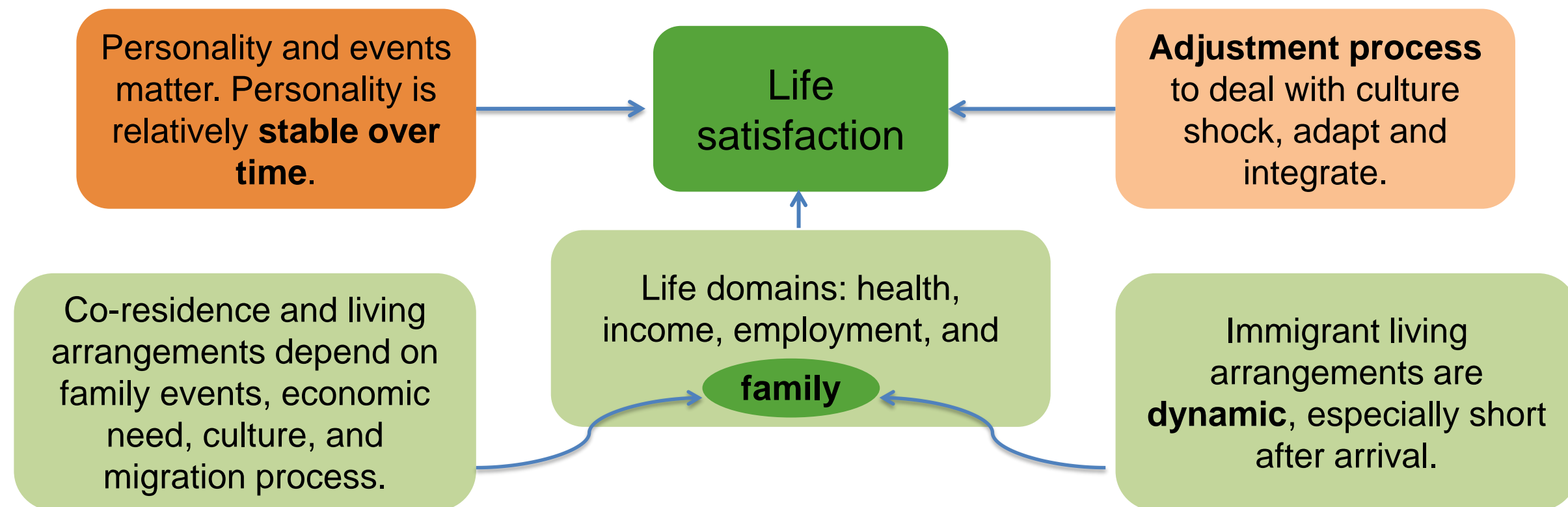
Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (Oct.2000-Sep.2001)

Interviewed 6 months and 4 years after arrival
Sample: permanent residents, 18-60 at arrival
n = 6,350 (n=1,980 for Fixed-Effects models)

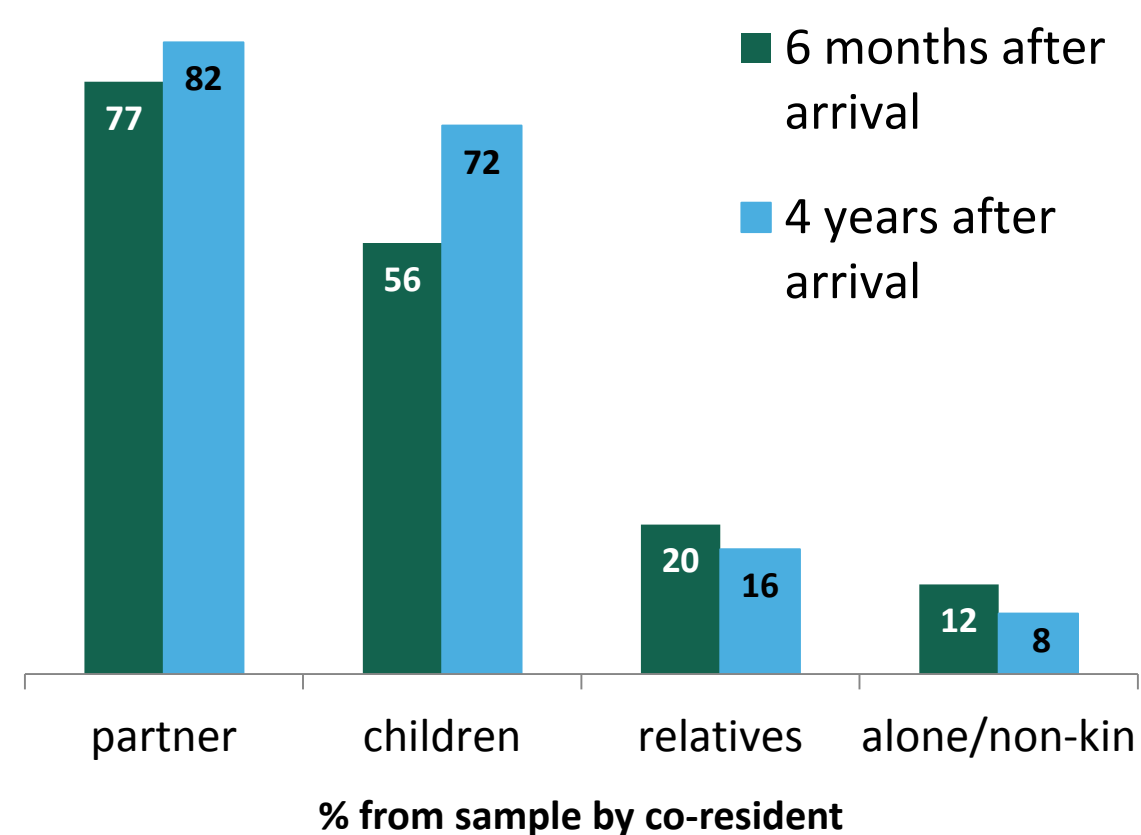
Logistic regression models

Cross-sectional and Fixed- and Random-Effects
Variables: demographic characteristics, living arrangements (co-residents), self-rated health, indicators of social and economic integration

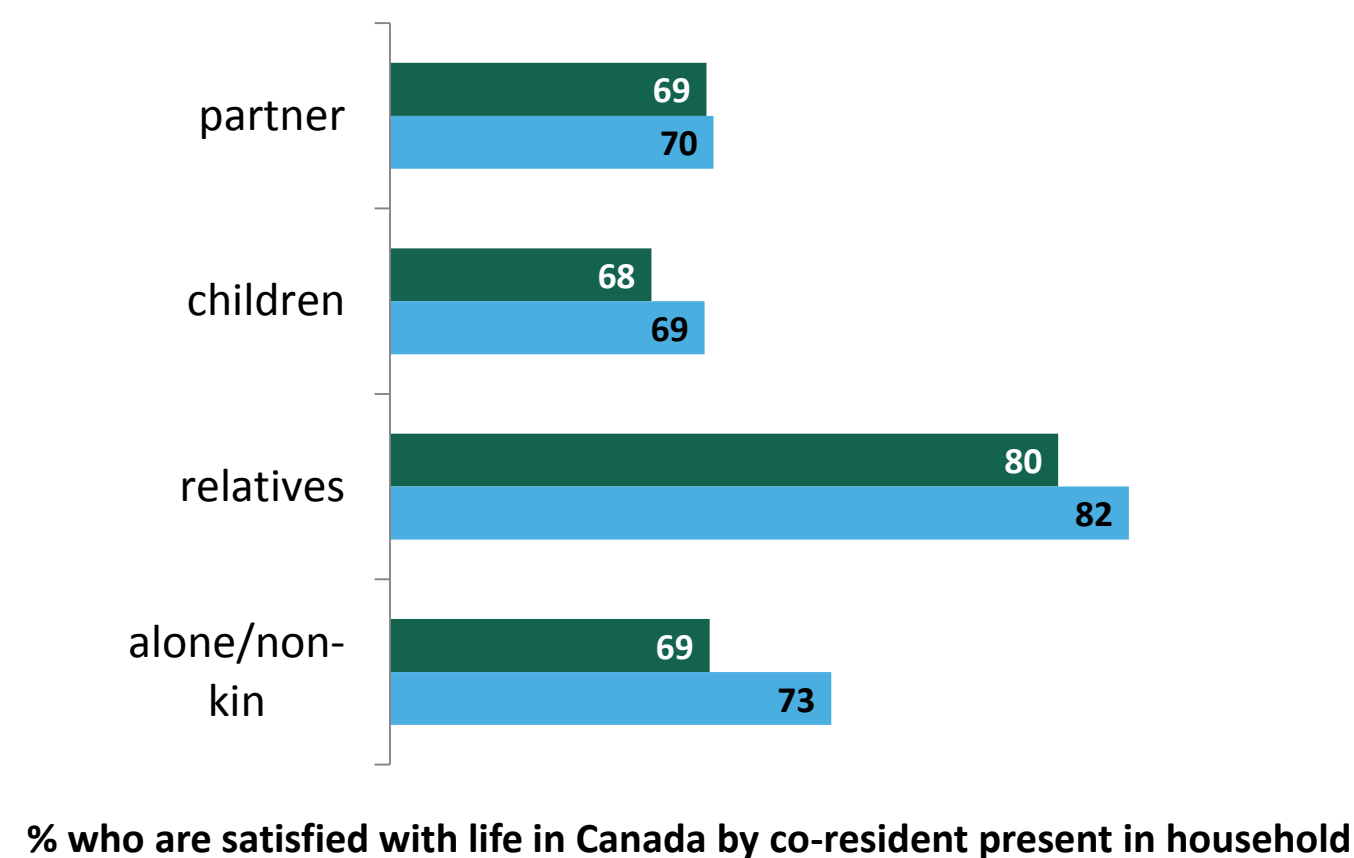
Background



Who are immigrants living with?



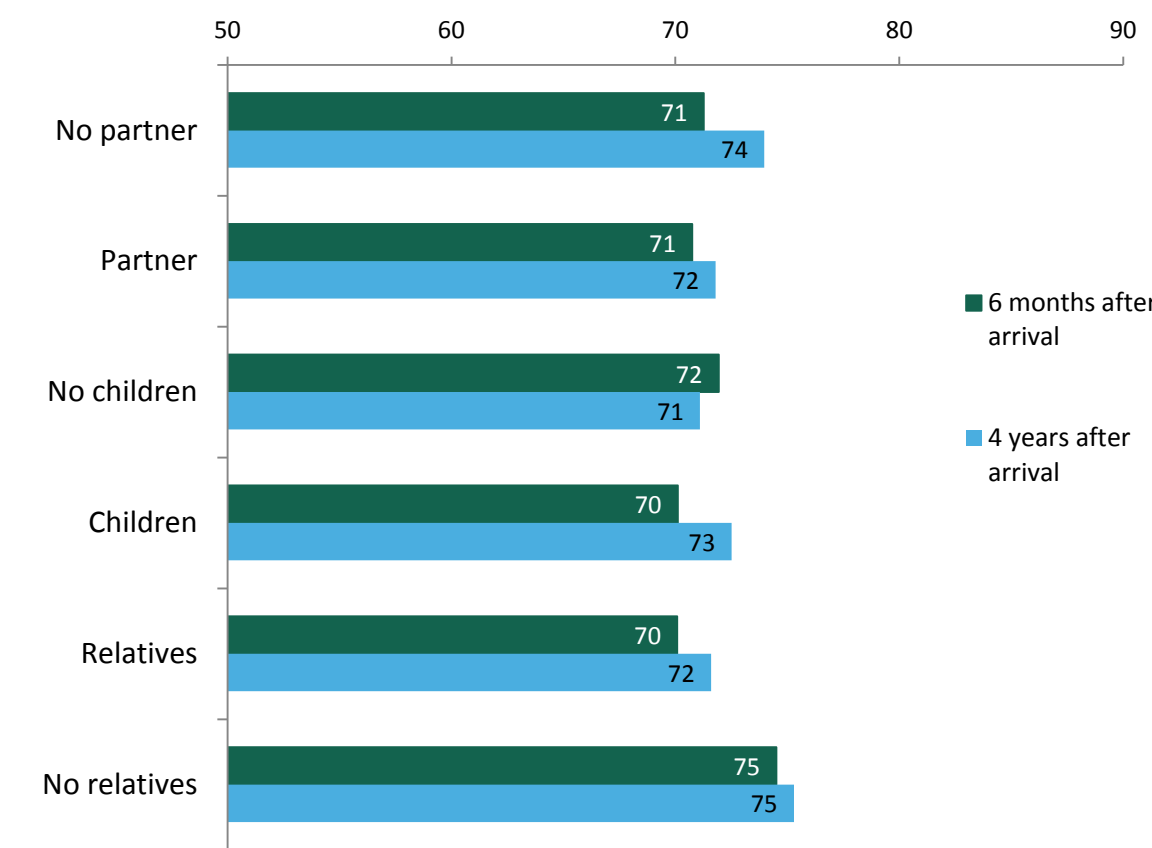
... and how satisfied are they?



How do living arrangements influence immigrant's life satisfaction?

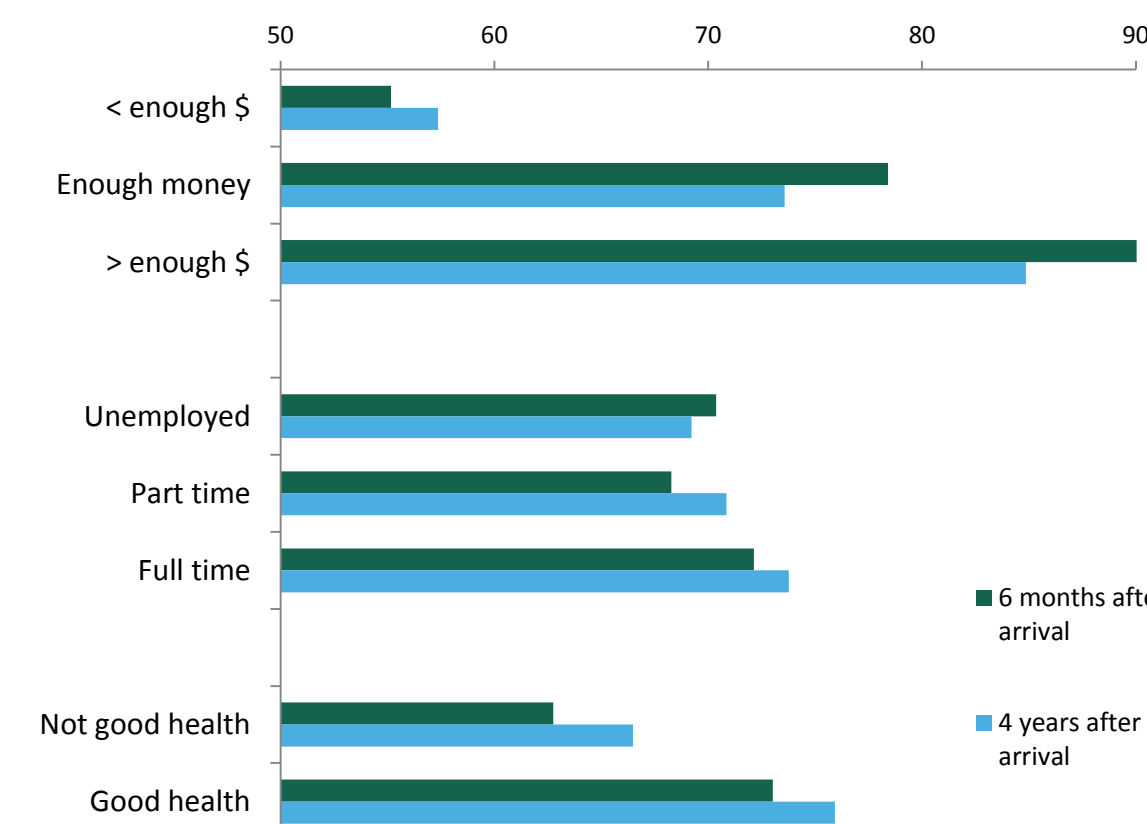
No significant associations of co-residents once we control for economic integration.

Living with relatives is significant and positive (OR = 1.29, p<0.05) only 6 months after arrival.



Average predicted probabilities of being satisfied with life in Canada (adjusted model).

There is a large and significant influence of indicators of economic integration.

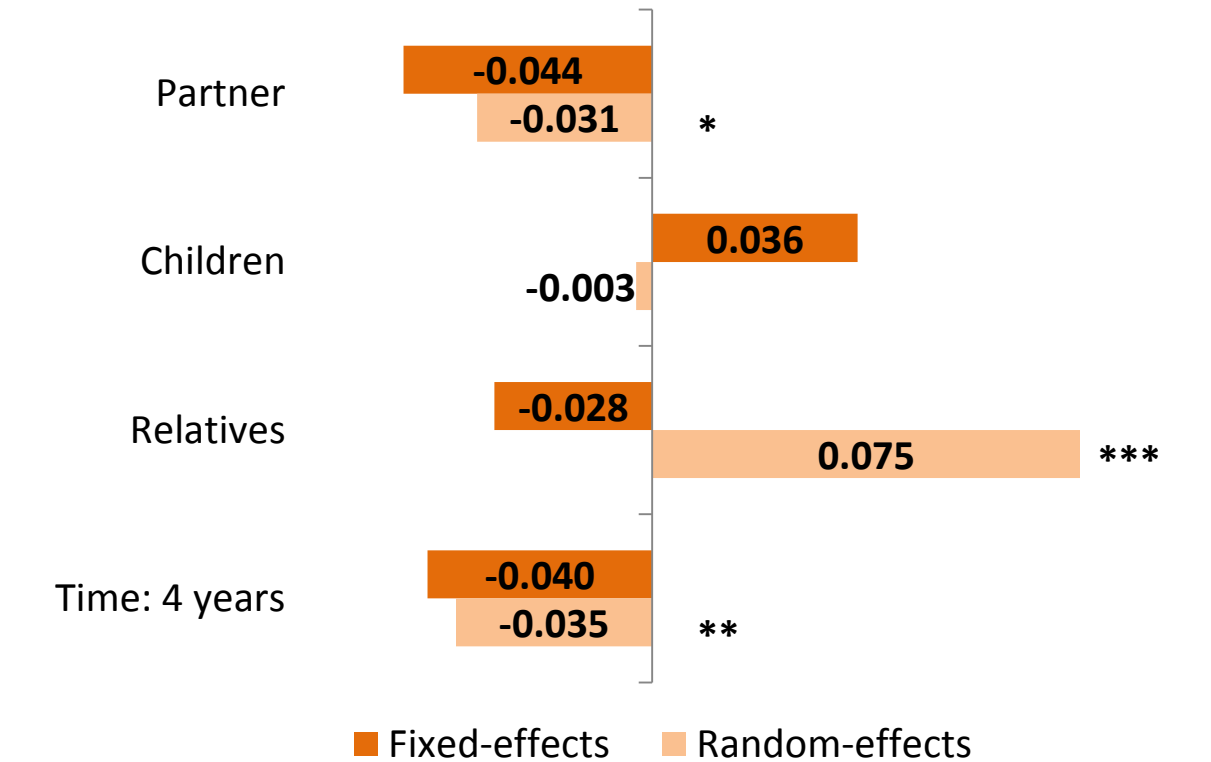


In terms of social integration, six months after arrival, significant having friends from a different ethnic group and participating in organizations. Poor language proficiency is negative 4 years after.

Note* for p<.05, ** for p<.01, and *** for p<0.001 (two tailed tests)

How do living arrangements influence changes of life satisfaction over time?

Living arrangements are not significantly associated to changes in satisfaction when time-constant factors are accounted for.

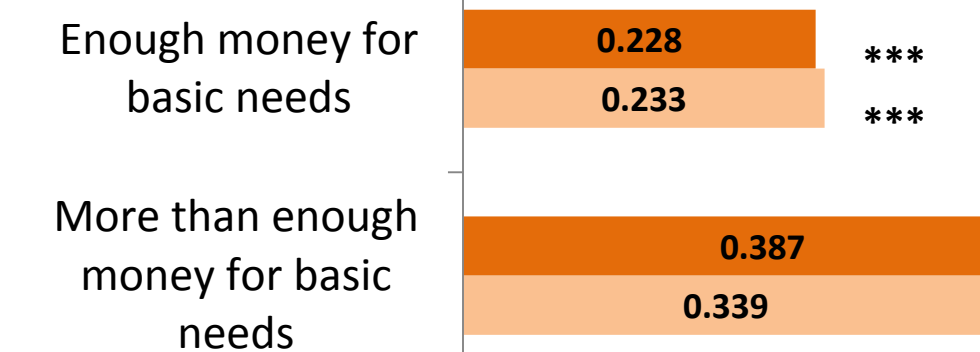


Average marginal effects (effect of discrete change in the probability of satisfaction) given null fixed/random effects.

Overall negative effect of time for FE and RE models. RE coefficients are systematically biased.

Time-constant characteristics may be selecting individuals into living with relatives.

Again, the economic domain matters more for change in satisfaction.



Unobserved individual characteristics account for 26% of propensity to be satisfied with life.

Acknowledgements:



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