



**What's changing? – advice for  
early career scientists**

**Jack Leeming**

ICOS International Science Conference

29<sup>th</sup>September 2016

**SPRINGER NATURE**

# What I'm going to talk about

- Me
- You
- What's changing in scientific careers?
- Advice
- Shameless plug of *Naturejobs* and our stock photo competition



## About me:

- Editor of *Naturejobs*
- Master's degree in chemistry
- Worked as a writer during my degree (which is how I got this job)
- Also spent time at a start-up incubator on a few projects
- Very pleased to be in Finland (thanks for having me!)

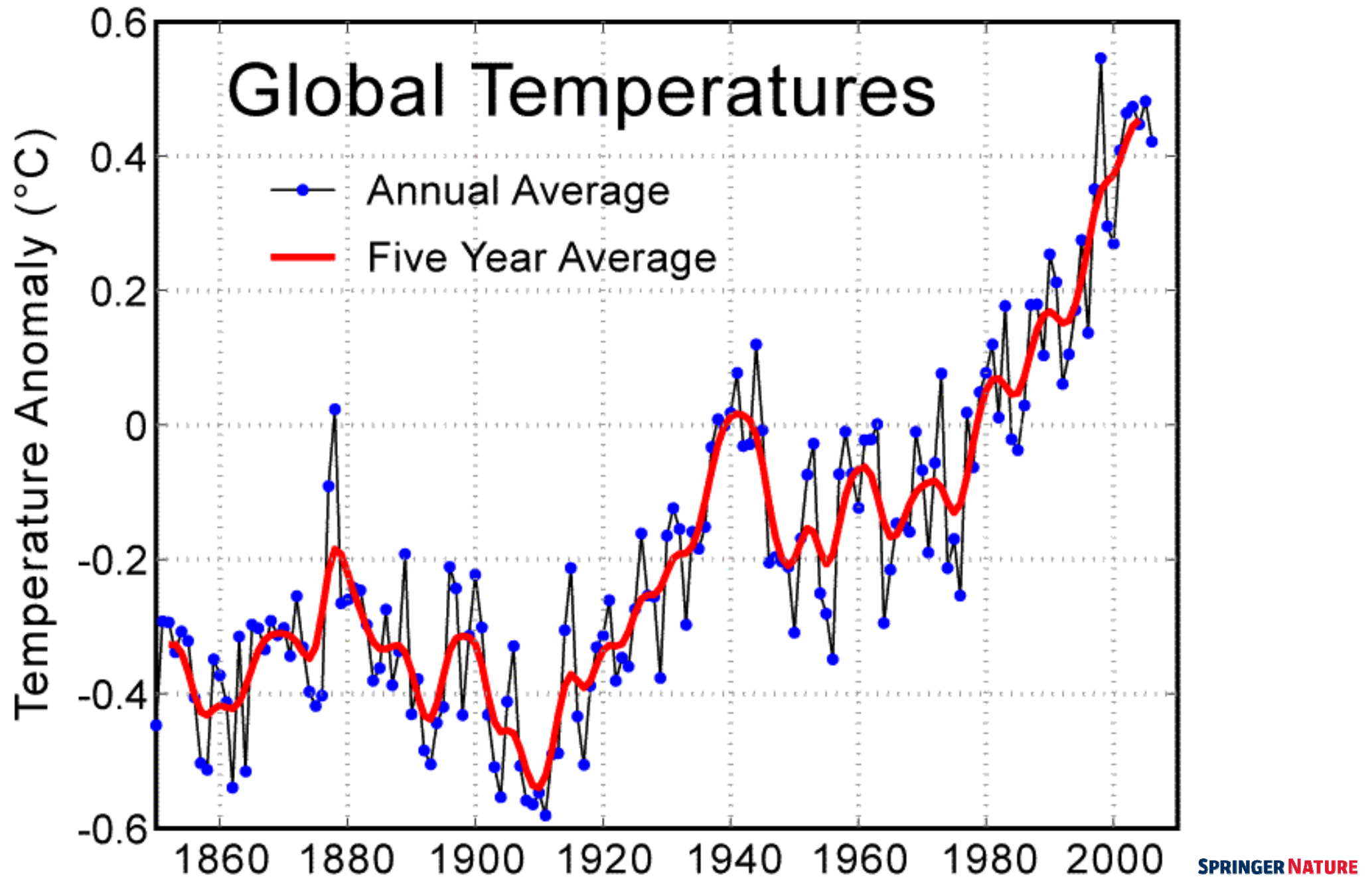




Libraries:  
0405  
http://www.digitallibrary.gov.uk/0405/04050001.asp

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# Stay in this field if you can (please!)



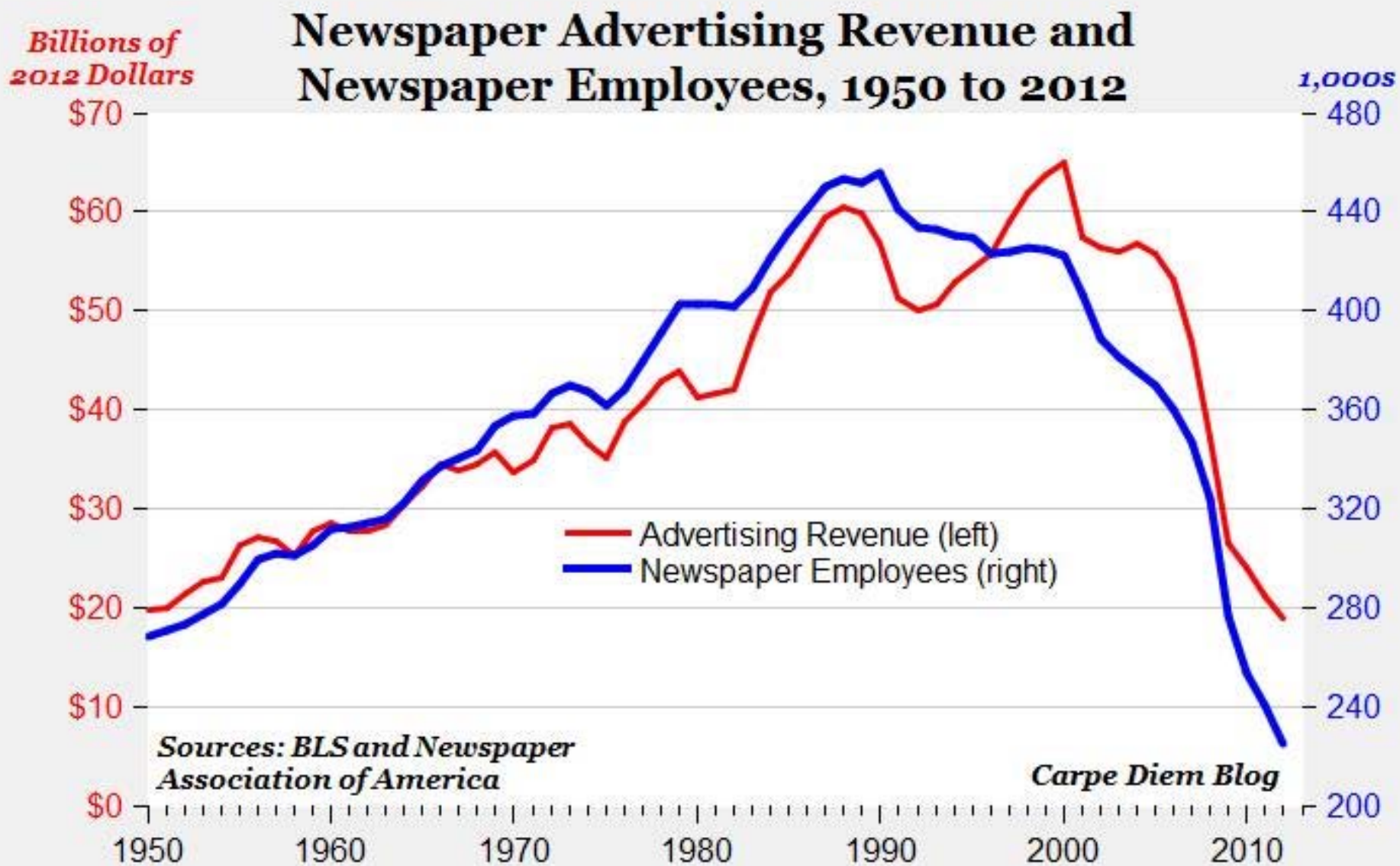
# What's changing?

We live in a changing world of work. Here's three examples.

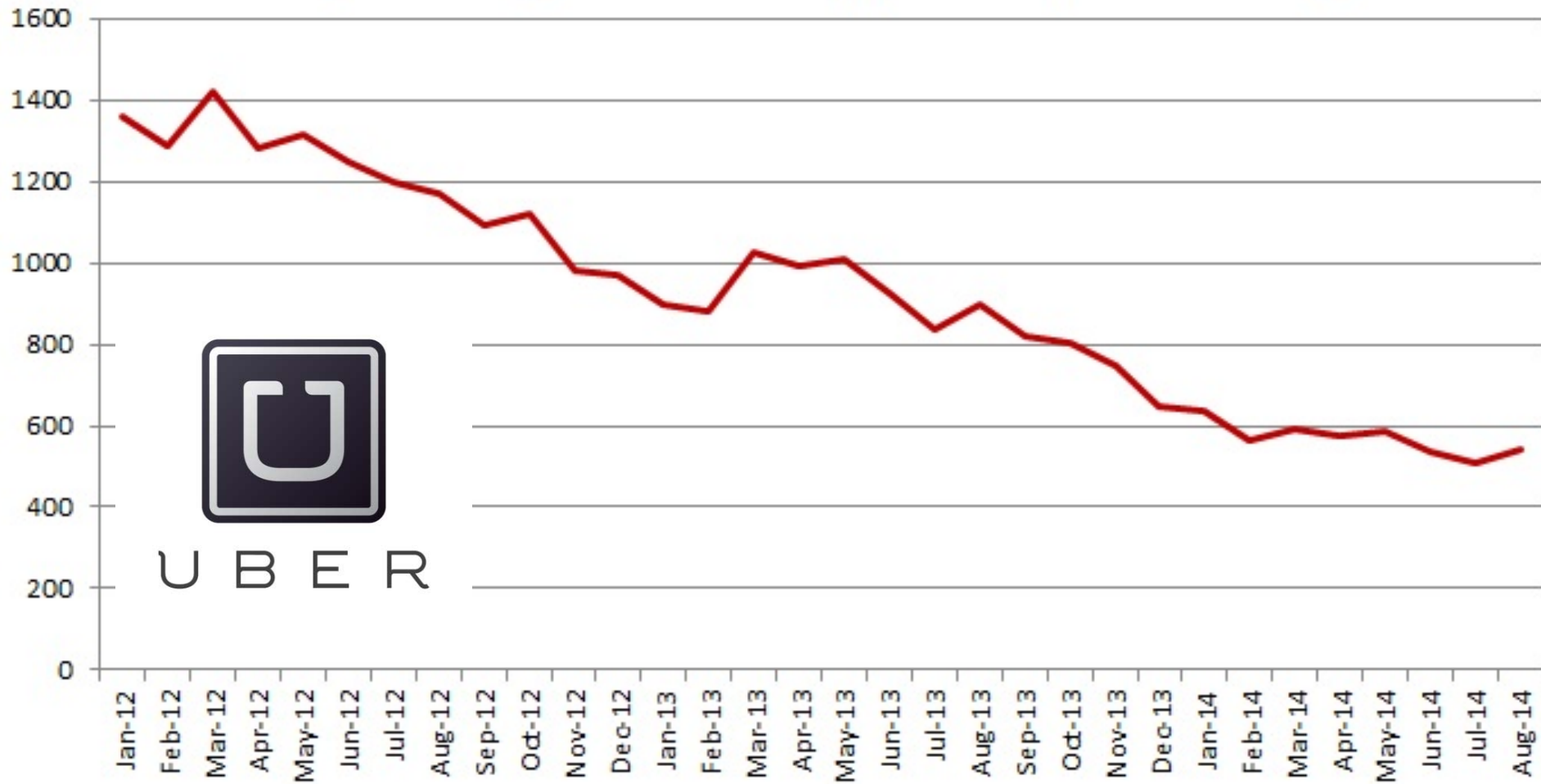
- Tech disruptions to publishing and ride sharing (and science?)
- The academia – industry relationship
- A new way of measuring the value of research



# Tech is disrupting publishing



### Average monthly number of trips per cab (San Francisco)





# Is science about to be disrupted?

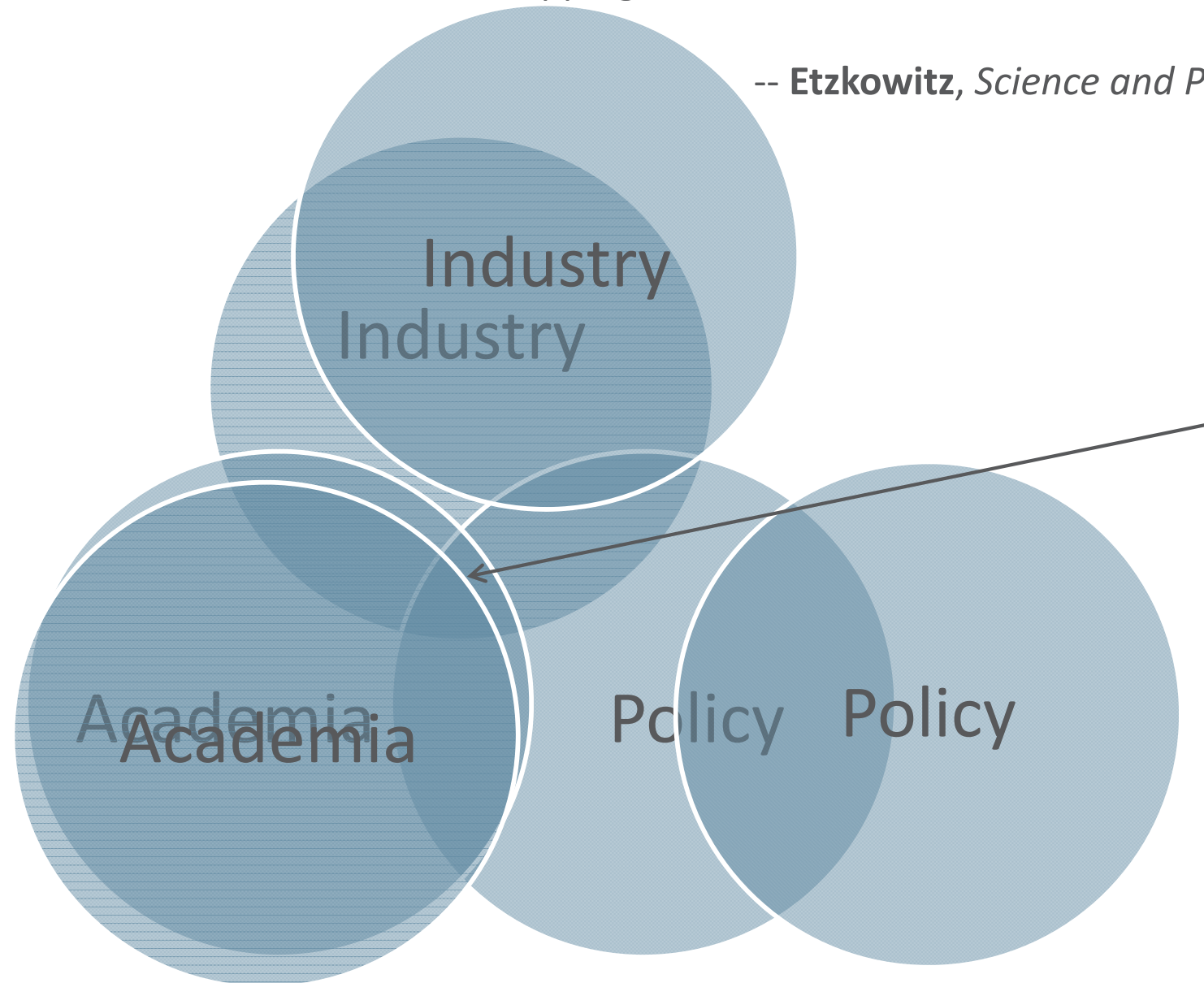


Science Exchange is a contract research marketplace, allowing companies to pay other labs to do research on their behalf

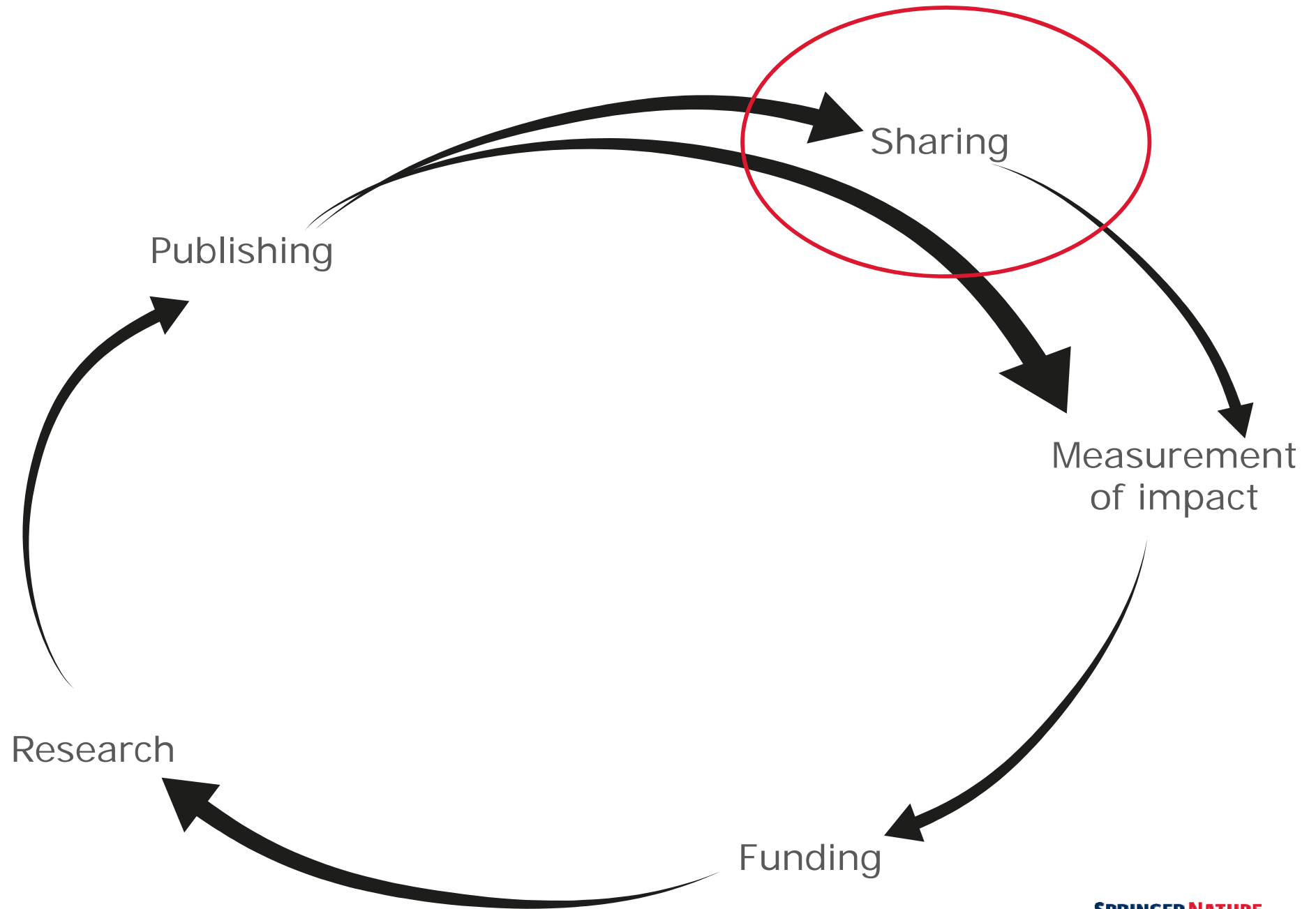
# What's changing in the academia-industry relationship?

"Whether countries started from the model of the state incorporating industry and academia or a configuration in which they coexisted separately, the different helices have recently been moving in a common direction, overlapping each other, to stimulate both competition and collaboration."

-- **Etzkowitz**, *Science and Public Policy*: 29, 2, 2002, p115–128



# What's changing in research assessment?



# Sharing opinions



**Jonathan Eisen** ✓  
@phylogenomics

Follow

Sure-have burned some bridges by public critiques but guess am OK w/ that price to increase awareness of diversity at #STEMConferences (4/n)

5:32 AM - 2 Sep 2016

13 36



A new domain of life

The Economist

## Plenty more bugs in the sea

Tantalising evidence is emerging of a serious gap in biologists' understanding of the diversity of life on Earth

Mar 24th 2011 | From the print edition



LIFE, like Caesar's Gaul, is divided into three parts. The Linnaean system of classification, with its prescriptive hierarchy of species, genus, family, order, class, phylum and kingdom, ultimately lumps everything alive into one of three giant groups known as domains.

“Blog posts have helped me get invitations. They’ve helped me get papers. They’ve helped me get grants. People cite my work more almost certainly because they’ve heard about it more”

-- Jonathan Eisen



# Sharing experience

“The first piece brought a lot of attention, which was both fun and overwhelming. It absolutely boosted my LinkedIn visibility, helped to make new connections, and personally gave me more confidence, as I look forward to a career in science writing.”

-- Elisa Lazzari

NATUREJOBS | NATUREJOBS BLOG

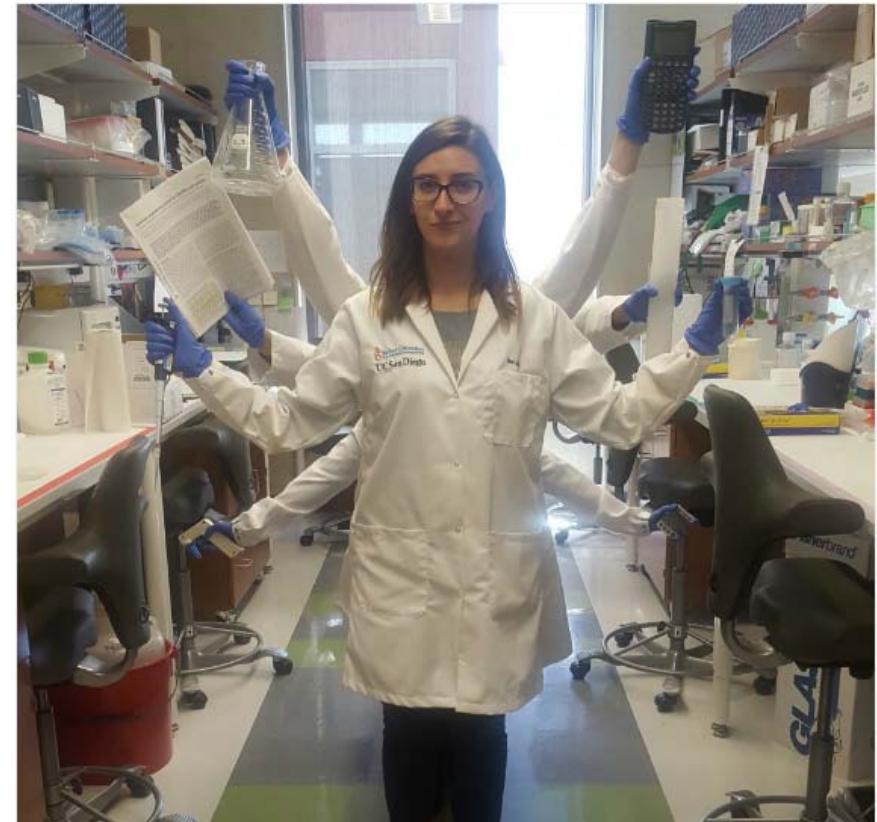
## Can scientists really have work/life balance?

13 Jun 2016 | 13:00 BST | Posted by Jack Leeming | Category: #NJCESanFrancisco, Academia, Blog, Career paths, Chemistry, Mobility, People Management, Perspectives, PhD, Relationships, Research

To be a top performer you need to be happy – something academics tend to forget.

*Naturejobs journalism competition winner Elisa Lazzari*

Scientists spend a lot of time trouble-shooting. Every day we work on our protocols, and if something doesn't work, we try again and again, until we fix it. We keep track of all the factors and accurately measure all variables, to find the perfect combination of parameters that work. If there is one thing we can claim after getting a PhD, we're definitely great at problem-solving. Can we also trouble-shoot our way out of the everlasting dilemma on how to find work/life balance?

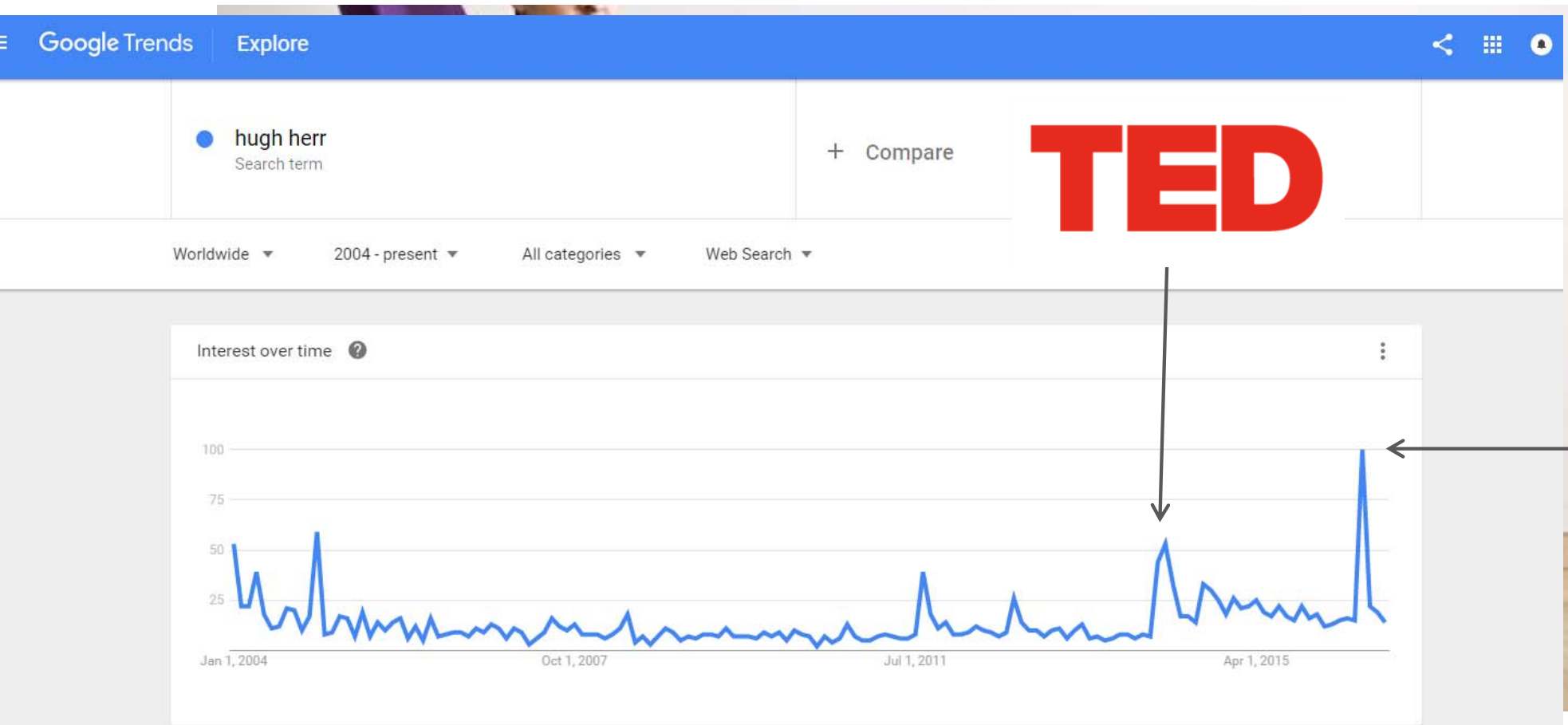


# Sharing inspiration

Science AMA Series: I'm Hugh Herr, professor and co-director of the Center for Extreme Bionics at the MIT Media Lab. At 17 I lost both my legs during a blizzard while rock climbing. Now I design bionic limbs that let us transcend disability and augment the human condition. AMA!

► self.science

20 days ago by \* (last edited 19 days ago) Hugh\_Herr Professor/Co-director | Center for Extreme Bionics | MIT



# How does this help your career?



Google Scholar and Altmetric both make their measurements of impact based off of blog posts, social media interest, news coverage and a whole lot more. **And they're getting more and more influential...**

# Funders are paying attention to altmetrics

“[Alternative] metrics offer research funders greater intelligence regarding the use and reuse of research, both among traditional academic audiences and stakeholders outside of academia”



“This data can help us gain insight into ways which we could improve our research and public engagement programs”





## Here's five points to remember

- Your science still has to be good
- Talk to people
- Be flexible
- Share, share, share!
- Don't be worried if you don't know what to do (and remember that you're mobile)



Stay tuned for our **stock photo science** competition!

# Thank you

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