



CREATIVE PORTFOLIO

with writing samples, links, and
services offered

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ABOUT ME

SERVICES

**Copy Writing, Ghost Writing
and Copy Editing, including:**

- Blog posts
- Website copy
- Research reports & white papers
- Newsletter copy
- Social media messages
- Voiceover copy & voice acting

"COMMS SHOP"

- Ad-hoc and long-term strategy, planning, and support
- Contributor & media relations
- Website content management (Squarespace and WordPress)
- Newsletters
- Fundamental graphics
- Fundamental video & audio editing

Need a creative and accomplished writer who can craft words in different styles on different topics?

Hi! I've published listicles, reports, social media, brand copy for the web, teaching materials, and more.

Need to fill gaps in your comms factory?

I have built and managed Squarespace and WordPress sites, liaised with developers, and owned the entire newsletter process.

Want to test and iterate Meta, Google, or LinkedIn advertising? Can do.

Video editing and basic graphic design?

Not a master, but yes!

Need ideas on what to write about and whom to target?

I can ideate and plan your editorial calendar, work with content producers, and support ad hoc strategies for immediate and longer-term needs.

Available for long and short-term projects, good food, strong coffee, and map gazing (I heart geography).

Let's chat! ezra.mannix@gmail.com

ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

Selected Works (click the titles to access)

Full text of two articles and one excerpt are found on the following pages.

OXPOL
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY POLITICS BLOG

PAGE 4

Turkey's Elections: It's the Economy, 'Saftirik', OxPol: The Oxford University Politics Blog [↗](#)

Expert commentary for the generalist on what to expect in an election.



PAGE 7

Political Participation of Refugees: The Case of Syrian Refugees in Turkey, International IDEA [↗](#)

A formal publication showcasing my qualitative and desk research skills. I interviewed more than 20 Syrian refugees in Turkey and combined insights from their words with deep policy and current events research.

CENTER for FINANCIAL INCLUSION ACCION

PAGE 10

Top 10 Blog Posts of 2020, Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion [↗](#)

A listicle of top posts from a blog I managed.



Articles on Turkey & US-Turkey Relations, EzraMannix.com [↗](#)

A series of articles, part of a non-resident fellowship with an organization that fosters Turkish-American relations.



Board Governance for Innovative Companies: 9 Principles for Success, Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion [↗](#)

I distilled a report (link below) into an SEO-friendly listicle of key takeaways.



Corporate Governance for Early-Stage, Innovative Companies: A Practical Resource Guide, Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion [↗](#)

A report I researched and ghostwrote.



Six Takeaways From Turkey's Election, OxPol: The Oxford University Politics Blog [↗](#)

A post-election listicle.

OTHER CONTENT



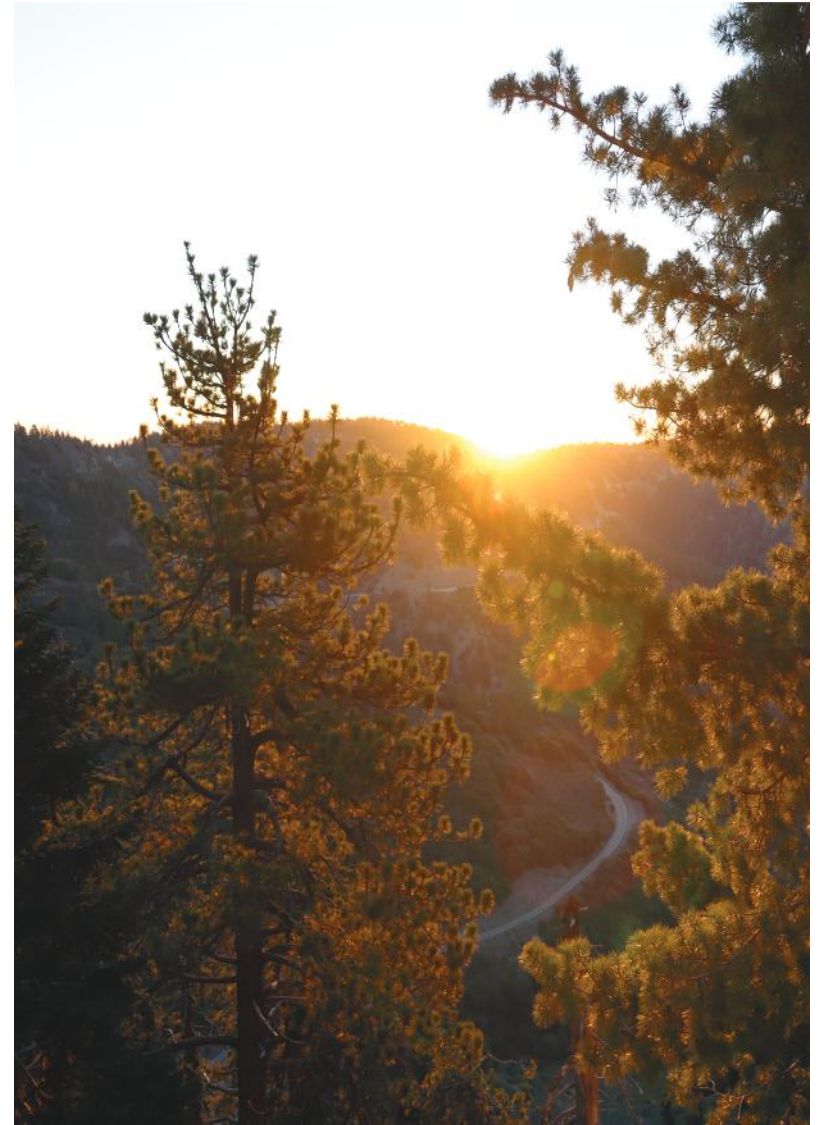
Website: **Mentor Recruitment Fair** [↗](#)
Client: DC Tutoring & Mentoring Initiative
Evergreen event website built with Squarespace.
I wrote and/or edited all copy and designed the logo.



Newsletter: **September 2022 General Newsletter** [↗](#)
Client: DC Tutoring & Mentoring Initiative
Emailed to a 7,000-plus strong community of tutors,
mentors, and other supporters of a local youth services
non-profit.



Online Quiz: **Financial Inclusion Week Quiz,**
Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion [↗](#)
An example of novel content I developed and published.
Inspired by my teaching days!





TURKEY'S ELECTION: "IT'S THE ECONOMY, SAFTIRIK"

June 23, 2018

The lights shine, the cameras zoom, and the serious intro music fades. "Let's talk about the hottest topic: the economy," says the CNN Türk news program host. On the left are three journalists from mainstream Turkish news outlets, on the right is Muharrem İnce, the presidential candidate of CHP, the center-left party and opposition candidate with the best shot at unseating president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The stone-faced journalist from Hürriyet asks the first question: "It is said that speculators, FETÖ (the term for the followers of accused coup plotter Fethullah Gülen), and economic masterminds are working together and have hurt the capacity of the AKP to help the economy. It's an economic coup, they say. What do you say?"

İnce doesn't take the conspiracy theory bait. "I'm a physics teacher. There is a logic in physics. There is a logic in economics," he replies. "There is a foreign beneficiary of this debt of Turkey's. Does this foreign creditor want default? How's the creditor going to get repaid?" Not scapegoating foreign speculators, he goes on to note that most of the foreign debt was accumulated while the AKP was in power.

That stance is in stark contrast to Erdoğan's recent bombastic statements blaming outsiders: "Don't pay attention to the games played through exchange rates!" the president told a rally of supporters in Sakarya, referencing the decline of the Turkish lira against major currencies. "After June 24, we will settle accounts with those who make such manipulations. We will issue a

serious manifesto for them.”

A casual observer of Turkish politics would be forgiven for thinking that regional geopolitics, social issues, the Kurdish issue or the hosted refugees are the central points of the election. Not so. Somewhere in Turkey, a political strategist is hammering home to her client: “it’s the economy, saftirik (stupid).”

Pocketbooks will tip the scales as Turks head to the polls on June 24 to select, for the first time, parliamentarians and a president simultaneously in the new executive-style polity.

As long as the economy was chugging along and ordinary citizens saw the opportunity to join the growing middle-class, Turkish voters were willing to put up with a lot intolerant and divisive leadership. “When he set up his AKP in 2001, Erdoğan’s strength was rooted in his ability to dream prosperity and more freedoms for Turkish citizens,” said Soner Çagaptay, author of the recent book *The New Sultan: Erdoğan and the Crisis of Modern Turkey*. “When Erdoğan came to power in 2002, Turkey was a country of mostly poor people;

it is now a country of mostly middle-income citizens.”

Now the economy is faltering — somewhat. Turkey’s foreign accounts deficit has exceeded \$400 billion, the lira has lost more than 20 percent of its value versus major currencies this year, and perhaps most tellingly, Turkey leads the world in number of millionaires fleeing the country and taking their assets with them. Although exports to the Eurozone have steadily gone up and tourism has finally expanded for the first time since 2015, inflation has reached double-digit levels and the current accounts deficit has risen above 5 percent, at the same time, that the country is facing pressures from higher oil prices.

Despite these recent economic woes, Erdoğan is still loved by huge numbers of Turks. According to Çagaptay: “Half of the country hates him, but the other half adores him and thinks he can do nothing wrong. The latter part will therefore agree with him, if an economic meltdown happens, that this is driven by outsiders and the domestic opponents who want to undermine Erdoğan.” While his supporters see outsider machinations, his opponents suspect that Erdoğan called for early elections because he saw that the economy was in for a rough

ride, and later elections would have meant that voters' wallets might have been affected enough to erode his support even more.

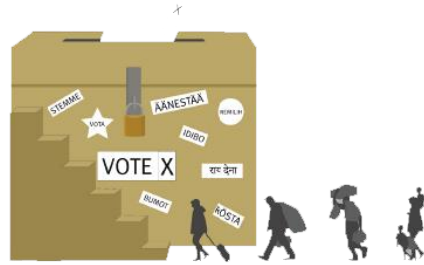
However, there seems to be little optimism that the opposition can steer Turkey's economy away from decline. "No one has an economic program for Turkey. (The opposition) have no plan, neither does Mr. Erdoğan," said a Turkish real estate expert, who asked to remain anonymous. According to him, the weak lira might prevent the next Turkish government from getting the financing it needs for major infrastructure projects, which have been key for keeping the economy moving in the recent past.

Whoever wins the elections on June 24 and whatever political wrangling takes place, Turkey's government will have to navigate rough economic waters. In the long term, Turkey needs to invest in developing a more nimble, flexible and better educated workforce that is able to pull its weight in the global knowledge economy.

April 18, 2018

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF REFUGEES:

THE CASE OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY



1. Introduction

This case study explores the opportunities and constraints facing Syrian refugees and asylum seekers in Turkey, and is part of a larger research project on the political participation of refugees (Bekaj and Antara 2018). First, it considers their participation in the political life and decision-making of their host country. Second, it explores their potential to contribute to democracy-building processes in Syria. The study is based on desk research of the relevant literature, as well as field research carried out in Istanbul and Gaziantep in May–July 2017.

Qualitative data was gathered in one-to-one interviews, as well as a paper-based and online survey, in order to best capture the unique context of displaced Syrians in Turkey. Sixty-one Syrian refugees and asylum seekers participated in the research (52 men and 9 women), 13 of whom were based in Gaziantep, 13 in Istanbul, and 35 completed the questionnaire online.

Table 1. Case study respondents' profiles and locations

Research site	Syrian		TOTAL
	Male	Female	
Gaziantep	7	6	13
Istanbul	10	3	13
Online/written	35	0	35
TOTAL			61

The ethnicity, age and socio-economic background of the participants were monitored as far as possible. Ten respondents identified as Muslim Arab males with university diplomas. In addition, 29 percent identified as members of one of the following groups: Kurdish, Sunni Arab, Druze or Turkmen. The rest identified as Arab. The majority of those employed were working legally, but there were some exceptions. Of these, two respondents, both female, bounced from job to job due to harassment or substandard wages, while two others

were working illegally for friends or family. The vast majority (21) of respondents were aged between 18 and 45 and had been in Turkey for a period of one to five years.

Section 2 provides an overview of the host-country context, including a summary of Turkey's refugee and asylum policy, and the requirements for refugees' political participation and naturalization. Section 3 presents the key findings from the field research, focused on the perspectives of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers of their political participation in Turkey.

In particular, the issues of access to citizenship, and formal and non-formal political participation are examined. Section 4 outlines the Syrian context and delves into the issues of formal and non-formal political participation by the Syrian refugee diaspora in their country of origin, drawing on insights from the interviews and qualitative surveys. Finally, the study concludes with a set of recommendations on the political inclusion of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers in their host country and country of origin.

2. Host-Country Context

Turkey is host to the largest number of displaced Syrians in the world (UNHCR 2017). As of April 2017, 3.08 million registered Syrian refugees were living in Turkey (UNHCR2017). This figure represents more than 3.5 percent of the total population of Turkey and does not include the hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants. In addition, 300,000 are currently 'pre-registered', meaning that they are in the process of applying for temporary protection (TP). Thus, the actual number of displaced Syrians in Turkey could be more than 4 million.

At least 90 percent of displaced Syrians live in urban areas, while only 8 percent live in camps (European Commission 2017). Istanbul has the largest Syrian diaspora population (approximately 420,000), followed by the south-eastern provinces of Şanlıurfa, Hatay and Gaziantep, which host 402,000, 377,000 and 319,000 people, respectively. It is likely that Istanbul has far more Syrians due to economic pull factors. As a proportion of the total local population, the border province of Kilis has by far the highest percentage, with Syrians almost outnumbering the local population (130,000 locals

compared to 122,000 registered Syrians). The average length of stay for Syrians in Turkey is approximately 3 years, and this is growing.

Turkey initially practiced an open-door policy with regard to accepting the flow of crossborder migrants, but this changed in 2016. Turkey has closed 17 of its 19 border crossings and is erecting a concrete border wall along its border with Syria (Coşkun and Butler 2016).

Overview of Turkey's refugee and asylum policy

According to the Turkish Government, Syrian migrants are under 'temporary protection' and considered 'guests of the state'. Turkey is party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its subsequent 1967 Additional Protocol. However, it attached a geographic restriction to its ratification: only displaced European nationals can be considered refugees, even though most countries assess the 'situation' of asylum seekers to determine eligibility for refugee status (United Nations 1967a). States had the option in 1951 to restrict the definition of asylumseekers to those from today's Council of Europe member states, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was originally formed to

seek solutions for the 1.2 million refugees on the continent after the end of World War II. Governments were given the option of placing this geographic restriction, but only three— Hungary, Malta and Turkey—chose to do so. The 1967 Protocol was meant to apply the 1951 Convention without temporal or geographic limitations (United Nations 1967b). Turkey, however, acceded to the Protocol with the same reservations as it had put on the original Convention.

This is the end of the exerpt.

TOP 10 CFI BLOG POSTS OF 2020

Dec 28, 2020



Perhaps more than ever, 2020 provided us an opportunity to reflect on that for which we are thankful. One thing we're thankful for at CFI is our blog, a place where CFI and our community of contributors share their unique perspectives and calls to action for inclusive finance. The 76 posts of 2020 offer incredible insights into a wide range of themes and projects across many geographies.

Not surprisingly, since late March, nearly every CFI post has covered or mentioned COVID-19 in some form or fashion. But the top 10 posts (by unique page views) also dove into topics such as data and consumer protection — pillars of CFI's new strategy — over-indebtedness in Kenya, internal migration, women's financial inclusion (another key, cross-cutting CFI strategic focus area), a deep dive into resilience, and even how comics were used to spread COVID-19 awareness.

Happy reading, and happy new year!

1. Pandemics and Natural Disasters: What Can We Learn from Past Disasters to Help with Today's Pandemic?

Two weeks after the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic, Managing Director Mayada El-Zoghbi wrote about how this crisis compares to previous ones: namely, the Indonesian tsunami of 2004 and the Pakistan earthquake of 2013. She pointed out that households experience shocks similarly, regardless of the cause, and that the systemic nature of the shocks means that the firms and FSPs that serve them need to measure and implement the right responses to meet the challenge. She also predicted that the pandemic would be a “tipping point” for platform financial service provision.

2. What Is the Future of Microfinance? Q and A with Paul DiLeo

This year was a tipping point for microfinance, too, noted Paul DiLeo in this interview with CFI. DiLeo is the Managing Director of Grassroots Capital Management and a veteran faculty member of CFI board governance training. He is also coeditor of a recently published volume, “The Future of Microfinance.”

DiLeo suggested that investors in this space resist the temptation to move on to the next “bright, shiny object” in financial inclusion and continue to support microfinance to preserve social missions and benefit target populations.

3. Resilience and the Three Phases of Response

In May, BRAC’s microfinance director Shameran Abed and Laurie J. Spengler, the CEO of Courageous Capital Advisors, wrote that resilience is the “connective tissue” between the three phases of response: relief, recovery and rebuild. The authors advocate for assessing resilience through two lenses, opportunity and risk, and point out that the pandemic is an opportunity to invest in resilience because “recurring dividends will be realized by all.”

4. Data Globalization vs. Data Localization

Before the pandemic hit, CFI’s Ethan Loufield and Credit Suisse’s Shweta Vashisht wrote about how the flow of data across borders is a contentious

issue countries encounter when developing data protection laws and regulations. They present arguments for data localization, but ultimately conclude that data can, and should, be allowed to flow across borders with the right frameworks in place.

5. Data Consent: Let's Share the Burden for Effective Consumer Protection

Also part of the Data Protection and Financial Inclusion: Why It Matters series, this post argues that it's futile for small tech to keep up with high-standard consent practices, and that the path from data consent principles to implementation is, for low-capacity environments, "littered with landmines." Vashisht and Loufield conclude that successful solutions need to be shouldered by both consumers and providers.

6. Q and A: Using Comics for COVID-19 Awareness

Graham A.N. Wright, founder of MSC, sat down with CFI to discuss a series of informative comics his team produced to get the word out about the dangers of

COVID. The colorful comics, complete with protagonists warning clients about the hazards of the virus and how they can help knock it out, informed how real-life group meetings and staff visits have been conducted.

7. Support for India's Migrants During COVID-19: Navigating Potential Gaps in the System

The lockdown in India had massive impacts, perhaps for none more than internal migrant workers, who left for home villages in droves when work dried up. This post warned that system-wide social payments challenges boded poorly for these vulnerable workers due to, among other reasons, ATM access constraints and domicile restrictions of state governments. The post was authored by Shashank Shreedharan and Jithin Jose of LEAD.

8. It's Time to Protect Kenyans from a Digital Lending Laboratory

CFI's Alex Kessler warns readers that the breakneck growth in mobile lending and aggressive debt collection and debt stress have raised enormous consumer

protection red flags. This article offers key statistics on mobile money's exponential growth there, highlights the need for consumer protection-oriented algorithms, and suggests calls to action for regulators.

9. Reimagining Inclusive Finance With Women In Mind

In this Financial Inclusion Week post, we meet Carla, a fictitious — but very realistic — mother of three young children living in a village in Tanzania. Carla's story is like that of millions of poor women in the Global South who are excluded from financial products that weren't designed for them. CFI gender lead Julia Arnold asks our community if we are listening to women enough, and implores our sector to design and deliver financial products and services with the Carlas of the world in mind. She also provides early thinking around CFI's gender work in 2021 and beyond.

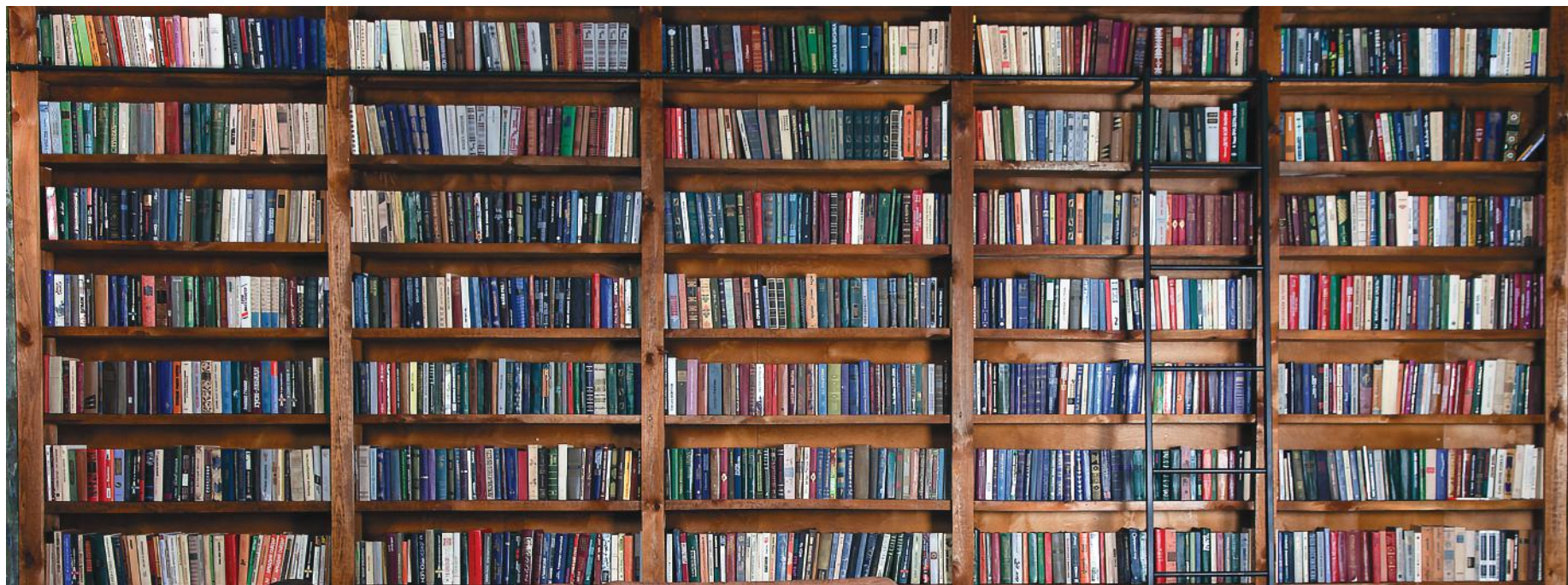
10. Can Financial Inclusion Moderate Impacts of Coronavirus?

It's fitting that we round out the 2020 list with our very first COVID response

post, written by research lead Eric Noggle and published on March 20. While alarm bells in the media had sounded long before, this was one of the early posts in the inclusive finance space that offered a clear call to action for this “major stress test,” namely, getting as much money as possible into the hands of those who need it most — and doing so as quickly as possible. How did governments of the world do? Read our December policy brief for examples of many governments that innovated quickly to get social payments into the literal and digital hands of citizens.

We hope you continue to read and share views from our blog in 2021. For a sneak peek into the kind of content you'll see, revisit these Financial Inclusion Week posts (plus #9) related to our top priorities for inclusive finance:

- “Financial Services are Needed to Help Low-Income People Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change” By Eric Noggle
- “COVID-19 Ushers in New Challenges for Consumer Protection” By Lauren Braniff
- “Data for Inclusive Finance: Delivering on the Promise for Consumers” By Alexandra Rizzi and Alex Kessler



LET'S CHAT



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