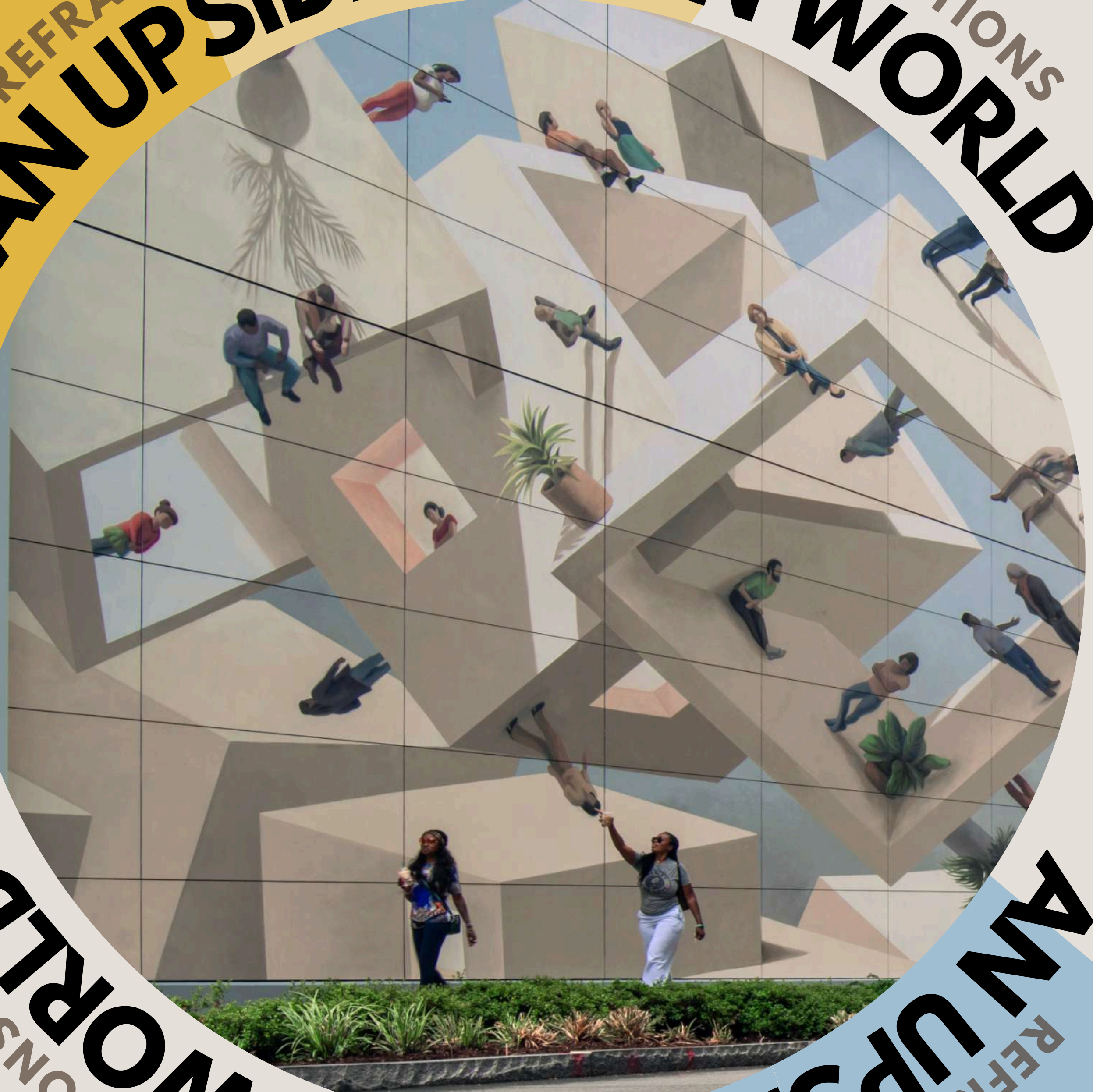


SPRING
RESEARCH SCHOOL

MAY 19, 20 & 22 | 2026

LISBON, PORTUGAL

REFRAMING CHALLENGES AND ASSUMPTIONS
AN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD



AN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD
REFRAMING CHALLENGES AND ASSUMPTIONS



SPRING RESEARCH SCHOOL

An Upside-Down World

REFRAMING CHALLENGES AND ASSUMPTIONS

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19, 20 & 22 OF MAY 2026 • LISBON • PORTUGAL

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IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 112

The Spring Research School is a joint initiative between the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs (Georgia, USA)
and the Observatório Político | Political Observatory (Lisbon, PT)



DAY 1 | UPSIDE-DOWN POLITICS

TUE • MAY 19 • 2026

DAY 2 | MOVING ASSUMPTIONS

WED • MAY 20 • 2026

DAY 3 | REFRAMING CHALLENGES

FRI • MAY 22 • 2026



Tue • May 19 • 2026

9:00 am Shuttle from the Hostel Lisbon Calling to Lusófona University

POLITICS IN REAL TIME

9:30 am

FCSEA - Lusófona University
Room U.0.13

Reception and Welcoming Words

The Political Observatory in an upside-down world
Patrícia Oliveira

FCSEA, LUSOGLOBE, ULUSÓFONA; OP

10:00 am

Masterclass
followed by Q&A

The Portuguese Democracy at 50

António Costa Pinto

FCSEA, LUSOGLOBE, ULUSÓFONA

10:30 am Coffee Break

10:45 am

Round table
followed by Q&A

Reframing Democracy

The People vs. Liberalism? Rethinking Democracy in the
Age of Populism, **Teresa Nogueira Pinto**

FCSEA, LUSOGLOBE, ULUSÓFONA

Jorge Botelho Moniz
discussant



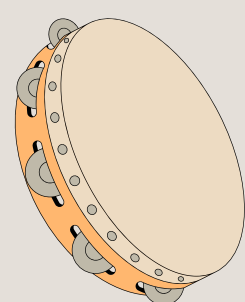
Looking from the Outside in: How International Politics
Undermine Democracy, **Vasco Rato**

FCSEA, LUSOGLOBE, ULUSÓFONA

Democratic Resilience or Democratic Erosion?
Transatlantic Tensions over Immigration, Identity, and

Free Speech, **Ana Cavalieri**
IEP-CATÓLICA

12:30 pm



Tusófona Performance

Students' academic tradition

Tusófona - University Musical Ensemble of the Lusófona University

01:00 pm Lunch break at Lusófona University Restaurant

In collaboration with:





UPSIDE-DOWN POLITICS

Tue • May 19 • 2026

02:20 pm Get together at the Lusófona University

POLITICAL AESTHETICS

2:30 pm

Bordalo Pinheiro
Museum,
Campo Grande



Political Satire with Bordalo Pinheiro

From political cartoons to decorative art, the Bordalo Pinheiro Museum highlights the evolution of Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro's artistic career and his impact on Portuguese political culture from from the 19th century to the present day. It houses an extensive collection of the artist's works, including caricatures, illustrations, and iconic ceramic pieces.

3:40 pm Shuttle from Campo Grande to the Old Town

4:00 pm

Aljube Museum
Resistance and
Freedom



Resistance and Freedom

The Museum of Aljube is housed in a former political prison run by PIDE, the dictatorship's political police. This museum preserves the history of those who were imprisoned for opposing the regime between 1926 and 1974, culminating in the Carnation Revolution. The exhibition presents a powerful and moving narrative through documents, photographs, testimonies, and audiovisual materials, ensuring that this important chapter of history is not forgotten.

5:00 pm

Old Town



Wander in Wonder

Stroll through Lisbon's old town, catching a glimpse of the most historic landmarks of the city. Starting at the oldest church in the city - Sé de Lisboa (Lisbon Cathedral) - our walking tour will head towards Terreiro do Paço, a grand riverside square that opens onto the Tagus River.

6:30 pm

Augusta Arch,
Terreiro do Paço



Above the City, Beneath the Clouds

A climb to the top of the Rua Augusta Arch for one of the best panoramic views in Lisbon. The visit offers a unique perspective on the city's layout and its connection to the river, making it a memorable highlight of any walk through Lisbon.

Partners:

museubordalo pinheiro



LISBOA
STORY
CENTRE



MOVING ASSUMPTIONS

Wed • May 20 • 2026

9:30 am Shuttle from the Hostel Lisbon Calling to Casa do Impacto

SHAPING POLITICS

9:45 am

Casa do Impacto,
Bairro Alto

Reception and Welcoming Words

Casa do Impacto

10:00 am

Project presentation
followed by Q&A

Having a Real IMPACT(O)

Casa do Impacto is a dynamic space dedicated to social entrepreneurship and sustainable innovation that brings together projects that aim to create positive social and environmental impact. Follow us on a tour and an immersive session with Q&A about their work and projects.



10:20 am

Hands-on session
followed by Q&A

Pitch It!

Hands-on the future of politics

Students will have the opportunity to take part in an in-depth session on two projects in the fields of social innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

11:00 am Coffee Break

11:15 am

Lecture
followed by Q&A

From local Impact to Macro Politics

Perceptions vs. Realities: A Quantitative Approach of Immigration in Portugal, **José Lúcio**
NOVA FCSH

Carolina Querido
discussant

An Upside-down Transatlantic Space? Scenarios for Europe and the USA in 2035, **Alberto Cunha**
ULisboa

01:00 pm Lunch break at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Lisbon

In collaboration with:





MOVING ASSUMPTIONS

Wed • May 20 • 2026

2:15 pm Shuttle from Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Lisbon to Águas Livres Aqueduct

BEYOND POLITICS

2:30 pm

Water Museum
Águas Livres Aqueduct,
Campolide

For this walking tour we recommend:

- Comfortable footwear
- Sunscreen
- Drinking water regularly

Walking on Stone Waterways

The Aqueduct was built by King João V in the 18th century, originating at the source of the Águas Livres in Belas, Sintra, and was progressively reinforced and extended throughout the 19th century. It withstood the 1755 earthquake unscathed. We'll take a historical tour of water in Lisbon and learn about the water supply, transportation and distribution system of the 18th century.

4:10 pm Walking-distance from Águas Livres Aqueduct to Campo de Ourique

05:00 pm

Campo de Ourique

Engaging With the Community

REFOOD

REFOOD is a community-based association dedicated to reducing food waste and supporting those in need. This experience will be a moment to learn about the organization's mission and daily operations, followed by hands-on participation activity.

05:30 pm

Refood
Campo de Ourique Centre

Building a Human Bridge Between Excess and Necessity

We invite students to engage with the local community of Campo de Ourique neighbourhood to be part of a 100% volunteer movement that transforms not only waste into nutrition, but also the lives of everyone involved in Refood's goodwill driven, circular and solidary economy.

Partners:



REFRAMING CHALLENGES

Fri • May 22 • 2026

9:30 am Shuttle from the Hostel Lisbon Calling to Macau Scientific and Cultural Center

POLITICS AT STAKE

10:00 am

CCCM - Macau Scientific and Cultural Centre
Alcântara

Visit to the Museum

Beyond the West

Macau as a Common Home for Portugal and China

Macau Scientific and Cultural Center is a unique institution in Lisbon dedicated to strengthening cultural and scientific ties between Portugal and Macau. It promotes knowledge of Macau's history, culture, and its historical connection with Portugal.

11:00 am Coffee Break

11:30 am

Lecture
followed Q&A

Patrícia Oliveira
discussant

Diplomatic relations and cultural spheres

Diplomacy of Democracy: Portugal Between Europe and China, **Carlos Vargas**

HTC-CEF, NOVA FCSH

Scientific Collaboration Networks Involving Portugal and China: A Longitudinal Analysis through the Lens of Science Diplomacy (1992-2026), **Anabela Santiago**

DCSPT - Universidade de Aveiro

01:00 pm Lunch break

02:30 pm

Portugal and Macau Partnership

Carmen Mendes

CCCM, President

In collaboration with:



Centro Científico e Cultural de Macau
EDUCAÇÃO, CIÊNCIA E INOVAÇÃO



CÂMARA DE COMÉRCIO E INDÚSTRIA
LUSO-CHINESA 葡中工商會
PORTUGAL - CHINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



REFRAMING CHALLENGES

Fri • May 22 • 2026

02:45 pm

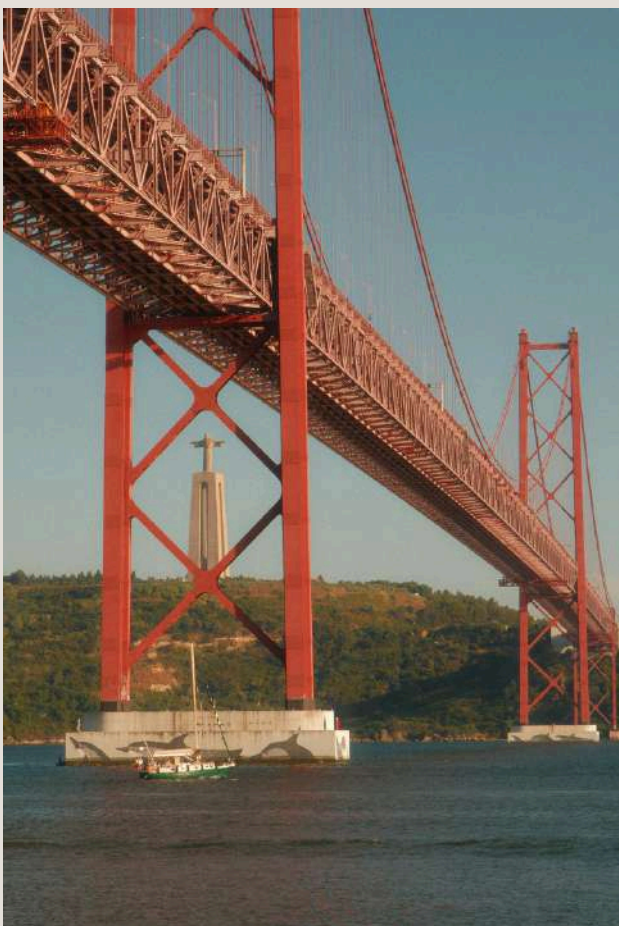
Round table
followed by Q&A

Regional Strategies and Global Connections

Economic and Trade Relations between Portugal and the People's Republic of China, **Bernardo Mendia**
CCILC, Secretary-General

The Politics of Memory, Trauma and Identity in Northeast Asia: WWII Memorial Sites as Foreign Policy Tools, **Carla Melo**
CCCM-FCT; Universidade Autónoma

The Chinese Dream: an analysis of the internal and external dimensions of the concept through time, **Carolina Sousa**
CCCM-FCT; ISCTE-IUL



5:00 pm Walking-distance from CCCM to Doca de Santo Amaro

06:00 pm

Doca de Santo Amaro

Riding the Wave

An amphibious tour that takes you through the Lisbon's main streets to a completely different perspective...

08:00 pm

Restaurante O Lutador [The Fighter]
Alcântara

Let's go to a *tasca*!

Closing dinner of the Spring Research School 2026 edition. This year we invite you to a *tasca*: a traditional Portuguese restaurant known for its warm, informal atmosphere, where locals get together to enjoy a delicious meal paired with wine.

Partners:





Merge/Atlanta by Cinta Vidal (2021)

Photo by Brock Scott

Mural for Coda Tech Square with Living Walls in Midtown Atlanta, Georgia.

The mural is a double anamorphosis: there are two specific points of view you can view the piece from – each with its own unique perspective. In its frontal view, the image is distorted and viewers will see it transforming before their eyes while walking by.

Painted with the help of Helena Salvador.

Follow Artoon's work: Web: cintavidal.com | Instagram: [cinta_vidal](https://www.instagram.com/cinta_vidal) | Facebook: [cintapintavidal](https://www.facebook.com/cintapintavidal) | X: [cintavidal](https://twitter.com/cintavidal)



Home Made by Artoon (2022)

Mural for the City of Ghent in the 'Nieuw Gent' social housing quarter, produced by Wallin'.

“Where is home? Everywhere around the world people struggle to make one for themselves and their close ones. It can be a place, it can be a feeling when you talk to someone. It can be something you lose and build up again elsewhere...I chose this subject to paint in the city of Ghent’s town area called ‘Nieuw Gent’, a social housing quarter that faces many challenges in living together with people with a lot of different backgrounds. I loved the casual talks with the locals, some of them helping me out with water and electricity.”

Follow Artoon's work: Web: toonvanishoven.tilda.ws | Instagram: [@toonvanishoven](https://www.instagram.com/toonvanishoven) | Facebook: [Toon Van Ishoven](https://www.facebook.com/ToonVanIshoven) | Youtube: [@toonvanishoven](https://www.youtube.com/@toonvanishoven)

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Organization



Partners



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