

# **Social Science PhDs 5+ Years Out**



## **GEOGRAPHY**

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# Social Science PhDs - 5+ Years Out

## Ford Foundation Funded



Survey: April 2005-March 2006, PhD Cohorts: 1995 – 1999,  
65 US universities ( 63% of PhDs in years surveyed)  
Response Rate 45%

	N	(% women)
• Anthropology	432	(56.9)
• Communications	343	(53.1)
• <b>Geography</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>(32.9)</b>
• History	839	(44.5)
• Political Science	701	(37.7)
• Sociology	546	(60.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3025</b>	<b>(47.9)</b>

# Geography PhD Outcomes



- **Careers Paths**
- **Evaluation of PhD Education**

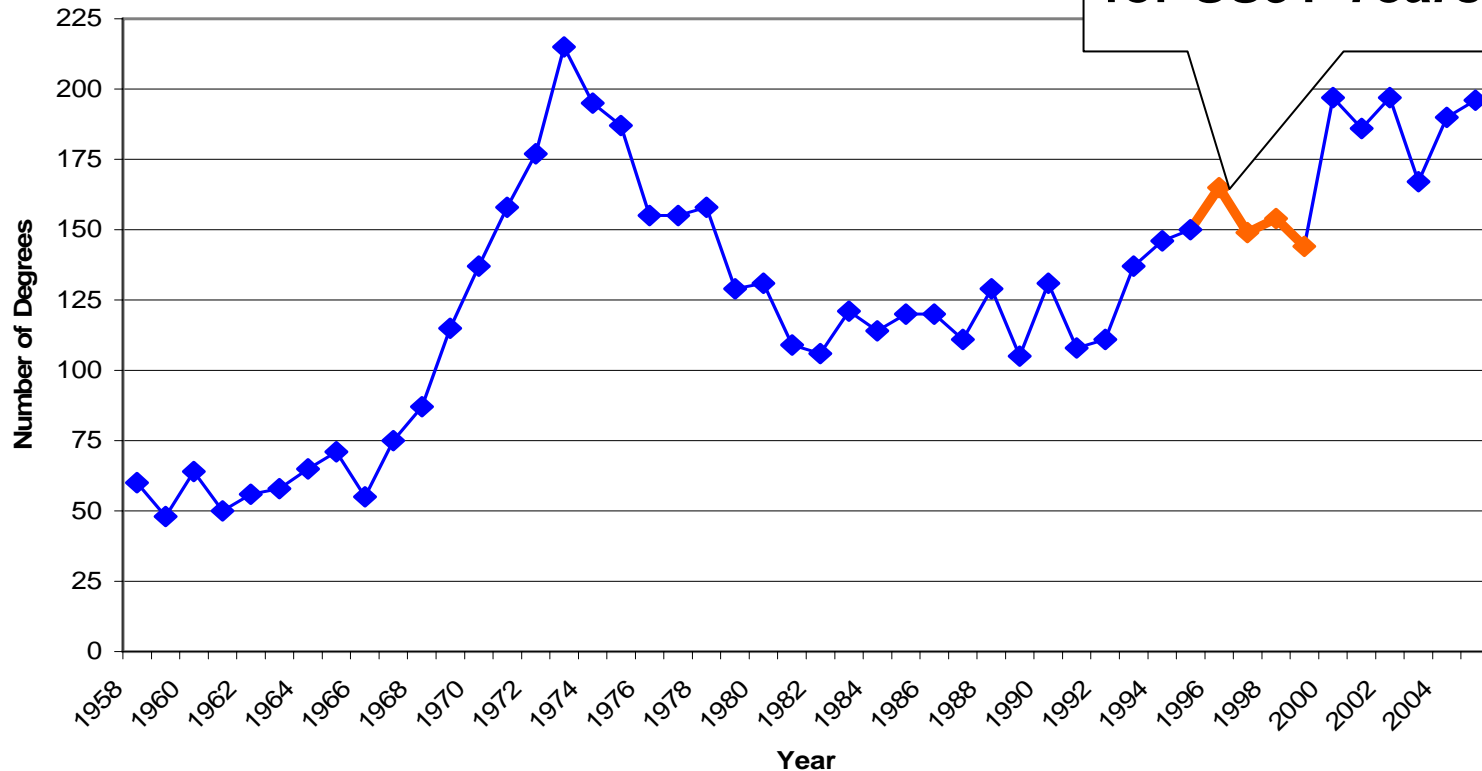
# Geography PhDs by Year

## 1958-2004

Figure 1. Geography PhDs Awarded at U.S. Universities



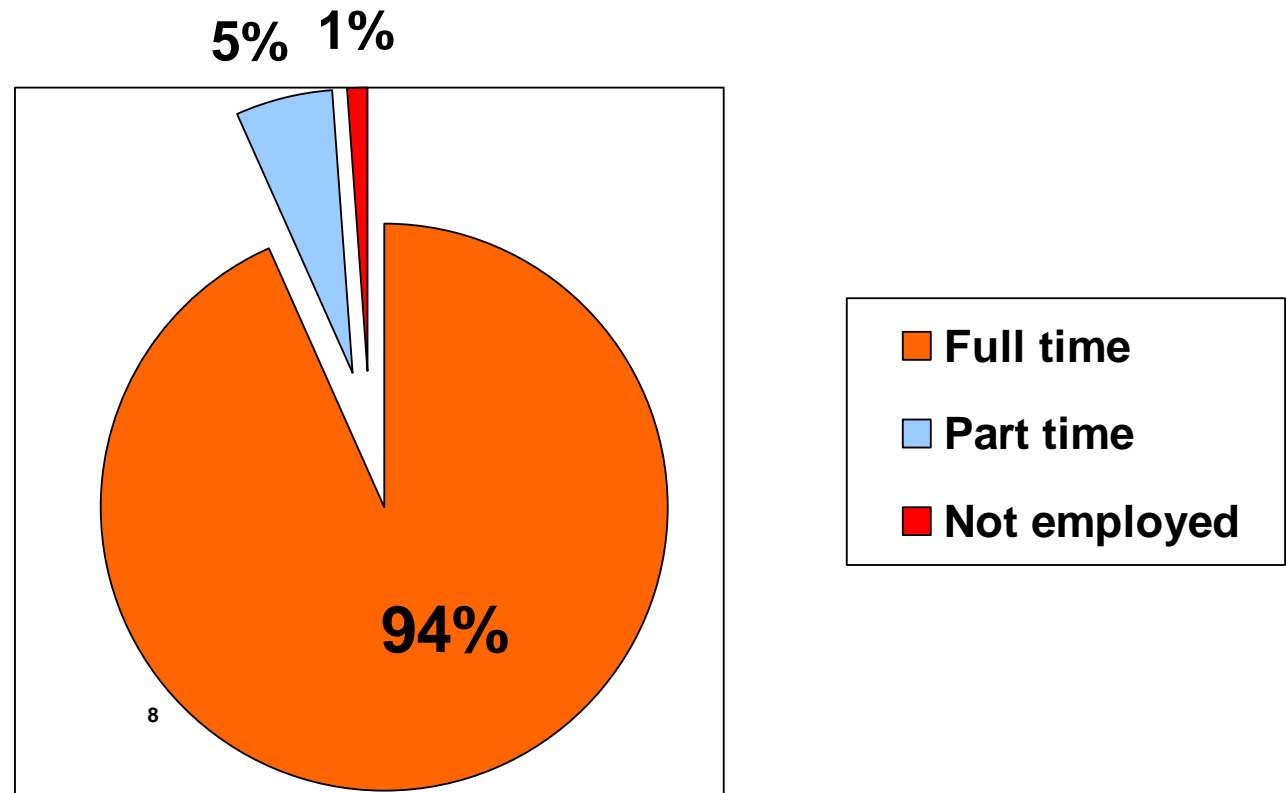
**1995-1999 cohorts surveyed in 2005-2006 for SS5+ Years Out**



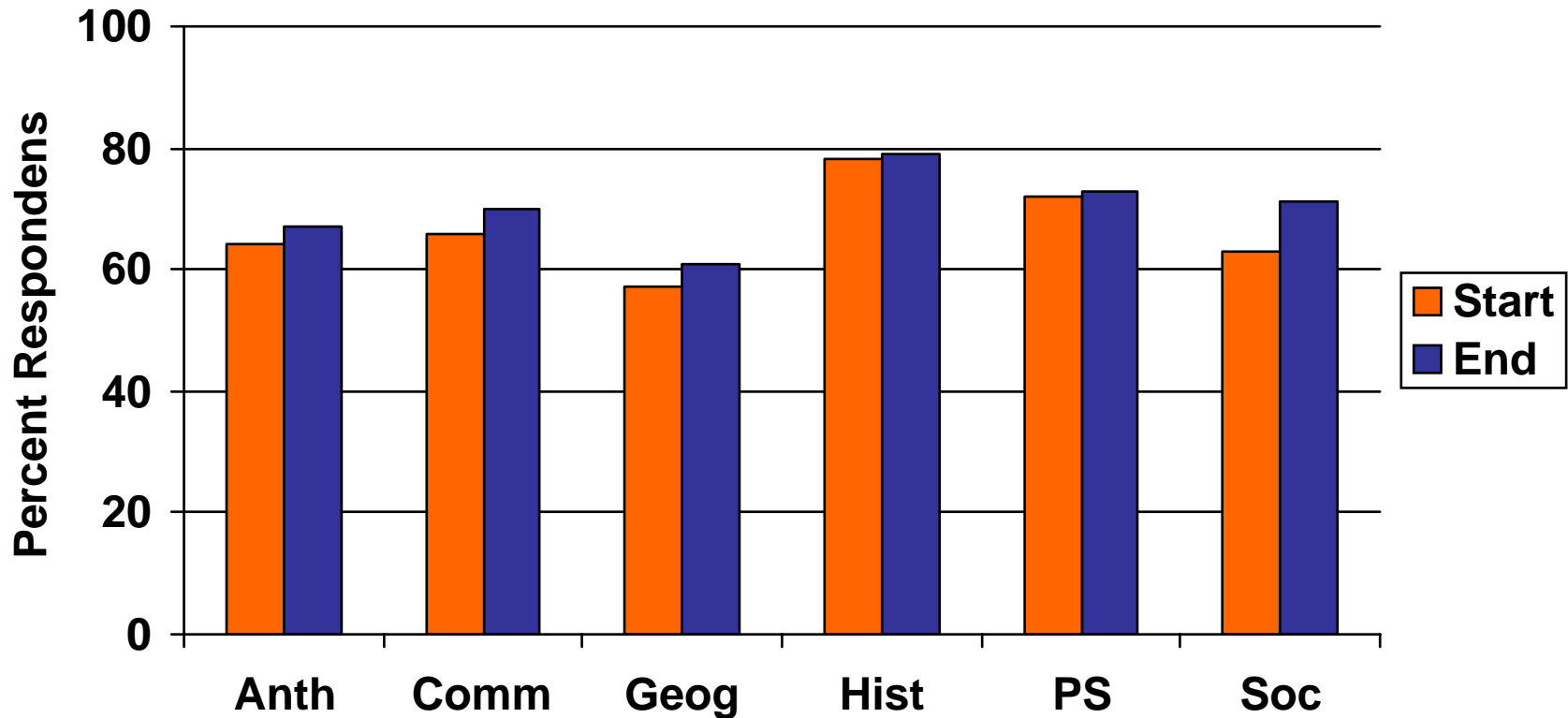
Source: National Science Foundation (2006) U.S. Doctorates in the 20th Century

Source: Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities. Summary Reports 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1958-1966

# Geography: Employment Status at Survey (n = 143)

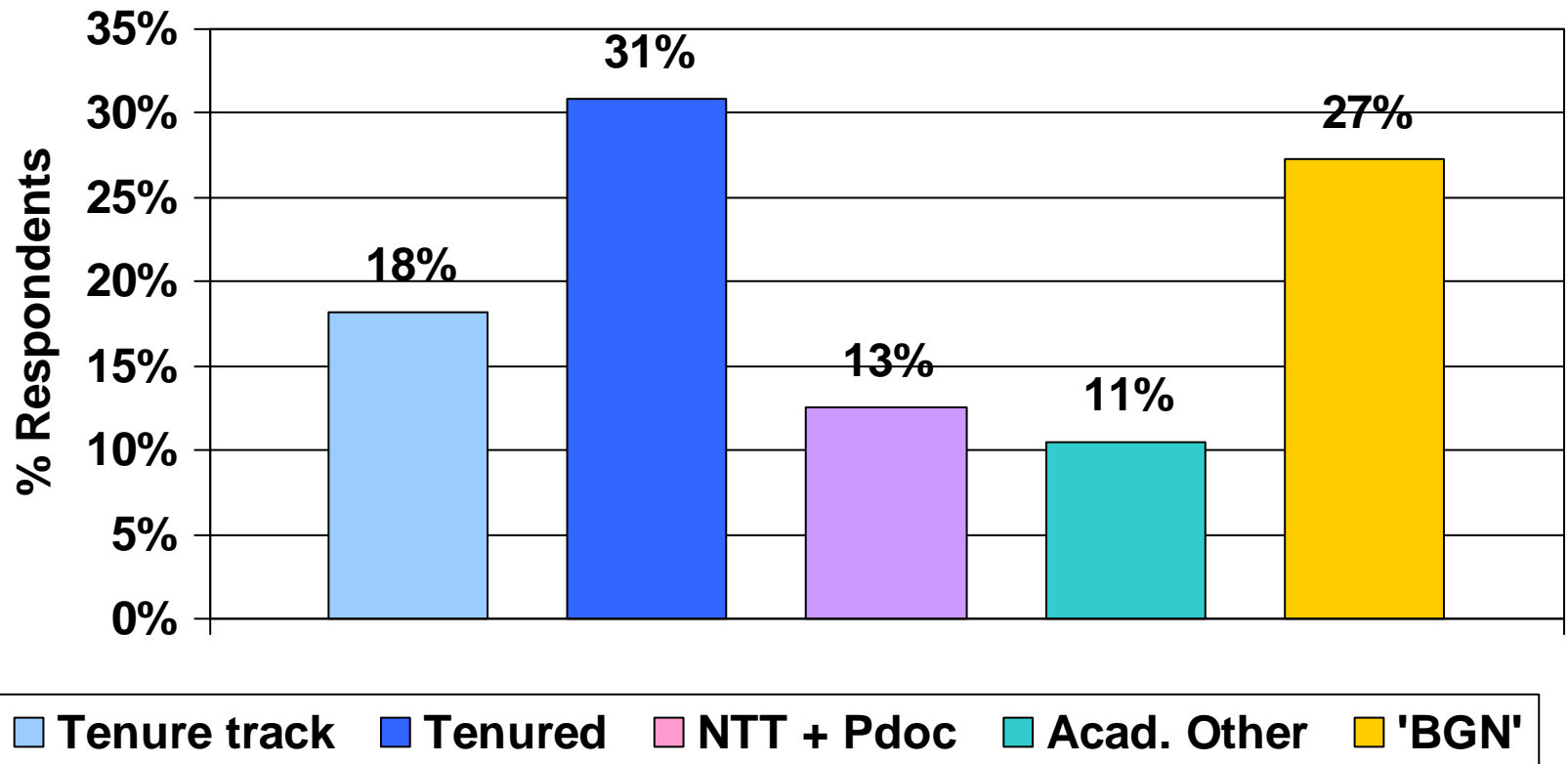


# Social Sciences 5+ Years Out Career Goal “Professor” at Start & End of PhD

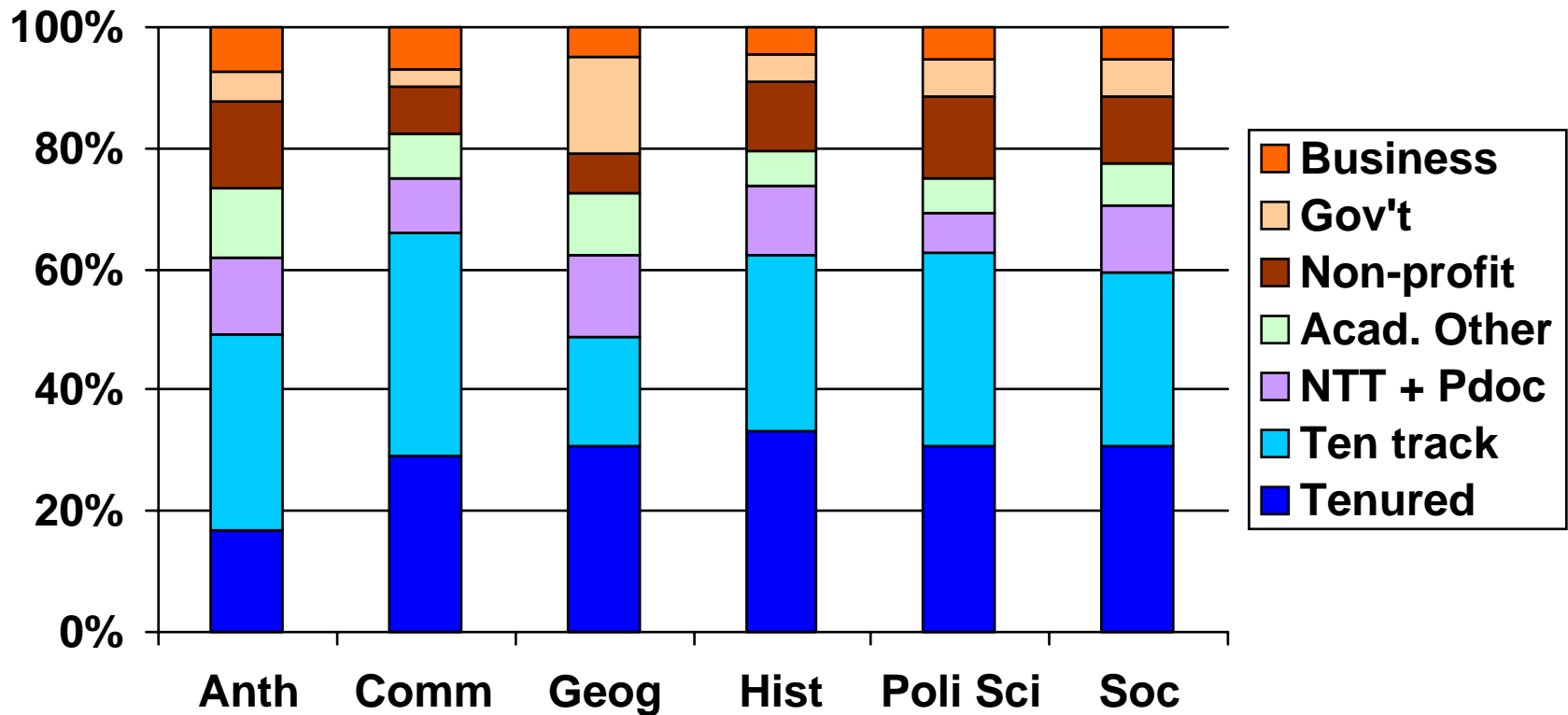


# Geography

## Job Types at Survey

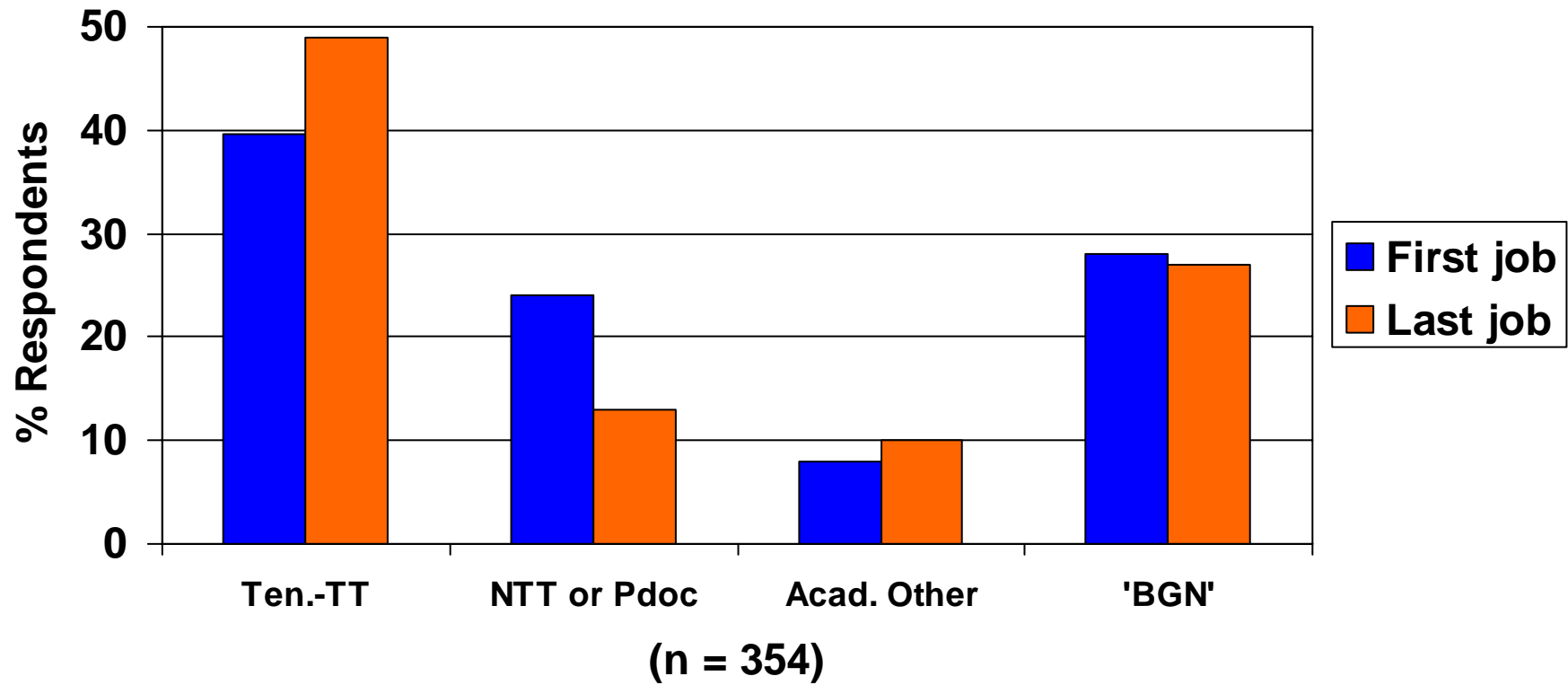


# Social Sciences PhDs 5+ Years Out Job Types at Survey



# Geography

## First and Last Jobs



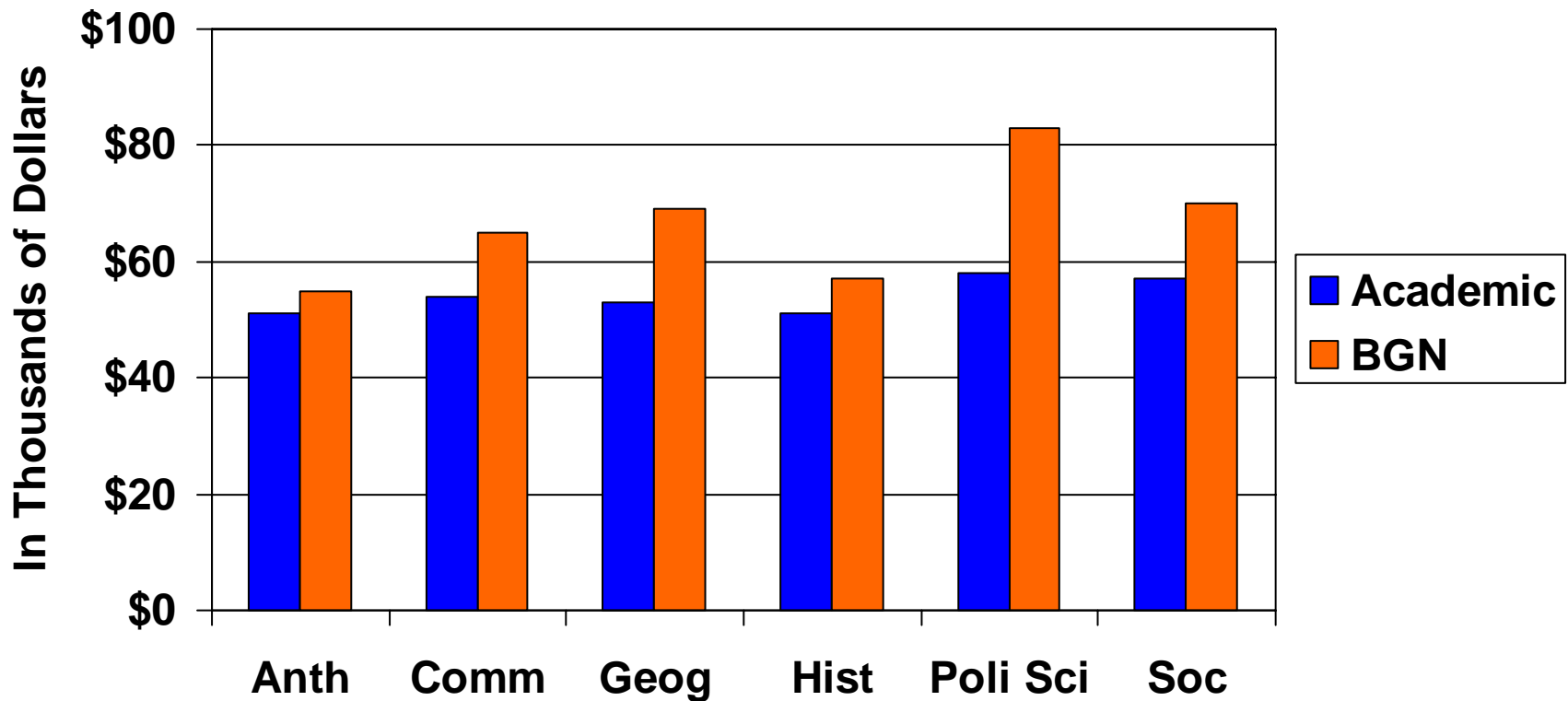
# *Social Science PhDs—Five+ Years Out* Postdoctoral Appointments



	%	(n)
<b>Anthropology</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>(57)</b>
<b>Communication</b>		<b>( 3)</b>
<b>Geography</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>(14)</b>
<b>History</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>(50)</b>
<b>Political Science</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>(42)</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>(80)</b>

# *Social Sciences 5+ Years Out*

## Median Incomes by Field and Sector



# Evaluation of PhD Education

# Social Science PhDs 5+ Years Out Time to Degree in Years



	<b>25%</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b><i>Mean</i></b>
<b>Anth</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Comm</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Geog</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>Hist</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>PS</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Soc</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>

# Geography

## Publishing in Graduate School



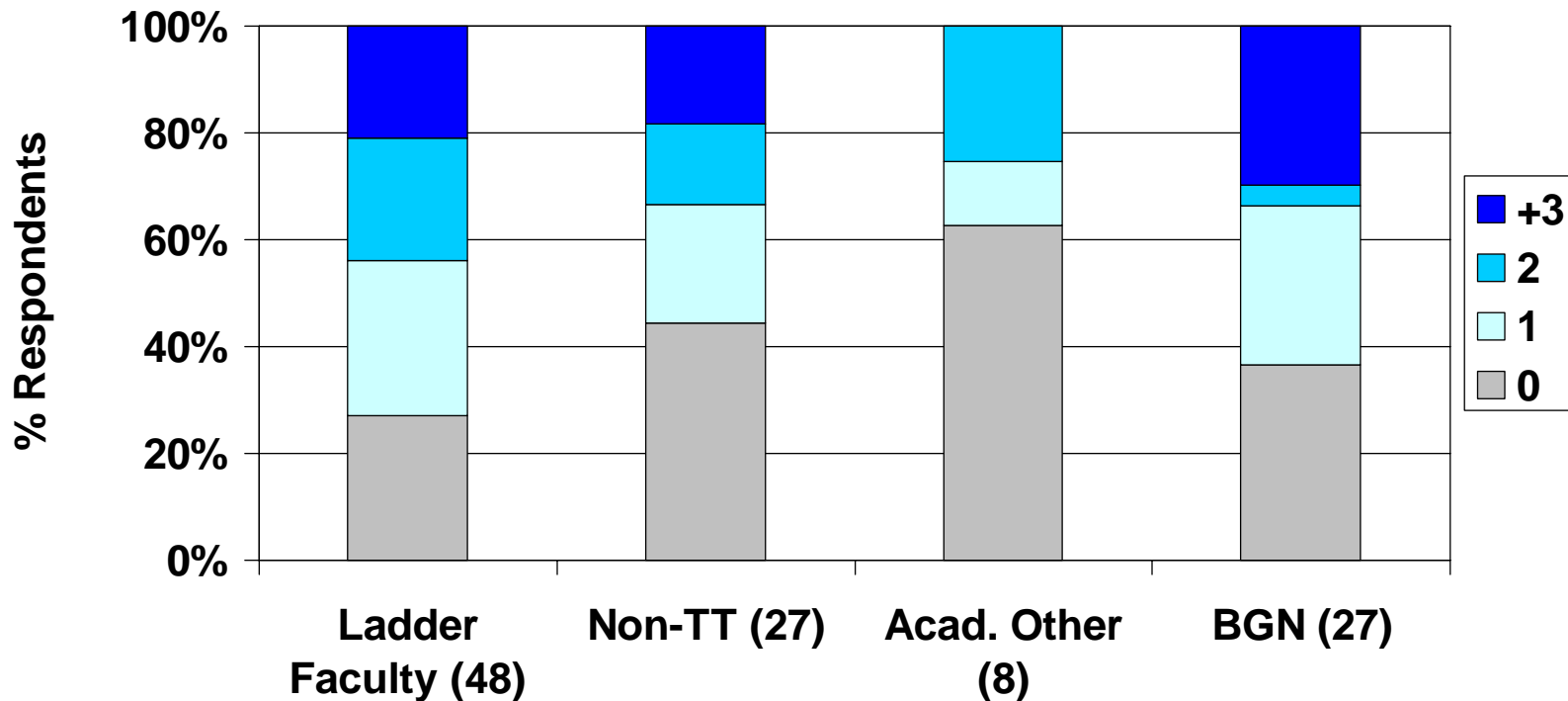
### Peer-reviewed publications authored or co-authored at PhD completion

# of pubs	Percent of respondents
0	35%
1	28%
2	17%
3 +	21%

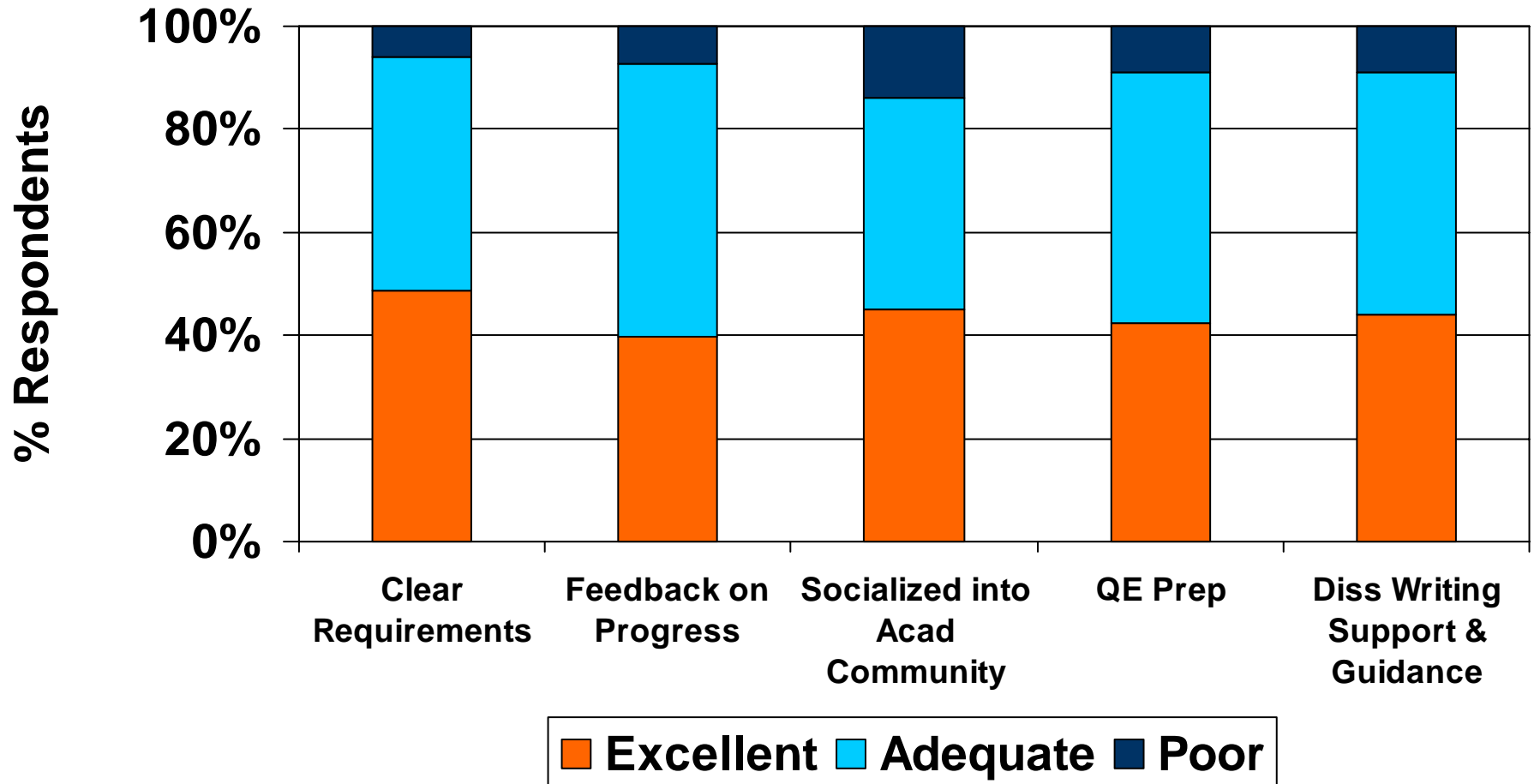
# Geography: Publishing at PhD completion: 1<sup>st</sup> job



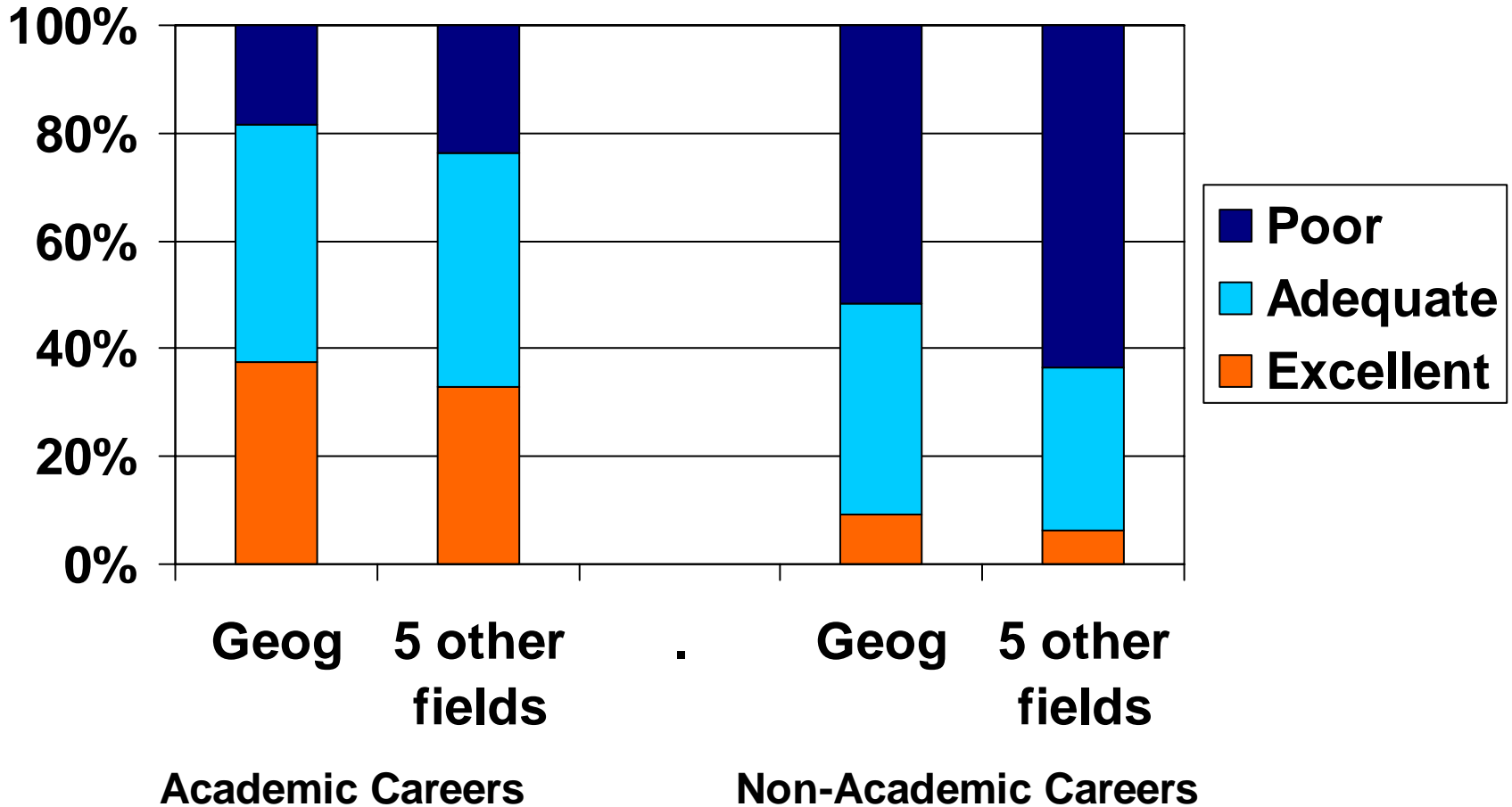
## Peer-reviewed publications (author or co-author)



# Geography Program Evaluation

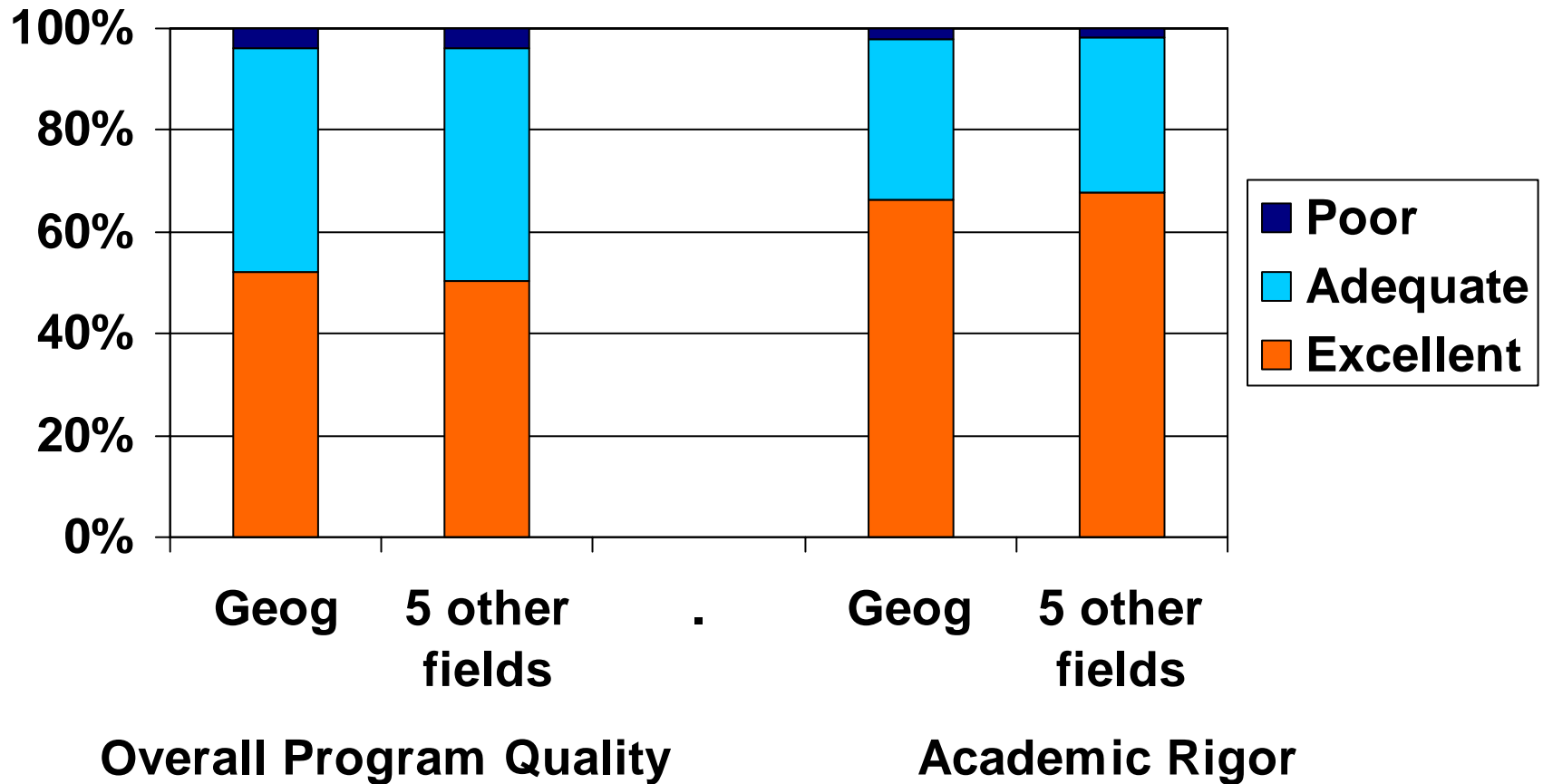


# Comparative Evaluation of Career Preparation



# Geography

## Overall Program Evaluations



# Geography: PhD Important for Career Advancement in Business/ Government/ Non-profit Sector?



Percent Respondents Indicating “YES”:

**71%**

## **Job Titles: Business**

- Management (11)
- Consultant (2)
- GIS (4)
- Researcher/Writer (7)

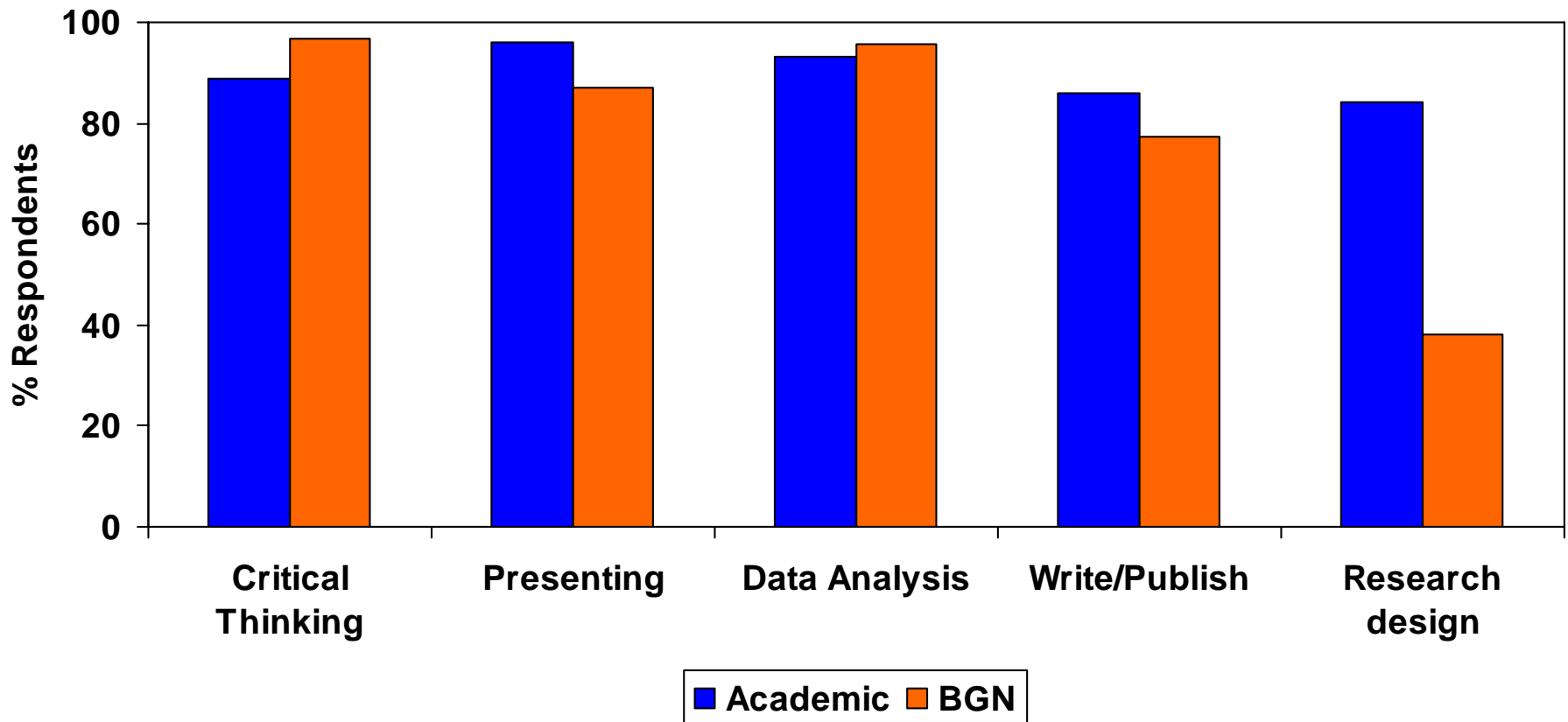
## **Job Titles: Government**

- Management (6)
- Demographer (2)
- Researcher/Analyst (17)
- Environmental scientist/Engineer (12)

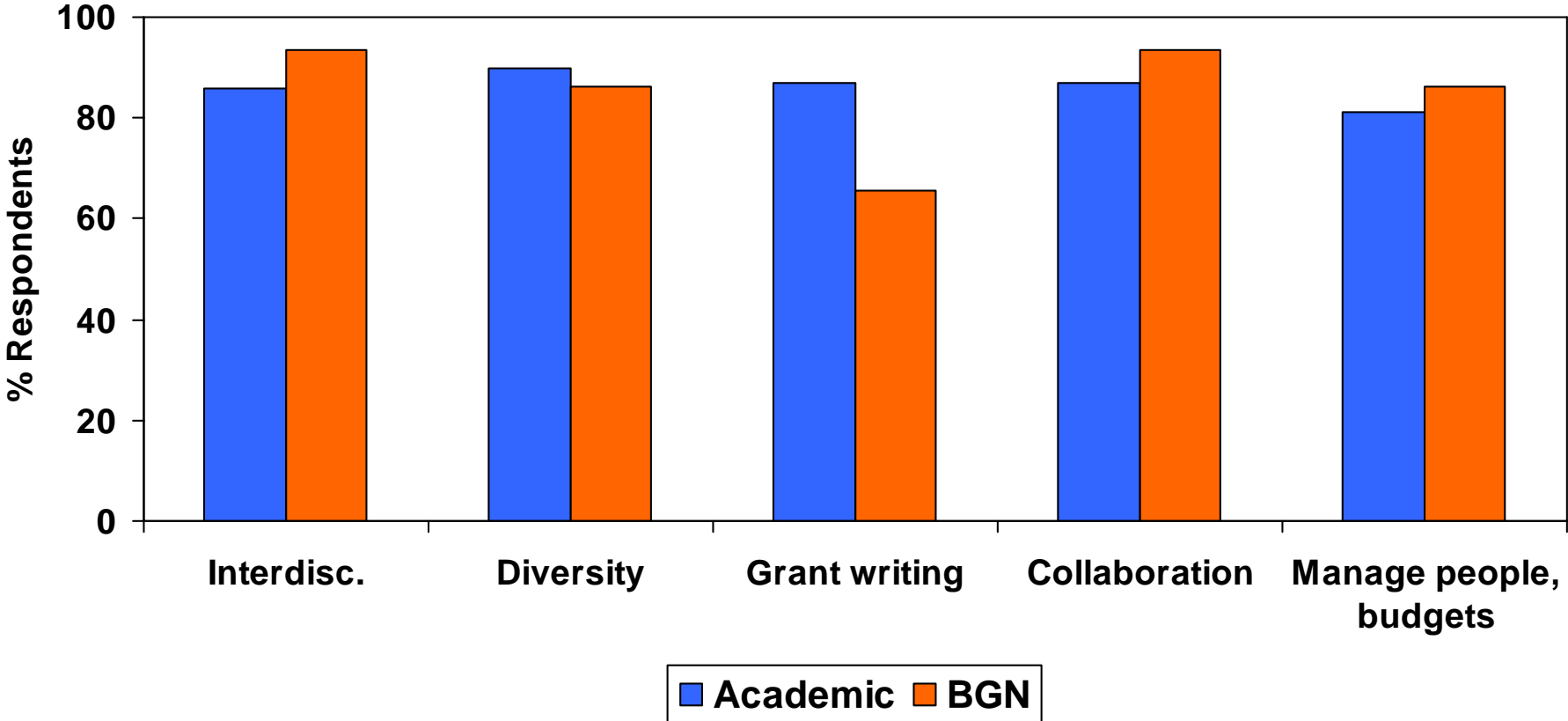
## **Job Titles: Non Governmental**

- Management (4)
- Researcher (1)
- Environmental Scientist (1)

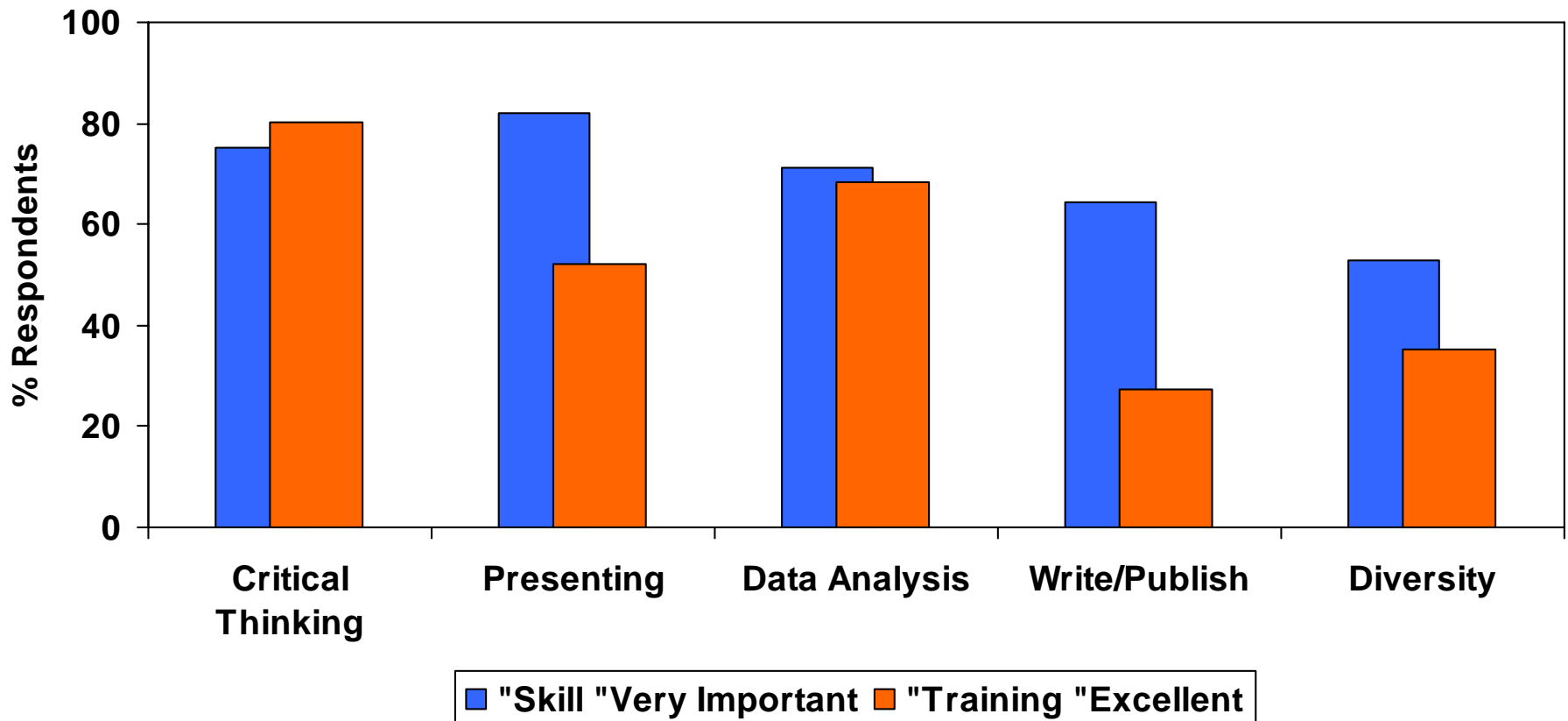
# Geography: Importance of Skill in Current Job by Job Type



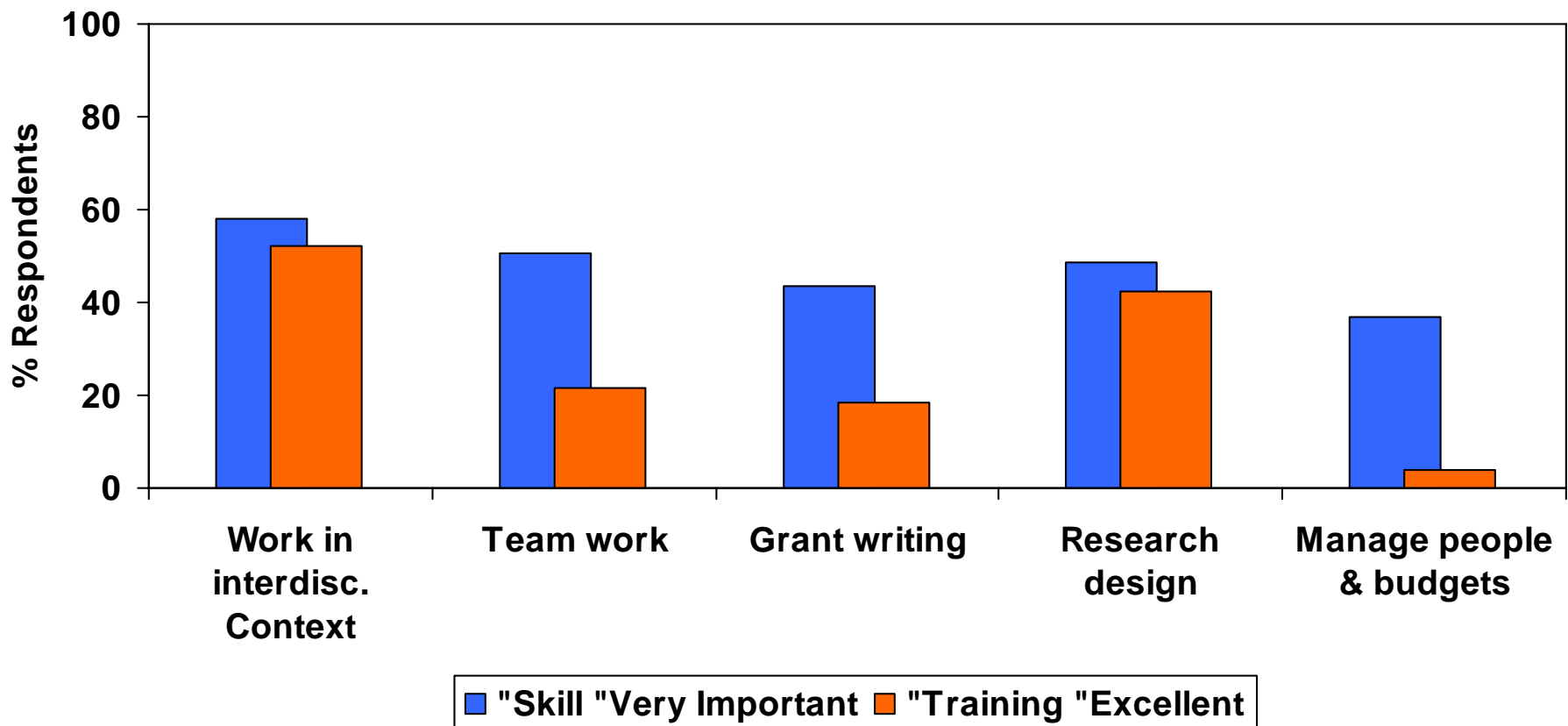
# Geography: Importance of Skill in Current Job by Job Type



# Geography: Importance of Skill vs. Quality of Training in it During Studies



# Geography: Importance of Skill vs. Quality of Training in it During Studies



# Advice to Incoming PhD Students



## Top Five Comments:

- 1. Organize studies strategically/ stay focused**
- 2. Inform yourself about job market beyond the academy**
- 3. Be sure to get good research skills and professional development (job )skills**
- 4. Focus on writing, publishing**
- 5. Look for a caring advisor/mentor**

# Advice to Departments



## Top Five Comments:

- 1. Inform and accept non-academic jobs/ beyond research I universities**
- 2. Prepare better for teaching**
- 3. Provide better preparation for research experience / fieldwork**
- 4. Provide more know-how on publishing and presenting**
- 5. Prepare for interdisciplinarity**

# Thank you!

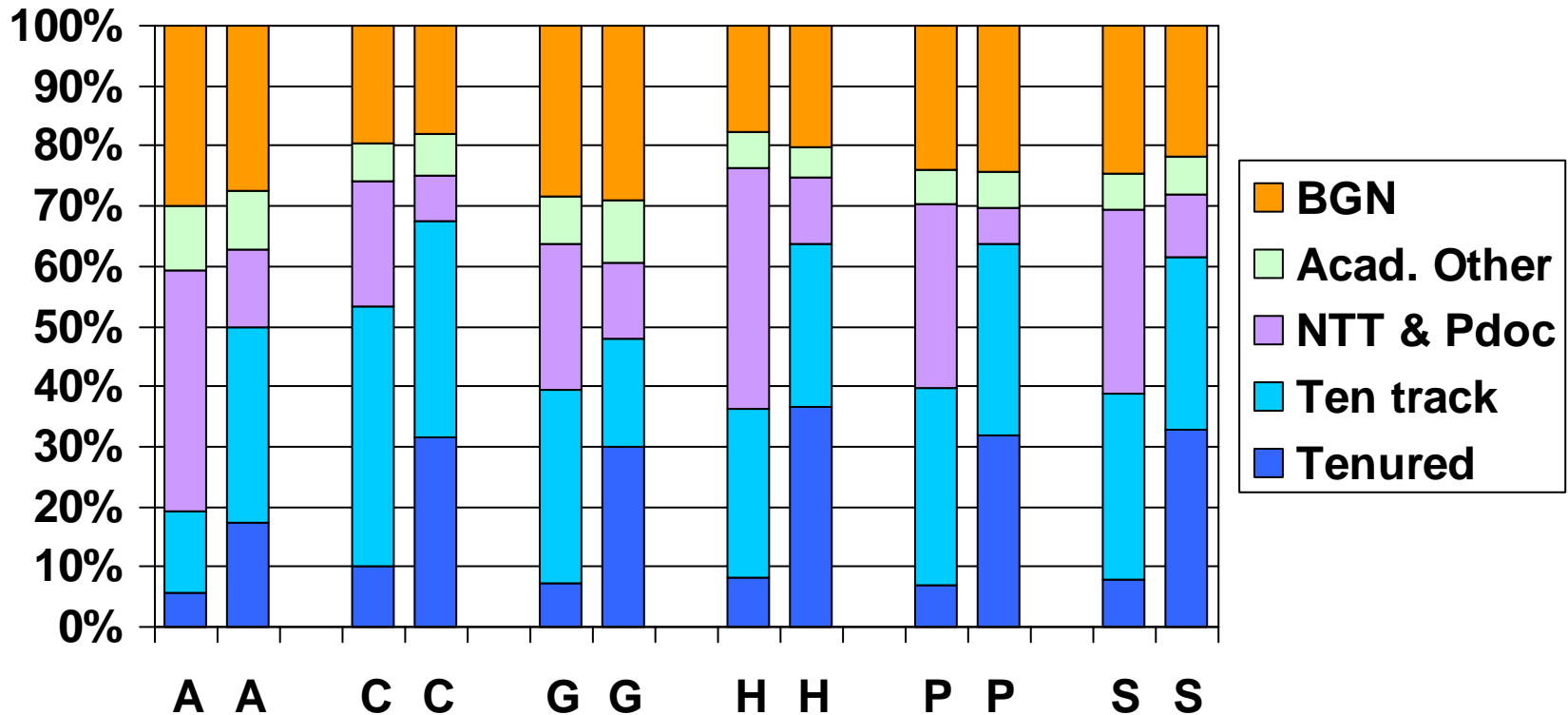


CIRGE website

[www.cirge.washington.edu](http://www.cirge.washington.edu)

Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education (CIRGE), College of Education & Graduate School, University of Washington, Seattle, <http://depts.washington.edu/coe/cirge/>

# Social Science PhDs 5+ Years Out First & Last Job by Discipline



# Geography: Employment Status at Survey (n = 143)

