

Council of Graduate Schools
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Social Science PhDs- 5+ Year Out

A National Study of PhDs in Six Social Science Fields



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Social Science PhDs—Five+ Years Out

Survey Sample



Survey: April 2005-March 2006,
PhD Cohorts: 1995 – 1999
65 US universities

Response Rate 45%

	N	(% women)
Anthropology	432	(56.5)
Communication	343	(52.2)
Geography	164	(32.3)
History	839	(43.4)
Political Science	701	(35.9)
Sociology	546	(59.2)
<i>Total</i>	<i>3025</i>	<i>(46.8)</i>

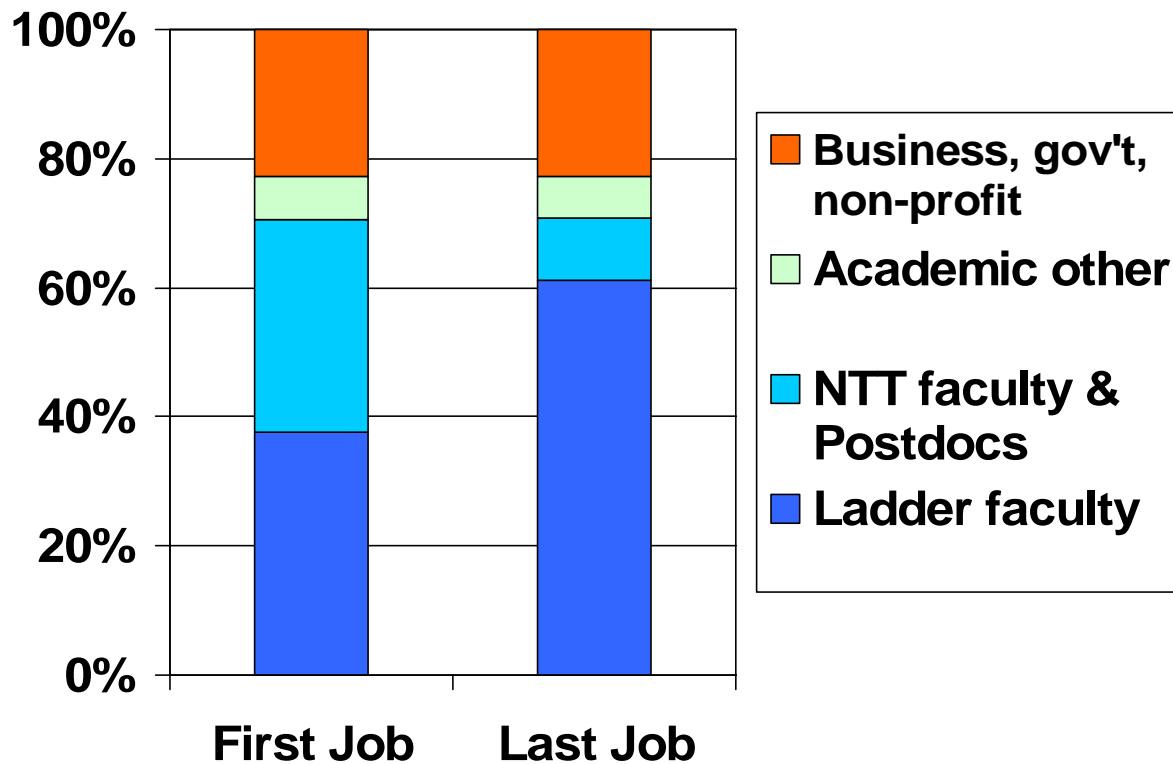
Social Science PhDs **Use** Their PhD Education 5+ Years Out



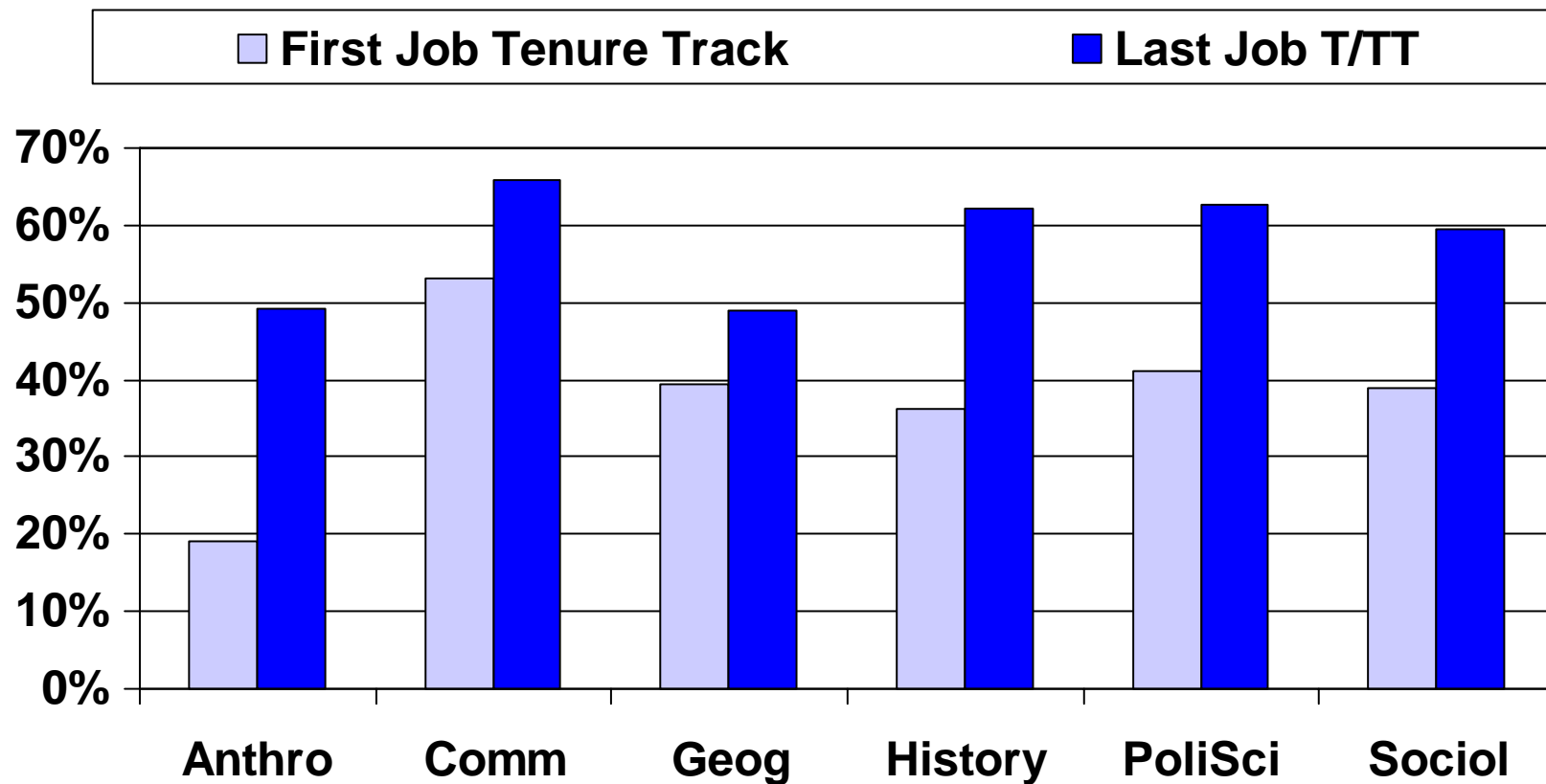
Used Social Sc. Knowledge “often” or “sometimes” in Current Job (vs. rarely/never)

	PhD Field	Thesis Topic
Ten./TT	97%	87%
Academic Other	83%	64%
BGN	76%	49%

First and Last Jobs



% whose First Job was Tenure Track, and % whose Last Job was Tenured/Tenure Track

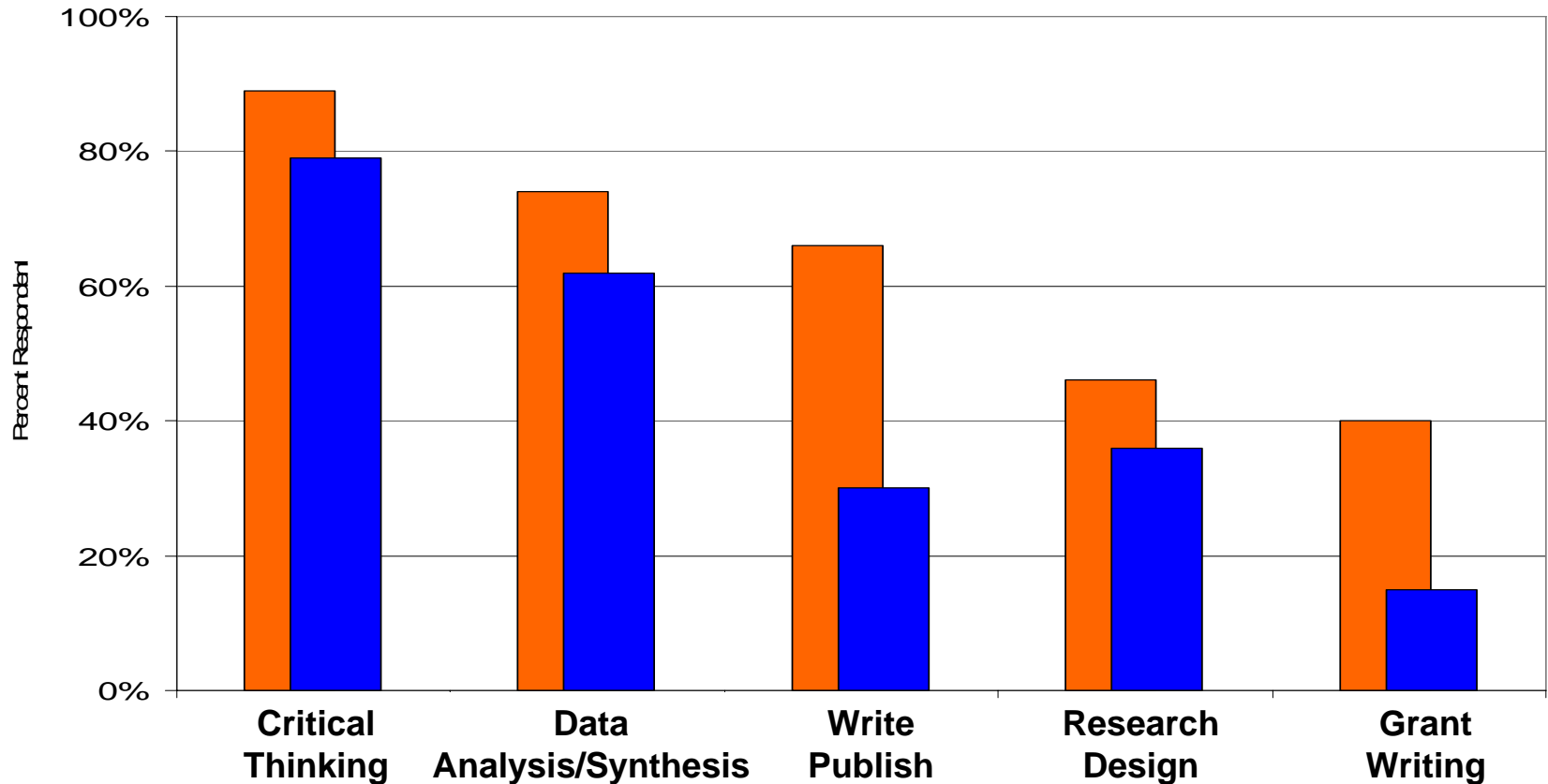


Women Make More Compromises Related to Family and Career

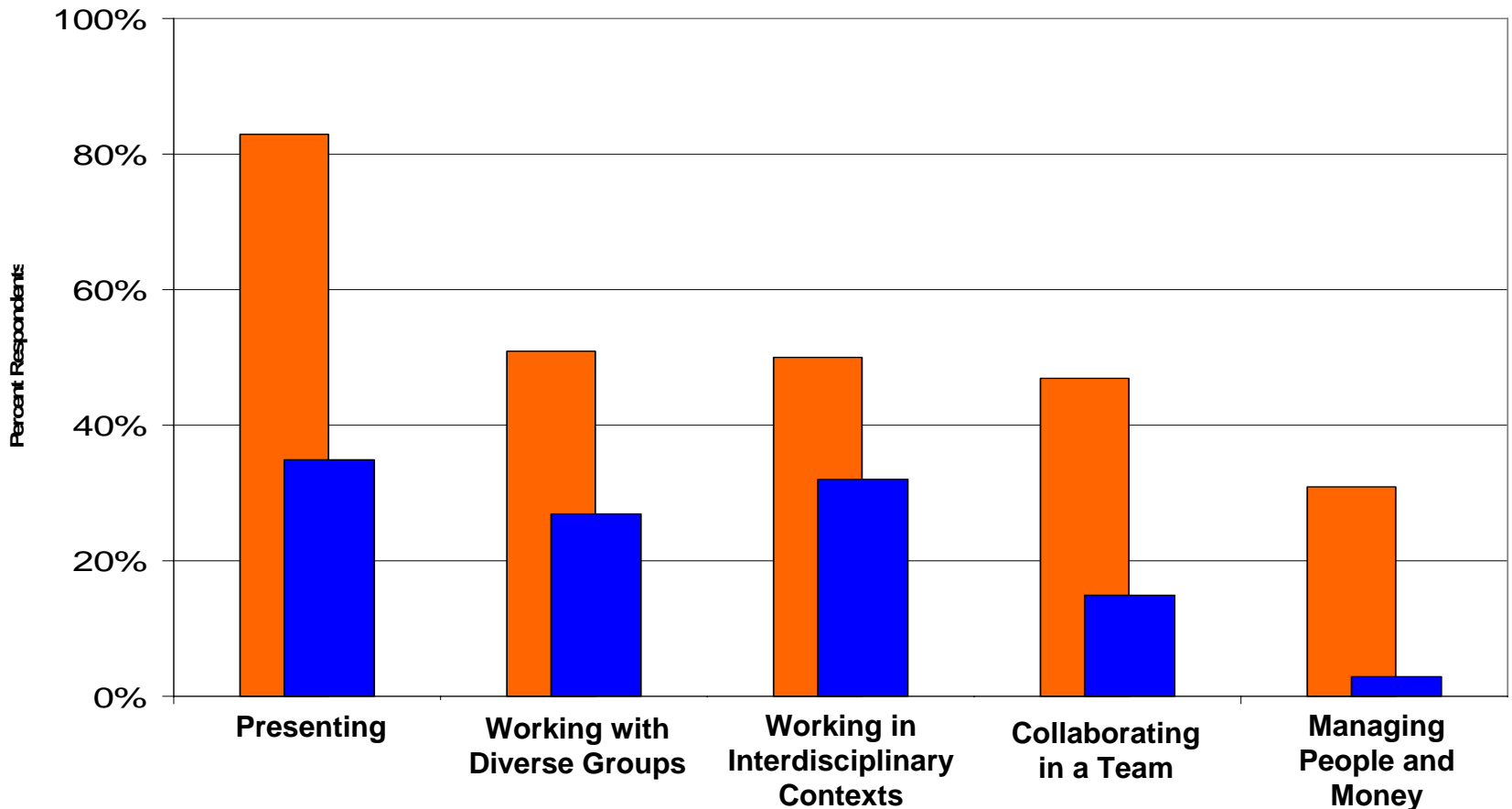


	Women	Men
Partner has PhD/JD/MD (among those partnered at survey)	32%	18%
Partner never worked full-time (among ever married or partnered from start of PhD program to survey)	13%	26%
Moved or changed jobs because of partner's career (of ever married or partnered)	27%	16%
Postponed or did not have child because of own career (of those wanting children)	48%	23%

Importance of Skill at Current Job versus Quality of Training in this Skill During PhD Studies



Importance of Skill at Current Job **versus** Quality of Training in this Skill During PhD Studies



3 Key Messages



1. **Use of Social Science Knowledge**: Social Sc. PhDs **use** the knowledge of their **fields** and their **thesis topics** in **ALL** jobs 5+ years out.
2. **Career Path**: A smooth linear faculty career path is a myth. 60% of **first jobs** are **temporary** and **part-time**. Only 5+ years later 63% are faculty, 19% other academic, 18% in BGN stable, full-time jobs. **Women** make more family/career **compromises** than men.
3. **Program Evaluation**: Social Sc. programs need to move from the 19th to the 21 century and bring **professional competencies to the center** (writing, publishing, etc) and offer career management.

Thank you!



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