

COE –faculty symposium  
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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%

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

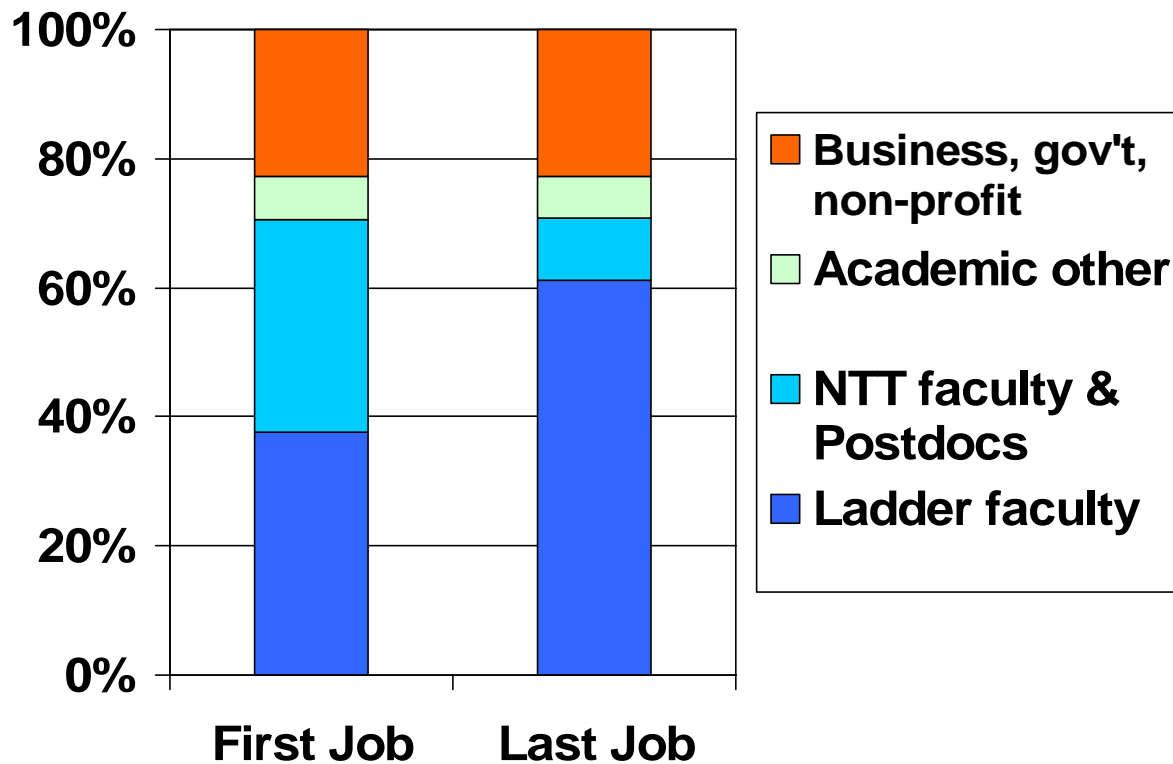
# Social Science PhDs **Use** Their PhD Education 5+ Years Out



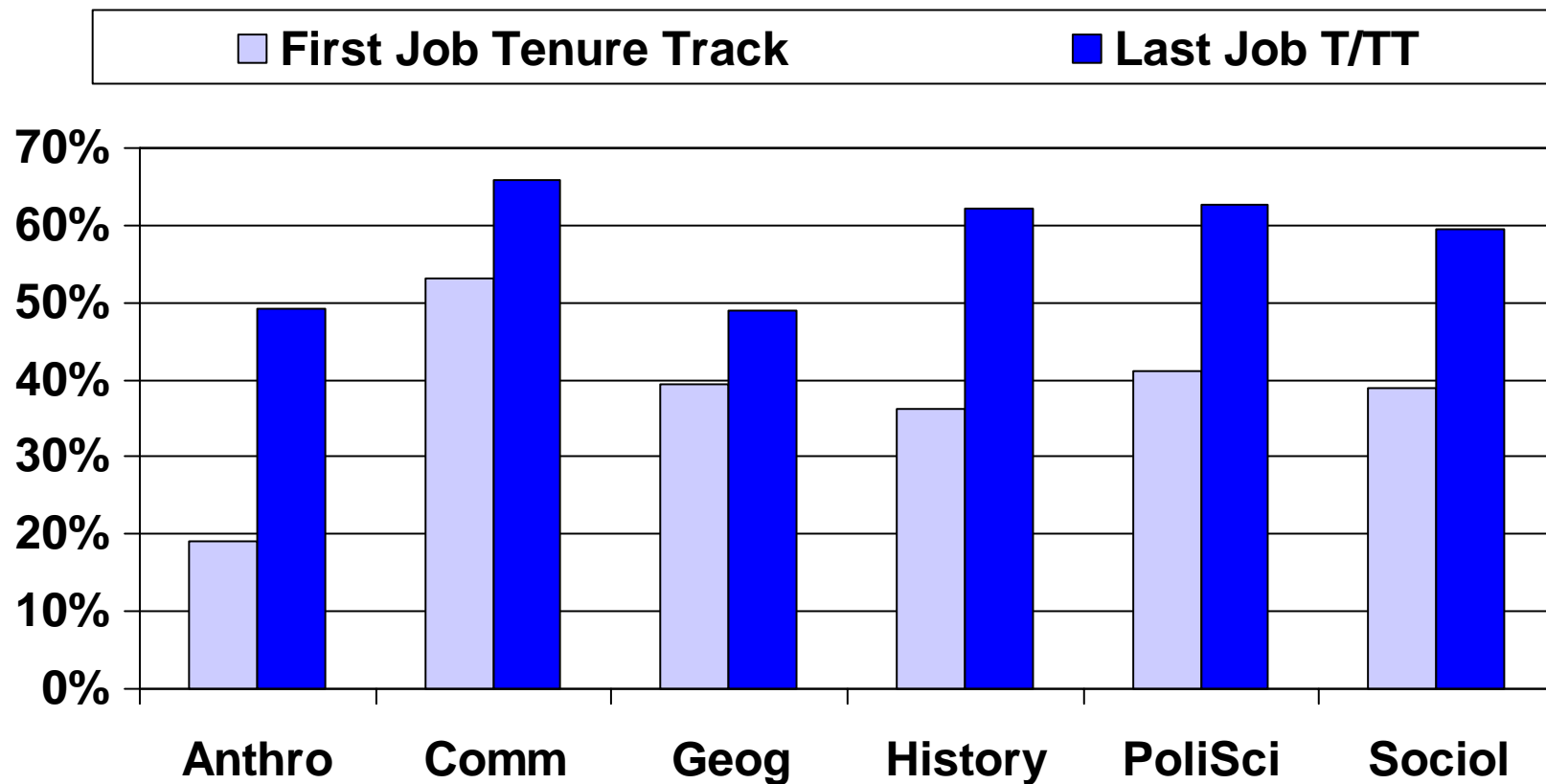
**Used Social Sc. Knowledge “often” or “sometimes” in Current Job (vs. rarely/never)**

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

# First and Last Jobs



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

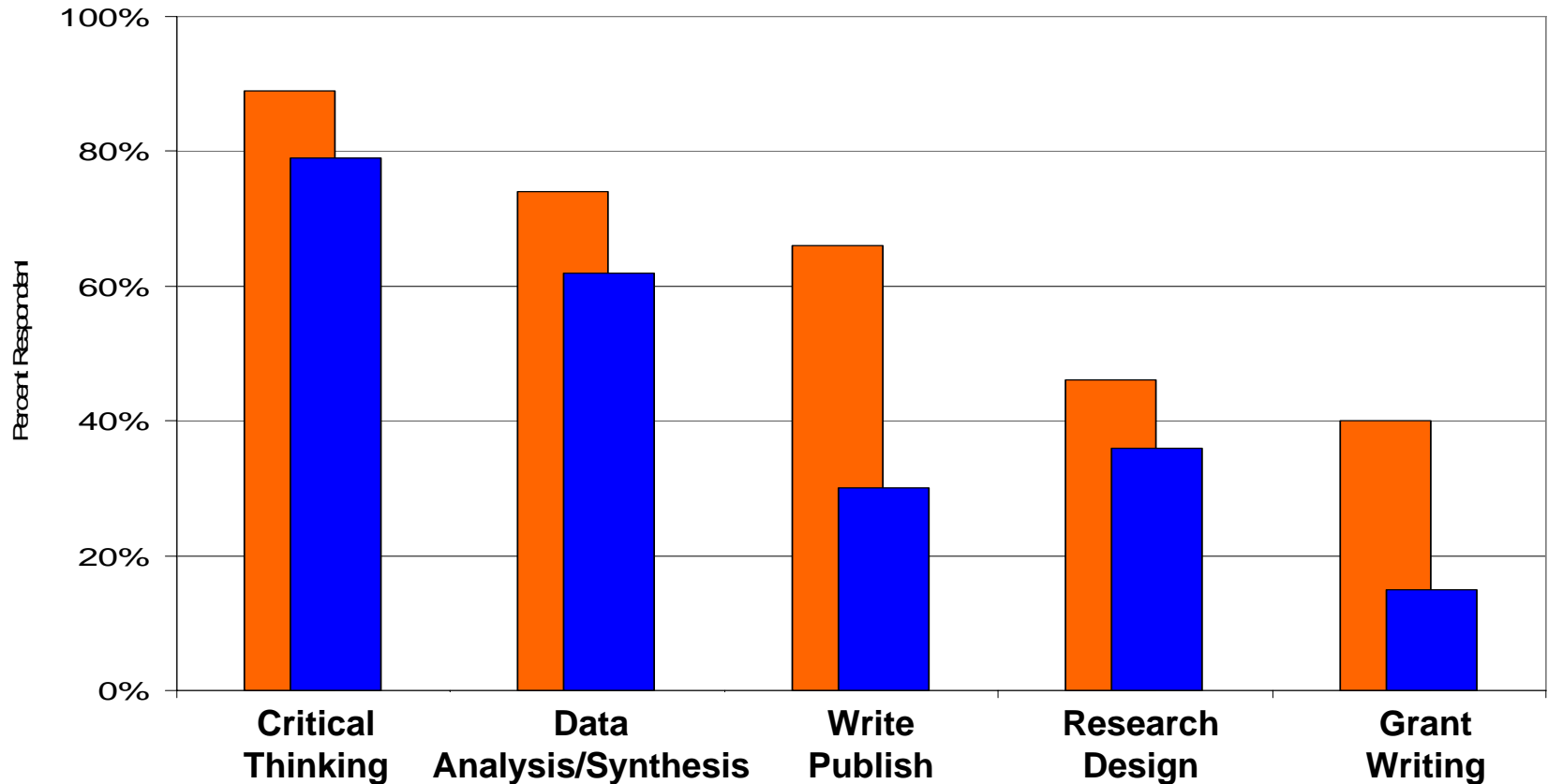


# Women Make More Compromises Related to Family and Career

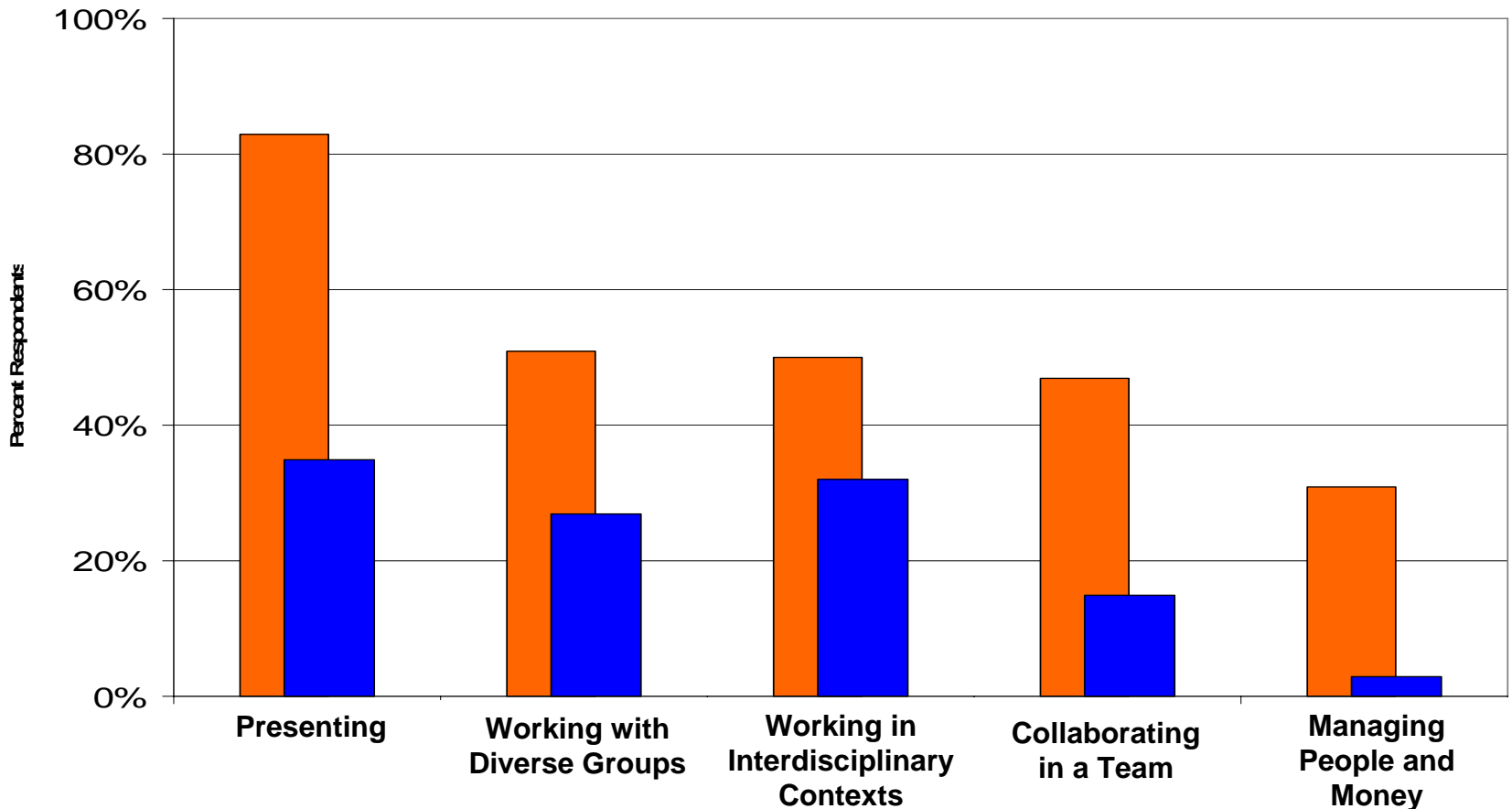


	Women	Men
<b>Partner has PhD/JD/MD</b> (among those partnered at survey)	<b>32%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Partner never worked full-time</b> (among ever married or partnered from start of PhD program to survey)	<b>13%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Moved or changed jobs because of partner's career</b> (of ever married or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

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21 century and bring **professional competencies to the center** (writing, publishing, etc) and offer career management.

# Thank you!



Center for Innovation and Research  
in Graduate Education



## CIRGE website

<http://www.cirge.washington.edu>