

Council of Graduate Schools
December 7, 2007

Social Science PhDs- 5+ Year Out

A National Study of PhDs in Six Social Science Fields



Center for Innovation
and Research in
Graduate Education

Maresi Nerad
Elizabeth Rudd
Emory Morrison
Joseph Picciano

University of Washington, Seattle, Graduate School
College of Education

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>

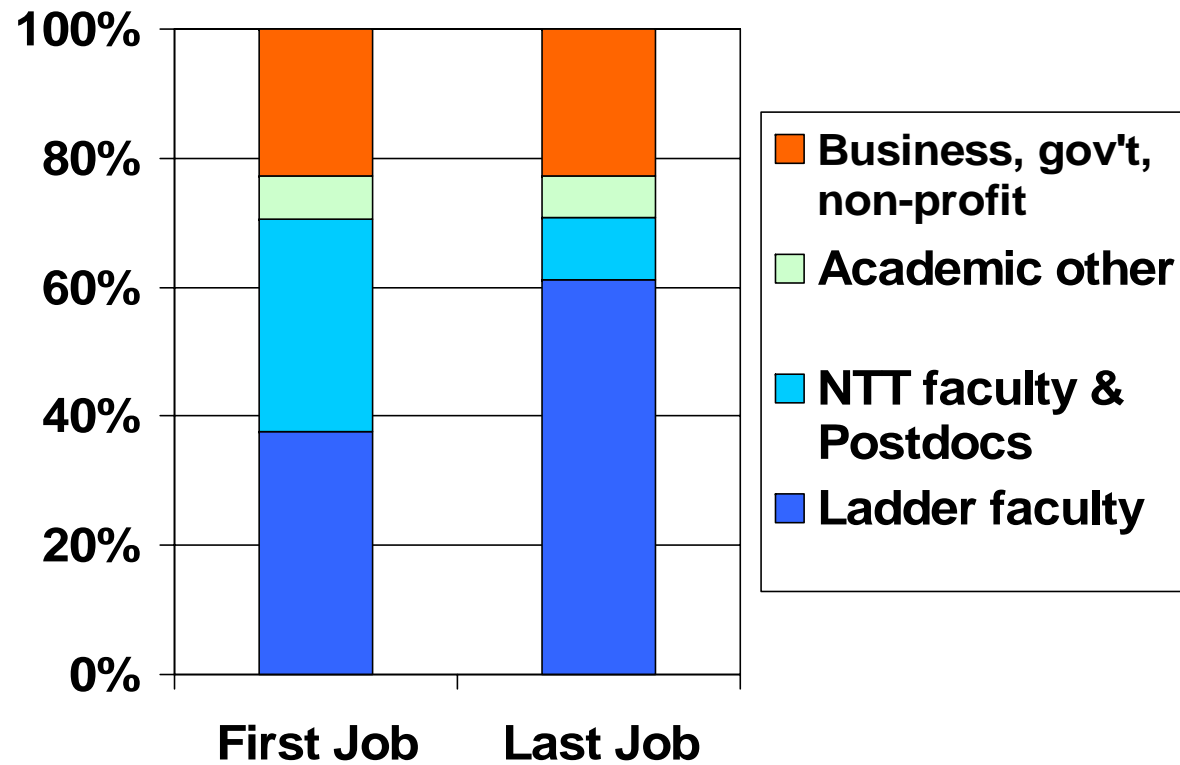
Social Science PhDs **Use** Their PhD Education 5+ Years Out



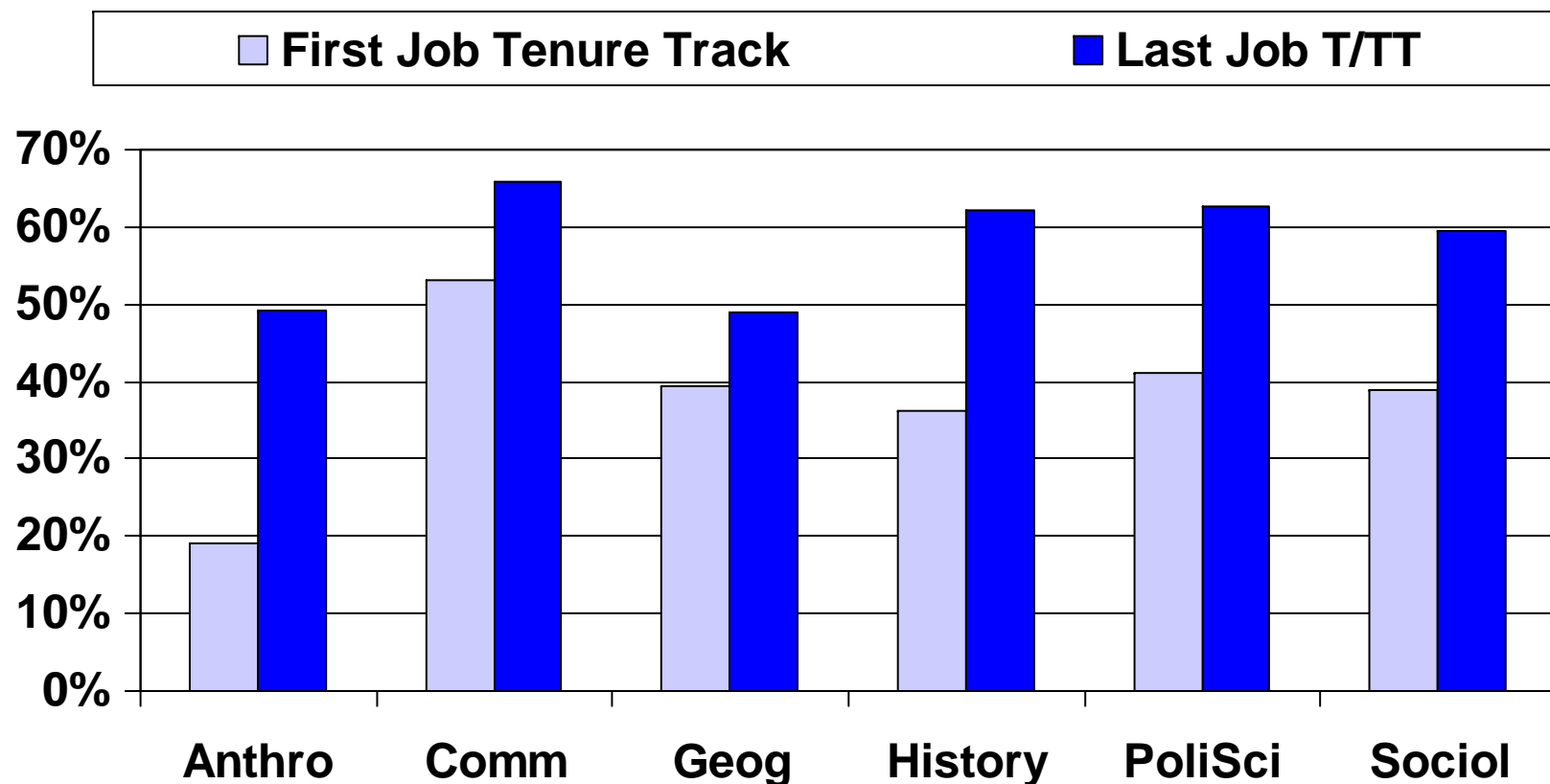
Used Social Sc. Knowledge “often” or “sometimes” in Current Job (vs. rarely/never)

	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

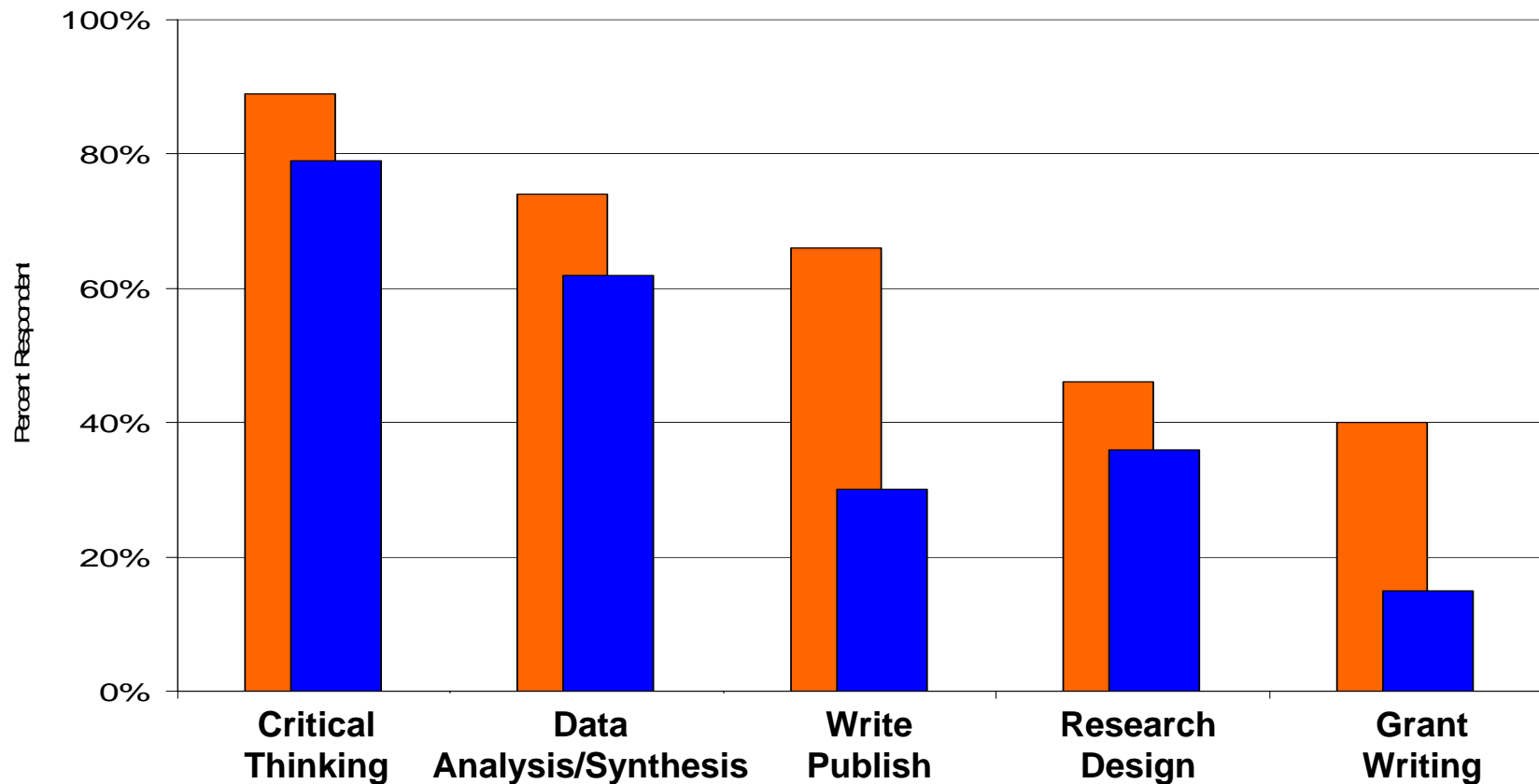


Women Make More Compromises Related to Family and Career



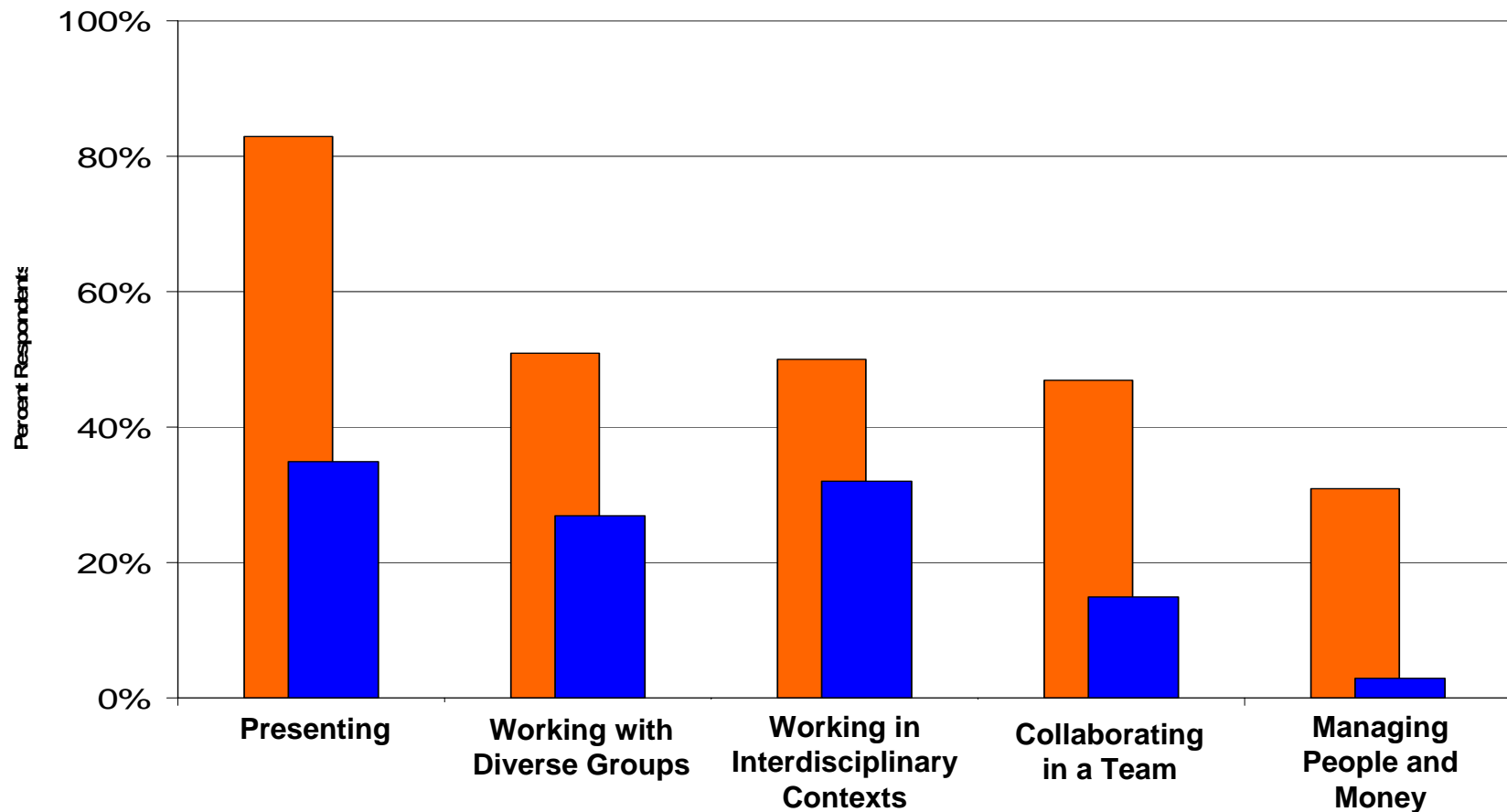
	Women	Men
Partner has PhD/JD/MD (among those partnered at survey)	32%	18%
Partner never worked full-time (among ever married or partnered from start of PhD program to survey)	13%	26%
Moved or changed jobs because of partner's career (of ever married or partnered)	27%	16%
Postponed or did not have child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



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

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



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

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!



Center for Innovation and Research
in Graduate Education



CIRGE website

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