

# Labor market entry of Swiss sociology graduates at the master's level

Ben Jann

University of Bern, [ben.jann@soz.unibe.ch](mailto:ben.jann@soz.unibe.ch)

Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association  
on “The Future of Work”  
Session on “The Labor Market of Sociologists –  
Structures, Trends, Perspectives”  
Neuchâtel, September 10–12, 2019

# Outline

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Data

## 3 Results

- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

# Introduction

- The goal of this talk is to give a brief statistical overview of the labor market situation of graduates with a master's degree in sociology from one of the Swiss universities.
- Since the available data have been collected about 5 years after graduation, only early careers can be studied.

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Data

## 3 Results

- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

# Data

- Data: Higher education graduates study of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO)
- Graduation cohorts from 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 (data collected in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017).
- Full census (but not all graduates participate in the surveys; using weights provided by the FSO to counterbalance attrition).
- Pooled analysis across all cohorts due to the small number of graduates.

# Comparison groups

- Focus is on graduates holding a master's degree in Sociology.
- They will be compared to graduates with a master's degree (university only) in ...
  - ▶ other social sciences (psychology, education, political science, communication, etc.)
  - ▶ economics (the FSO does not classify economics as social science, but it is)
  - ▶ history and culture sciences (philosophy, archeology, history, music, ethnology, etc.)
- Sample size:

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Sociology             | 364  |
| Other social sciences | 4634 |
| Economics             | 498  |
| History and culture   | 1845 |
| <hr/>                 |      |
| Total                 | 7341 |

## 1 Introduction

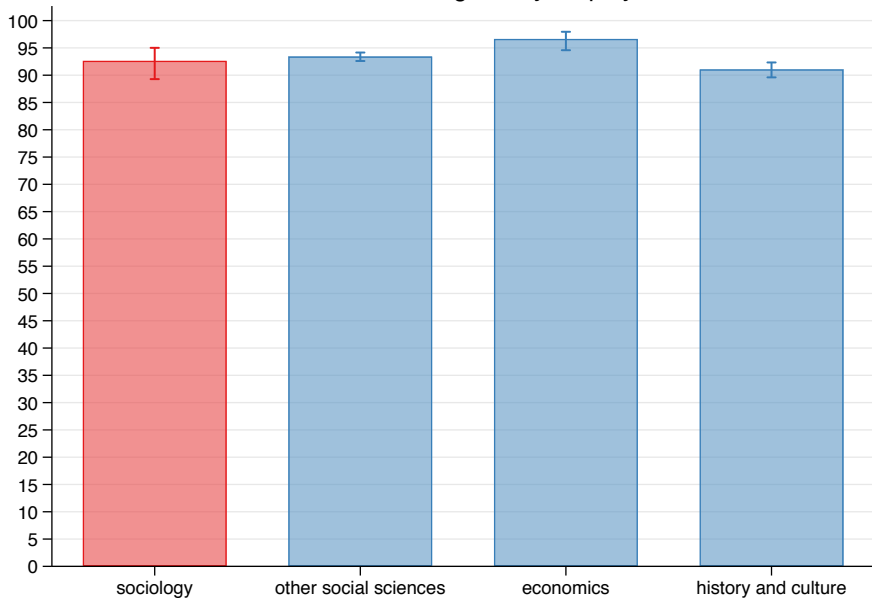
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

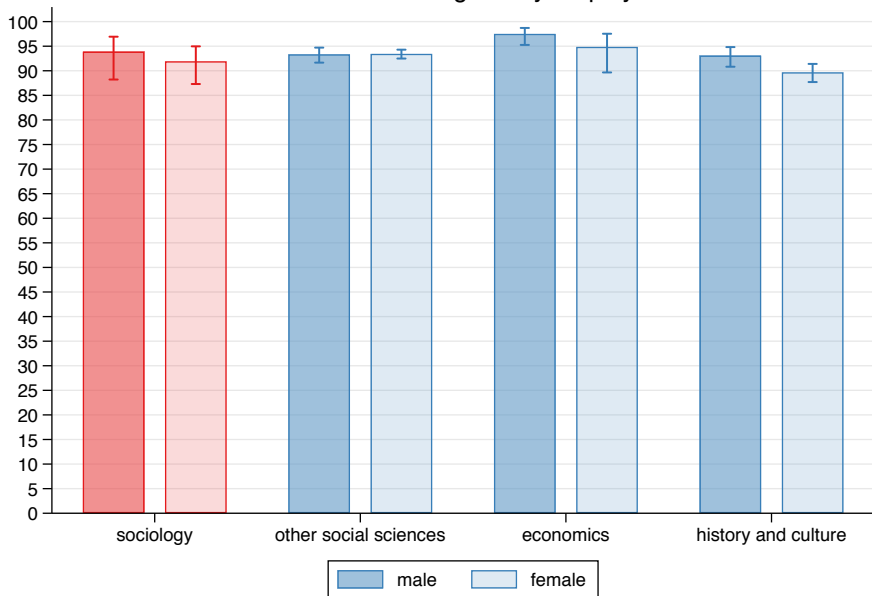
- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

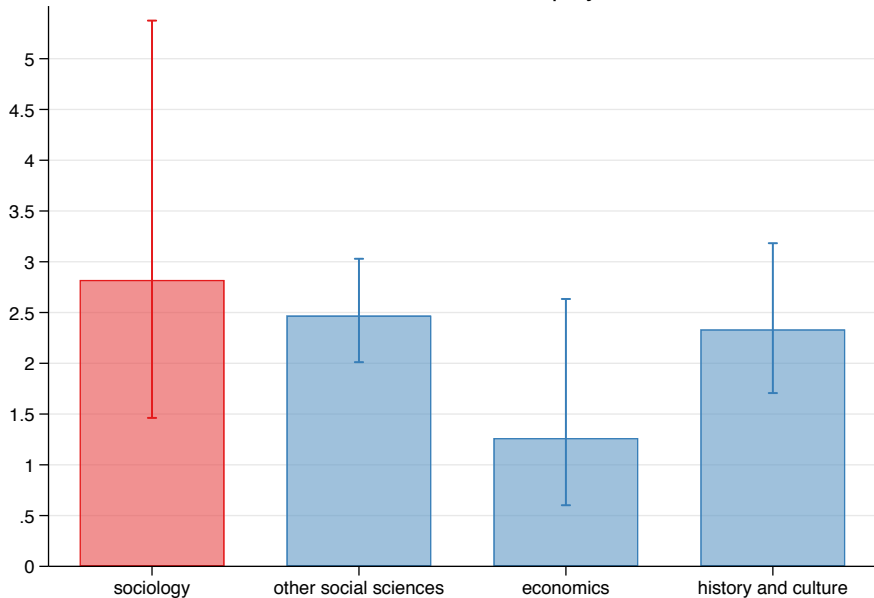
## Percent who are gainfully employed



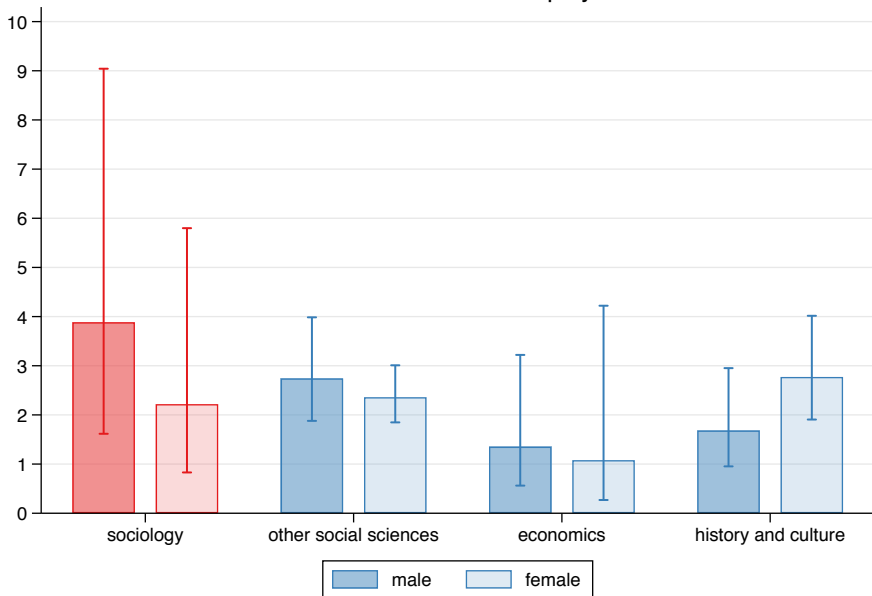
## Percent who are gainfully employed



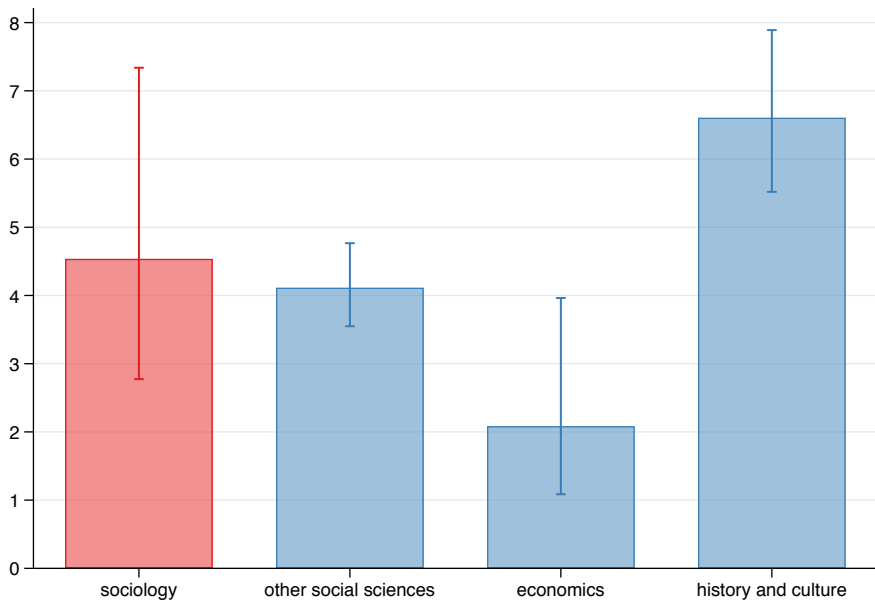
## Percent who are unemployed



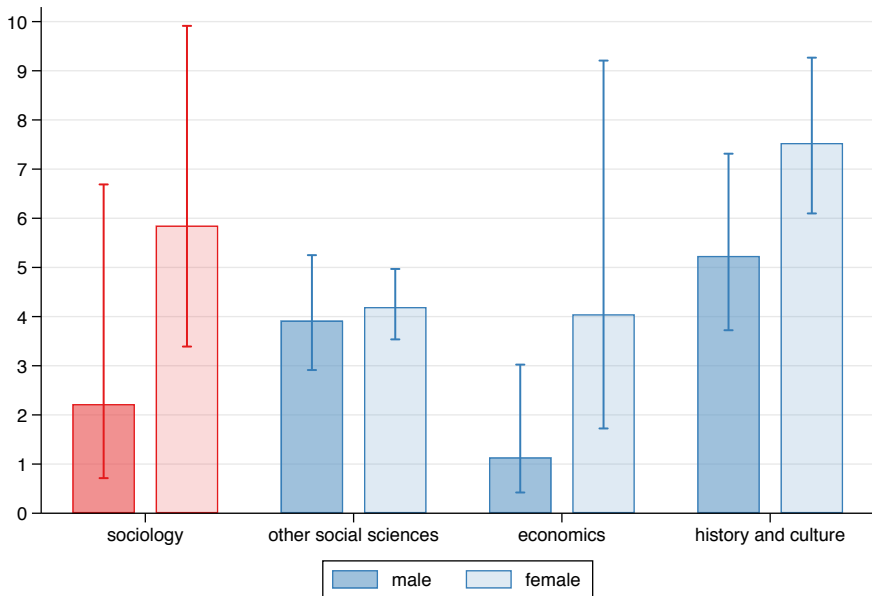
## Percent who are unemployed



## Percent who are not active on the labor market

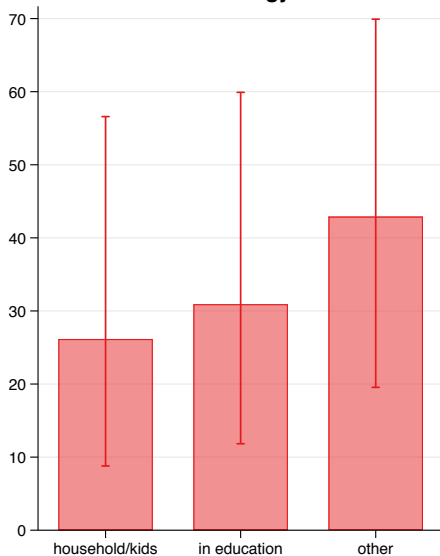


## Percent who are not active on the labor market

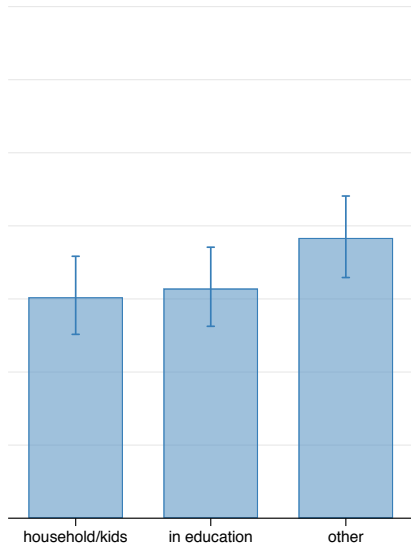


# What are those doing who are not active on the labor market?

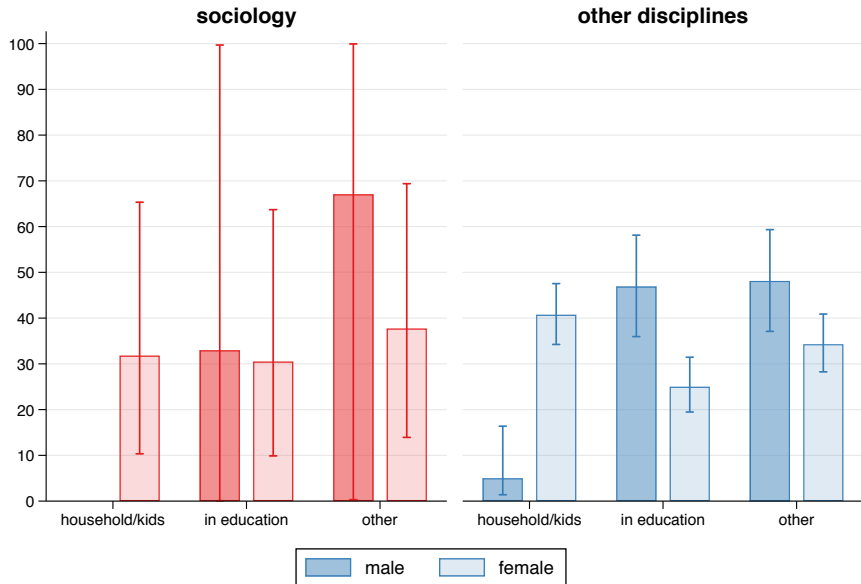
**sociology**



**other disciplines**



# What are those doing who are not active on the labor market?



## 1 Introduction

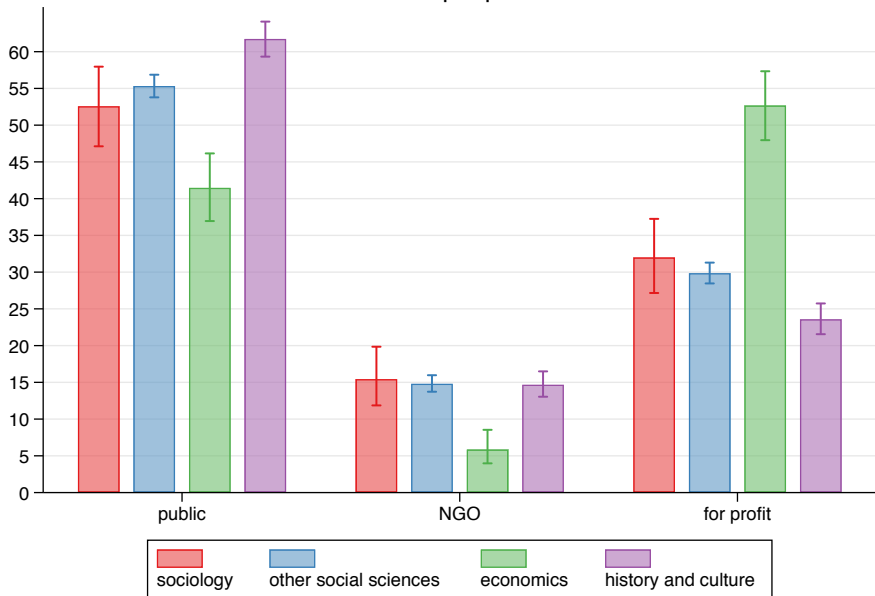
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

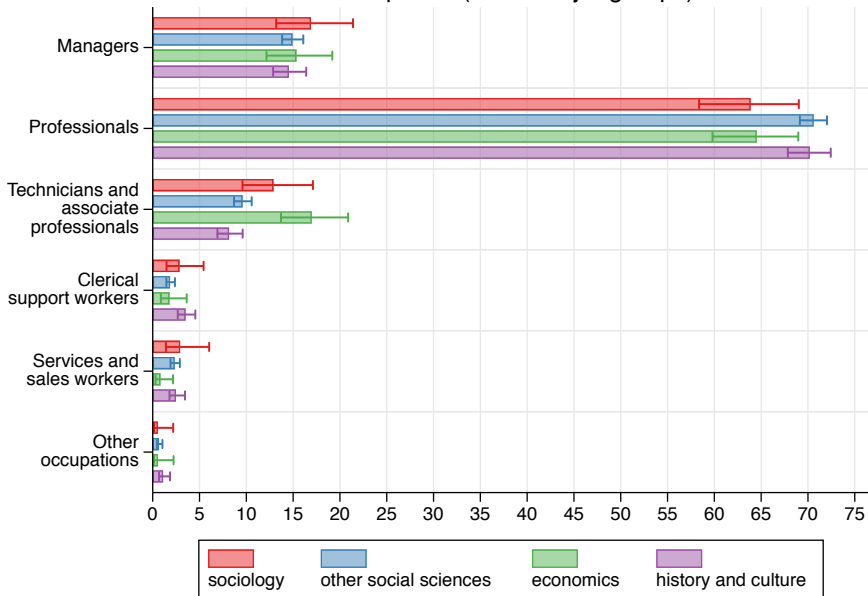
- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

## Where do people work?



## Occupation (ISCO major groups)



## 1 Introduction

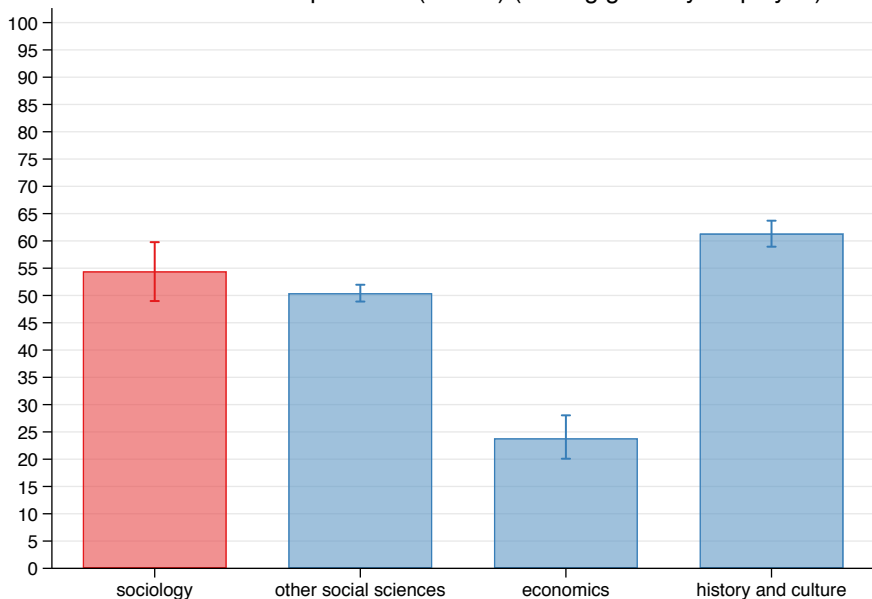
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

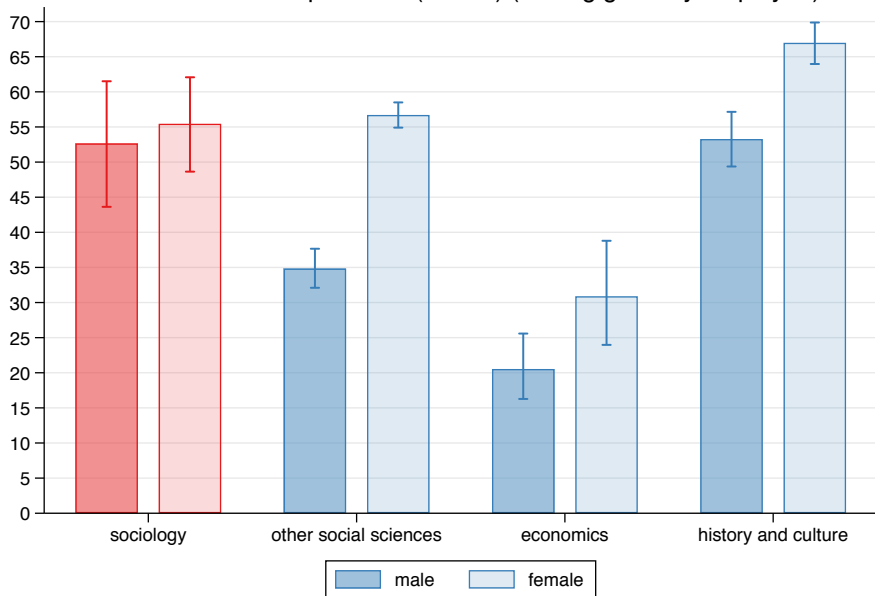
- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- **Job characteristics**
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

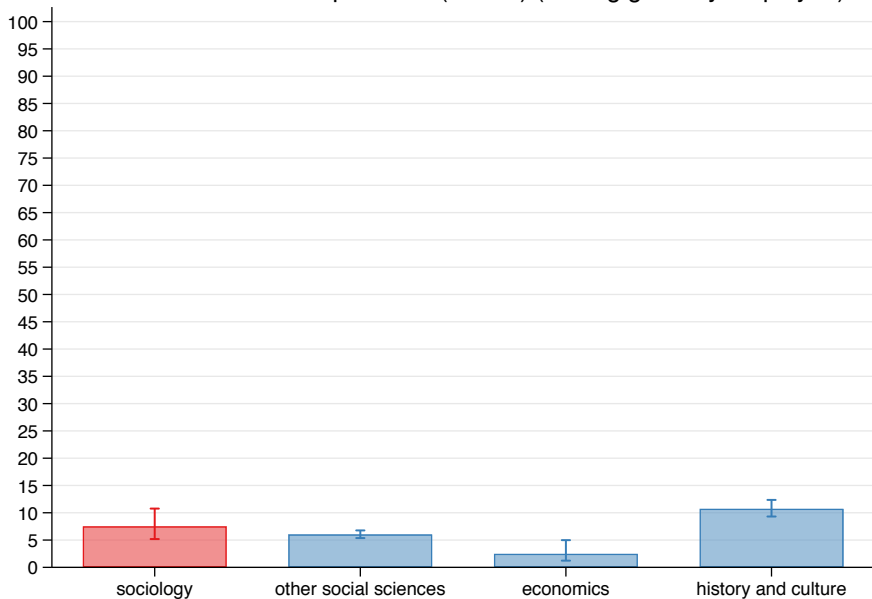
## Percent who work part-time (< 90%) (among gainfully employed)



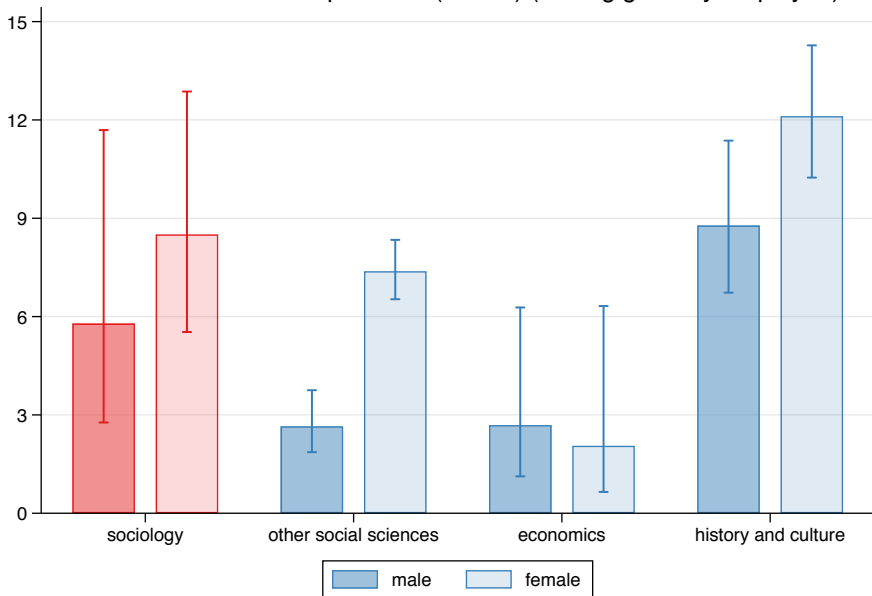
Percent who work part-time (< 90%) (among gainfully employed)



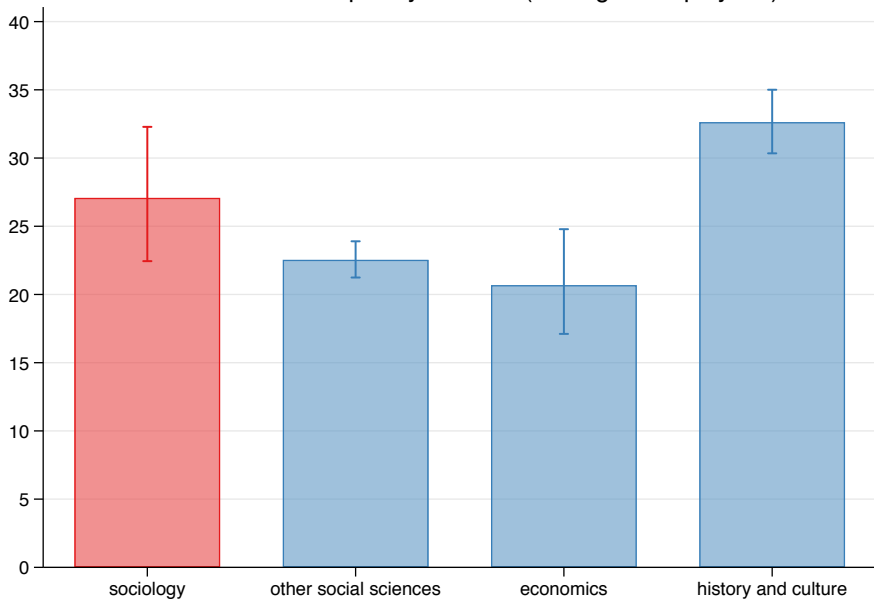
## Percent who work low part-time (< 50%) (among gainfully employed)



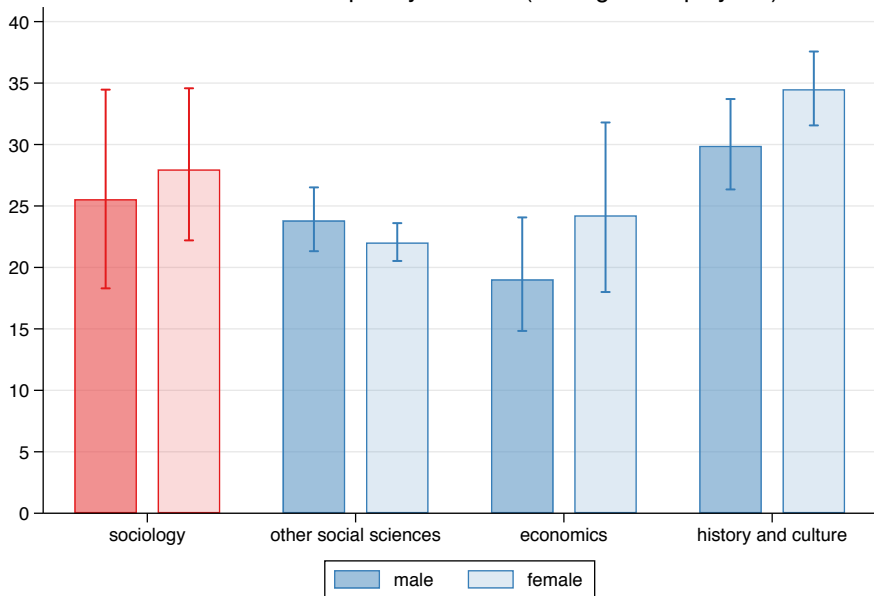
Percent who work low part-time (< 50%) (among gainfully employed)



Percent with a temporary contract (among all employees)



Percent with a temporary contract (among all employees)



## 1 Introduction

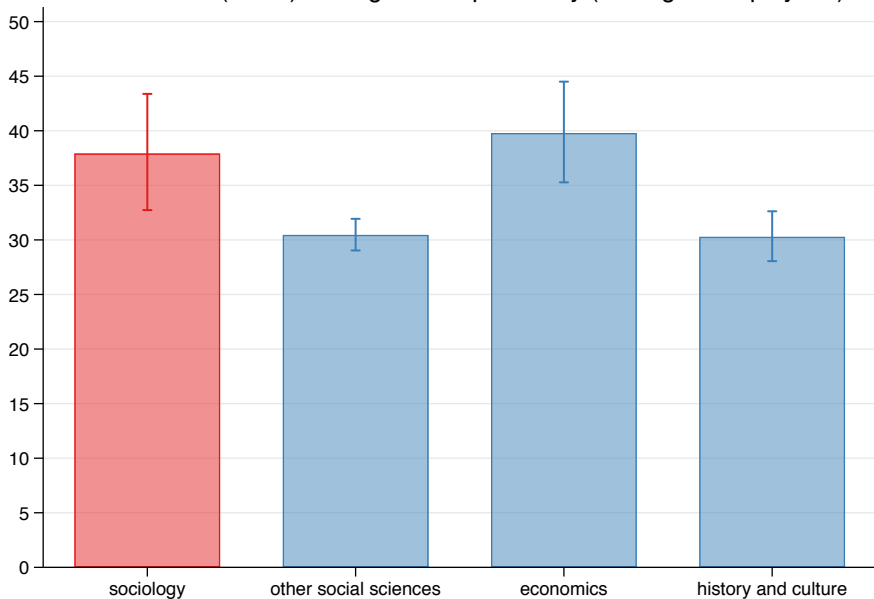
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

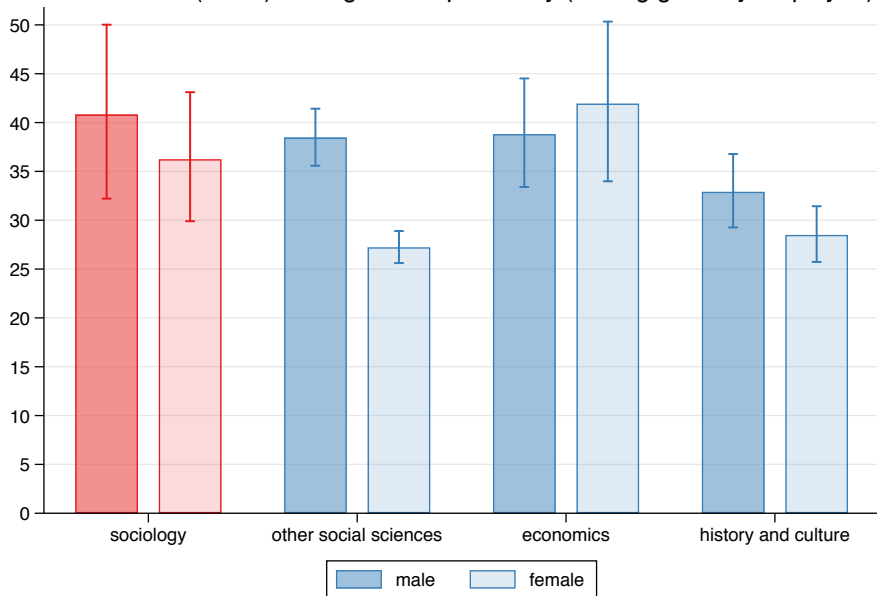
- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- **Occupational positions**
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

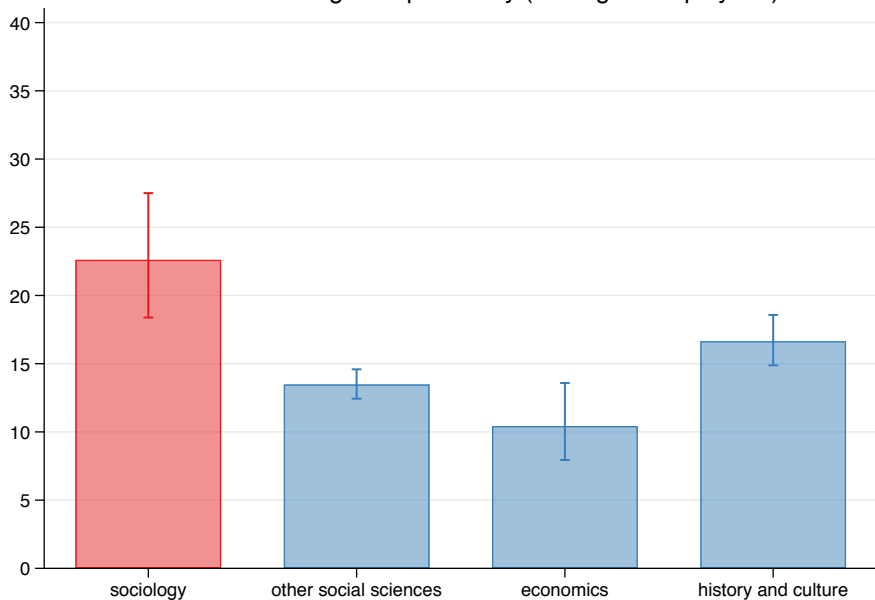
Percent with (some) managerial responsibility (among all employees)



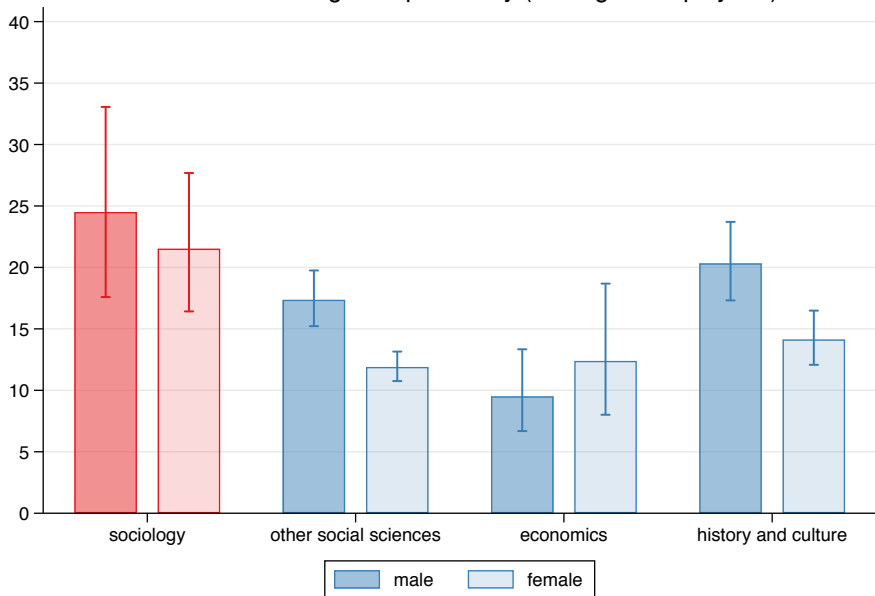
Percent with (some) managerial responsibility (among gainfully employed)



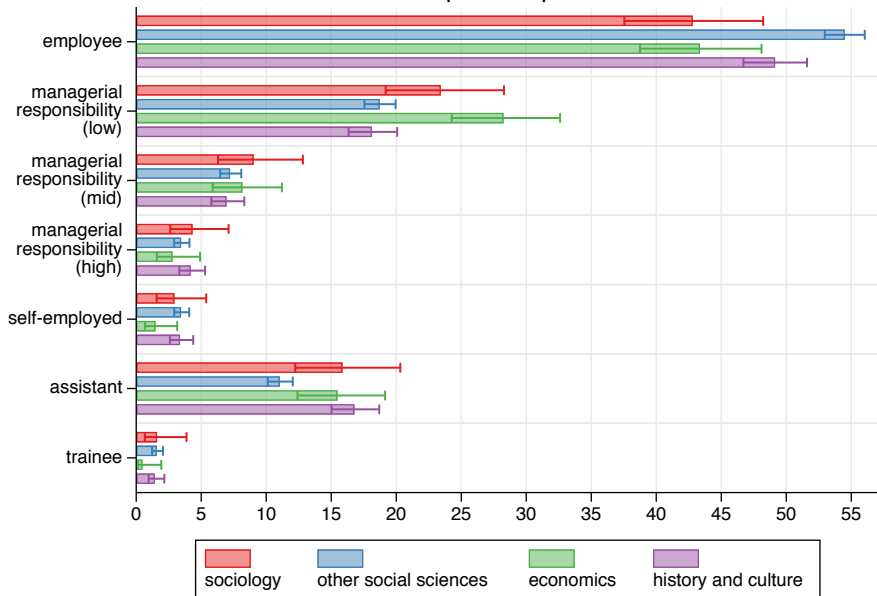
Percent with budget responsibility (among all employees)



Percent with budget responsibility (among all employees)



## Occupational position



## 1 Introduction

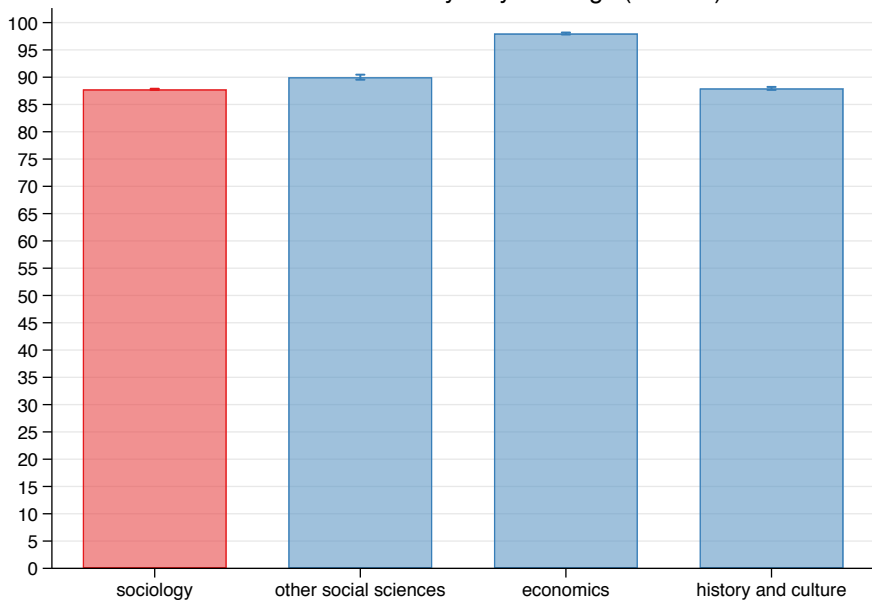
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

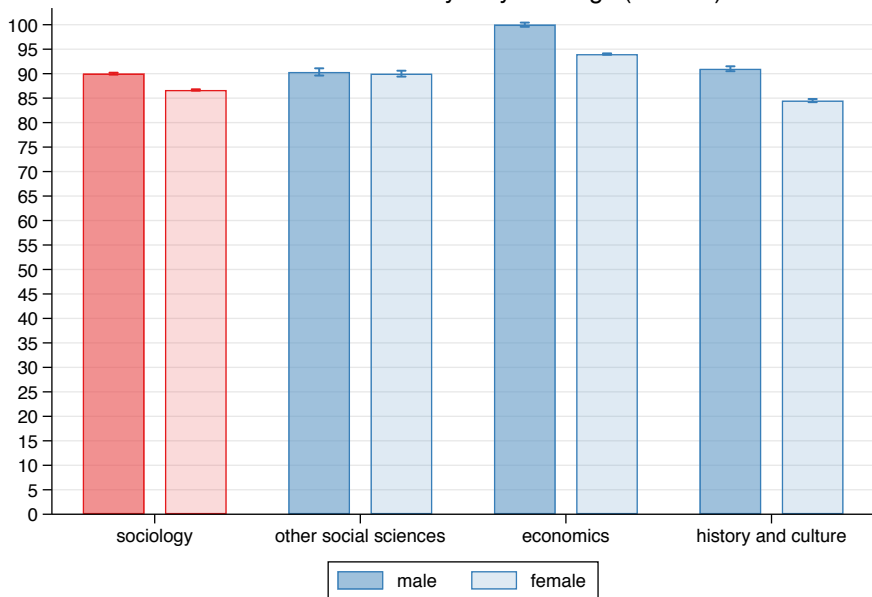
- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- Occupational positions
- **Earnings**
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

Median standardized yearly earnings (in 1000)



Median standardized yearly earnings (in 1000)



## 1 Introduction

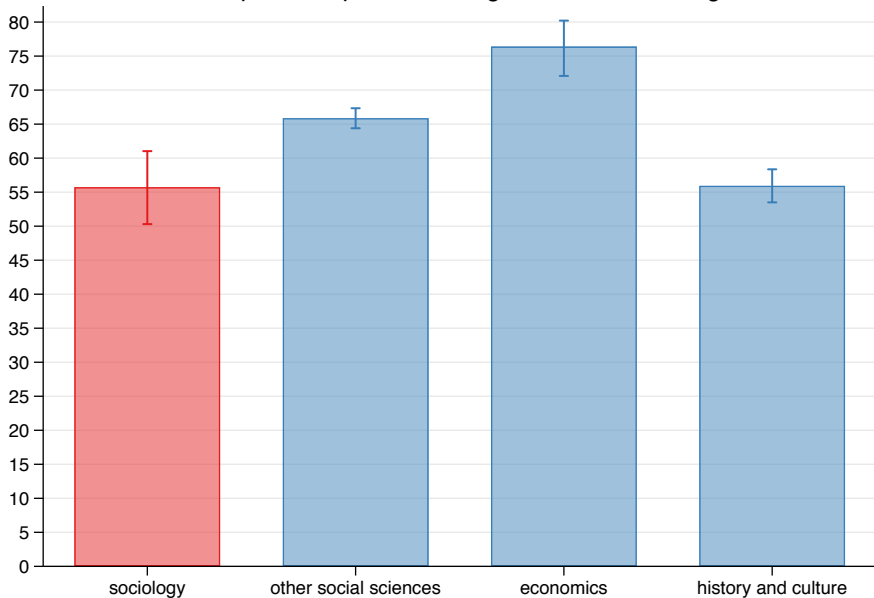
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

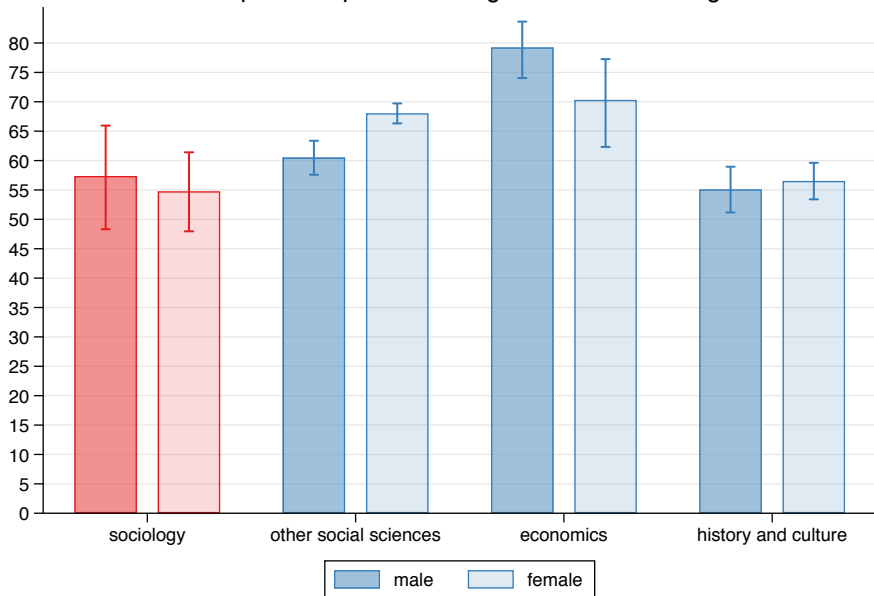
- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- **Correspondence between work and qualification**
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

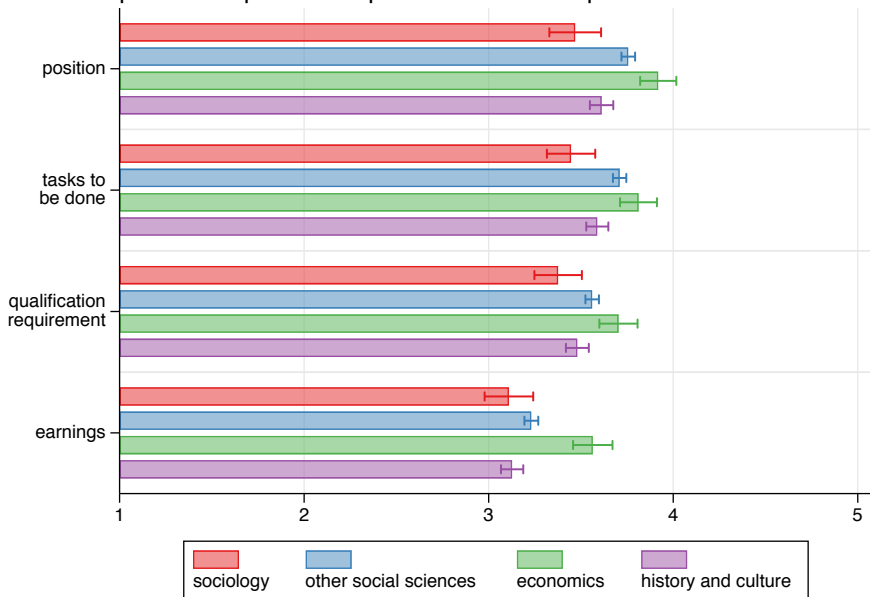
## Job requires respondent's degree or a related degree



## Job requires respondent's degree or a related degree



## Job is adequate to respondent's qualification with respect to ...



## 1 Introduction

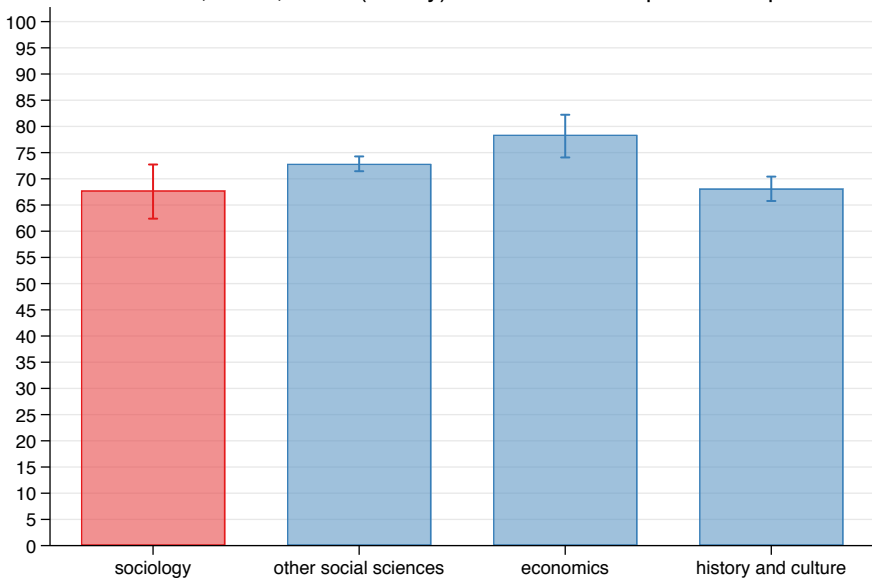
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

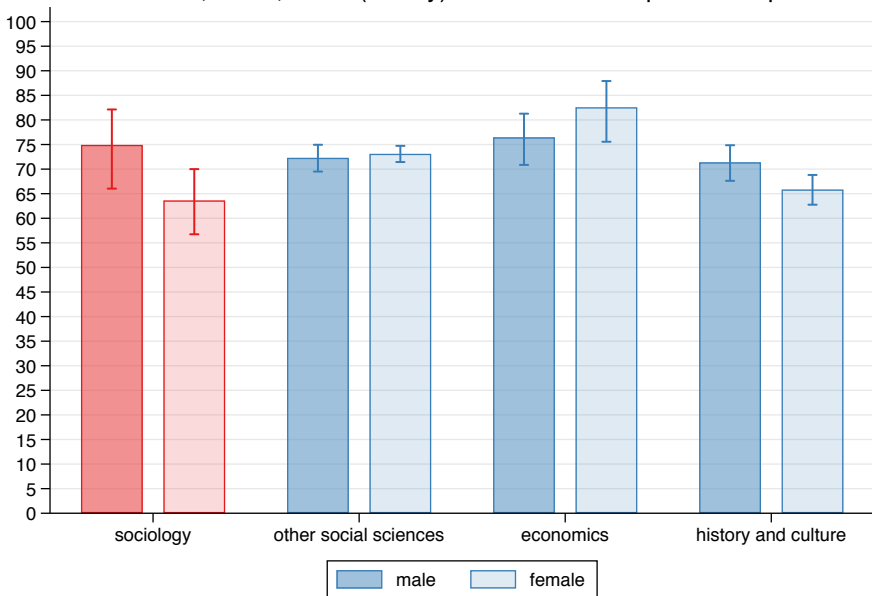
## 4 Conclusions

## Percent who, so far, could (mostly) realize their occupational aspirations



(Unfortunately only asked people who are working.)

Percent who, so far, could (mostly) realize their occupational aspirations



## 1 Introduction

## 2 Data

## 3 Results

- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

# Conclusions

- Overall, sociologists do very well: labor market participation is high, unemployment low, earnings comparable to others, mostly professionals and managers.
- In terms of occupational position, sociologist even seem to outperform the other groups (high proportion with managerial or budget responsibility).
- Yet, in terms of how well they perceive their work as corresponding to their qualification, sociologists fare a bit worse than their peers from neighboring disciplines.
- Related to that, the proportion of sociologists who feel that they are on a successful path to realizing their career aspirations, is comparably low.