

# 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

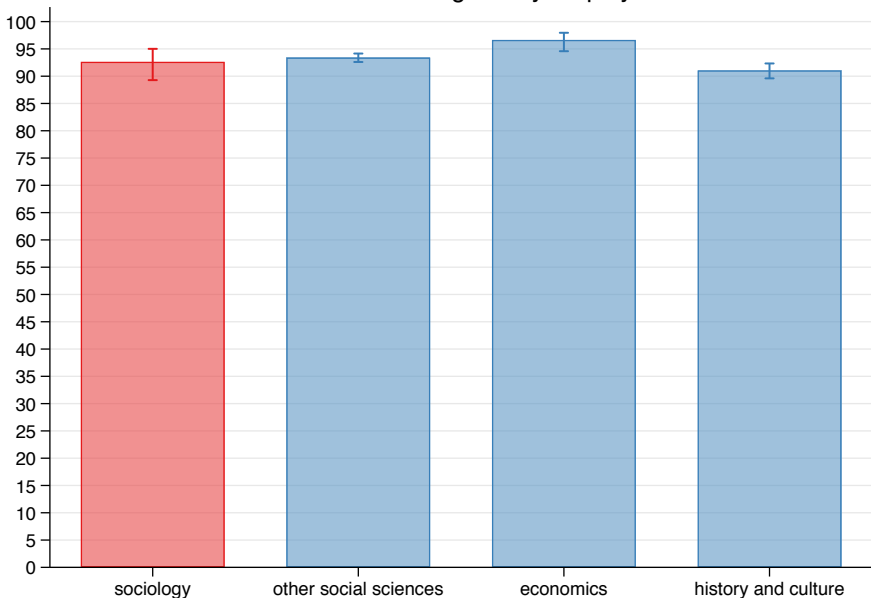
## 2 Data

## 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

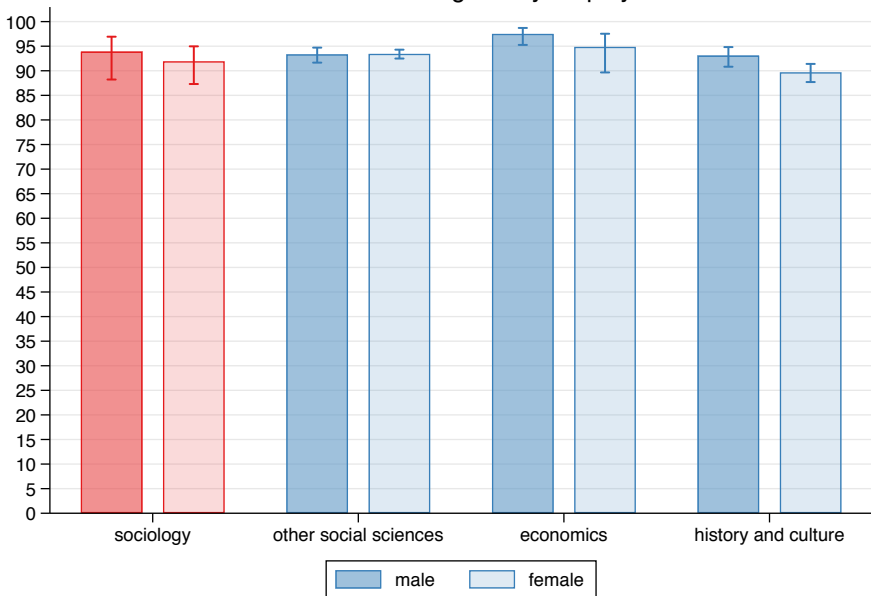
## 4 Conclusions

## Percent who are gainfully employed

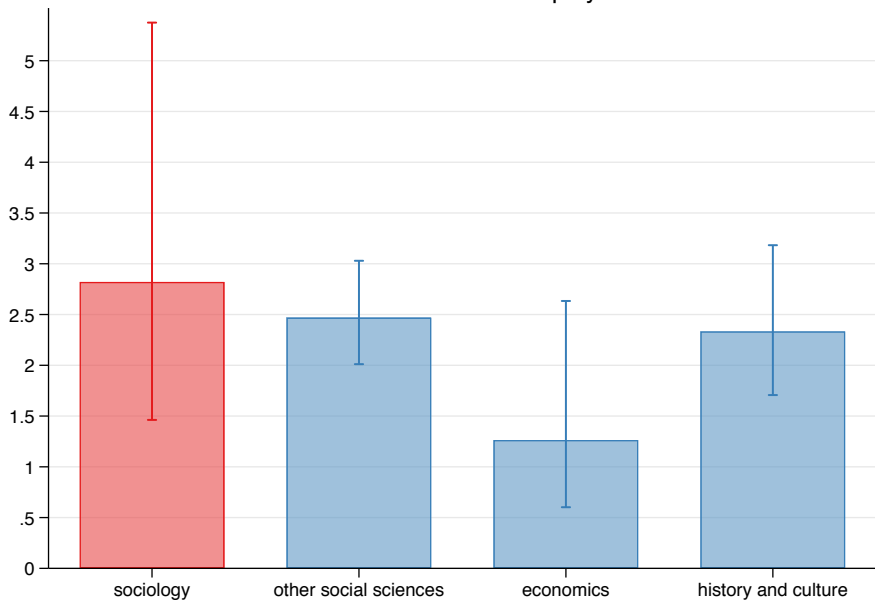




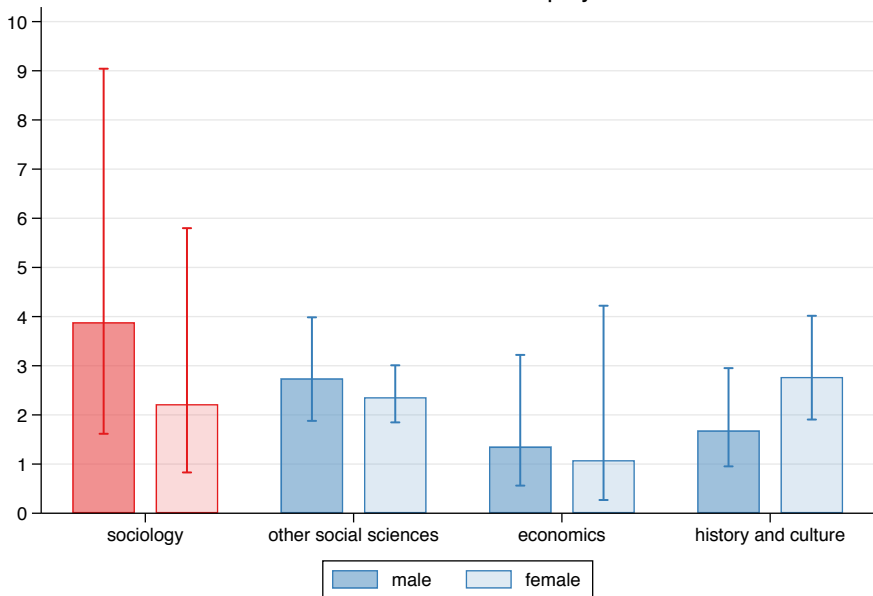
## Percent who are gainfully employed



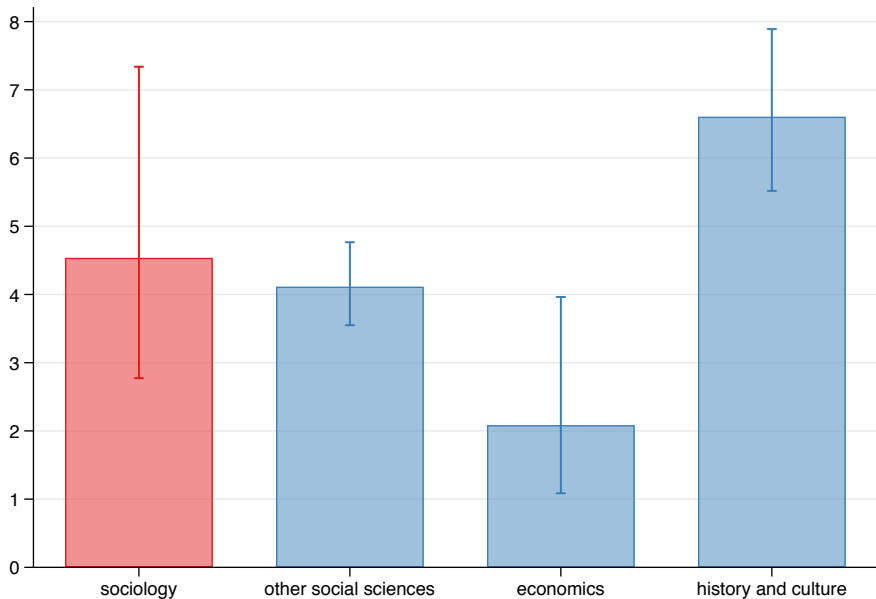
## Percent who are unemployed



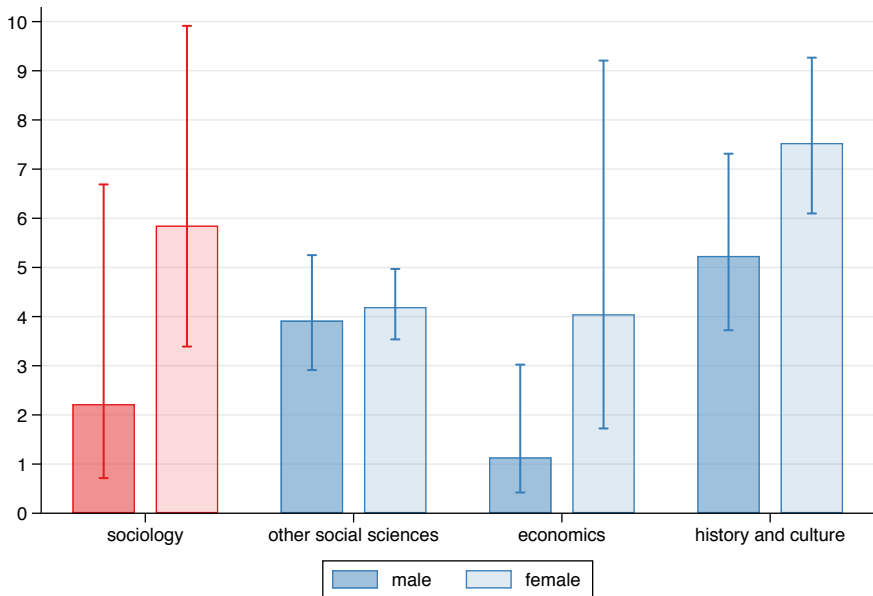
## Percent who are unemployed



## Percent who are not active on the labor market

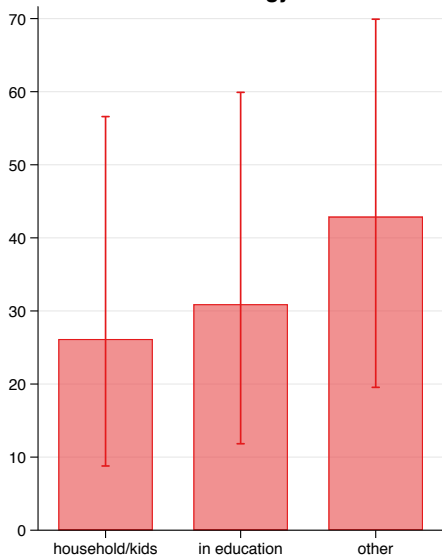


## Percent who are not active on the labor market

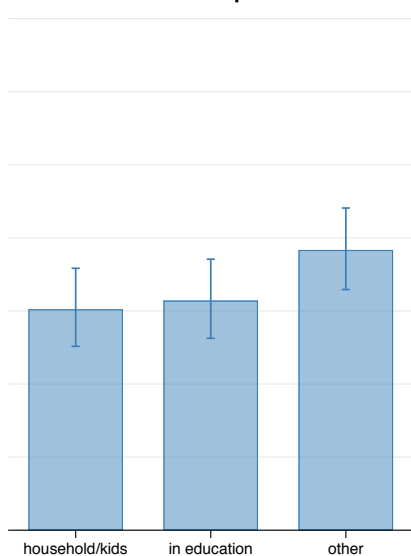


# What are those doing who are not active on the labor market?

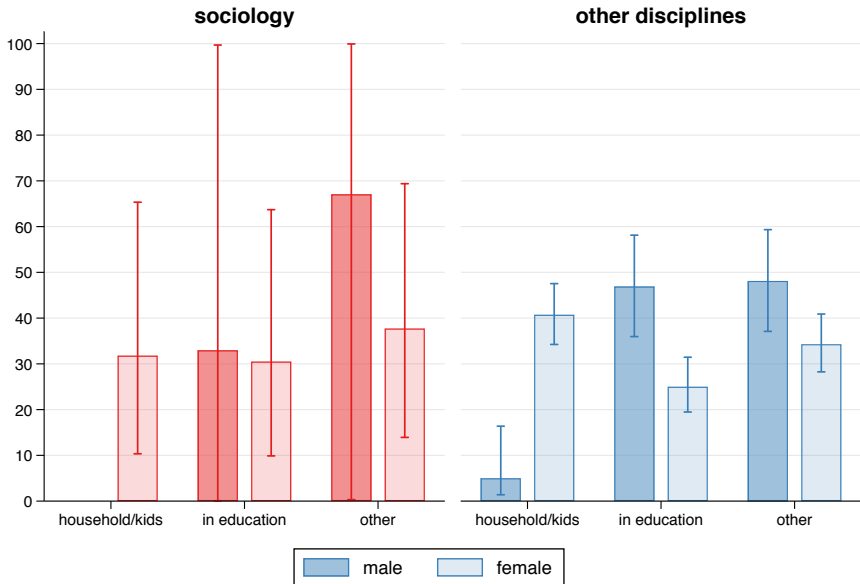
## sociology



## other disciplines



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



## 1 Introduction

## 2 Data

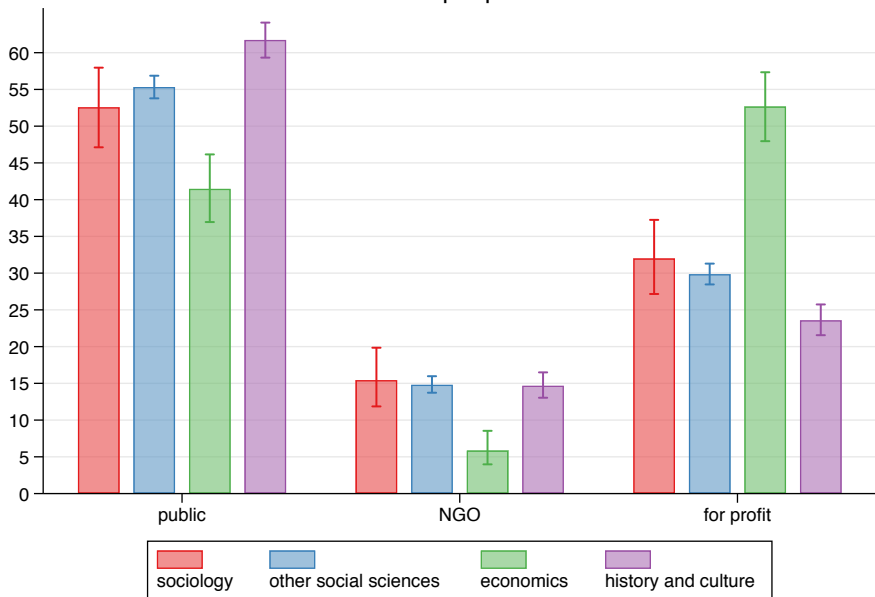
## 3 Results

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

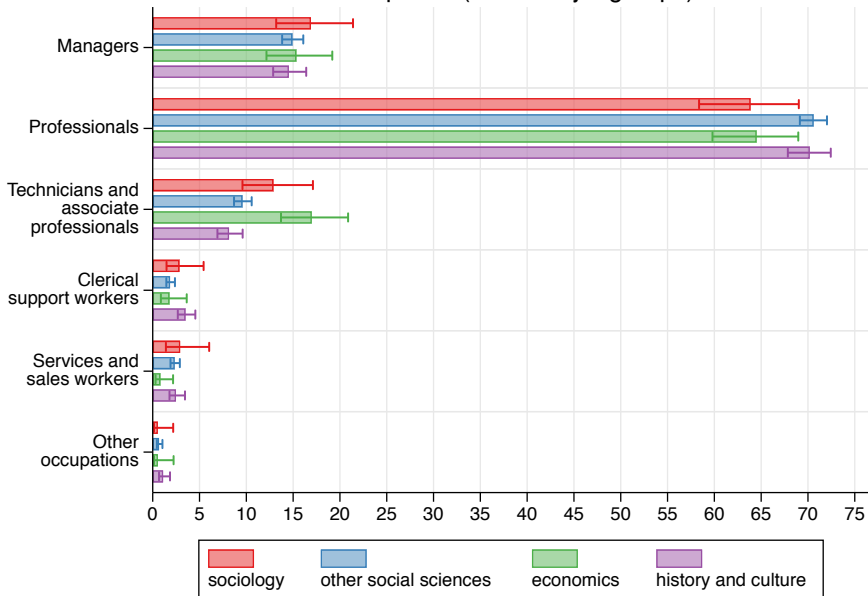
## 4 Conclusions



## Where do people work?



## Occupation (ISCO major groups)



## 1 Introduction

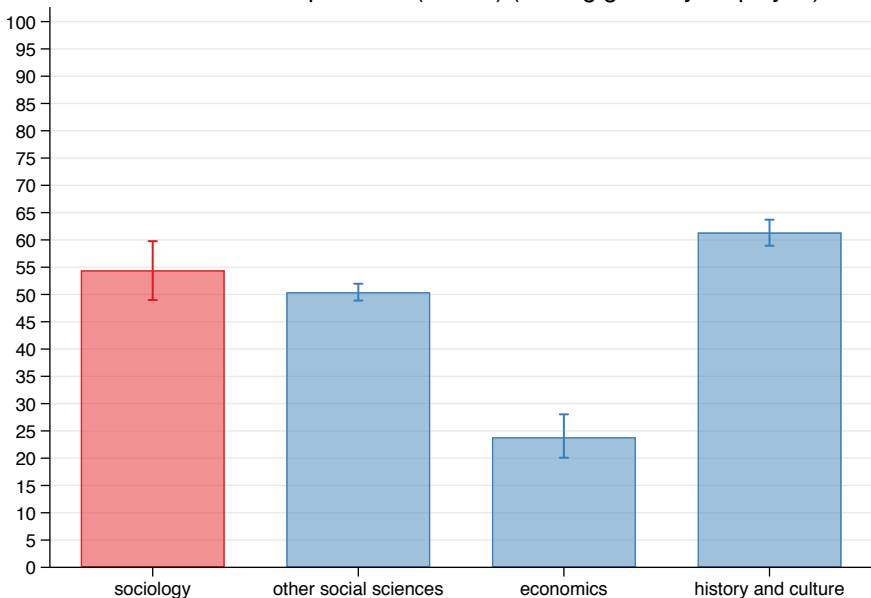
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

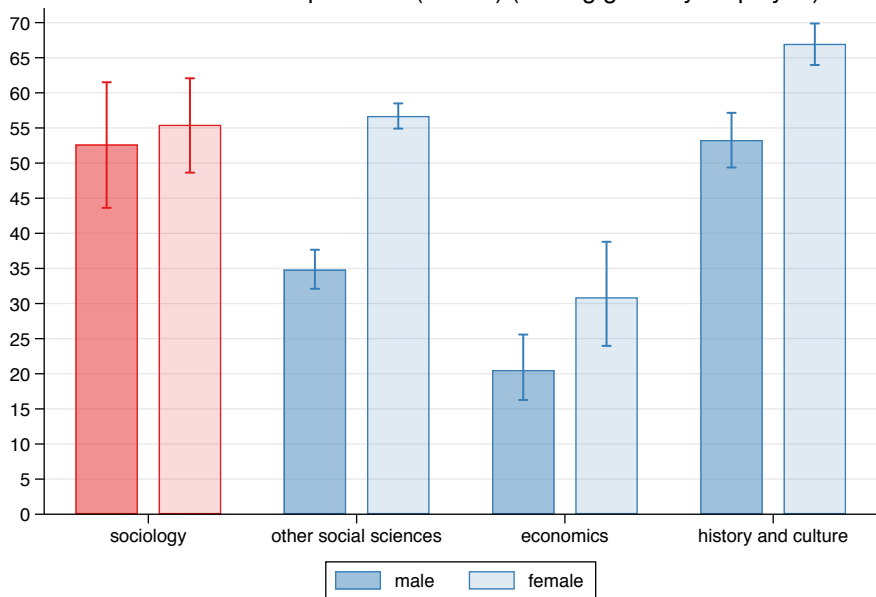
- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- **Job characteristics**
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

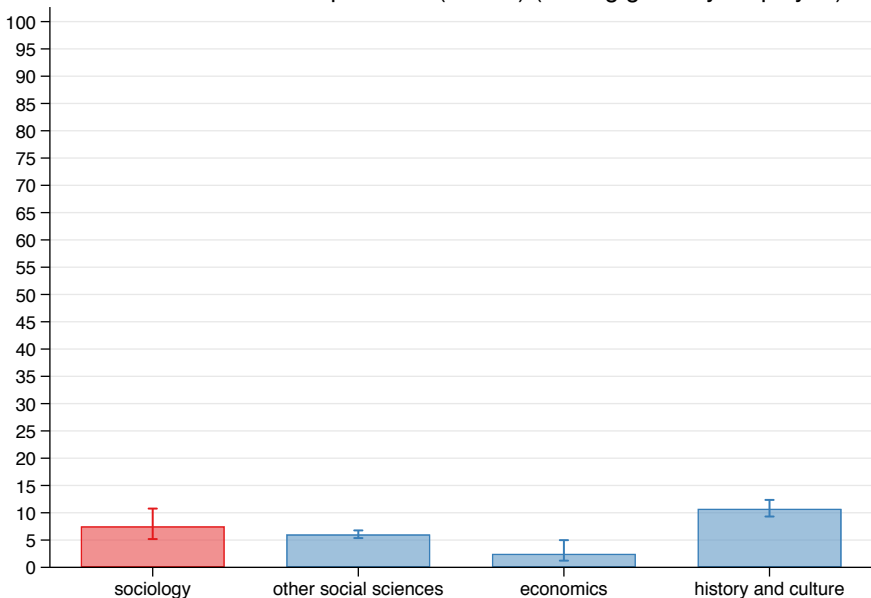
## Percent who work part-time (< 90%) (among gainfully employed)



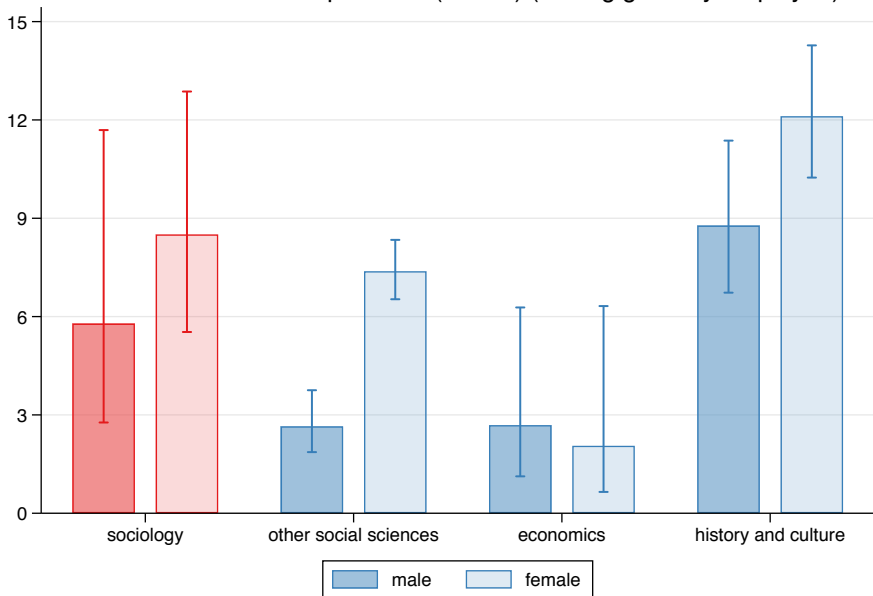
## Percent who work part-time (< 90%) (among gainfully employed)



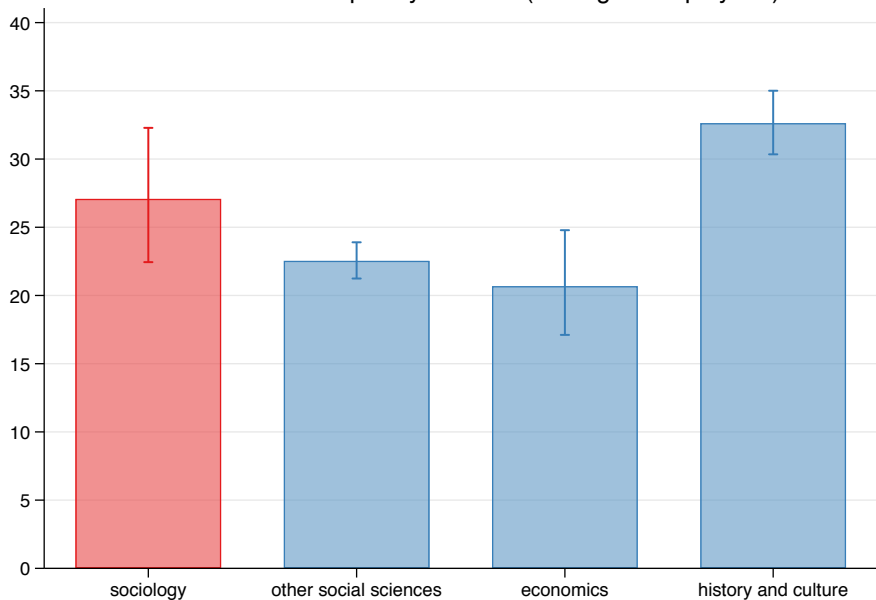
## Percent who work low part-time (< 50%) (among gainfully employed)



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

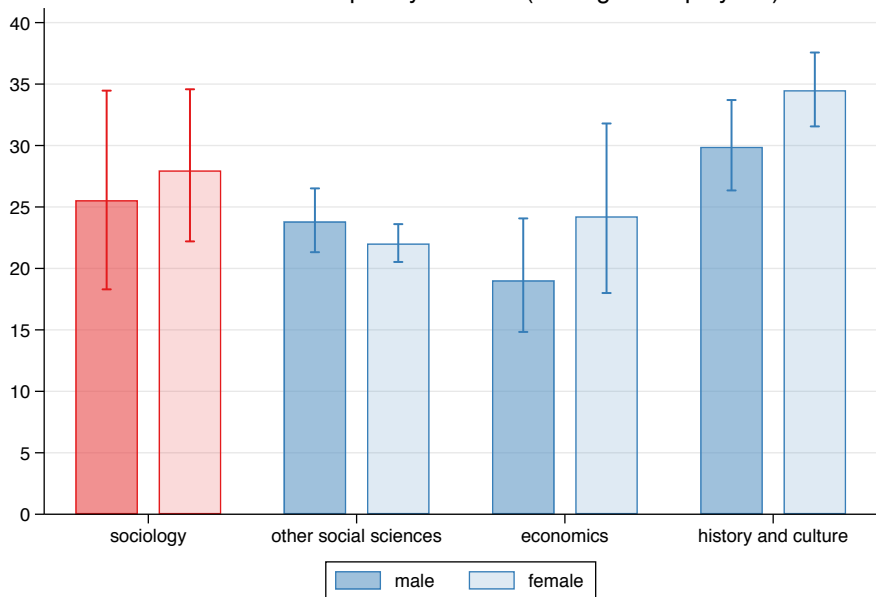


## Percent with a temporary contract (among all employees)





## Percent with a temporary contract (among all employees)



## 1 Introduction

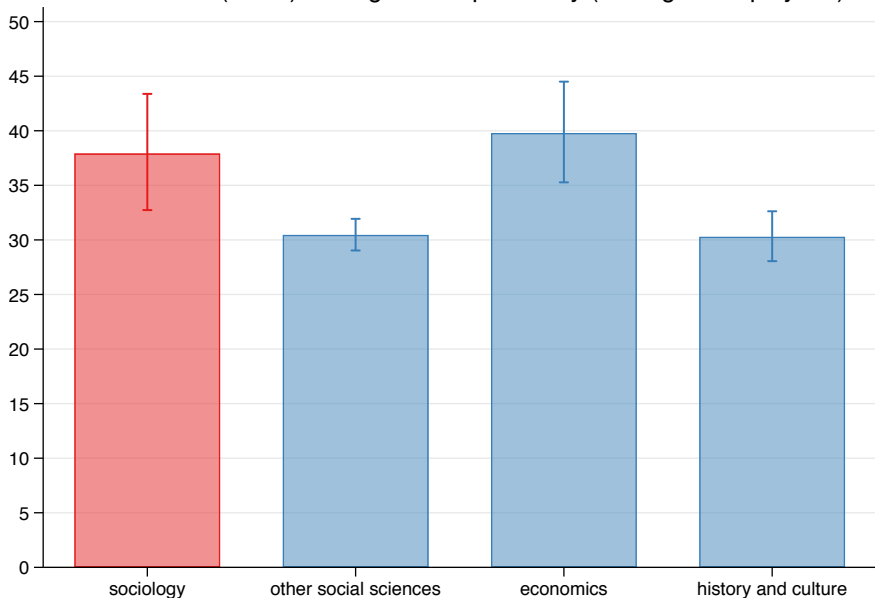
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

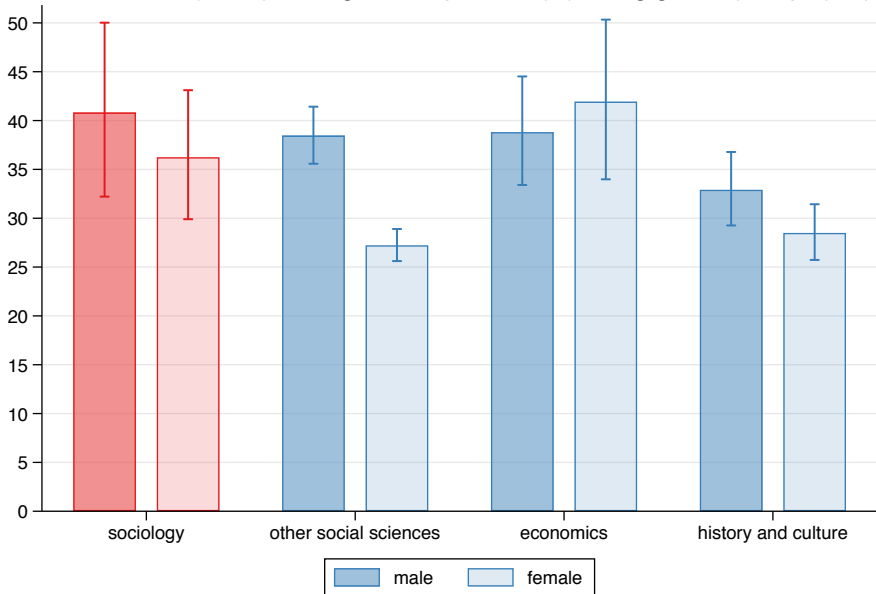
- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- **Occupational positions**
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

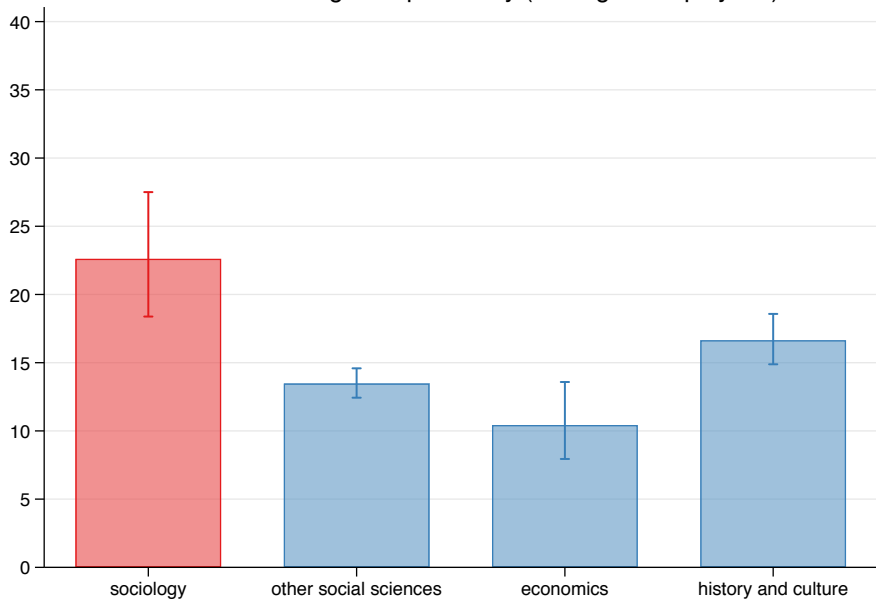
## Percent with (some) managerial responsibility (among all employees)



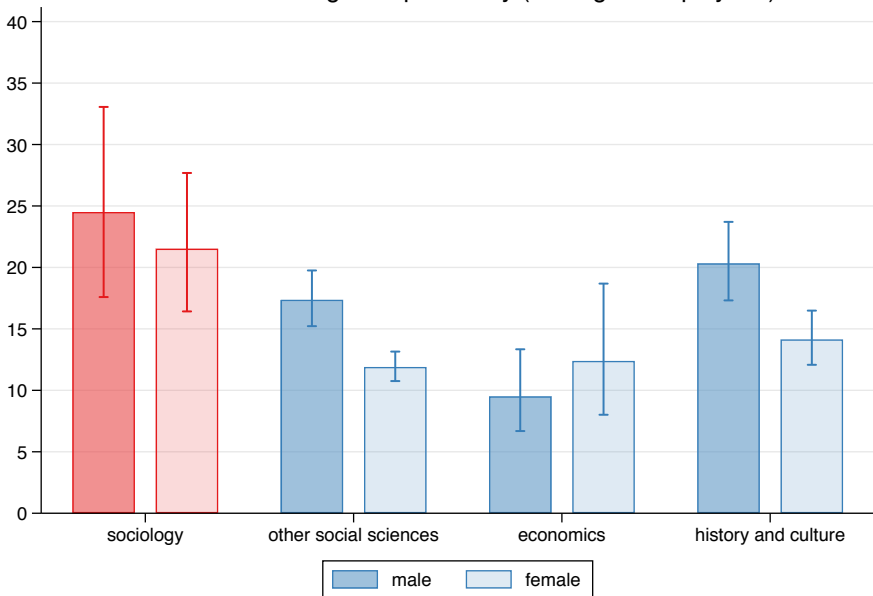
# Percent with (some) managerial responsibility (among gainfully employed)



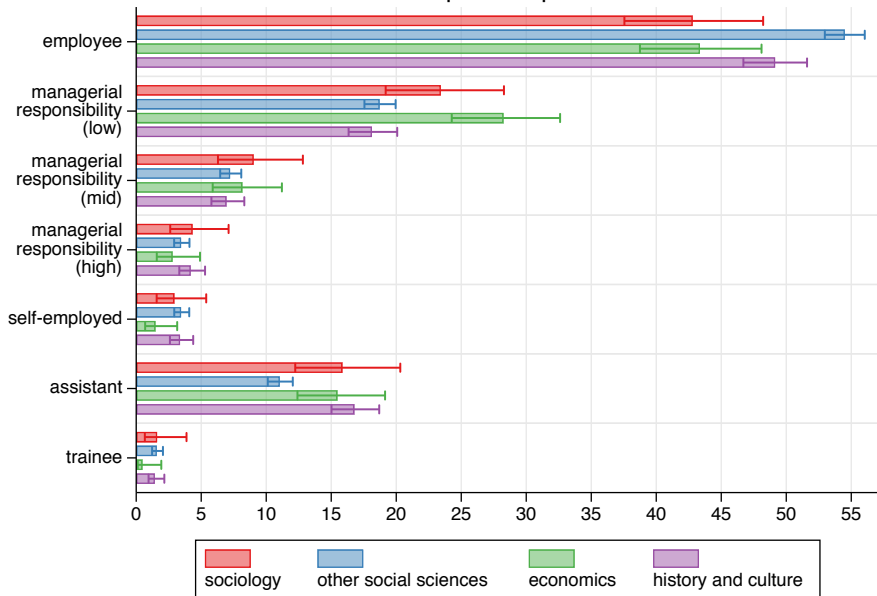
## Percent with budget responsibility (among all employees)



## Percent with budget responsibility (among all employees)



## Occupational position



## 1 Introduction

## 2 Data

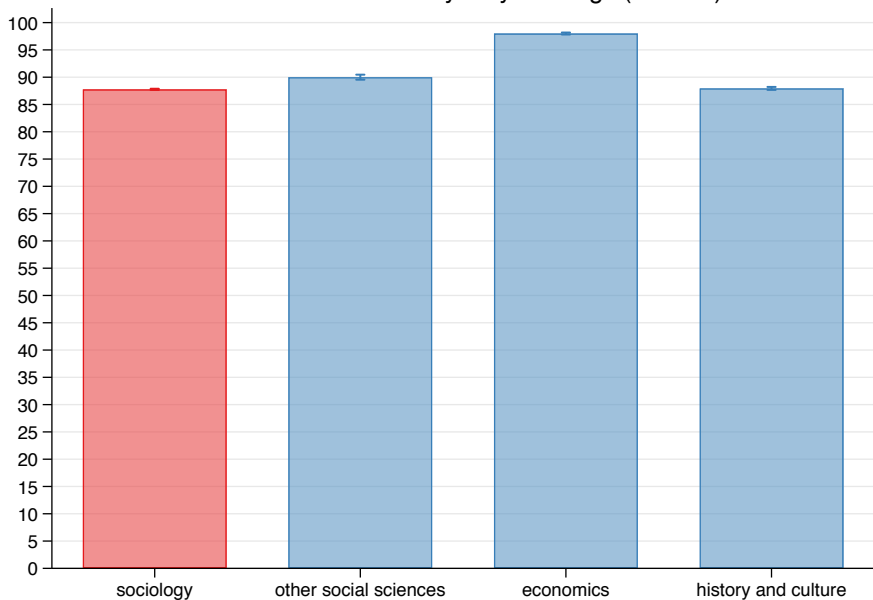
## 3 Results

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

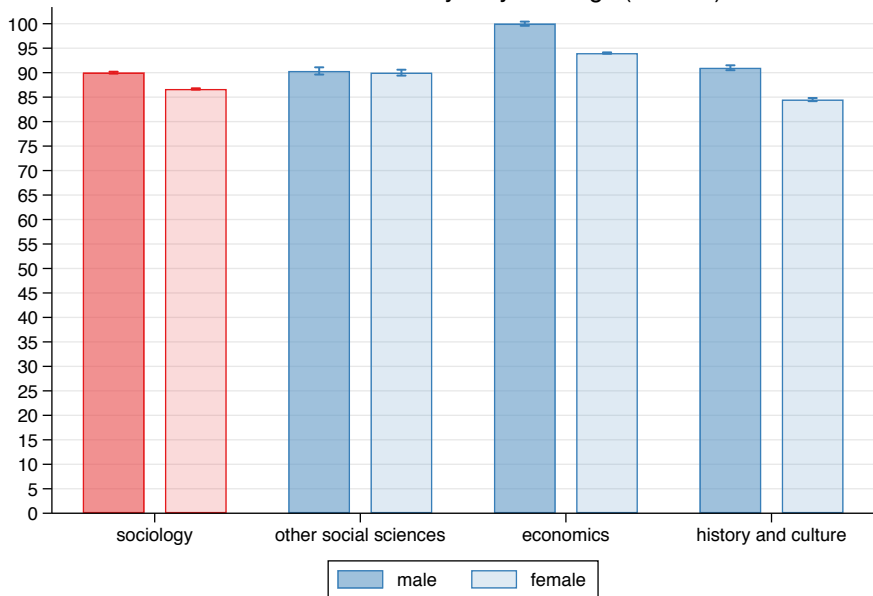
## 4 Conclusions



## Median standardized yearly earnings (in 1000)



## Median standardized yearly earnings (in 1000)



## 1 Introduction

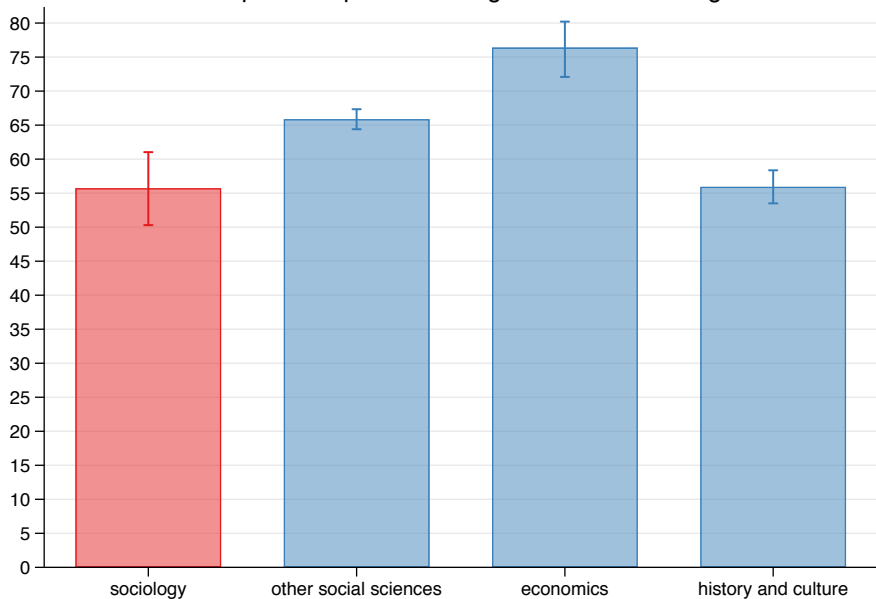
## 2 Data

## 3 Results

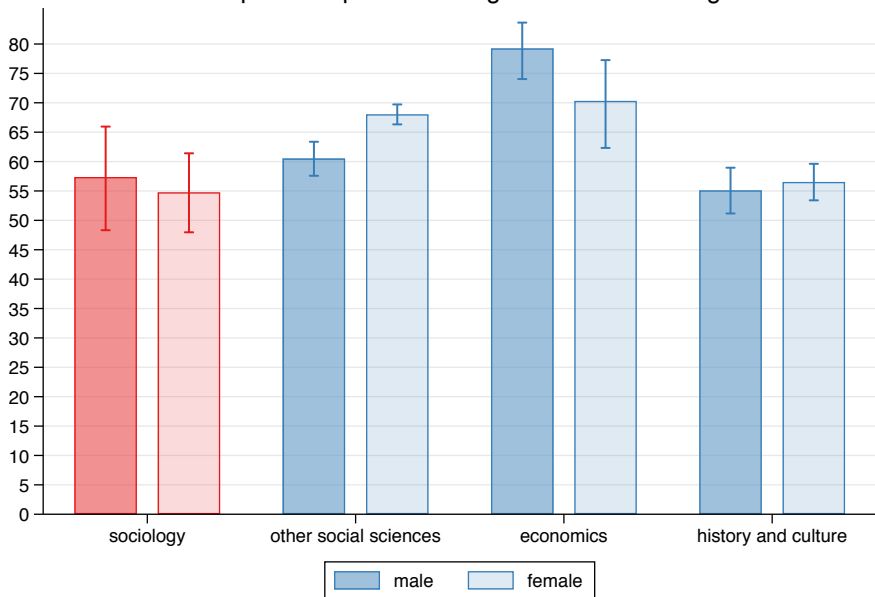
- Labor market status
- Sectors and types of occupations
- Job characteristics
- Occupational positions
- Earnings
- Correspondence between work and qualification
- Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

## 4 Conclusions

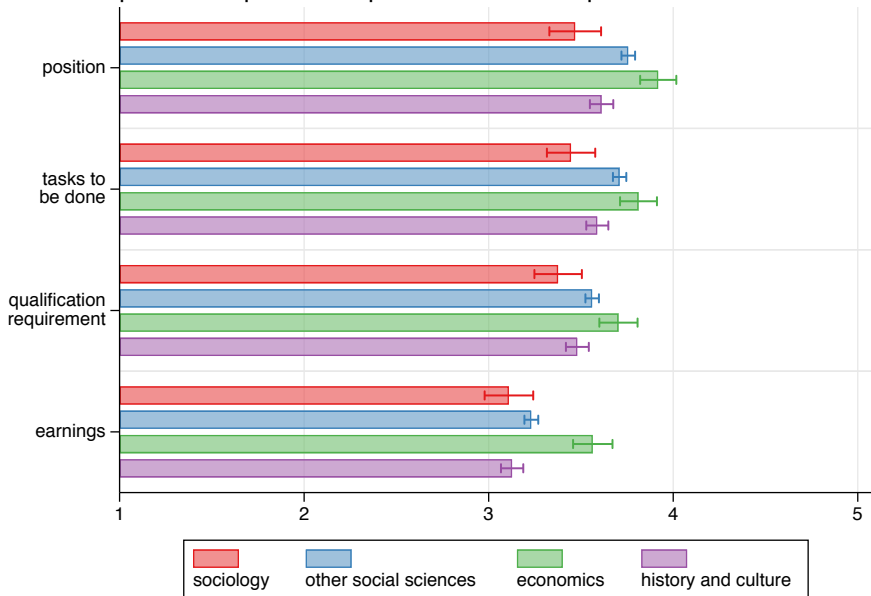
## Job requires respondent's degree or a related degree



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



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



## 1 Introduction

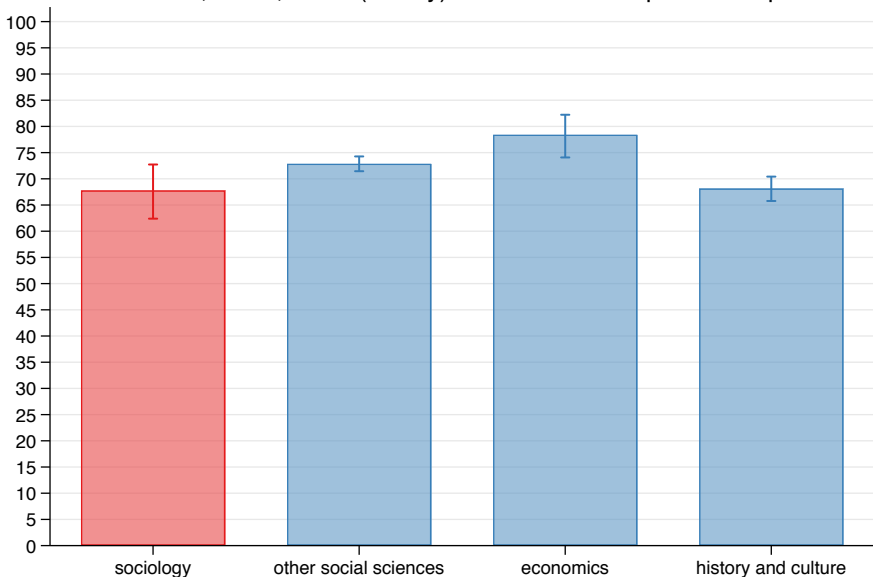
## 2 Data

## 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

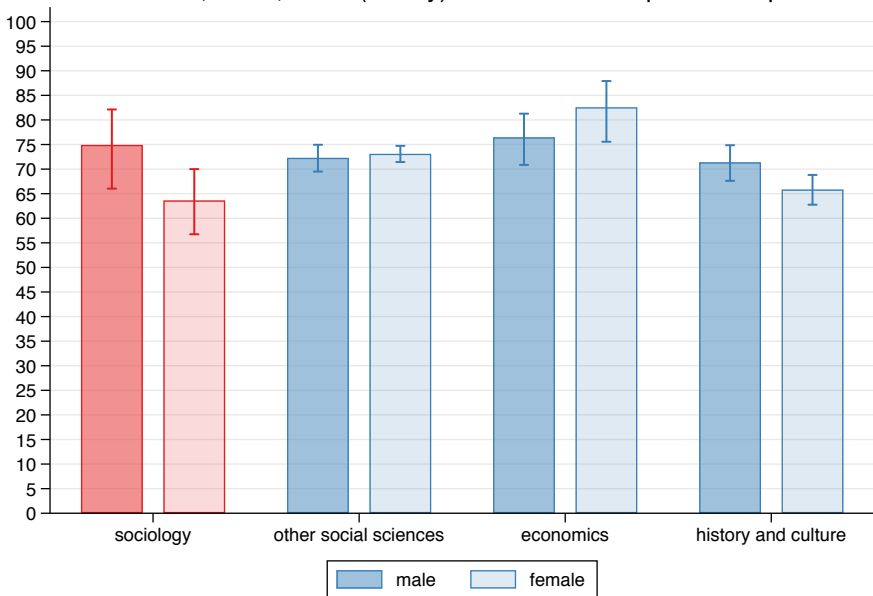
## Percent who, so far, could (mostly) realize their occupational aspirations



(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, sociologists 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.