

Periodical PhD Poll 2015

A visual report on experiences and desires

02 June 2015

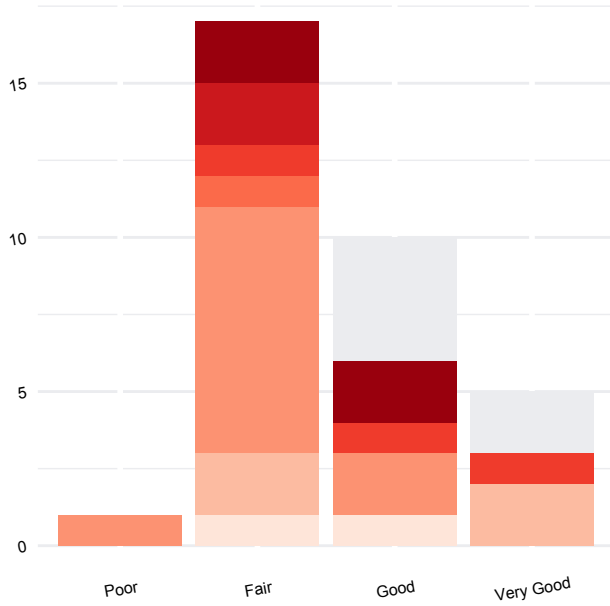
This is a visual report on the first Periodical PhD Poll for the Psychology department of the University of Amsterdam. We report on the PhD students' satisfaction with their projects and workplace, difficulties, experience and confidence in teaching, desired social and educational activities, awareness of the PhD committee, and much more.

This report is brought to you by the PhD committee.
We thank Sacha Epskamp for helping out with the layout.

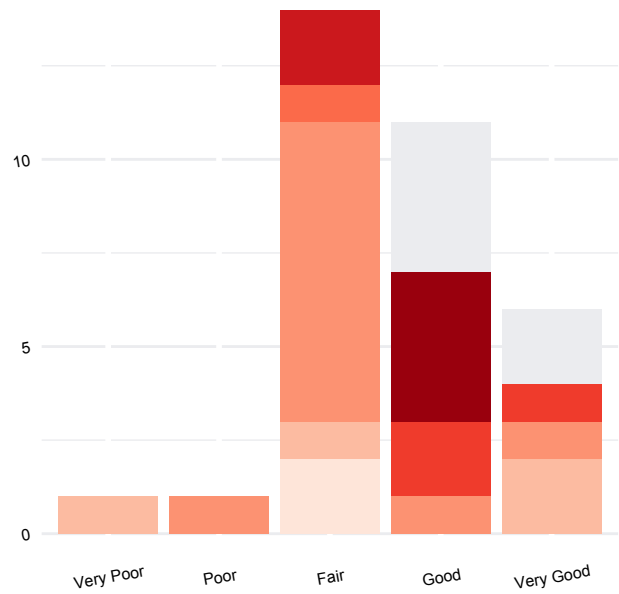


<http://psyres.uva.nl/phd-committee>
psaiko.uva@gmail.com

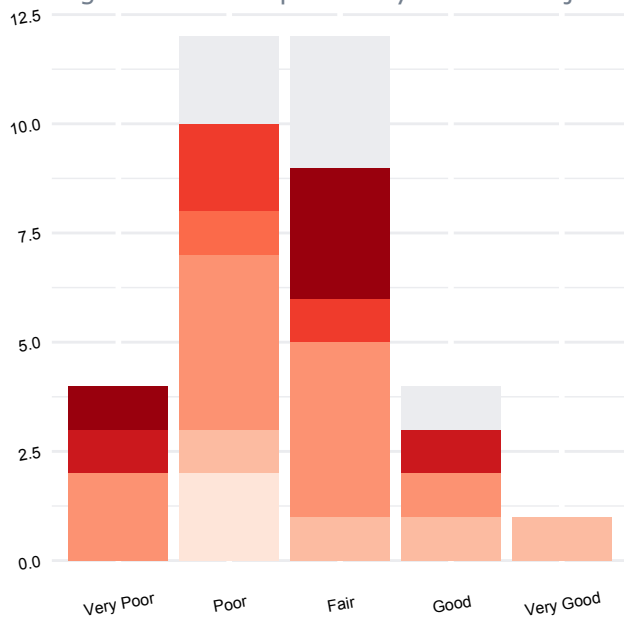
With respect to the substantial knowledge needed for your project.



With respect to the skills needed for your project.

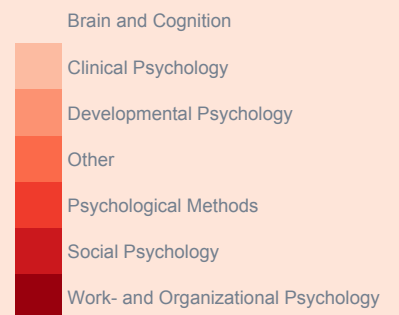


With respect to information about the organizational aspects of your PhD trajectory.



Settling in

To what extent do you feel you were prepared for your PhD trajectory?



Comments

With regard to organizational aspects it would be nice to get some introduction. I found out most aspects by asking other Ph'D students...

An introductory meeting regarding secondary working conditions as well as regular (half-yearly perhaps?) meetings regarding im- and explicit policies within the academic field you are working in would be a great help. Policies regarding working conditions are in general very implicit and therefore sometimes unclear, e.g. what hours do you need to be in the office? Who do you need to tell if you want to take a holiday? What in terms of production is expected from you? I very much like the freedom of working in the UvA but can imagine that especially as a starting PhD student this freedom is overwhelming and gives you a feeling that you don't know what you are allowed and/or supposed to do.

No active support, but there was support as soon as I asked for it.

Almost no information was given about my contract (how much money I would make, how many vacation days I would have, etc.). It would be good if the university would inform new PhD's about these kind of things.

I wasn't trained at psychology, but at mathematics instead.

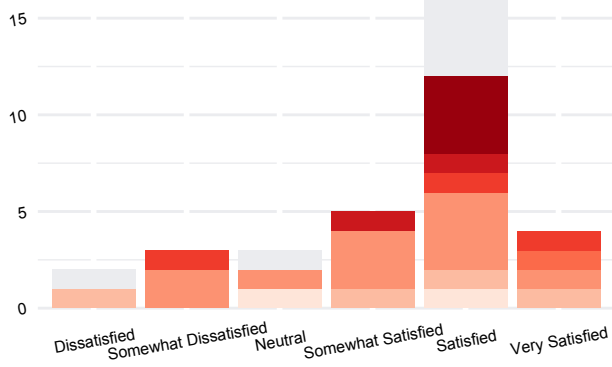
Ik ben pas twee maanden bezig. En het is me vooral nog niet helemaal duidelijk wat ik allemaal moet doen qua praktische dingen.

Settling in

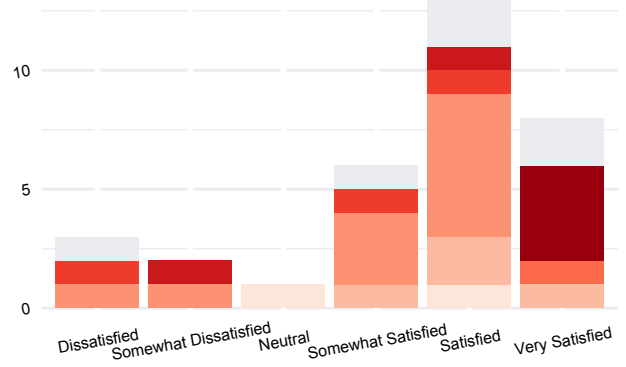
Please feel free to comment on the support you received during settling in and to give suggestions for support you would have liked to have.



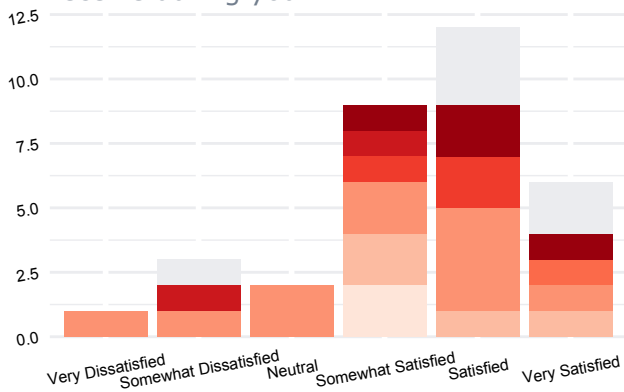
... your PhD project?



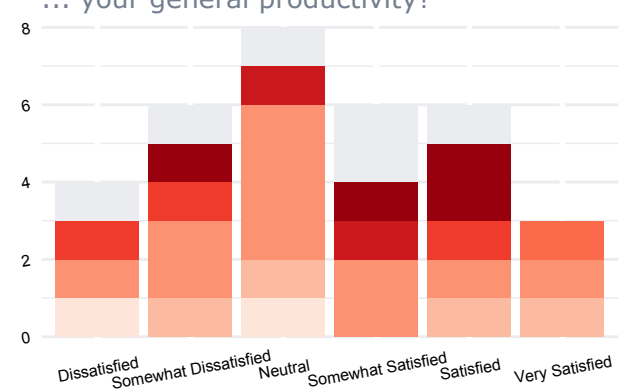
... the quality of the supervision you receive during your PhD?



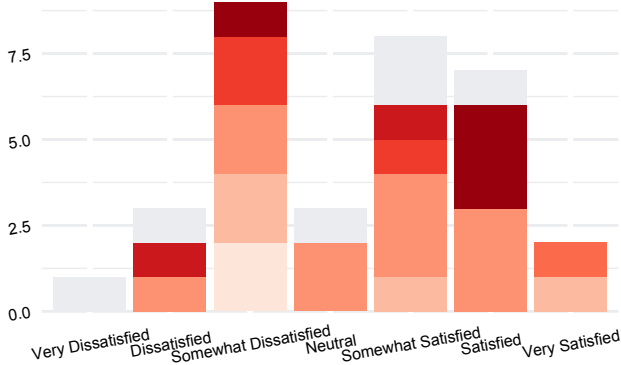
... the quantity of the supervision you receive during your PhD?



... your general productivity?

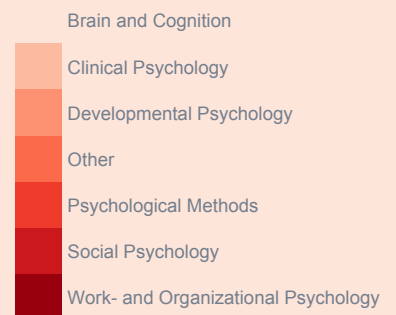


... the progress you are making?

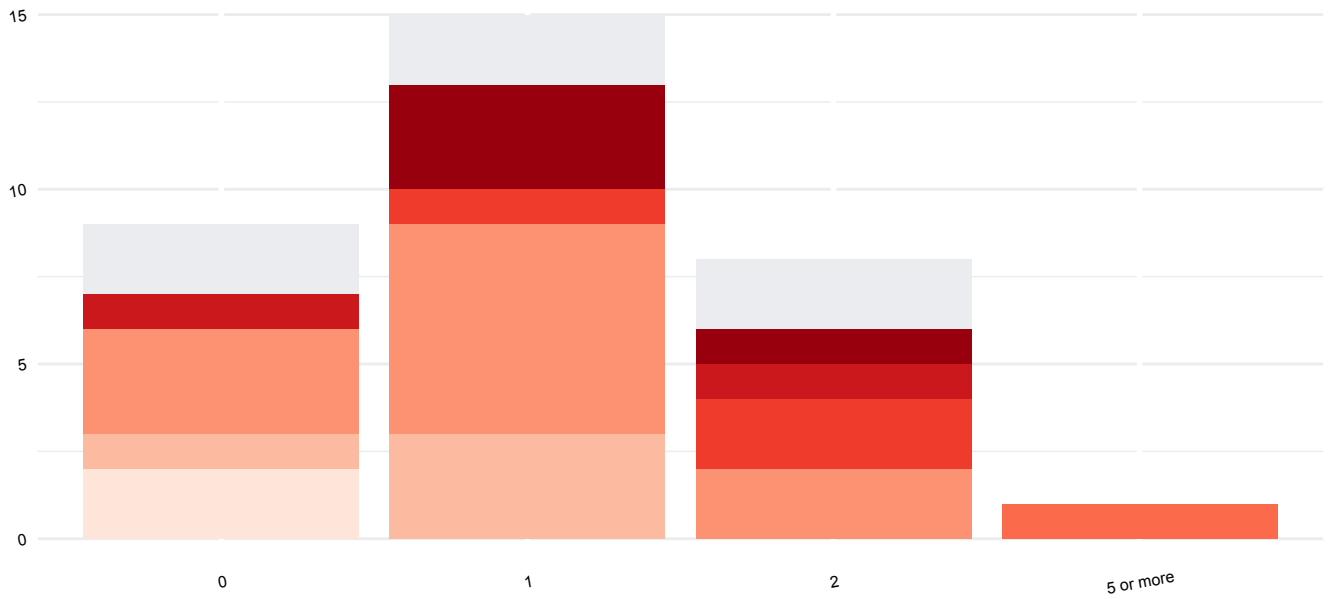


Satisfaction with project

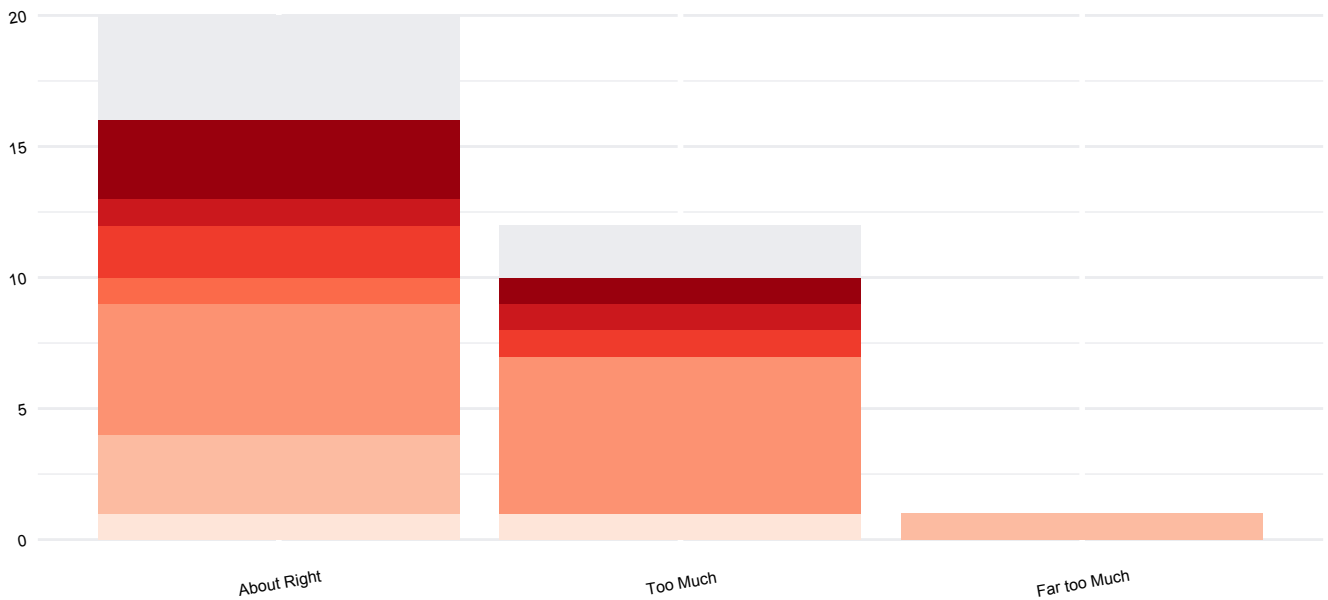
How satisfied are you with ...



How many papers have you submitted in the past 12 months?

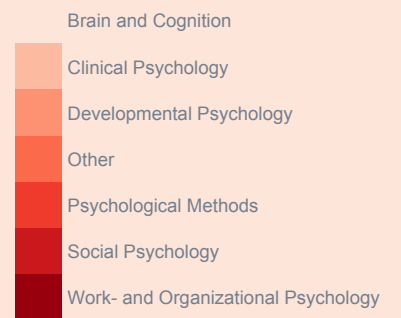


How would you rate the workload of your PhD project?

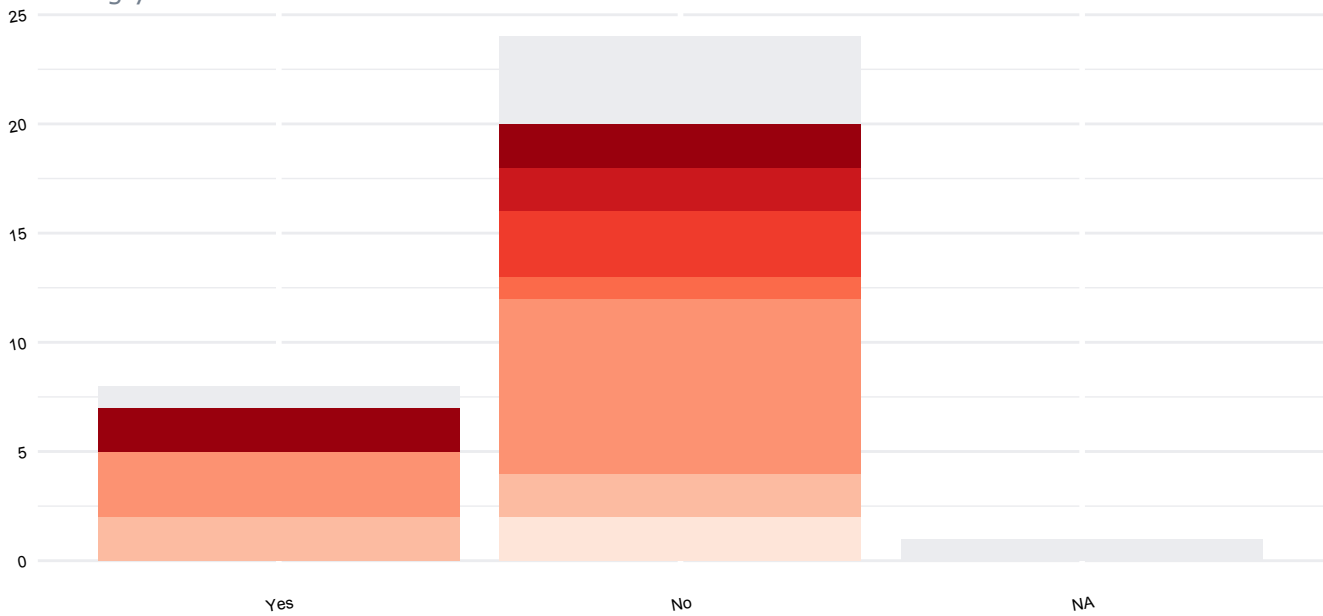


Satisfaction with project

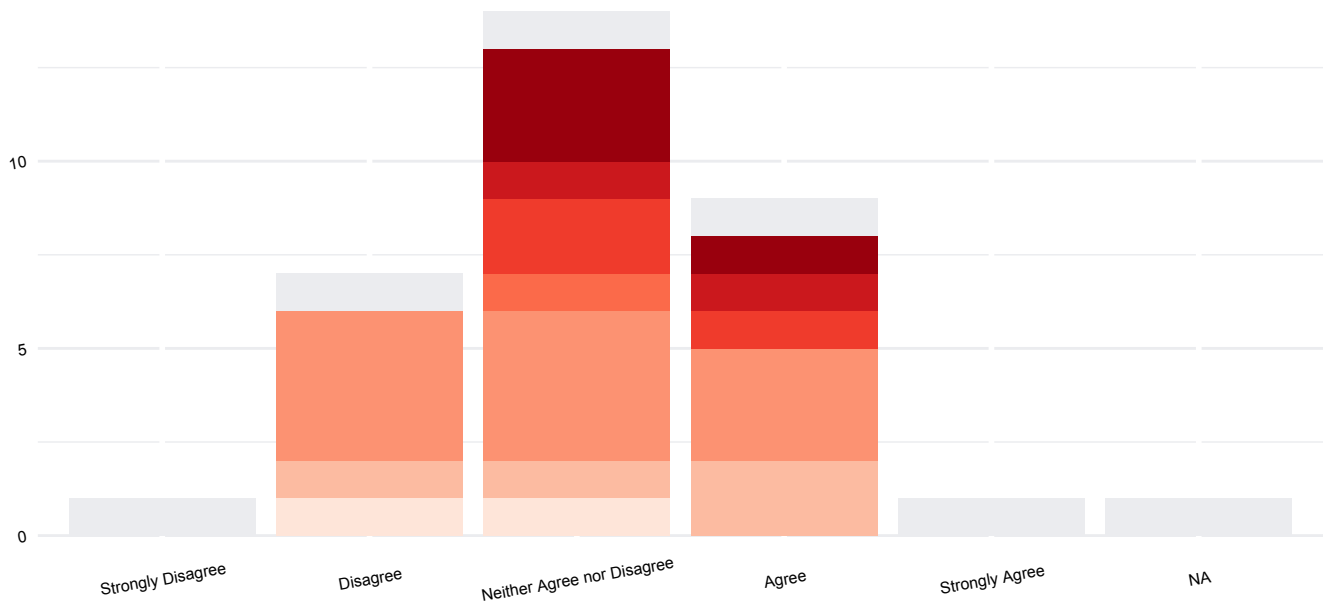
Productivity



Did you receive any training on teaching during your PhD?



I am satisfied with the courses that are offered to PhD students.

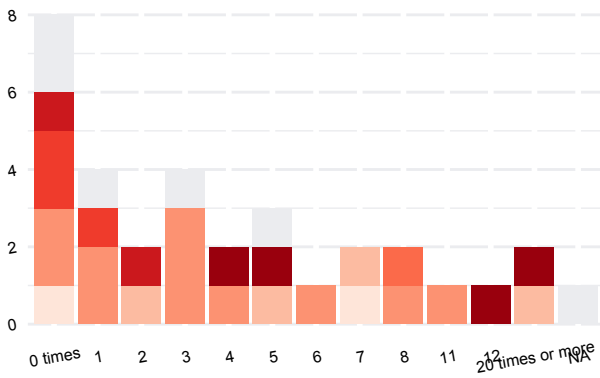


Teaching and training

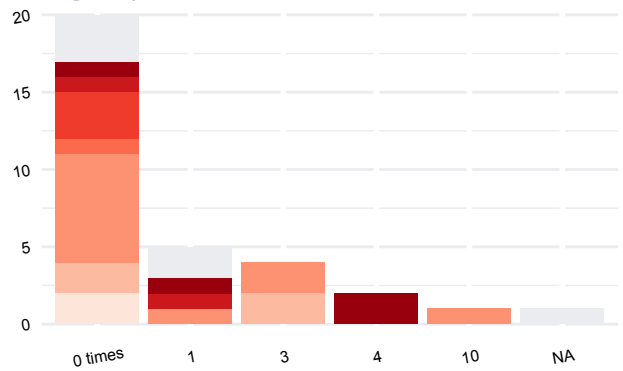
- Brain and Cognition
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- Developmental Psychology
- Other
- Psychological Methods
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- Work- and Organizational Psychology



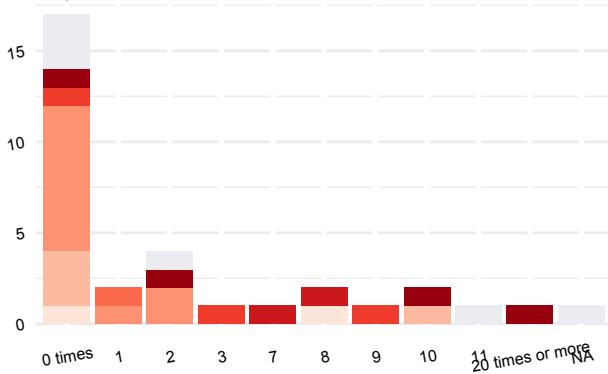
An individual thesis student.



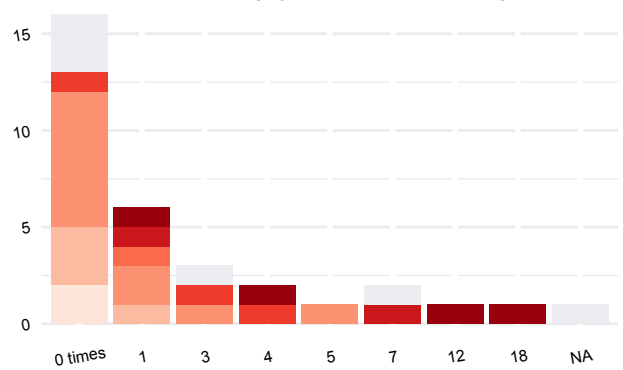
A group of thesis students.



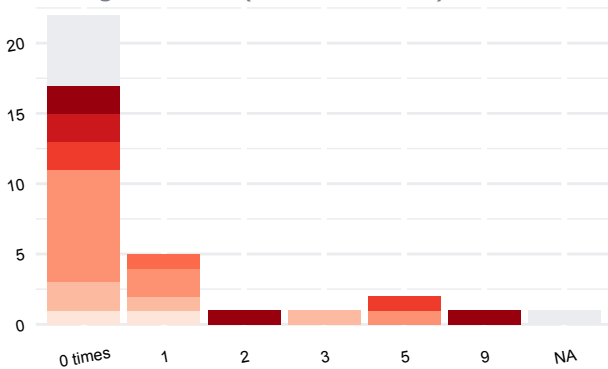
A practical.



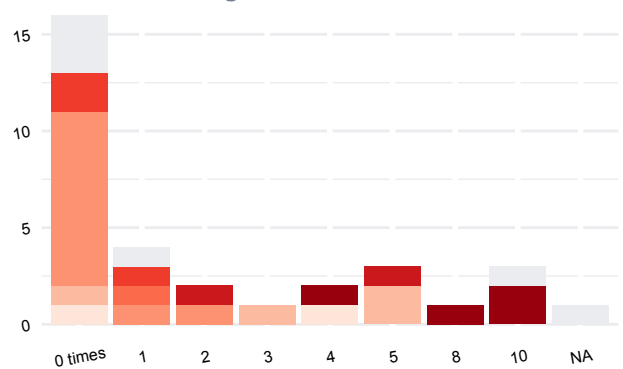
A small lecture (up to 30 students).



A large lecture (more than 30).

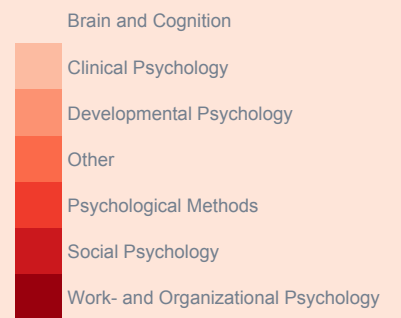


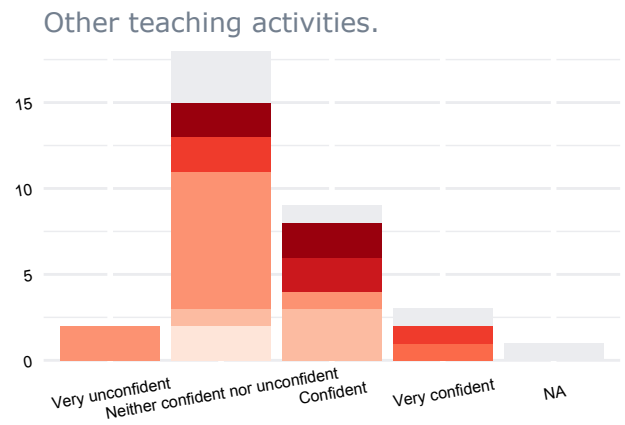
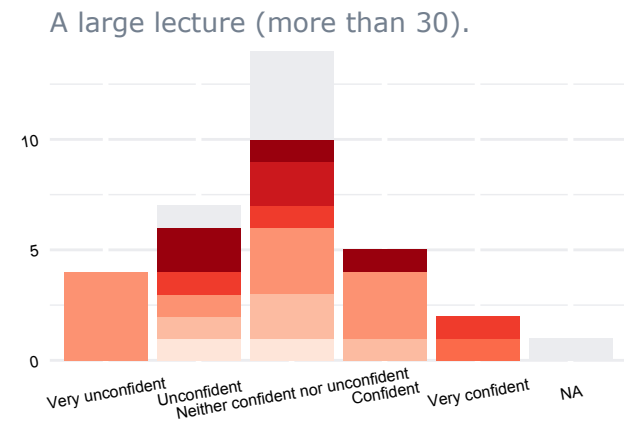
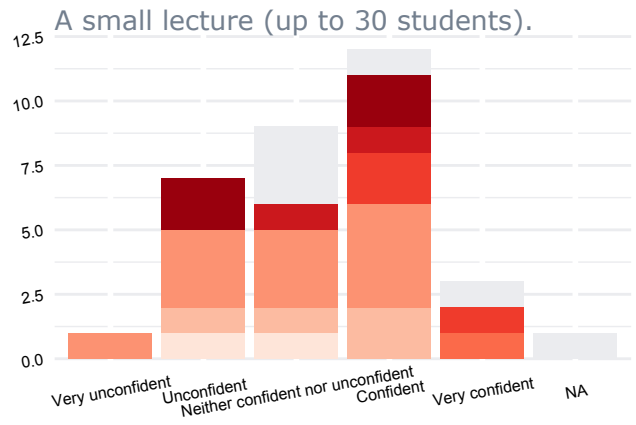
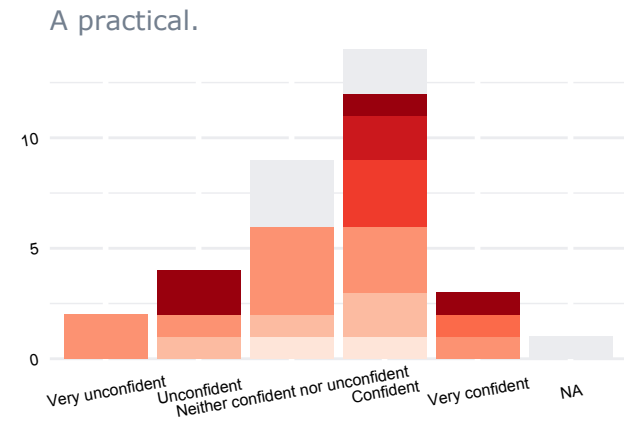
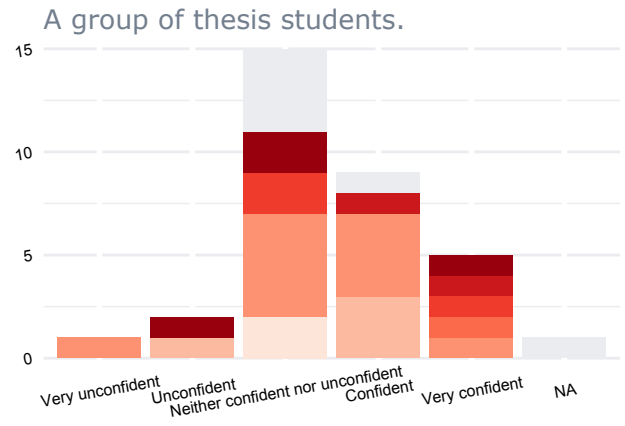
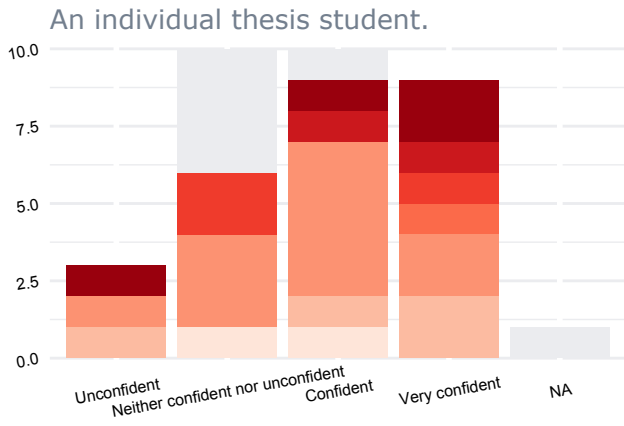
Other teaching activities.



Teaching frequency

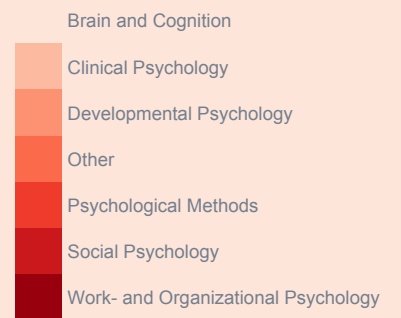
How often have you taught in the past 12 months?





Teaching confidence

How confident are you in teaching?



Comments

Enthusiasm. Knowledge

My supervisor knows how to balance giving support and securing autonomy for me.

My daily supervisor is often available, willing to think with me and quick in answering questions. At the same time, I'm trusted to make my own decisions.

It comes from experts and helps me a lot to improve my work.

There is a lot of trust and I get a lot of freedom. It helps me develop as an individual researcher.

I like conversations and written feedback concerning the content of my project. I enjoy learning from the knowledge of my supervisors.

I personally get a lot of freedom, which has its benefits, but in the beginning it was sometimes difficult to find the right direction. Overall, though, it fits my working style.

My supervisor being open to my ideas

My three supervisors are experts on very specific topics that are relevant for my project, so I always know who to ask specific questions.

My supervisors are very supportive. They are smart and sweet and great. I am grateful.

Good relation with my supervisor. Very involved in (the details of) my projects. Very knowledgeable, sound advice.

I get a lot of freedom exploring things, while at the same time I can go to my supervisor to ask him for help.

His knowledge and smart tips

He's enthusiastic about many things.

Some good theoretical insight

I have very nice supervisors. They are always helpful, supporting and kind and I learn a lot from them.

De hoeveelheid en de manier waarop.

fijne atmosfeer, ruimte voor eigen initiatief

Availability, friendly, useful and interesting

Supervision

What do you like about the supervision you receive?



Comments

Not stimulated to build-up a network/ collaborations.

I miss some feedback on my performance, it is hard to judge whether I meet expectations or if there is anything I could improve according to my supervisors. /

More time and personal feedback; not only focused on data and work but also on general progress and development.

Some substantial knowledge is missing, and sometimes with more strict supervision it might be easier to achieve certain things.

I sometimes miss some room for exploration of my own ideas.

More time to discuss theoretical issues

The appointments with my promotor have to be scheduled a long time in advance sometimes. My other supervisors are more flexible though, so it's not a major issue.

NA

The deadlines are not very clear which is of course something you have to get used to.

It usually makes me end up with much more work, which is not why I came for supervision. / during the supervision there is usually no compliments about things you do.

Lack of mathematical and statistical knowledge

My supervisor is not there for most of the time

I am now almost finishing, but there were times that I felt I needed a bit more of their time. For example, reading a bit more carefully what I had written down and making more time for meetings. However, they were open to any comments and suggestions from me about this.

De praktische punten (zoals phd monitoring) die worden besproken.

hoge werkdruk, herhaaldelijk negeren van aangegeven grenzen

Supervision

What do you miss or don't you like about the supervision you receive?



Not stimulated to build-up a network/ collaborations. Isolated. Hard to promote work, share ideas with colleagues and hard to find a job (no network)

None

- The amount of work makes it impossible to get involved into courses and learn a lot of stuff. / - Another problem is that there's not a lot of money for participants. /

Loneliness! Discipline!

Expectations of our funding agency, as the grant proposal included unrealistic targets and there is limited flexibility in adjusting to new developments in the field. / Insufficient experience and support for statistical analyses. / Balancing between the pressure to publish, finish in time and meet the targets on the one hand and scientific integrity and clinical and scientific relevance on the other hand.

At some point I struggled a lot with the feeling that my research was not so relevant and that nobody would care about/ read any article I would publish while at the same time publishing is the only thing that really counts in an academic career. I think getting to know the pleasures and perks of academia in general is not easy. Also hard is the lack of rewards and recognition for the work (in my personal experience, lack of reward and recognition is much harder than receiving rejections or data which doesn't work out as hoped but I can imagine the latter two can also be experienced as very difficult).

None.

Time management; being able to disagree with my supervisors; exploring my own ideas.

Living up to the promises made in the original project proposal proves to be difficult and very time consuming (e.g., developing all materials, conducting data collection on very large training studies (16 conditions..)), which to some degree conflicts with the eventual product that I need to get my PhD: articles. The focus on the latter if you want to have any chance at a post-doc position is regrettable, as I've also spent much time teaching, which in practice seems to be of no real value in a scientific career.

Combining my research with a pretty high teaching load (25%) and setting priorities during the busier periods.

I do not meet the education hours that are set for me in theory while I exceed them in practice. I struggle with making progress with my research while being responsible for student also.

Workload is high at times, leaving me with little energy for other things. / Studies are high-risk, so constant anxiety of being behind / not having enough useful data. / Combining research with teaching: not enough time to devote to teaching, and very little support for teachers that are starting out.

Knowing what to work on at every single moment of the day.

no one is really willing to help you. / everyone is always 'busy' or wants something in return

Communicating ideas of technical nature. The organisation of the group. Focus in topics.

all of them! Changing topics, dealing with methods, running studies, getting participants, balancing teaching and work, planning etc

language

Well.. that would be a long list ;) / Most importantly, the whole writing and reviewing process. / And also: / Time-management: to work effectively, not being distracted by other things and people (that's why I am now working from home a lot, I can concentrate better).

nog geen

zie boven

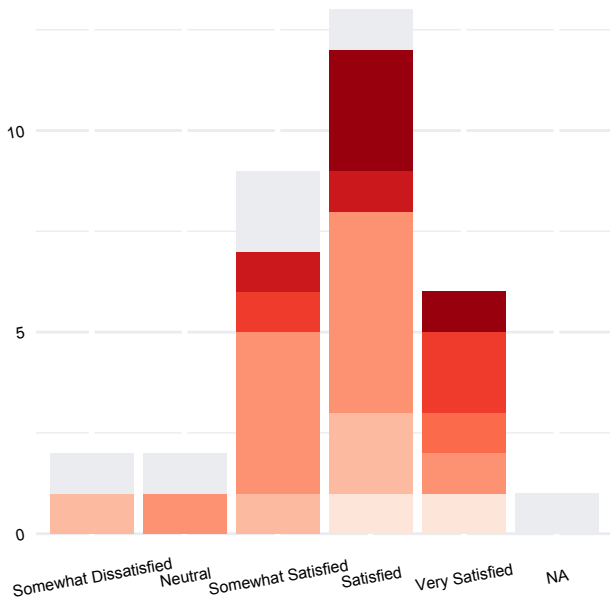
Bureaucracy

Difficulties during PhD

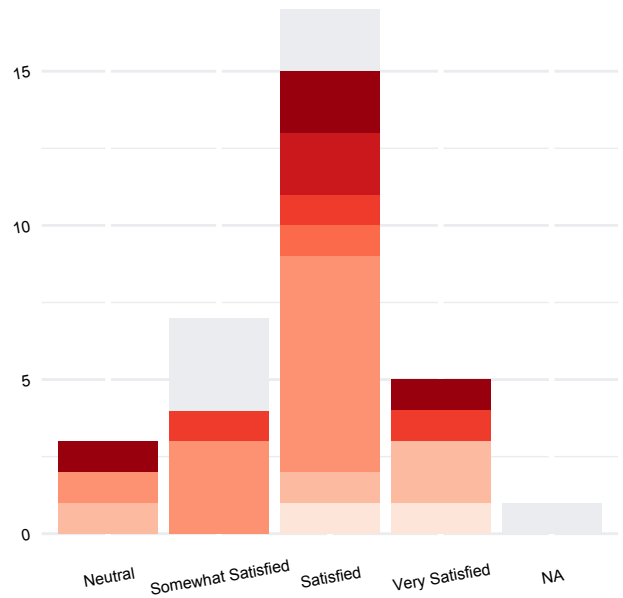
What are difficulties you are struggling with during your PhD?



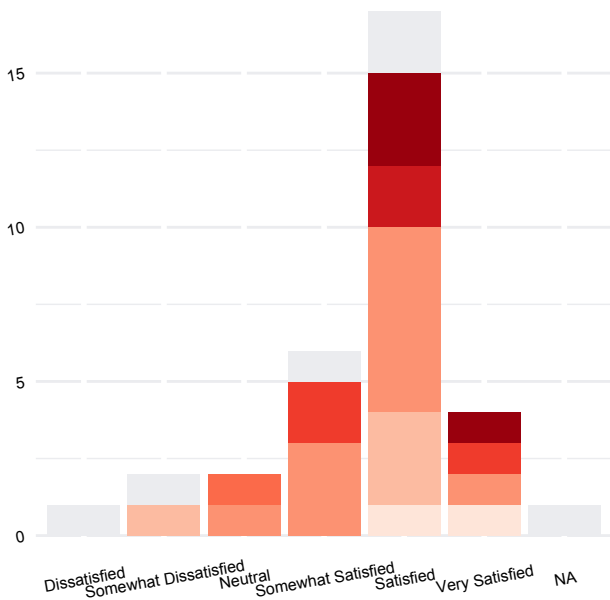
... working at your program group?



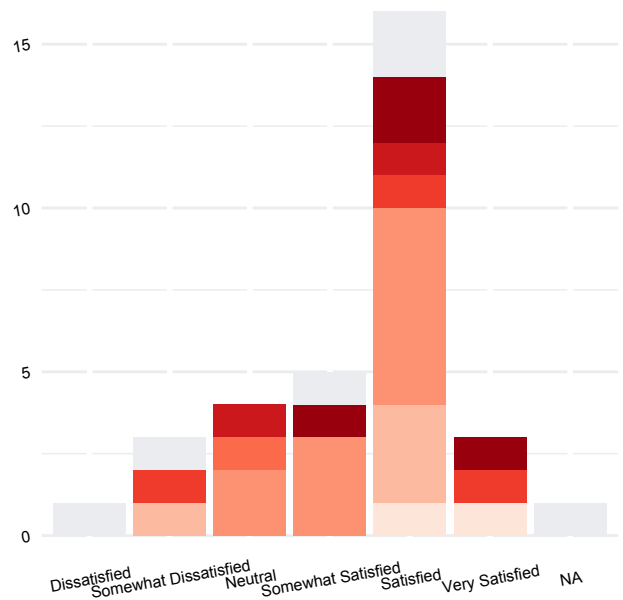
... working at the Psychology department?



... working at the University of Amsterdam?

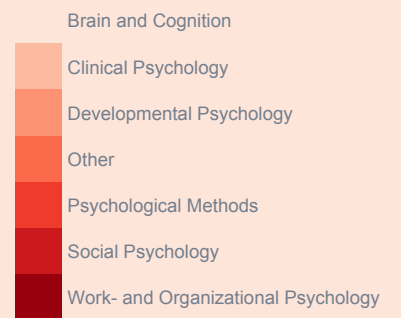


... the University of Amsterdam as your employer?

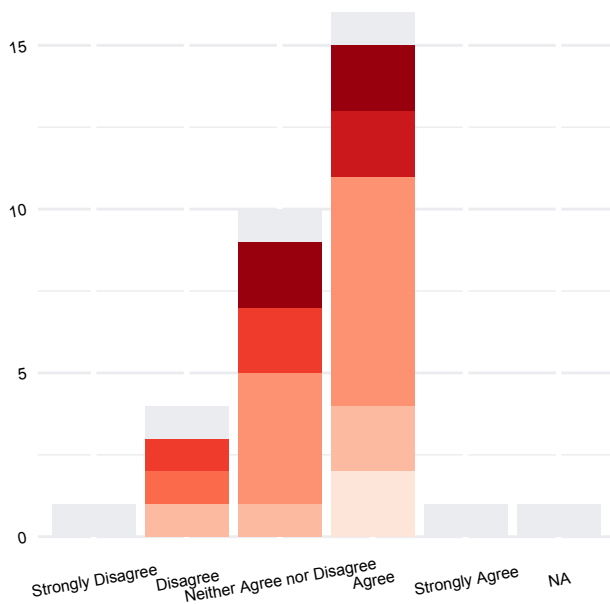


Satisfaction with workplace

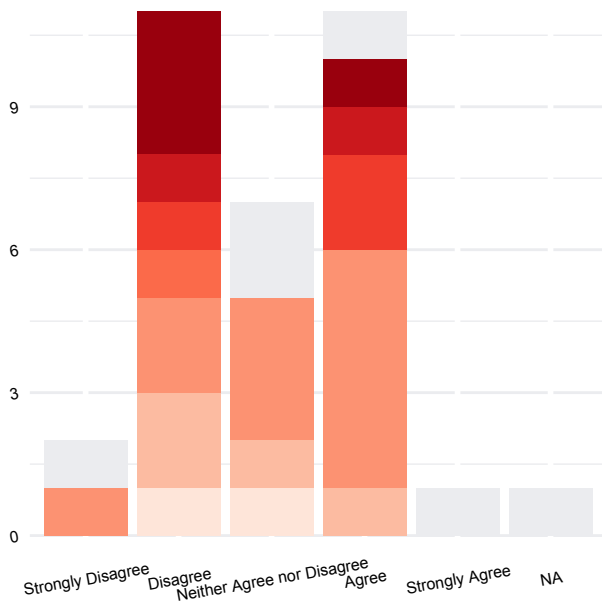
How satisfied are you with ...



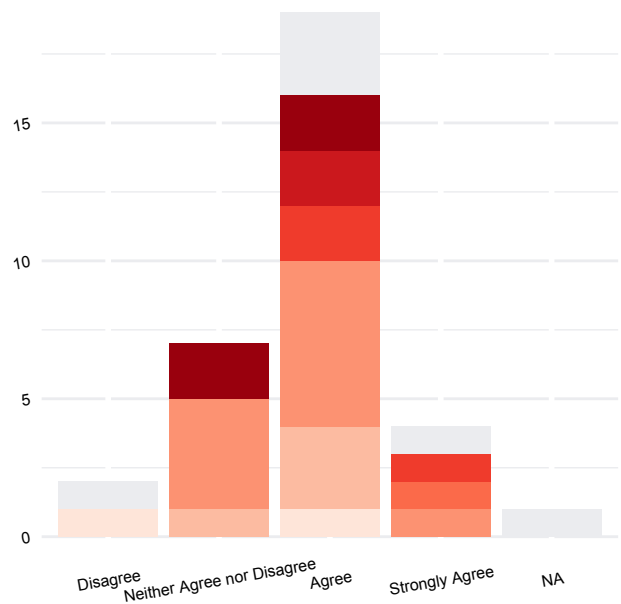
Administrative decision-making within the UvA should be more democratic.



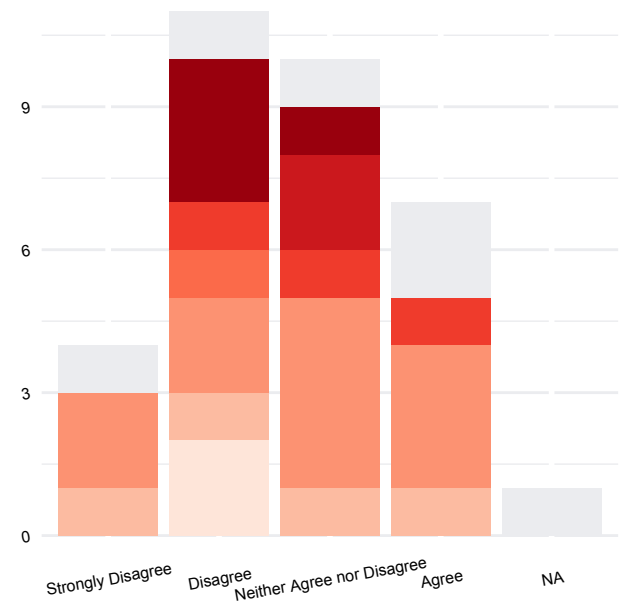
I am interested in the management issues of the University of Amsterdam.



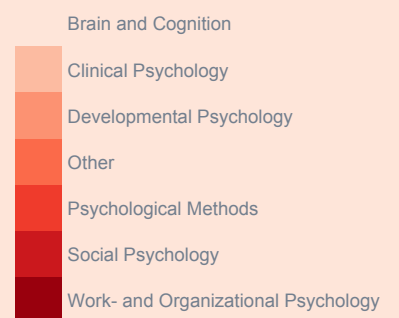
Administrative decision-making within the UvA should be more transparent.



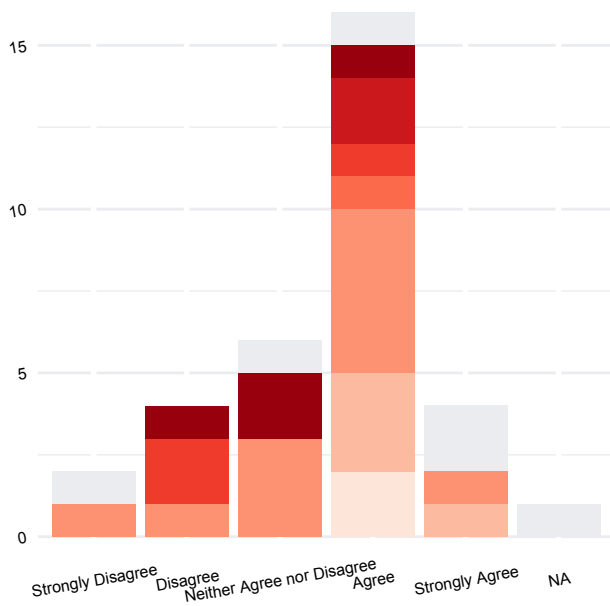
I am interested to take part in central representative advisory bodies.



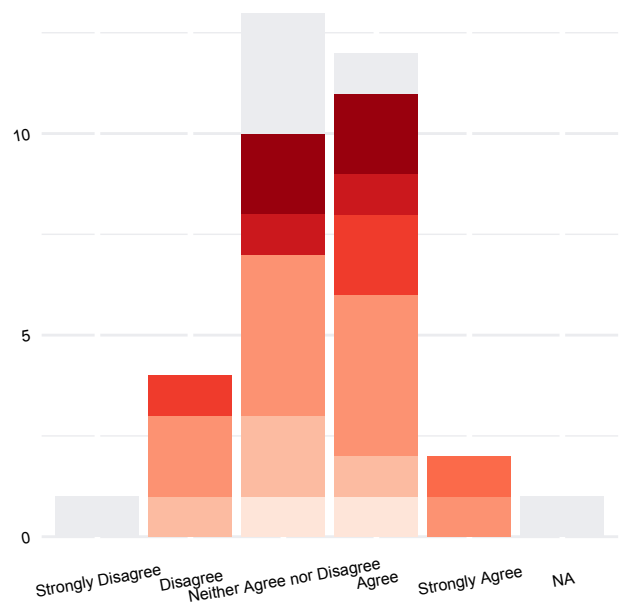
Management



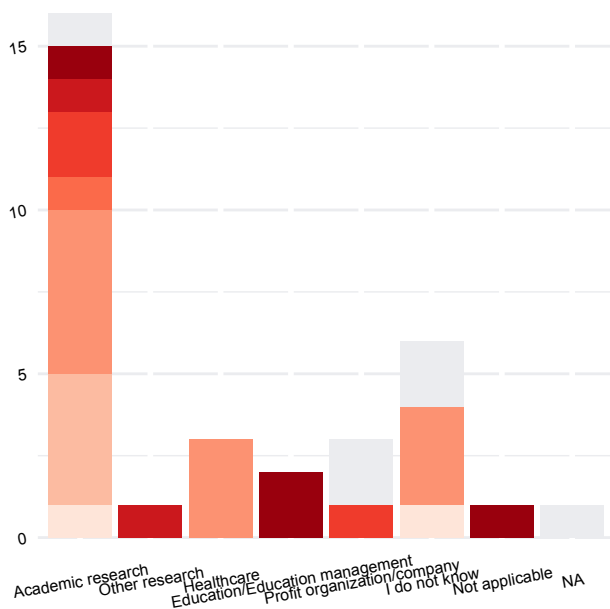
I am concerned about my future career options.



I feel that my PhD trajectory prepares me well for the future career options of my interest.



After my PhD, I hope to find a job in this industry:

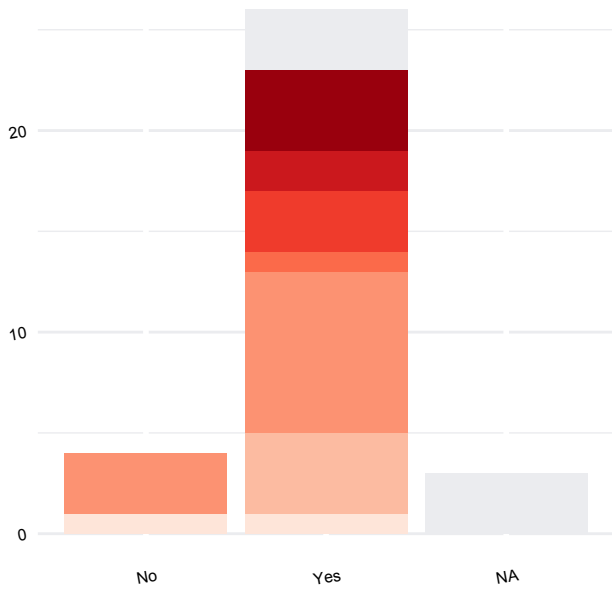


Future

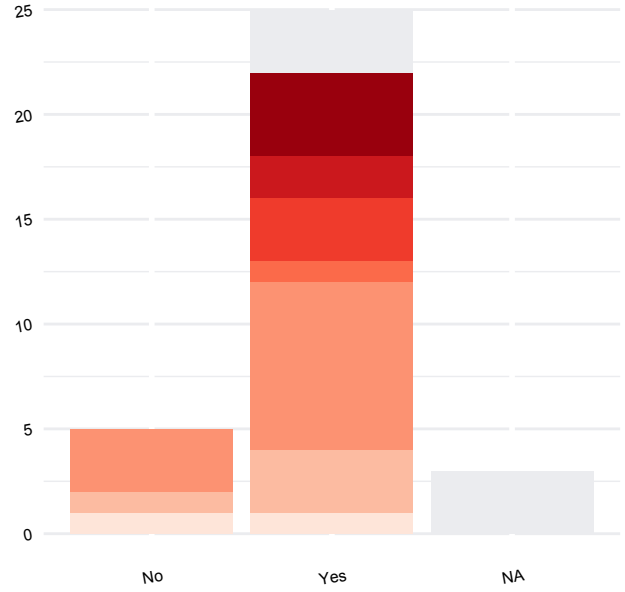
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- Clinical Psychology
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- Other
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- Work- and Organizational Psychology



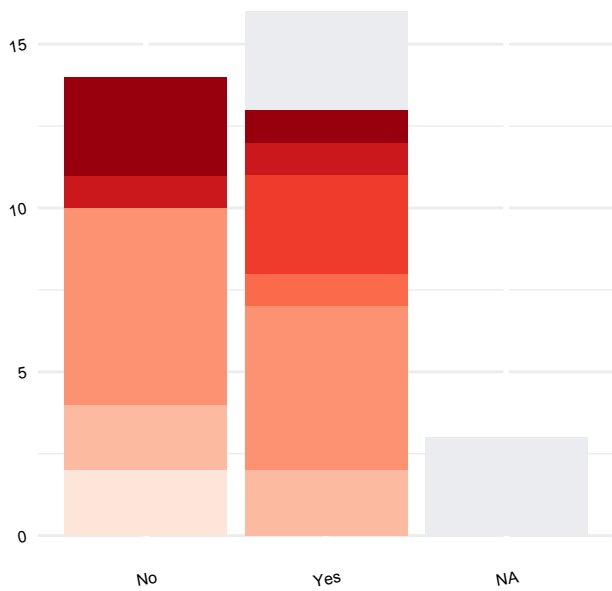
... the monthly newsletter for PhD students.



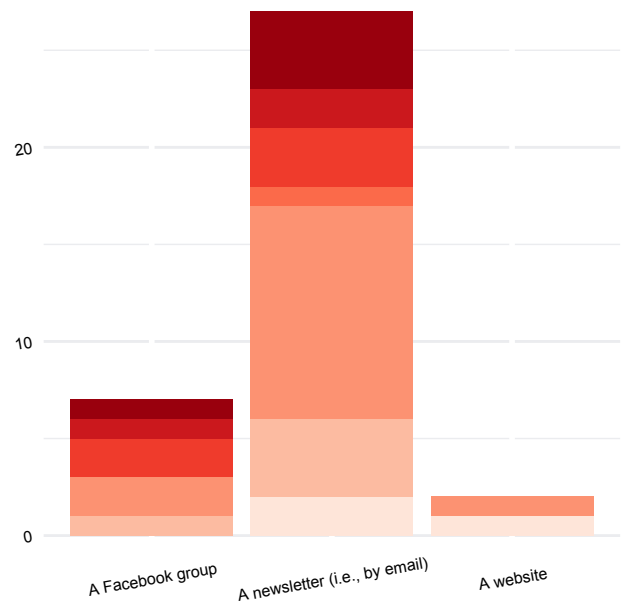
... the Facebook group for PhD students.



... the website of the PhD committee.



Through which medium can we best reach you?



Communication by the PhD committee

I was aware of ...

- Brain and Cognition
- Clinical Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Other
- Psychological Methods
- Social Psychology
- Work- and Organizational Psychology



Newsletter

I like it! Nice, clear and concise!

I hope all the news of the newsletter are in English.

Facebook

I don't think the facebook group is very well organized or has a clear purpose; what's the idea behind it? Should PhD students talk about work, about social events, should upcoming events be posted, is it to advertise for collecting data or searching for an apartment? Its a bit chaotic but I dont think facebook is necessarily the right medium for more organized workshops/ work related events.

Website

When I have visted the website, I had the feeling that it was not very up-to-date. This may be improved.

Blog

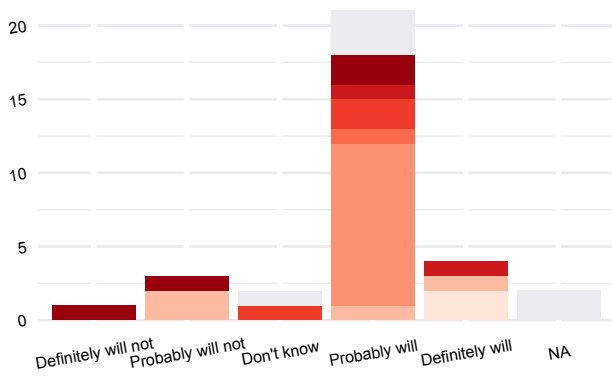
I'm afraid research projects will contain so much detail that they are not interesting for anyone not familiar with or interested in that topic. Blogs about more general PhD adventures, challenges and troubles and advice would be more valuable I think.

Comments on communication

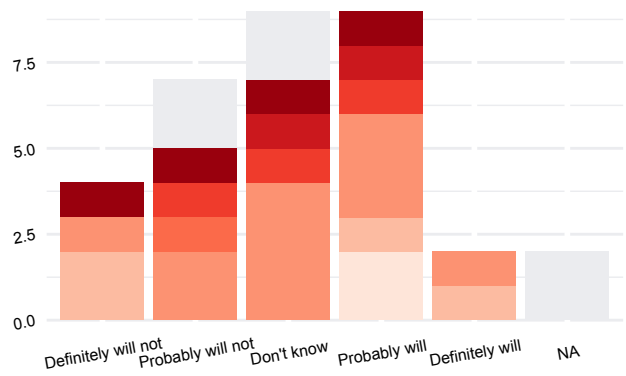
Feel free to write down any suggestions for ...



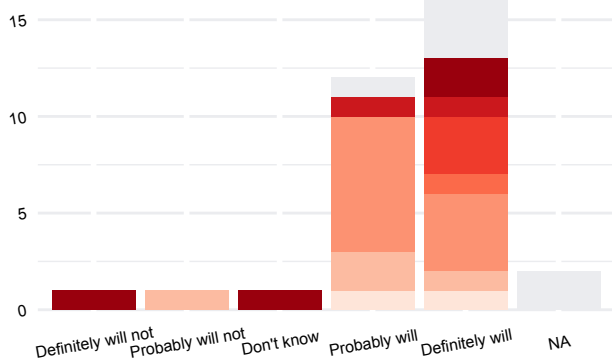
A regular PhD borrel (e.g., monthly or twice a month).



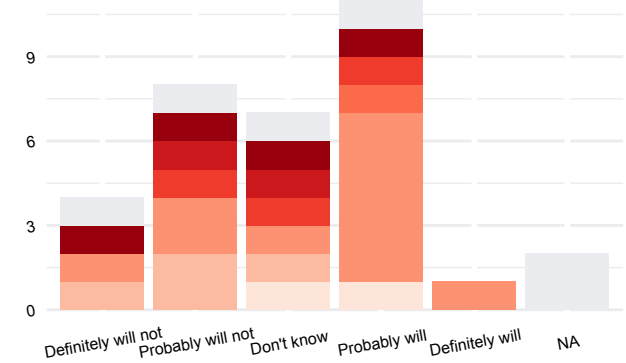
A regular PhD lunch (e.g., 30-45 minutes, weekly or once every two weeks).



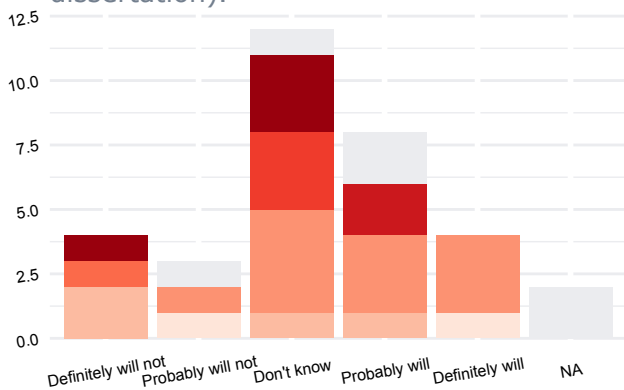
The awesome yearly end-of-the-year BBQ.



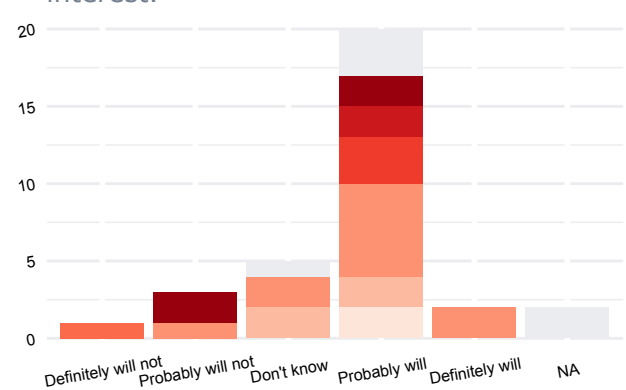
A PhD sports activity.



A writing week (e.g., for papers or your dissertation).

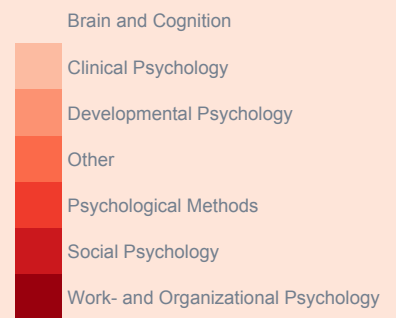


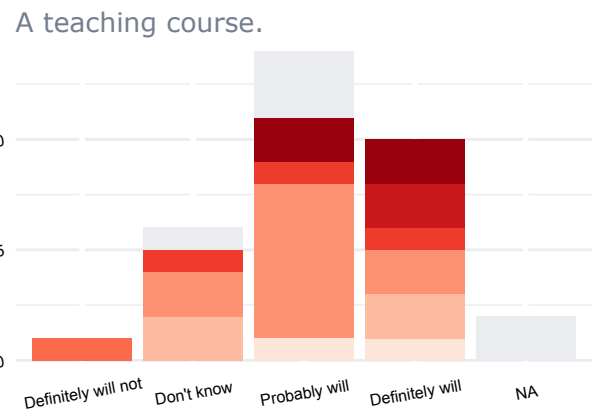
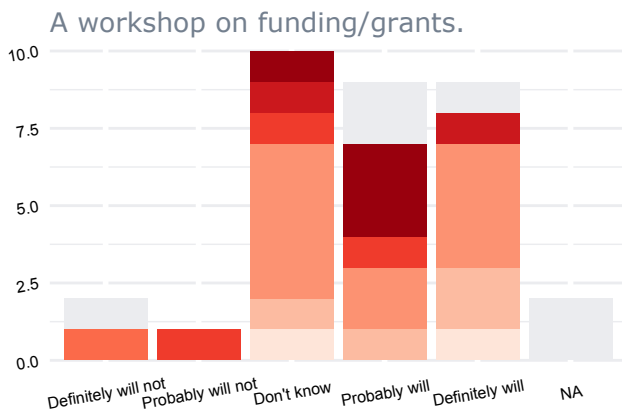
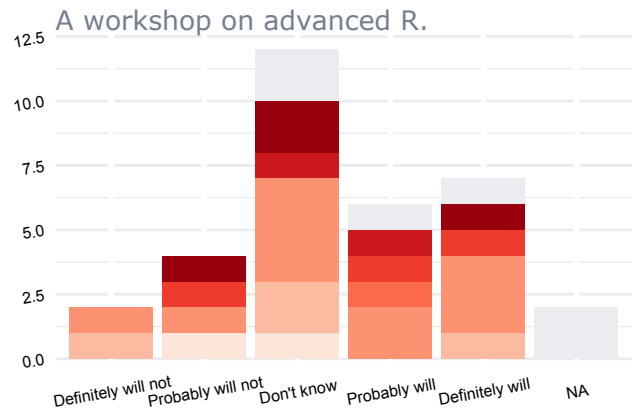
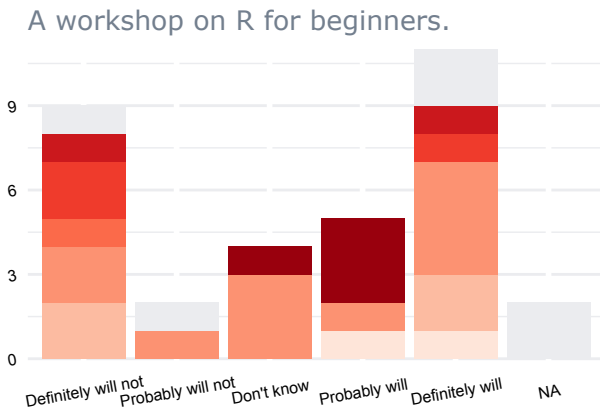
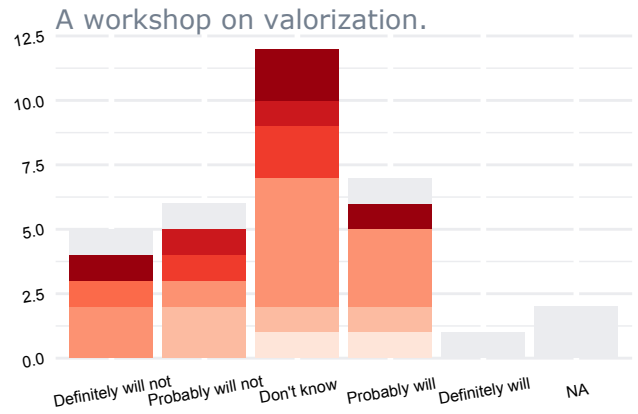
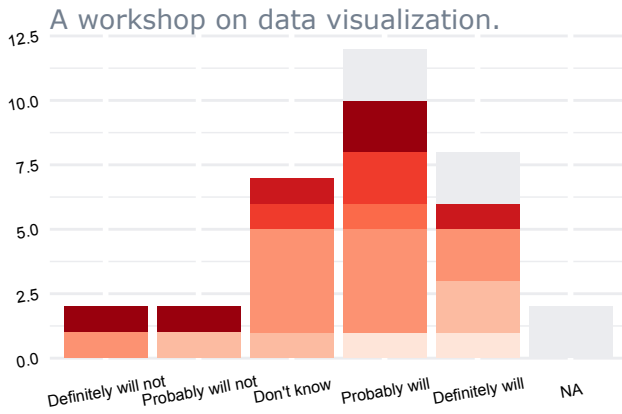
A study/reading group on a topic of your interest.



Interest in activities (social)

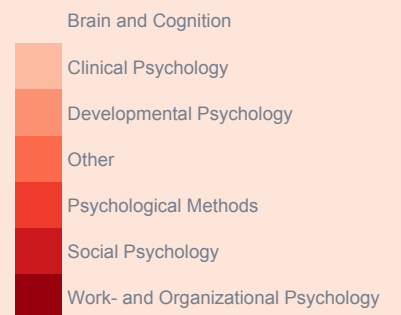
To what extent would you be interested in attending the following activities?



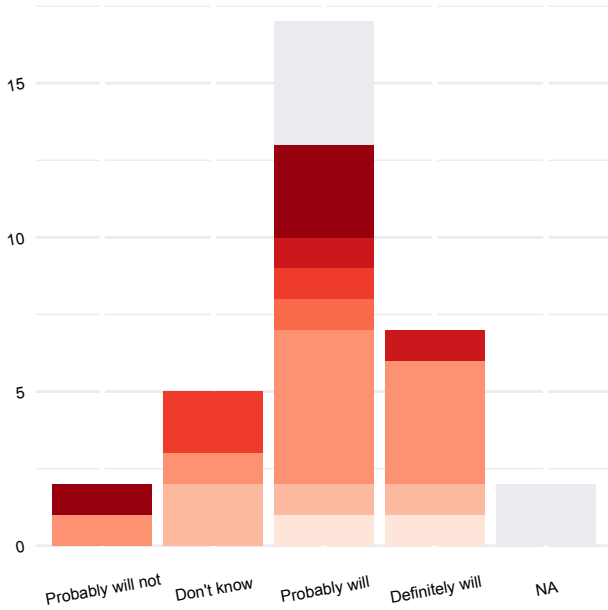


Interest in activities (educational)

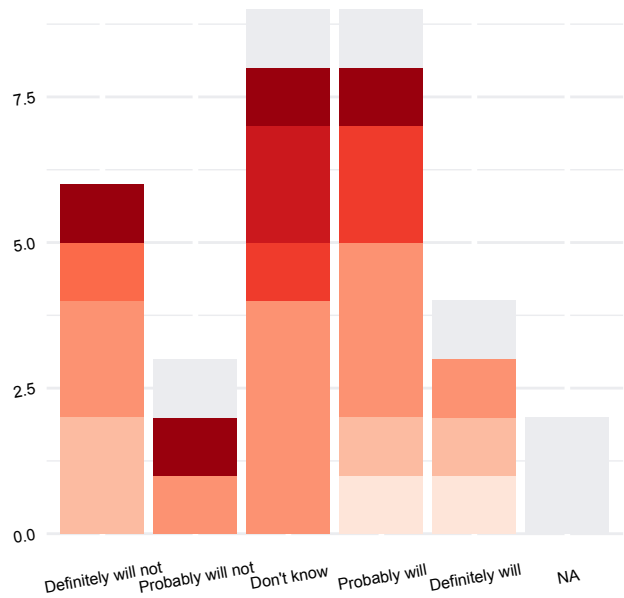
To what extent would you be interested in attending the following activities?



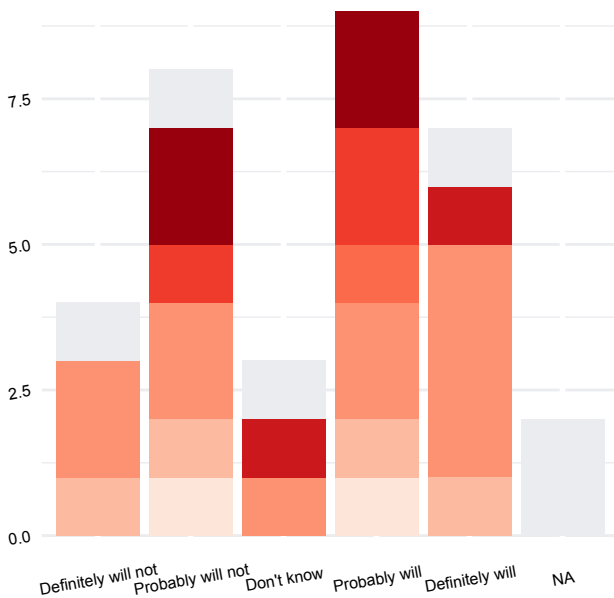
An intervention on a topic of your interest (e.g., teaching).



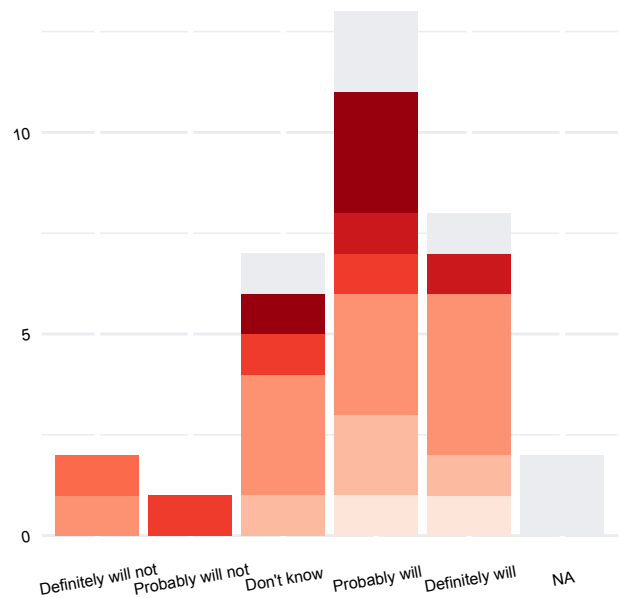
An introductory activity.



A buddy during your first year as a PhD (i.e., a fellow PhD that helps you out when in need).

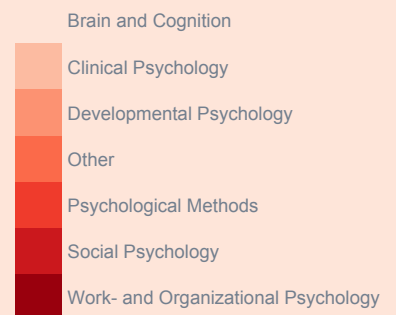


A career orientation event.

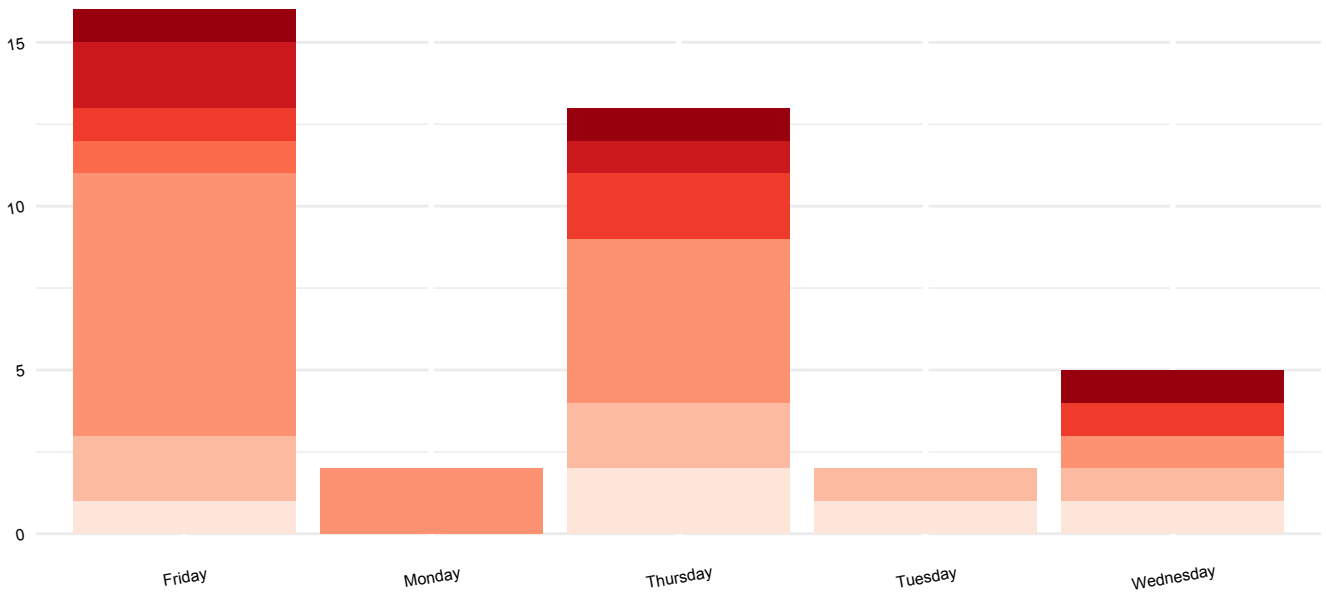


Interest in activities (other)

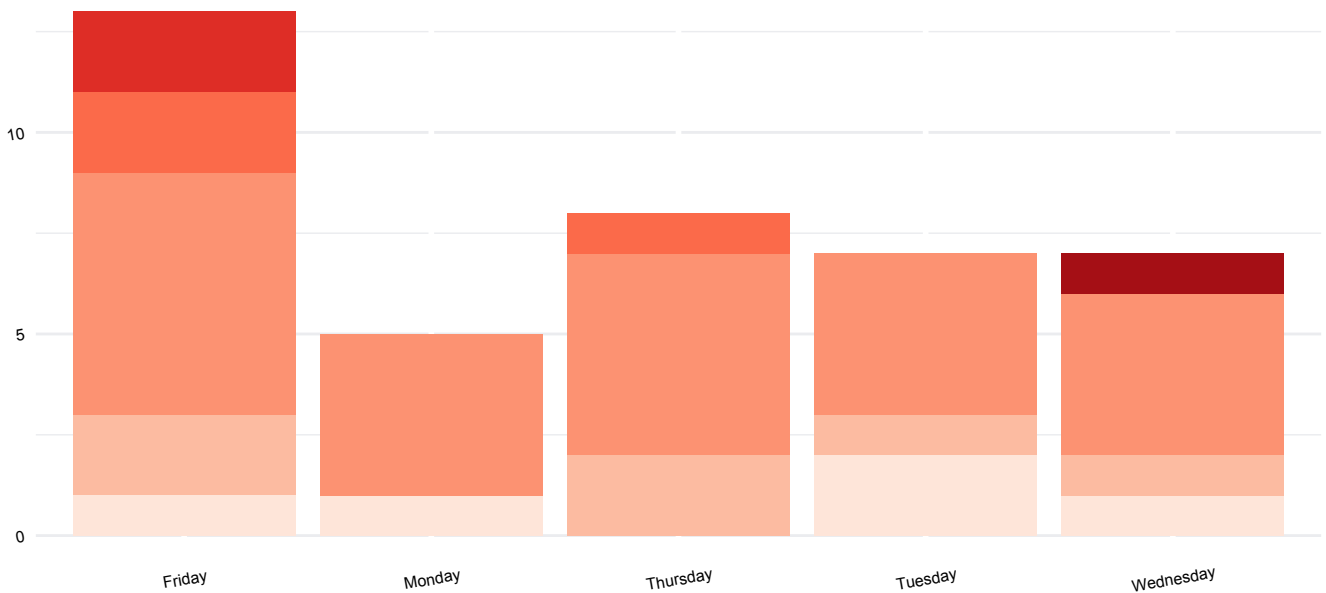
To what extent would you be interested in attending the following activities?



Borrels.

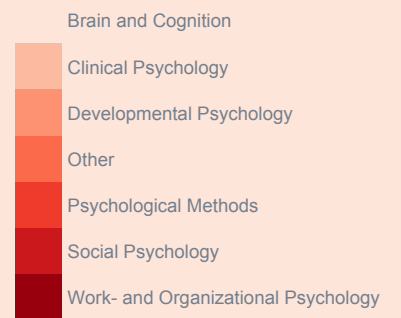


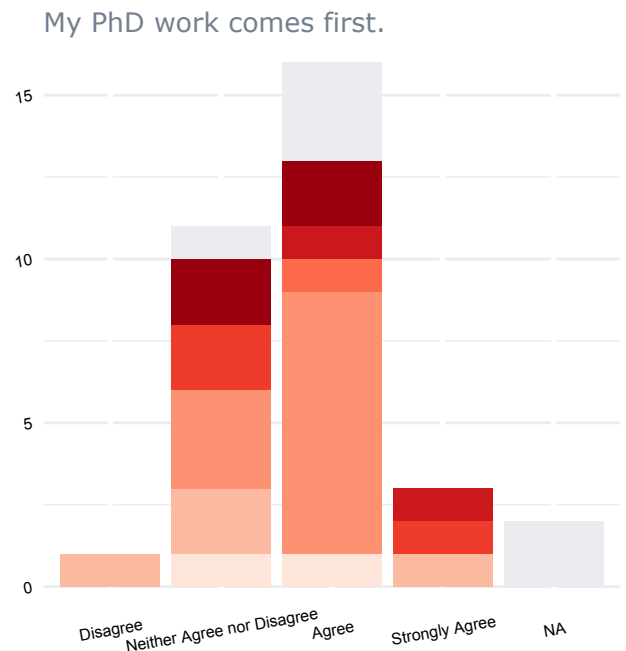
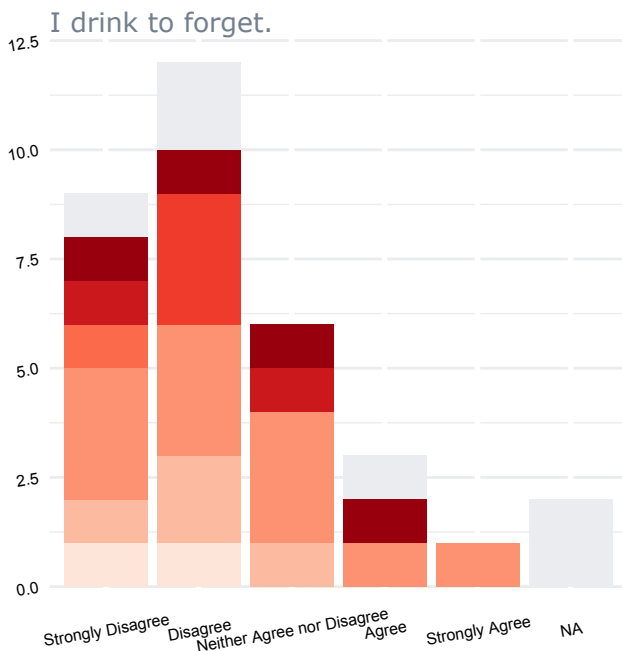
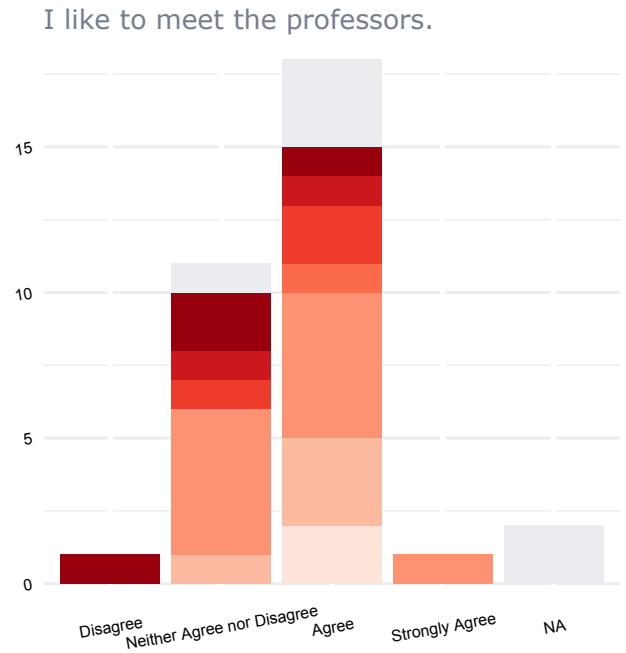
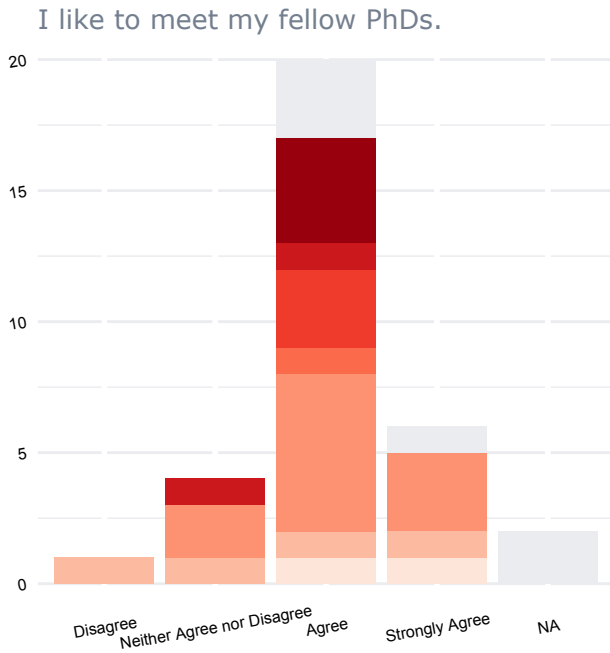
Lunches.



Preferred days

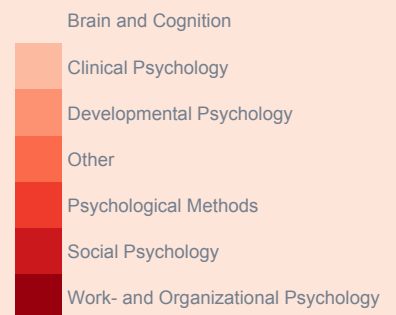
If you are interested in attending regular ..., what would be your preferred day(s)?



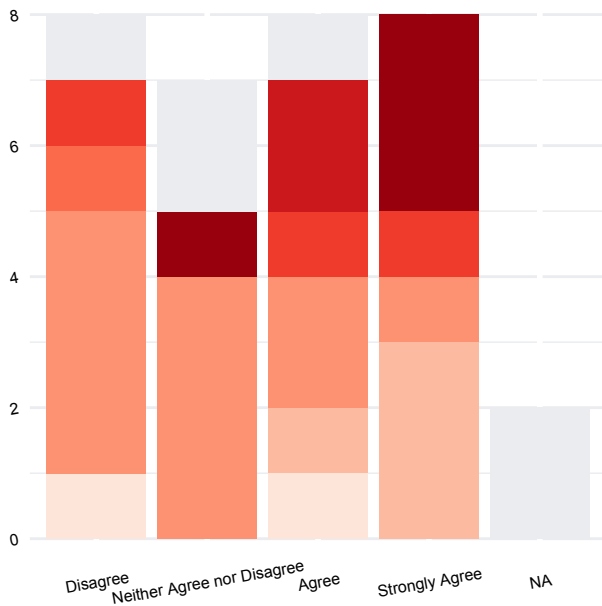


Attendance of activities

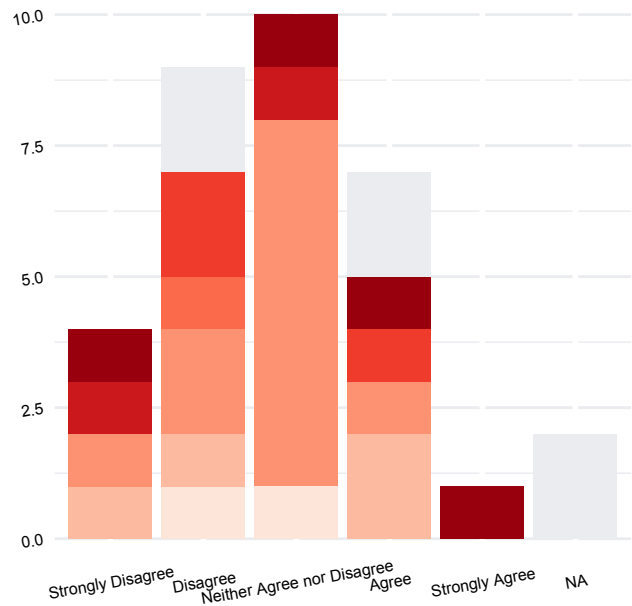
If it comes to attending activities organized by the PhD committee, please indicate to what extent you can identify yourself with the following statements.



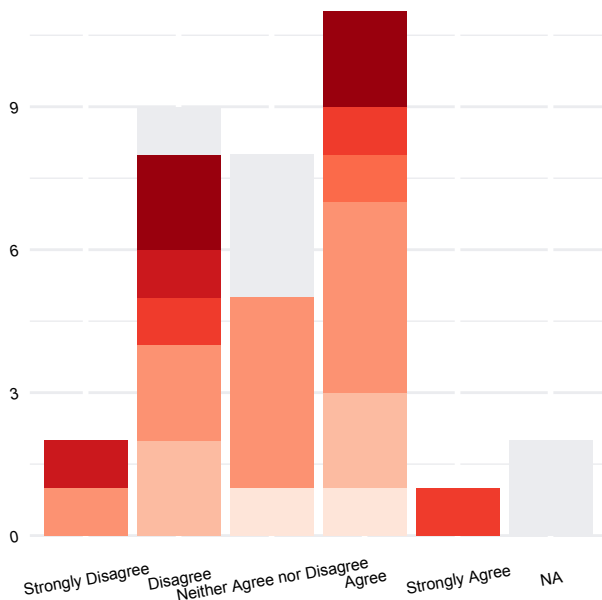
I already have difficulty seeing my other friends.



At my own department we already organize enough activities.

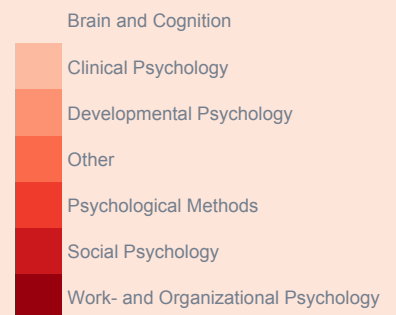


I am primarily interested in meeting PhD students from my own department.



Attendance of activities

If it comes to attending activities organized by the PhD committee, please indicate to what extent you can identify yourself with the following statements.



Suggestions

Workshop on data sharing and storage

R for beginners/advanced is focused on analyses; what about task design & development?

a course in matlab!

Reasons

I finished my PhD almost a year ago so that's a main reason why I wouldn't attend PhD events. Otherwise, they sound very nice! And don't we all drink to forget...

Lack of time is my main reason not to go. / Need for social identification, shared experience reason to go

There must be some overlap in interest and psychology is quite broad. It's hard to find that overlap and a common ground that is interesting for everyone.

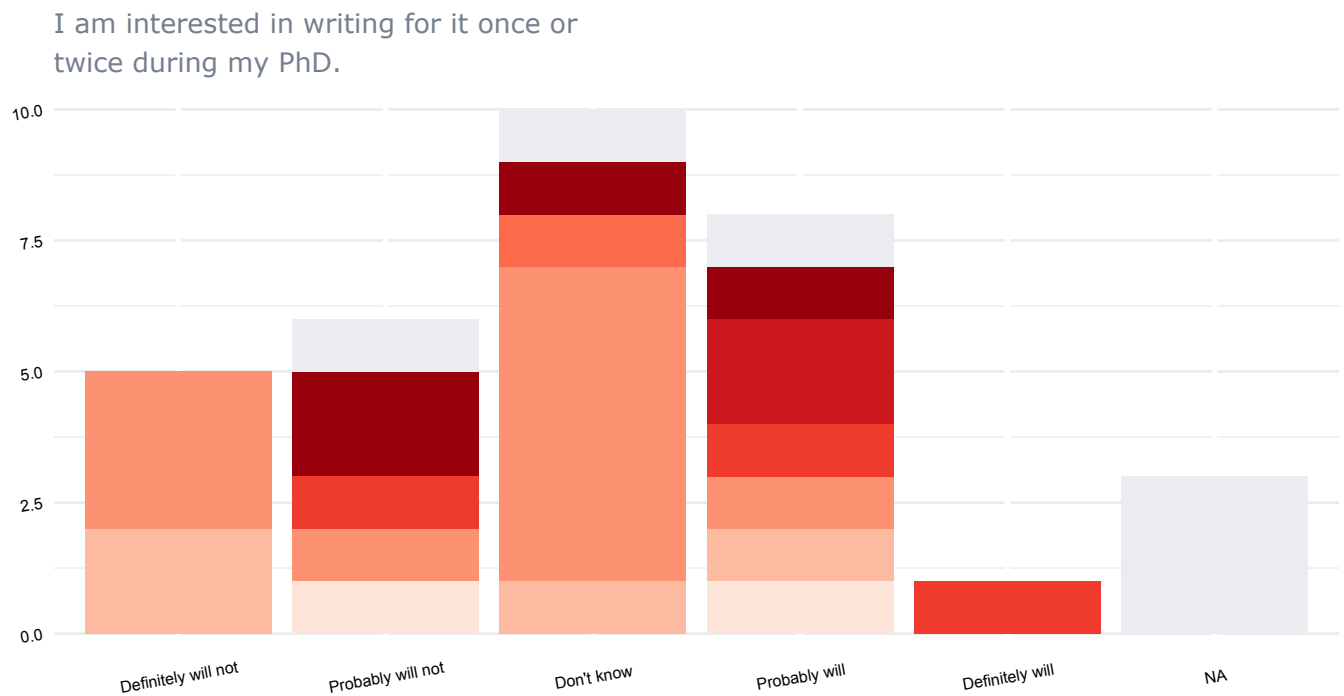
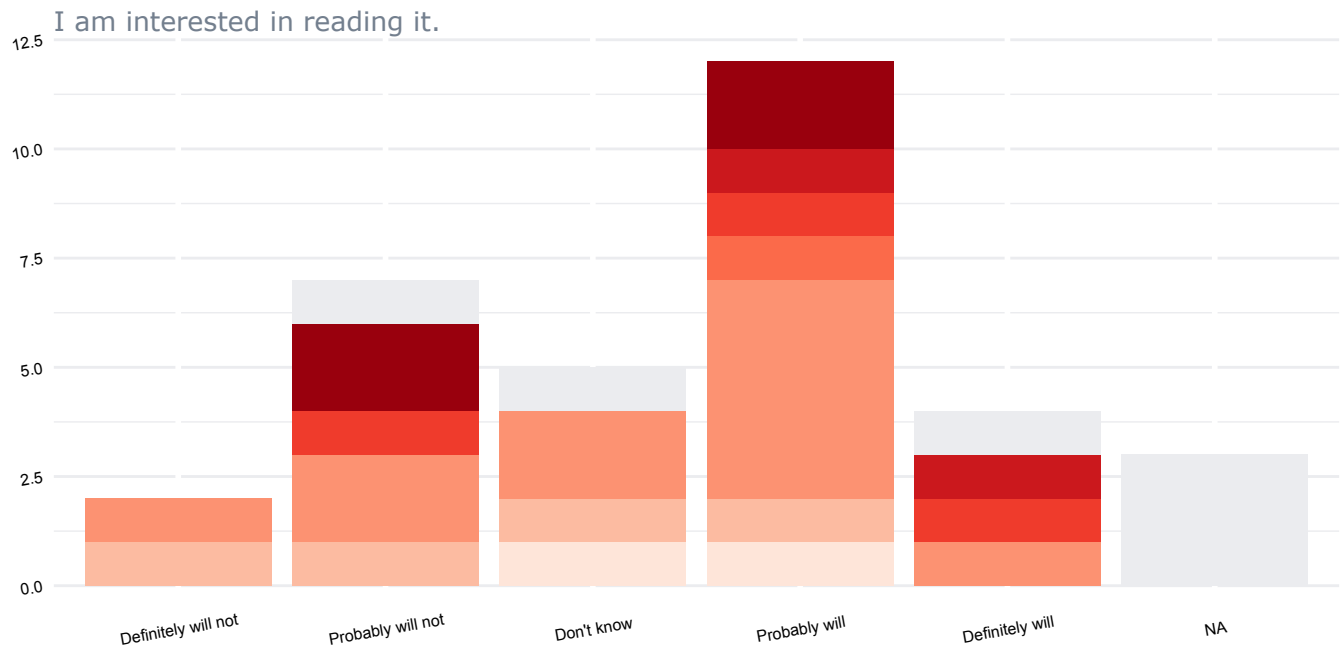
I am almost done and run a company on the side :-)

Comments on activities and attendance

Are there any other activities you would like us to organize?
Or do you have suggestions on topics for workshops, study groups, or intervision?

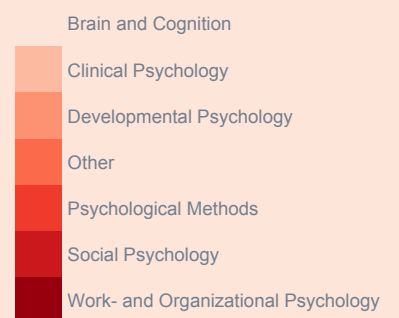
Do you have any other reason(s) to DO or DO NOT attend an activity organized by the PhD committee?



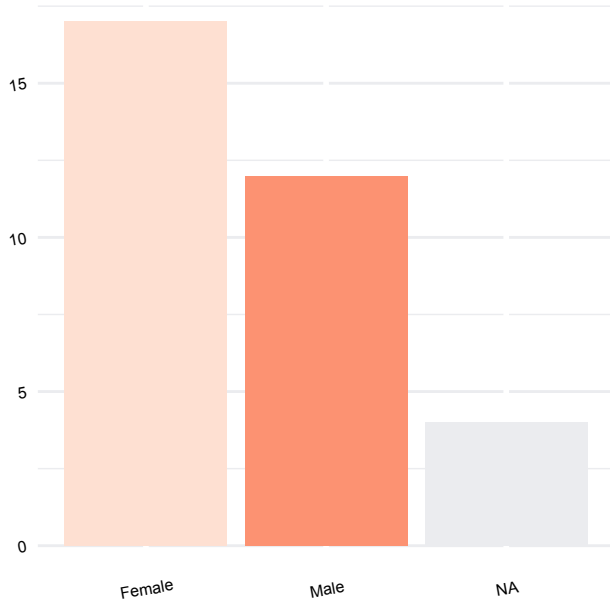


Interest in a blog

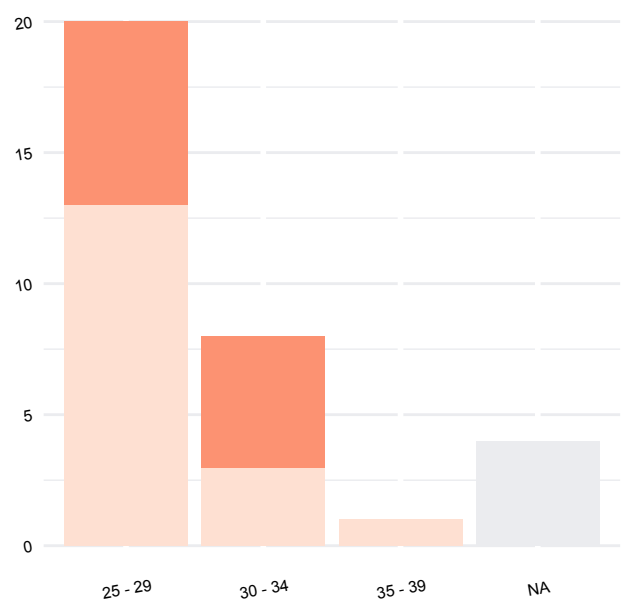
Would you be interested in a blog about the research projects of you and your fellow PhD students?



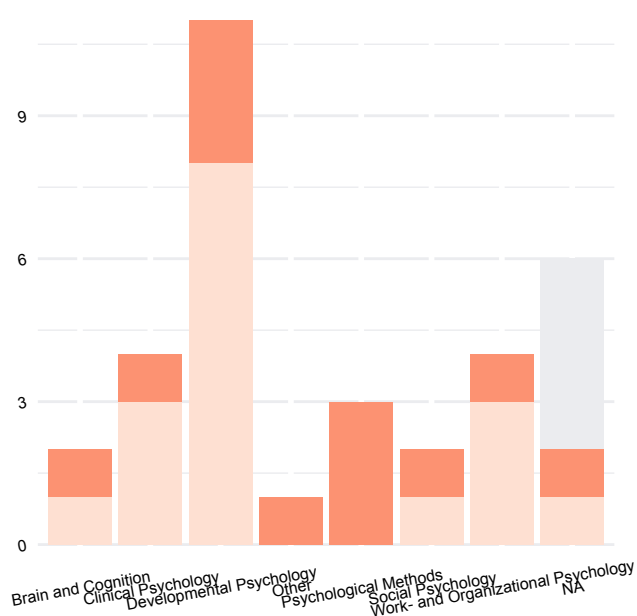
What is your gender?



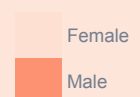
What is your age?



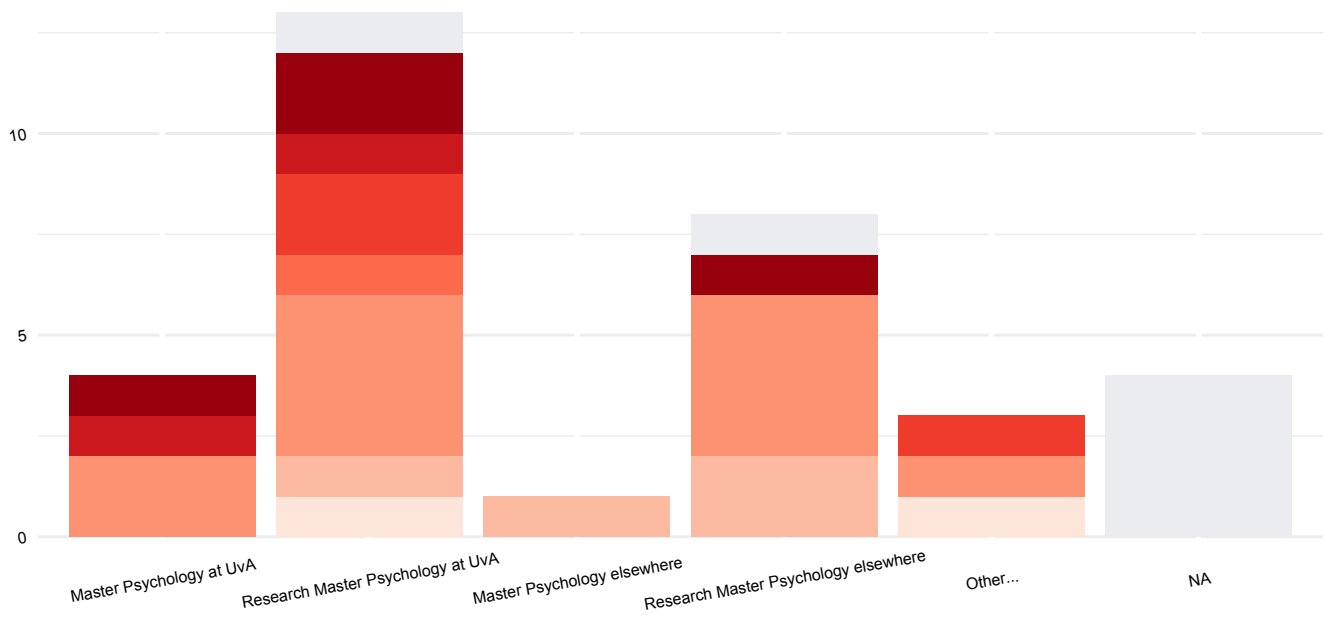
What is your (primary) department?



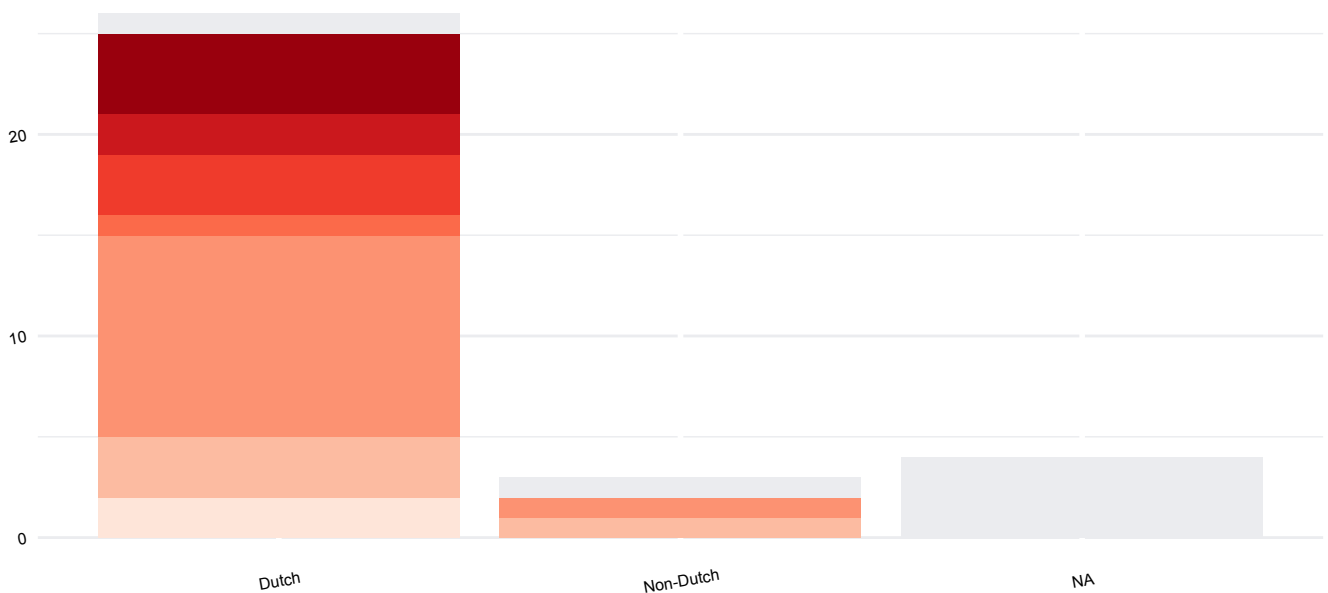
Demographics



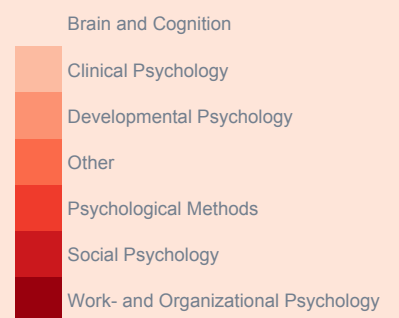
What is your prior education?



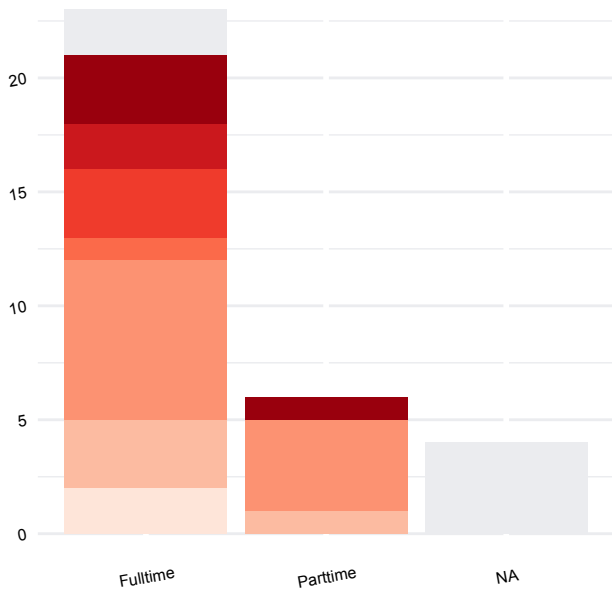
Do you consider yourself a Dutch or non-Dutch PhD?



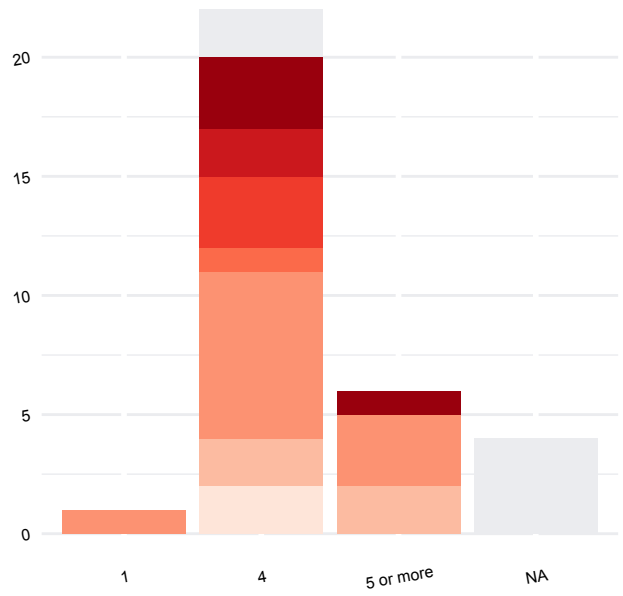
Origin



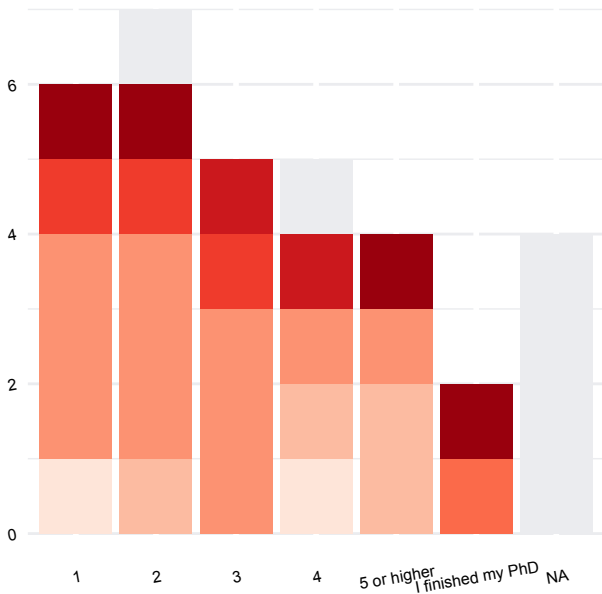
Do you have a parttime or fulltime contract?



For how many years do you have a contract?



In which year of your PhD are you?



Appointments

