



# Max-Planck PhDnet General meeting

Jena 2009



## PhDnet

- > Network of Max-Planck students (also diploma and IMPRS)
- > Advocate interests in front of the MPS
- > Organizes soft-skill / interdisciplinary seminars
- > Old Spokesperson (till end of 2009): Leonard Burtscher  
MPA Heidelberg, [burtscher@mpia-hd.mpg.de](mailto:burtscher@mpia-hd.mpg.de)
- > New Spokesperson (2010): Daniel Kalthoff, MPI  
Neurological Research Köln, [Daniel.Kalthoff@nf.mpg.de](mailto:Daniel.Kalthoff@nf.mpg.de)
- > Reps for 3 sections: Chem-Phys-Tech (CPT), Bio Med (BM), Humanities (HUM)



## PhDnet meeting 2009

- > PhDnet wiki: <http://www.phdnet.mpg.de/wiki> Info on important aspects of MPI PhD life (eg legal issues)
- > 2009 PhD survey -> see below
- > Legal issues -> below
- > PhD magazine: Offspring (yearly)
- > PhDnet representatives meeting (2009:Jena, 2010:Munich)
- > Meet with President of MPS Prof. Gruss
- > Munich 2010: Want to help? Contact me: [ckiessig@mpp.mpg.de](mailto:ckiessig@mpp.mpg.de)



## Insurances for stipend holders

- > Accident Insurance  
stipend: Very limited (only up to 30 000 EUR),  
**Not** on travels (**Experiment!**) and on ways from and to the  
institute
- > Liability: Can be made liable for broken equipment
- > MPS guideline: Dangerous situation/expensive equipment ->  
Contract
- > Health Insurance  
Private Insurances for 50 € exclude a lot
- > At the MPP Munich you can choose (luckily!)

## More news



MAX PLANCK PhDnet

- > Contracts and stipends can be extended  
PhDnet: 3 years should stay the standard  
Your supervisor has to agree



## Questionnaire working group

### Report on the third survey

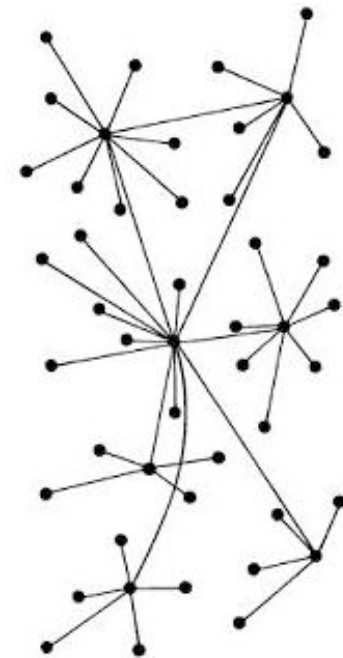


Amazing:  
Intelligence can now be measured  
with saliva tests



## Why is this an important working group?

- > MPS is a very decentralized organisation
- > The general administration acquires very limited information on the PhD education in the MPIs
- > A survey helps collecting data on issues that we would like to improve and gives us unique data on why and how to improve them





## What have we done ?

- > design / adapt survey in accordance with current issues
- > conduct survey (with the help of INCHER), analyse data
- > publish results (survey report)





## Issues that we wanted to address in the survey:

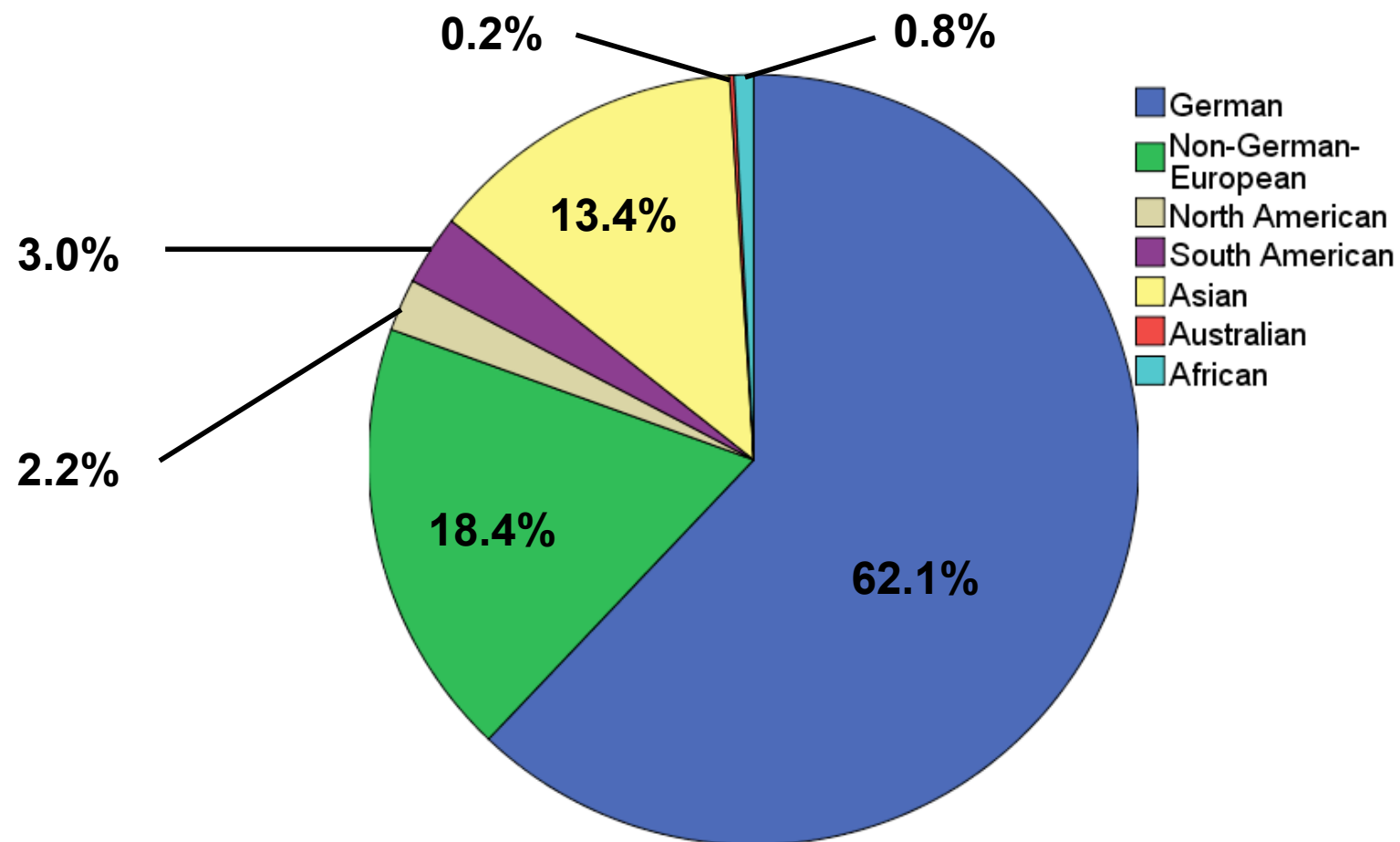
- > stipends vs. contracts
- > things done during the PhD
- > quality of supervision
- > plans for career after the PhD





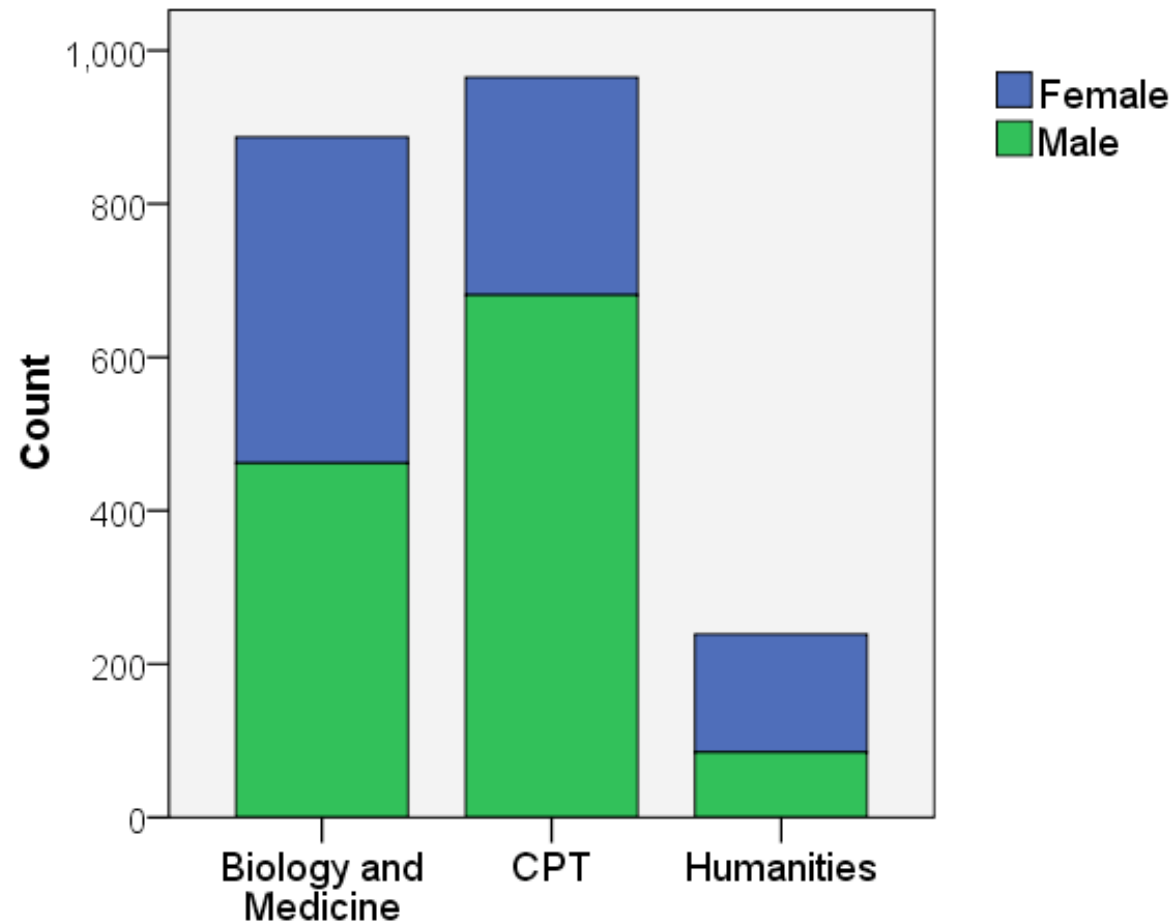
## Survey sample

> 2157 valid responses from 80 MPIs





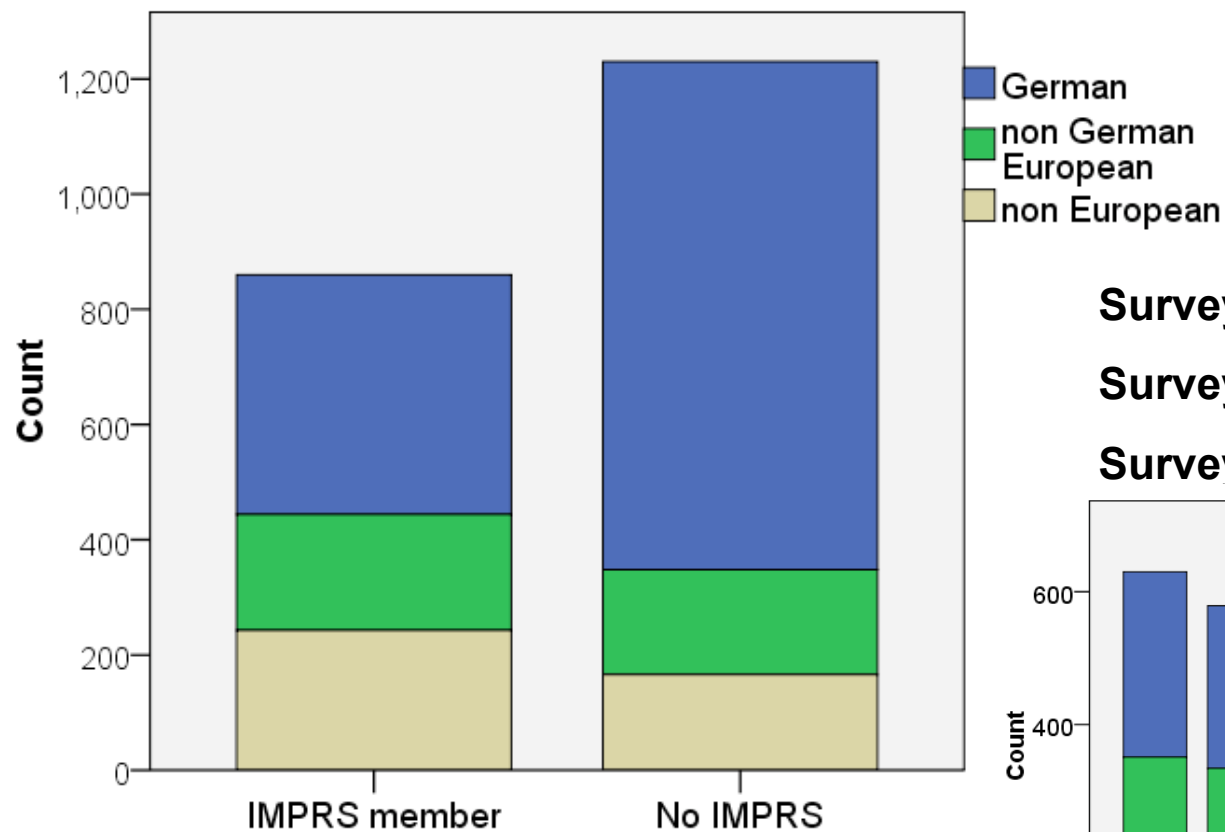
## Survey sample: Distribution across sections



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# Survey sample: Increase in IMPRS membership

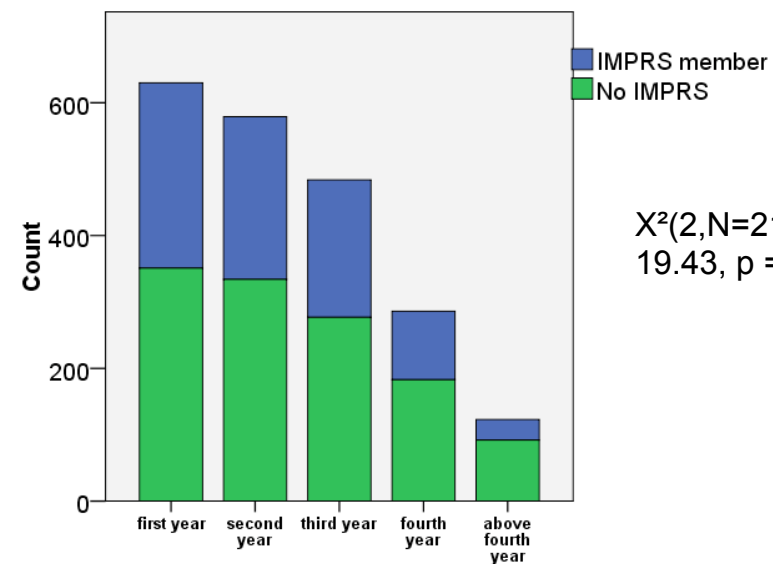


$X^2(2, N=2090) = 120.1, p < .001$

**Survey 2005: 25.3% in IMPRS**

**Survey 2006/7: 31.9% in IMPRS**

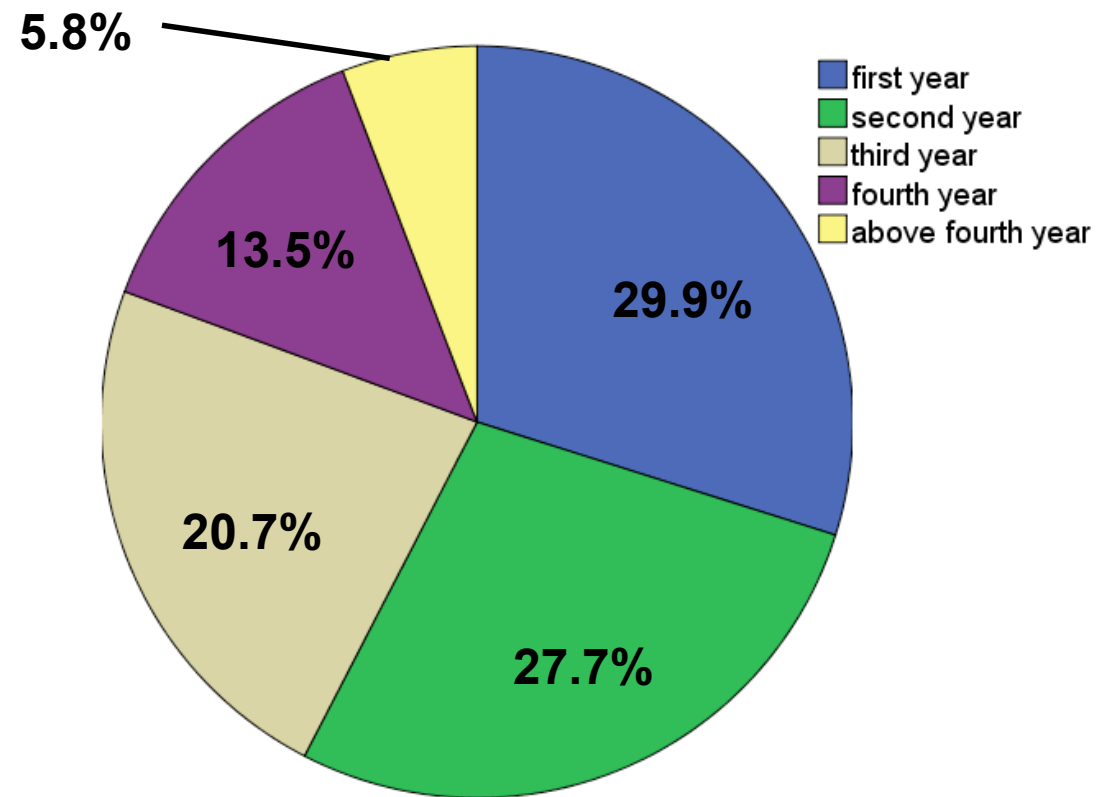
**Survey 2009: 41.3% in IMPRS**



$X^2(2, N=2102) = 19.43, p = .001$



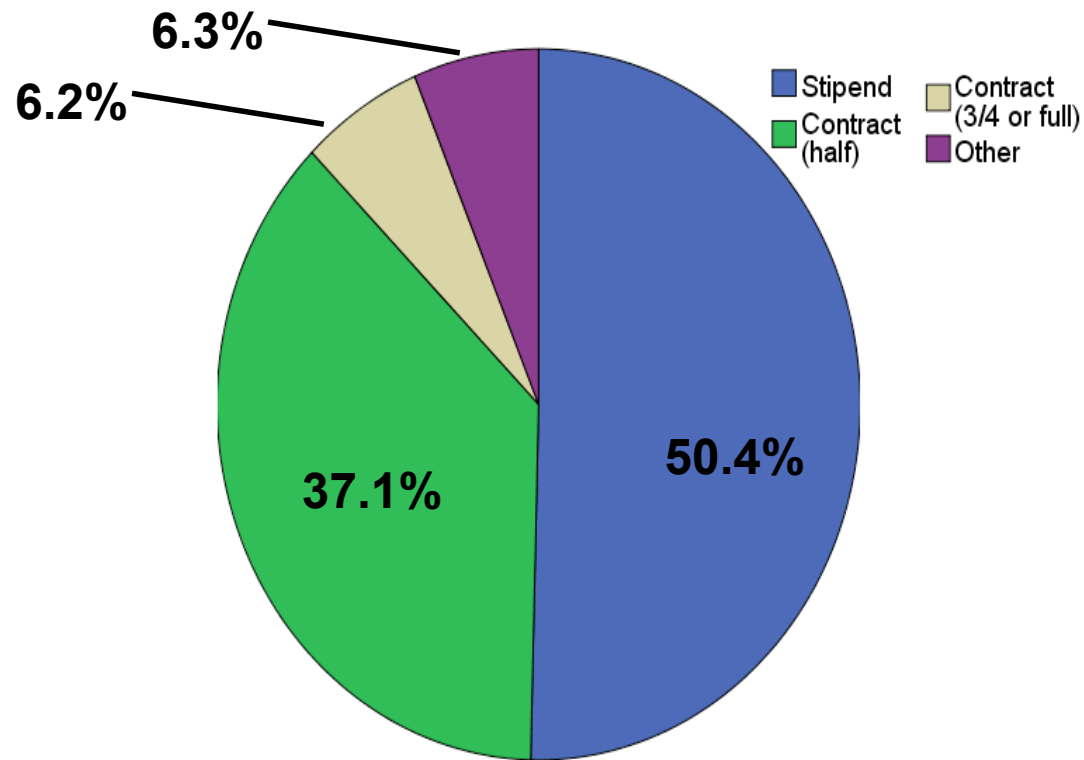
## Survey sample: Year of PhD



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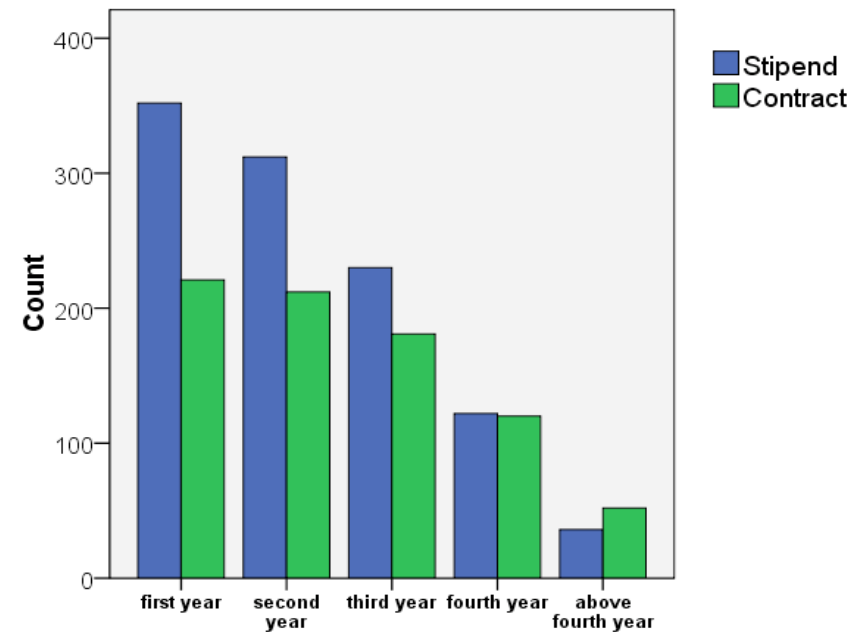
## Stipend vs. Contract: Increase in number of stipends



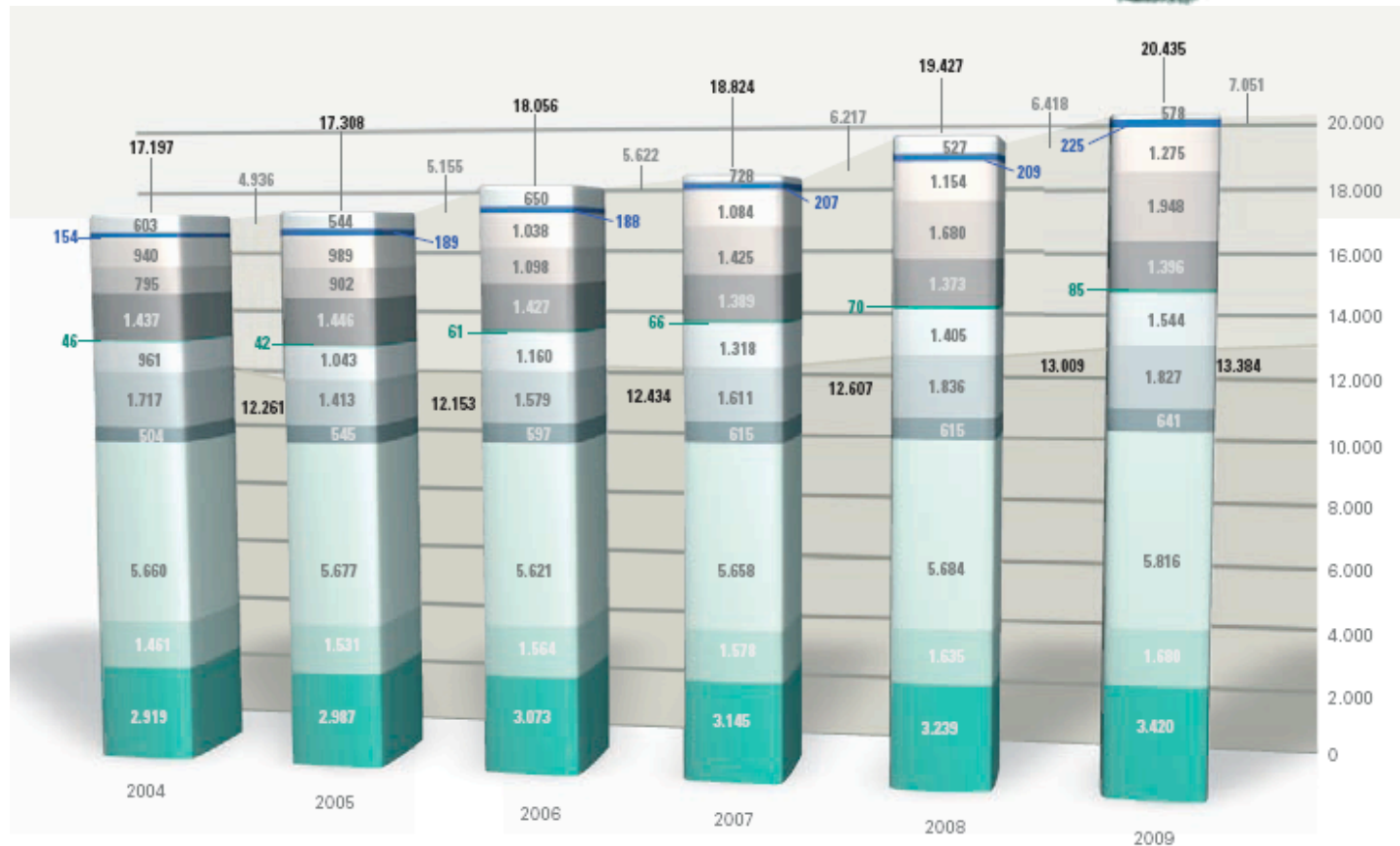
**Survey 2005: 23.3% stipends**

**Survey 2006/7: 31.5% stipends**

**Survey 2009: 50.4% stipends**



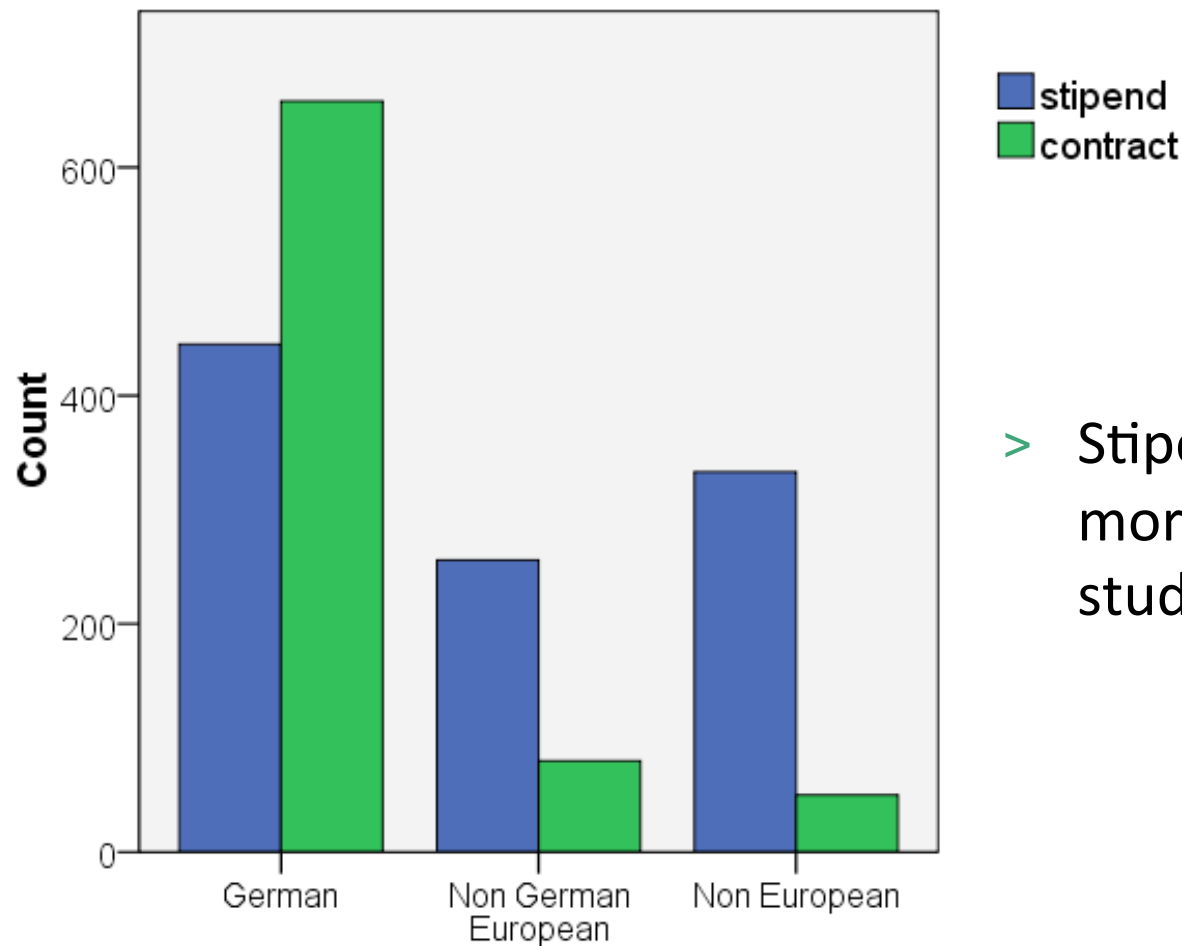
$\chi^2(4, N=1838) = 19.72, p = .001$



- Wissenschaftliche Beschäftigte | Scientific staff
- Verwaltungspersonal | Administrative staff
- restl. nicht-wiss. Personal | remaining non-scientific staff
- Auszubildende und Praktikanten | Trainees and interns
- Drittmittelpersonal | Third party staff
- studentische Hilfskräfte | Student assistants
- Bachelors | Bachelors
- Doktoranden (Arbeitsvertrag) | PhD students with contract
- Doktoranden (Stipendium) | PhD students with fellowship
- Postdoktoranden | Postdocs
- Forschungsstipendiaten | Research fellows
- Gastwissenschaftler | Guest scientists



## Stipend vs. Contract: Foreign PhDs more likely to have a stipend



- > Stipends in many cases not more suitable for foreign PhD students

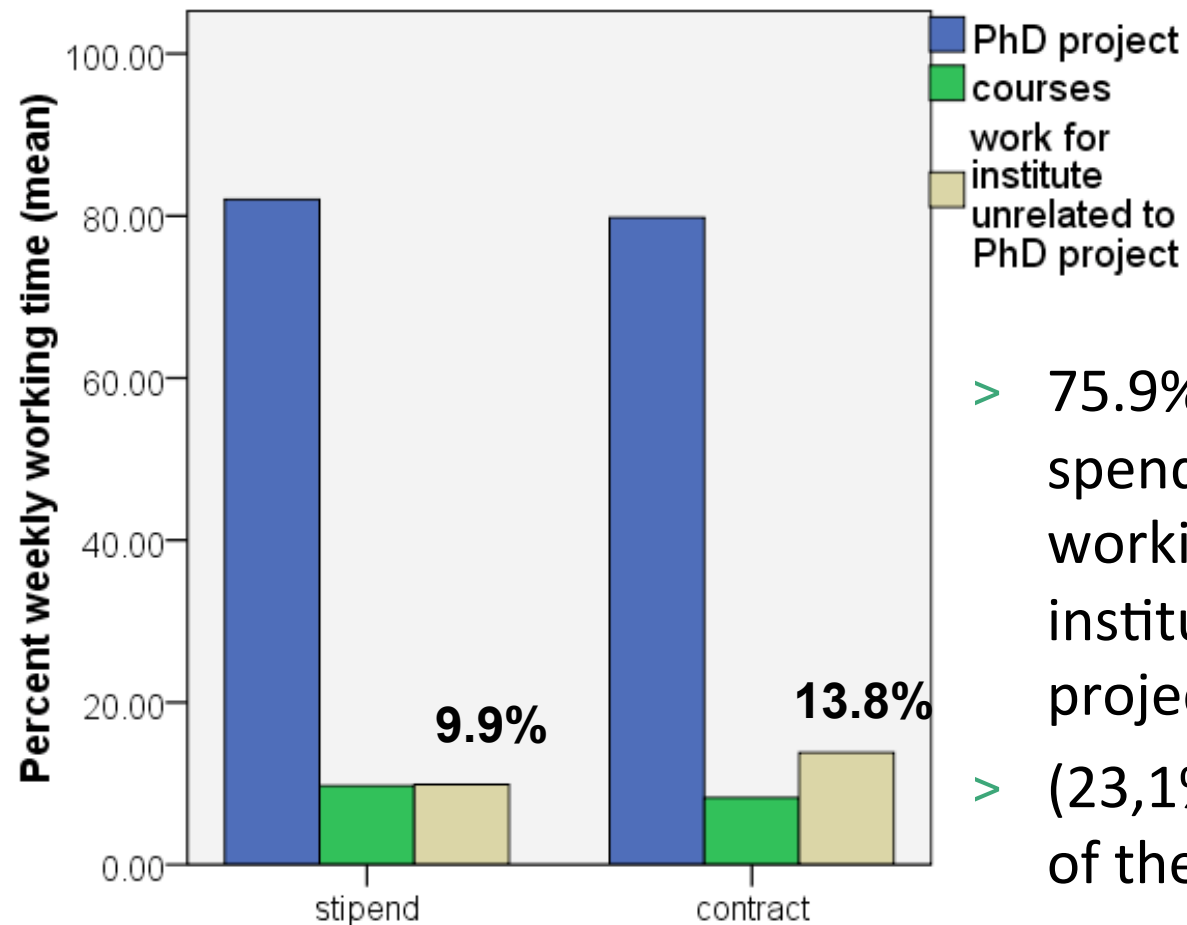
$X^2(2, N=1822) = 315.0, p < .001$

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## Stipend vs. Contract: Stipends often not used appropriately

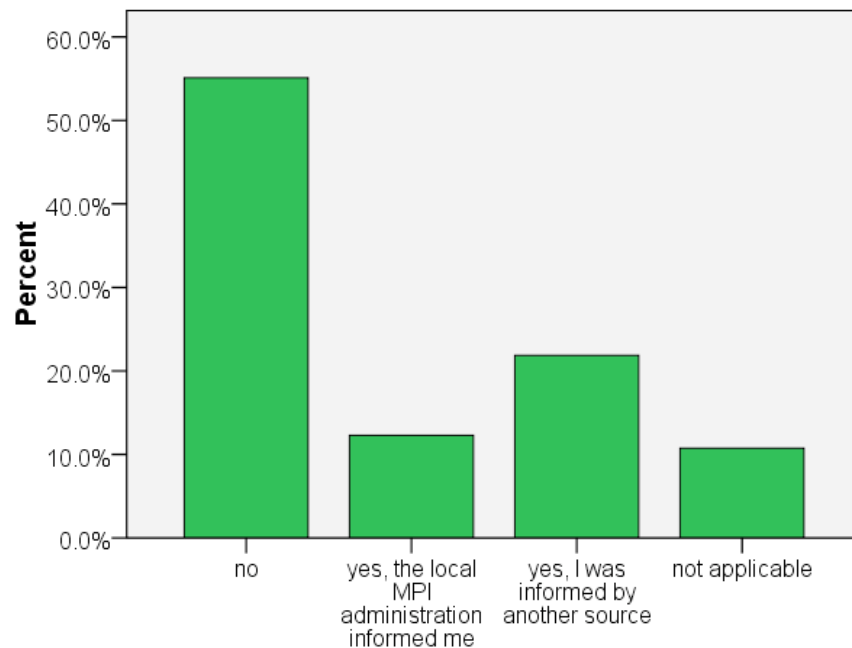


- > 75.9% of stipend-holders spend part of their weekly working time on work for the institute unrelated to PhD project
- > (23,1% spend more than 10% of their weekly working time)

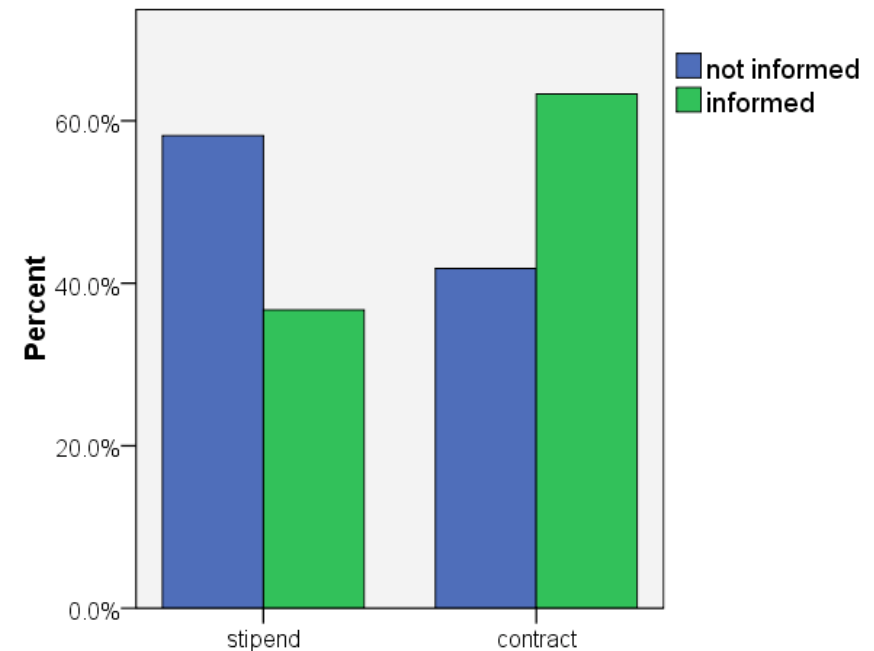


# Stipend vs. Contract: PhDs are very often not informed about legal differences between contracts and stipends

**Who informed you about legal differences?**



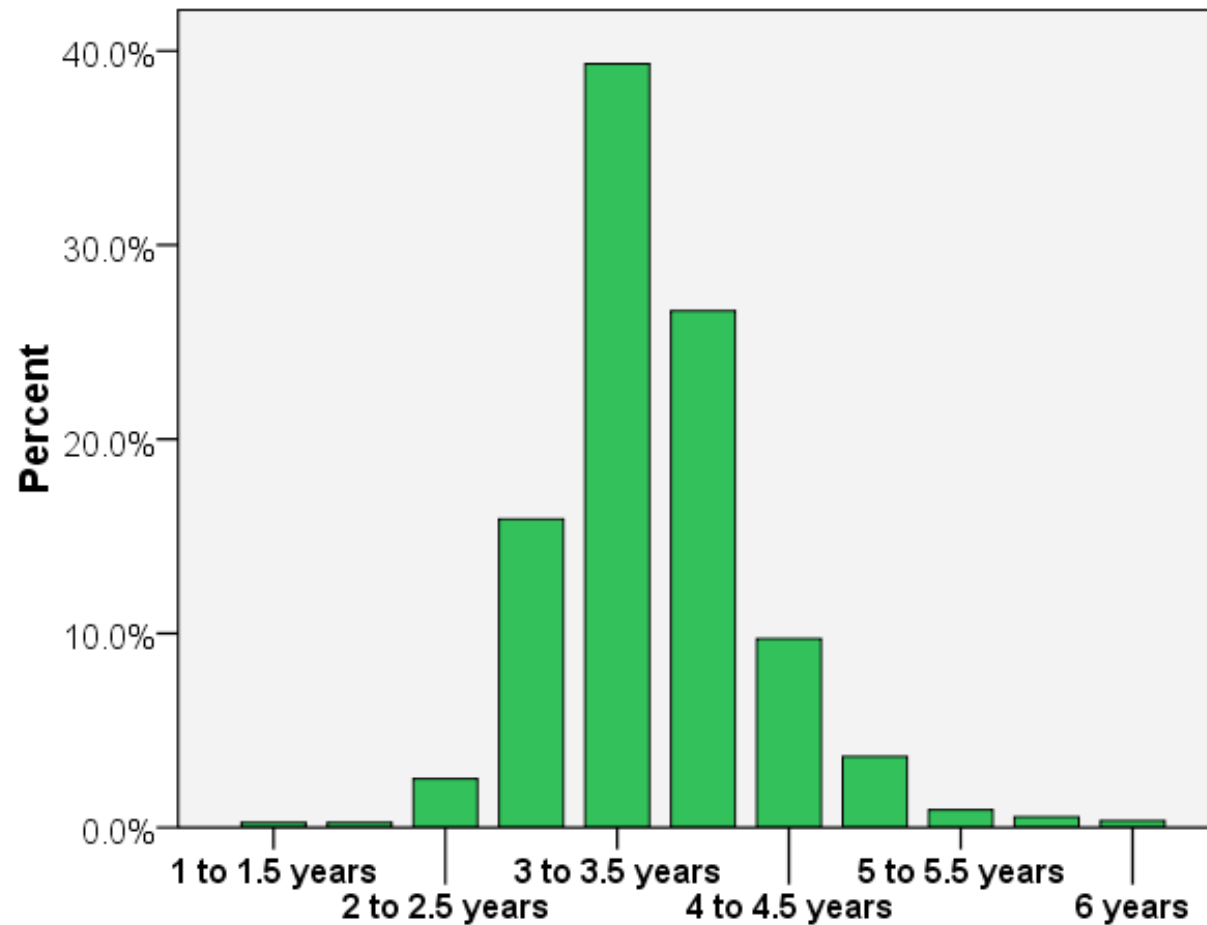
**Choice of stipend or contract**



$X^2(1, N=213) = 7.71, p = .005$

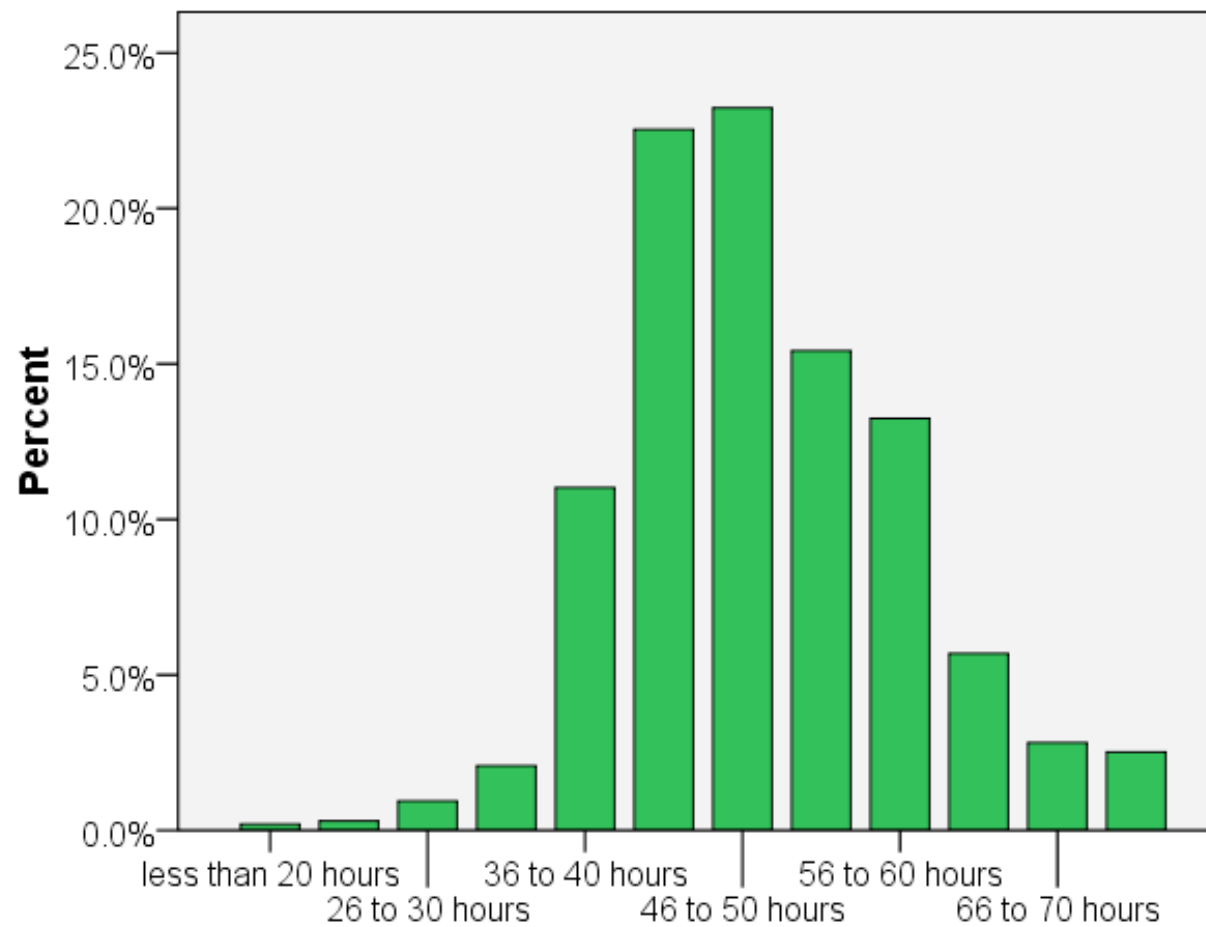


# Done in PhD: Estimated duration of PhD





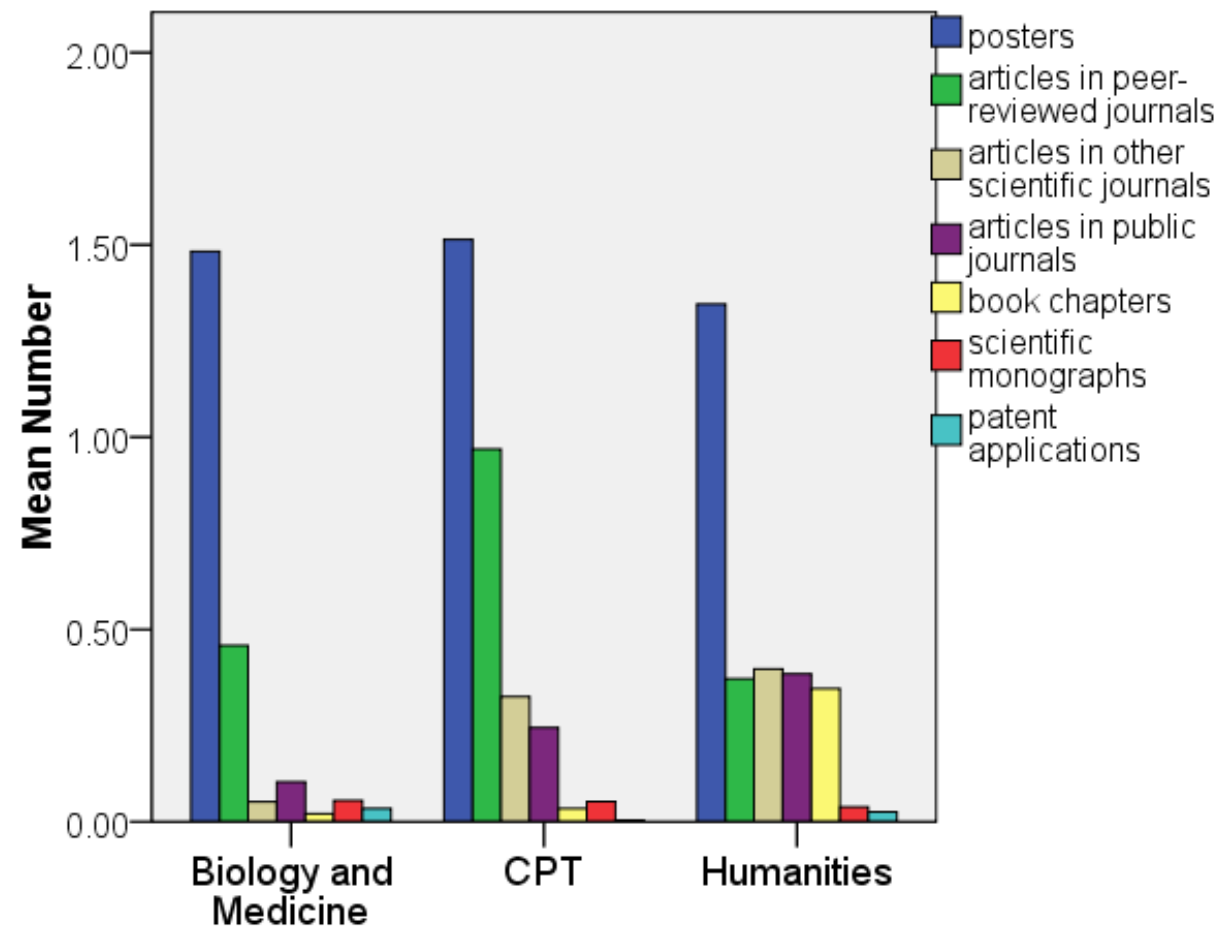
## Done in PhD: Amount of working time



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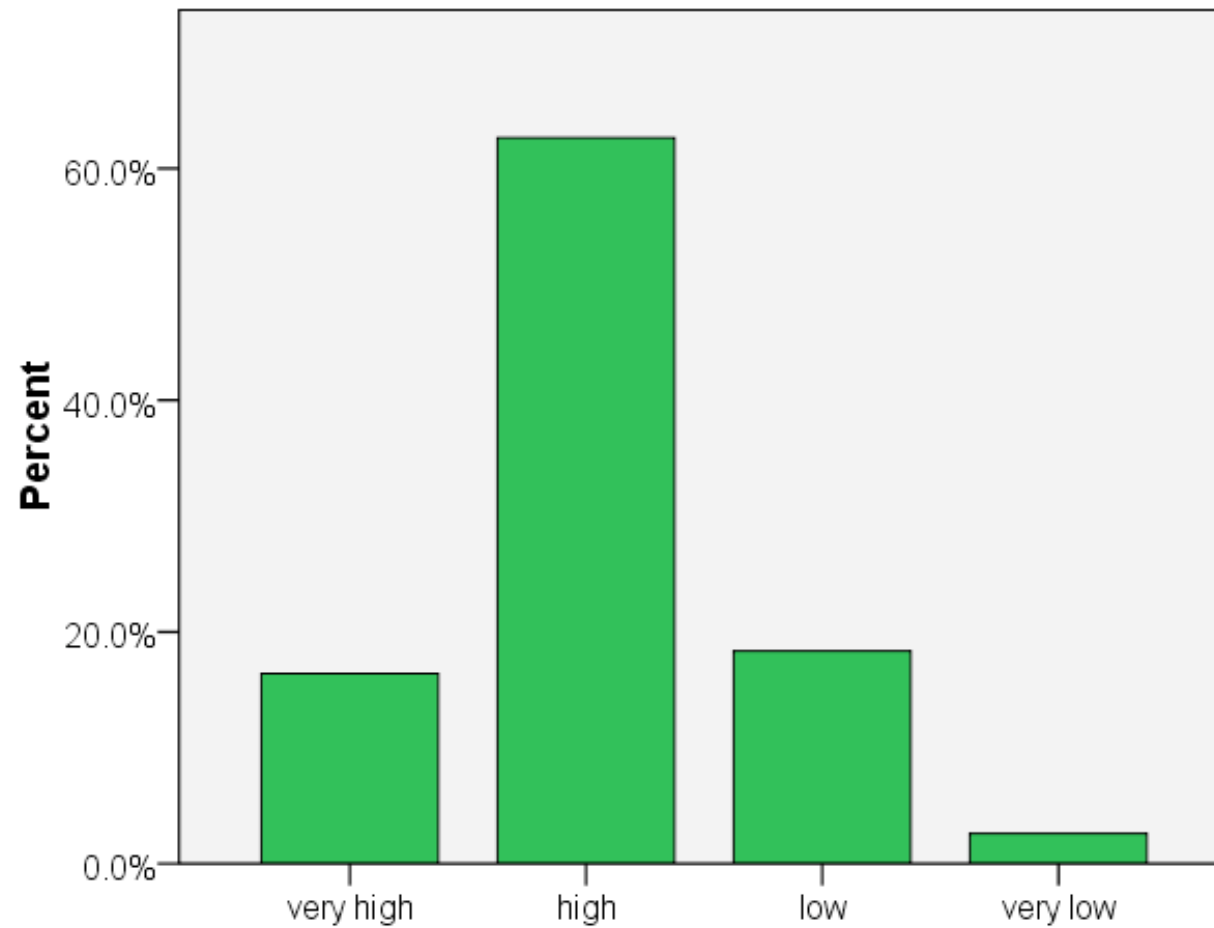


## Done in PhD: Output





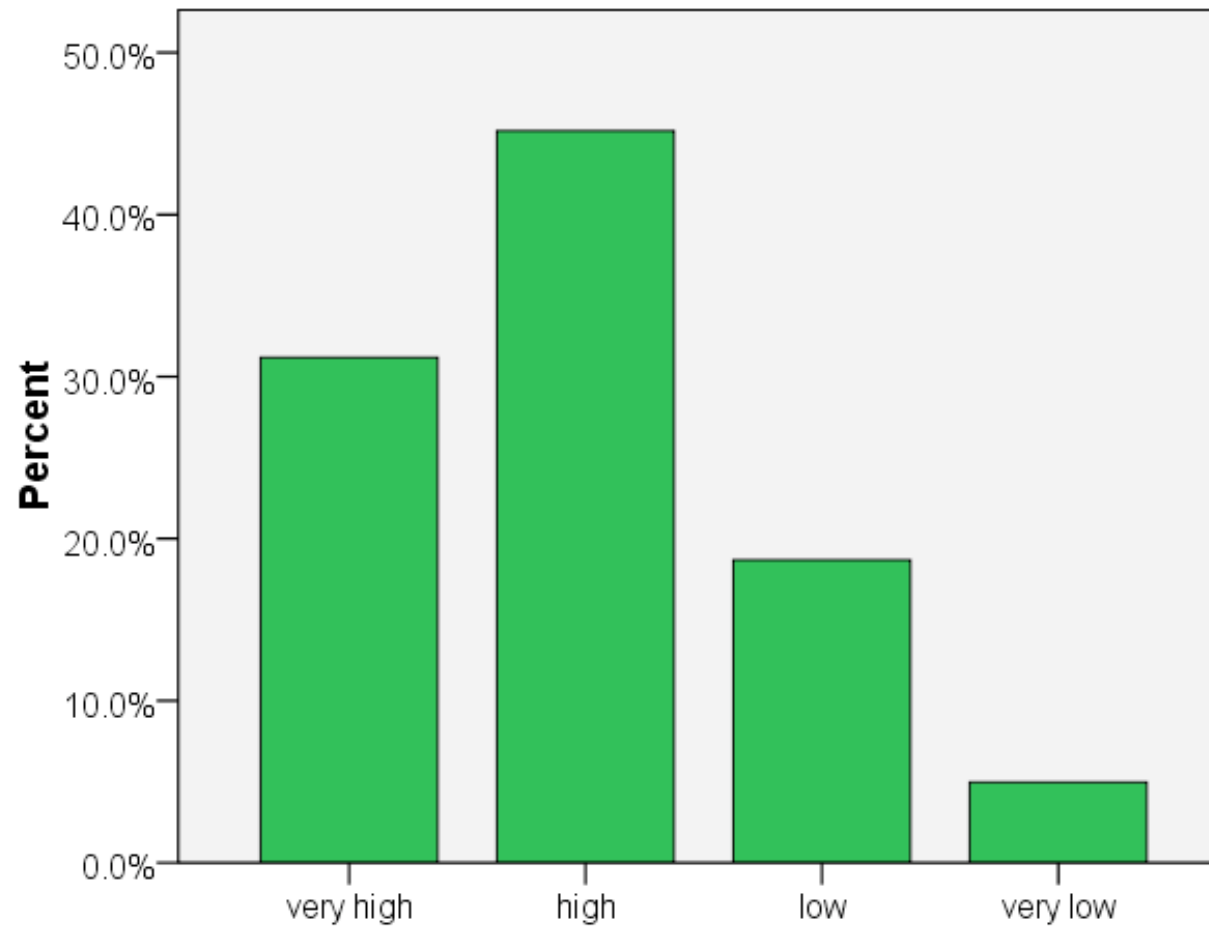
## PhD: Overall satisfaction



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## Supervision: Overall satisfaction



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# Supervision: Thinking about giving up the PhD



- > 32.65% of the students thought about giving up PhD
  - 12.3% due to work-related difficulties with supervisor
  - 7.7% due to personal difficulties with supervisor





## Supervision: Dependency on supervisor

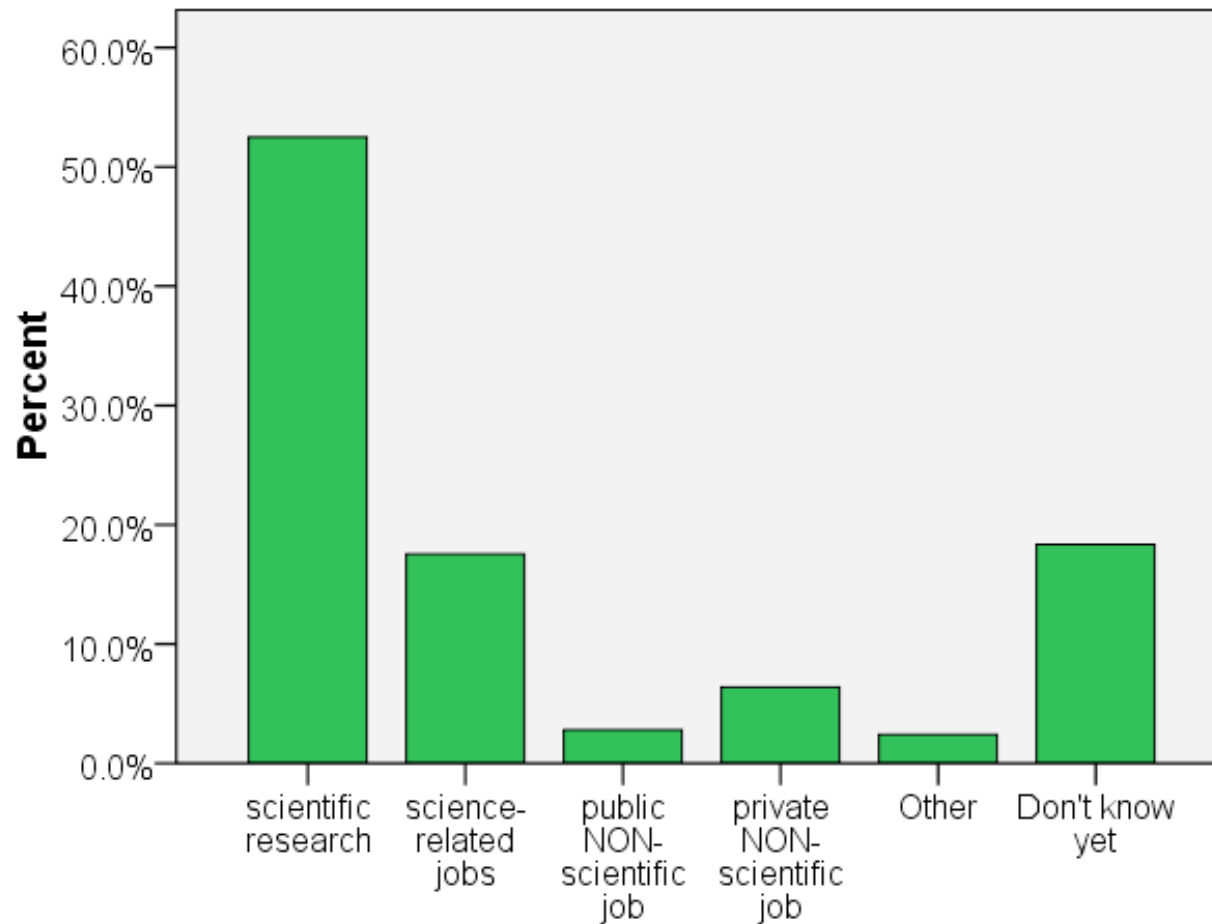
- > students who could choose a supervisor (55.8%) were less likely to have considered quitting due to personal or work-related difficulties with their supervisor ( $\chi^2 (1, N=608) = 7.58, P < .01$  and  $\chi^2 (1, N=608) = 6.78, P = .01$ , respectively).



- > 40.8% of the PhD students indicate that a change of the supervisor would be impossible or result in large modifications to their thesis topic (Note: 51.4% indicated not to know the consequences of trying to change the supervisor)

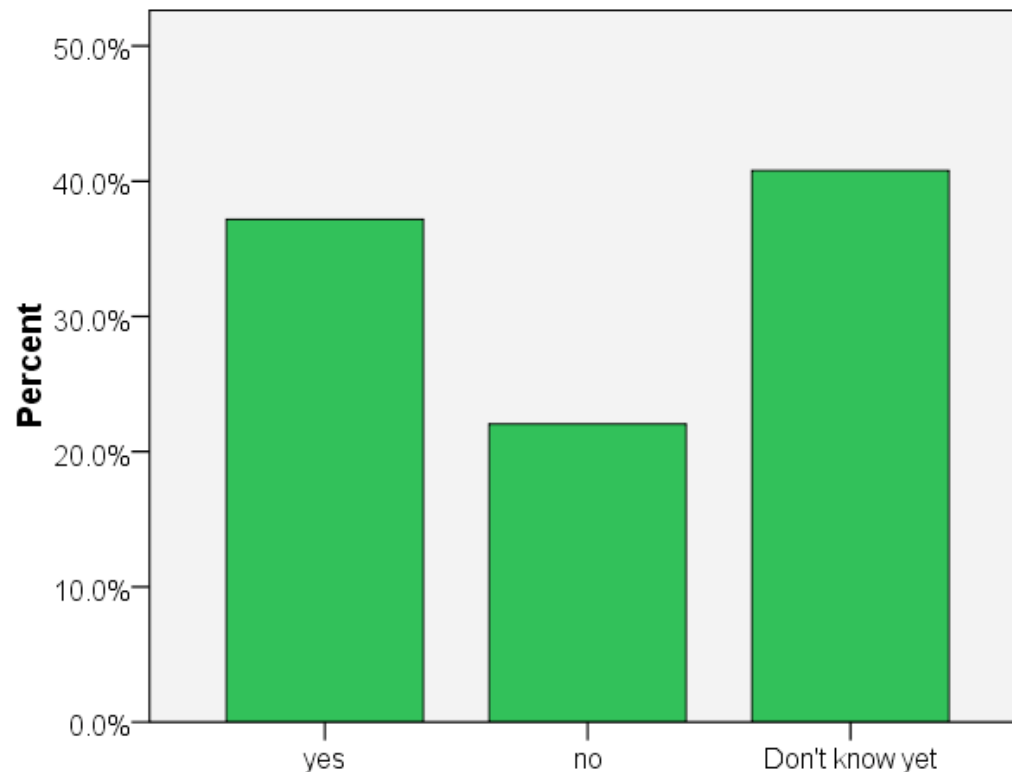


## Career after the PhD: Planned domains of future work





## Career after the PhD: Aiming for academic career



- > 76.7% would be interested in courses on Career Planning for non-academic sectors
- > Only 25.4% report that such courses have been offered



Propositions for other interesting issues are very welcome!

Questions:[haemmerer@mpib-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:haemmerer@mpib-berlin.mpg.de)



## Local PhDreps

- > Representatives for MPI **and** IMPRS students:  
One for MPI/IMPRS, five for MPI groups/directors
- > We are looking for new representatives! (Elections early 2010)
- > **Interested? Get involved!**
- > Don't need to be a representative to get involved!
- > **[www.phdnet.mpg.de](http://www.phdnet.mpg.de)**



# Thank you!