



STScI | SPACE TELESCOPE
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

EAP Community Survey - Update on Results

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Reminder: Current EAPs and Motivation for the Survey

- Current status: EAPs in place for JWST and HST.
- NASA mandate applies to future missions not current missions.
- Survey requested by JSTUC and STUC to gather information from both user communities. (Lead was Molly Peeples. **Thanks also for your inputs!**)
- Survey results won't dictate policy but will help inform future discussions.
- There are lots of stakeholders (and formal agreements) — all would have to agree **IF** a change is ever proposed.



Survey Details

- Released: **Monday November 28, 2022**
- **Advertised broadly:**
 - >15k astronomers via STScI mailing list
 - publicised at AAS
 - circulated by NEXSci via their mailing list
 - posted on social media
- Deadline: **Wednesday February 15, 2023**
- Total Responses: **1171**
- Very preliminary results: **[JSTUC meeting March 1, 2023](#)**
- Intermediate results: **[STUC meeting May 10, 2023](#)**



So far...

- **7 key questions:**

- Have you used Archival HST data?
- Have you used Archival JWST data?
- Have you ever not done a project because of an EAP?
- How would a reduced or zero EAP affect your research plans?
- How do you think the following groups would be impacted by reduced or zero EAP?
- What are the potential benefits of zero EAP?
- What are the potential downsides of zero EAP?

- **3 demographic groups:**

- Career Stage
- Research Field
- Geographic Region

S2: Past Experience

S3: Effects of changing EAP

S5: Final Thoughts



So far...

- **7 key questions:**

- **Have you used Archival HST data?**
 - **Have you used Archival JWST data?**
 - ~~Have you ever not done a project because of an EAP?~~
 - ~~How would a reduced or zero EAP affect your research plans?~~
 - **How do you think the following groups would be impacted by reduced or zero EAP?**
 - **What are the potential benefits of zero EAP?**
 - **What are the potential downsides of zero EAP?**
- **3 demographic groups:**
 - **Career Stage**
 - ~~Research Field~~
 - ~~Geographic Region~~

S2: Past Experience

S3: Effects of changing EAP

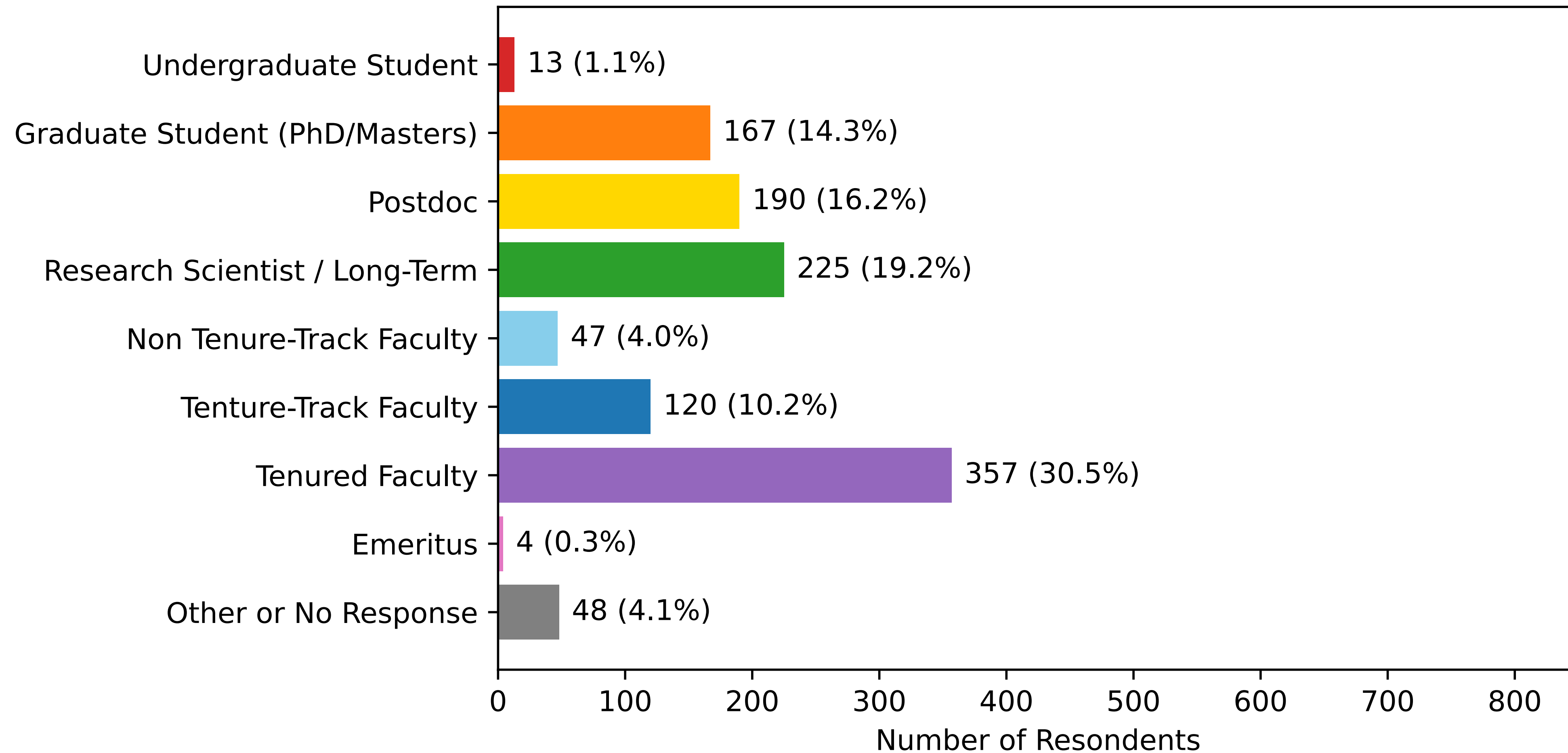
S5: Final Thoughts



Career Stage

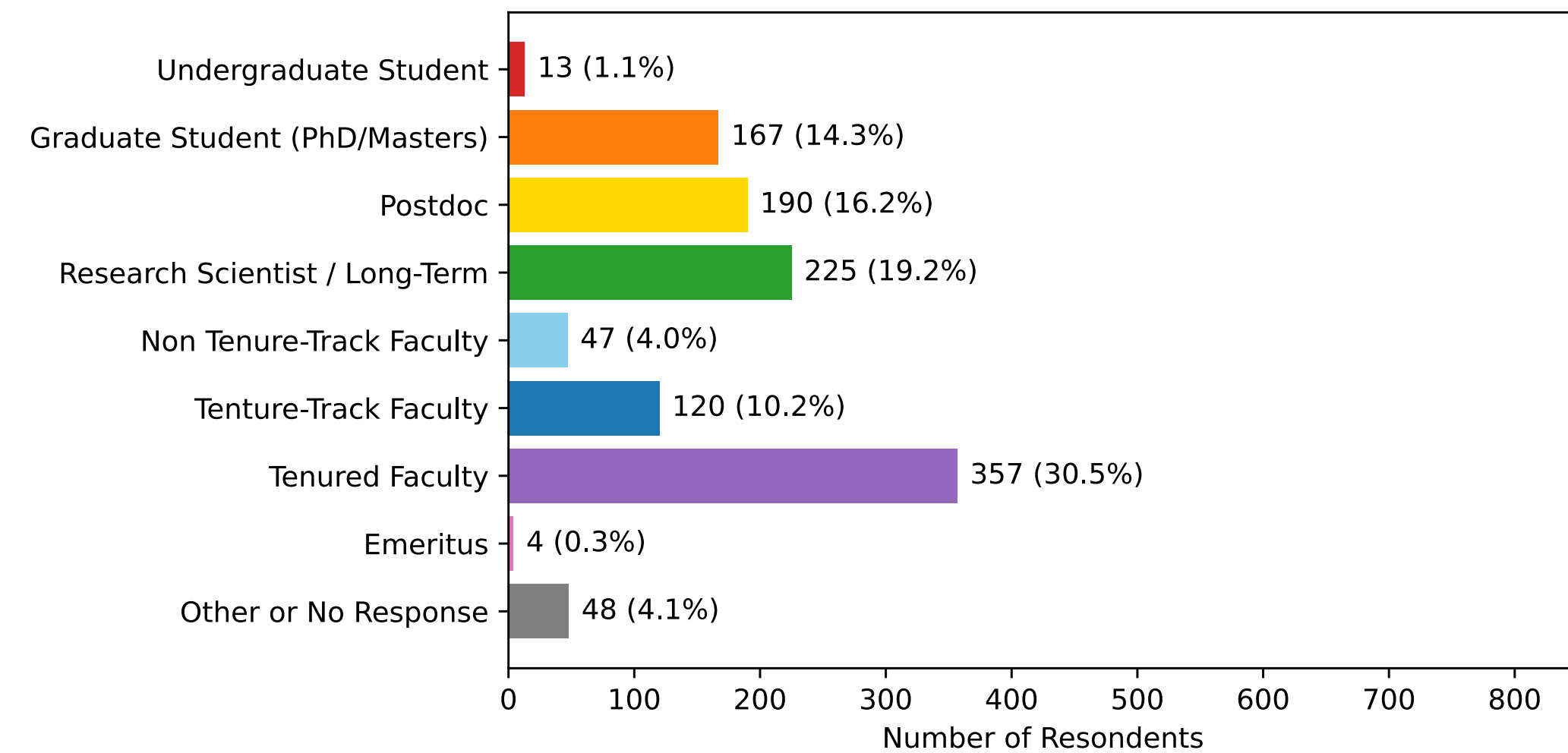
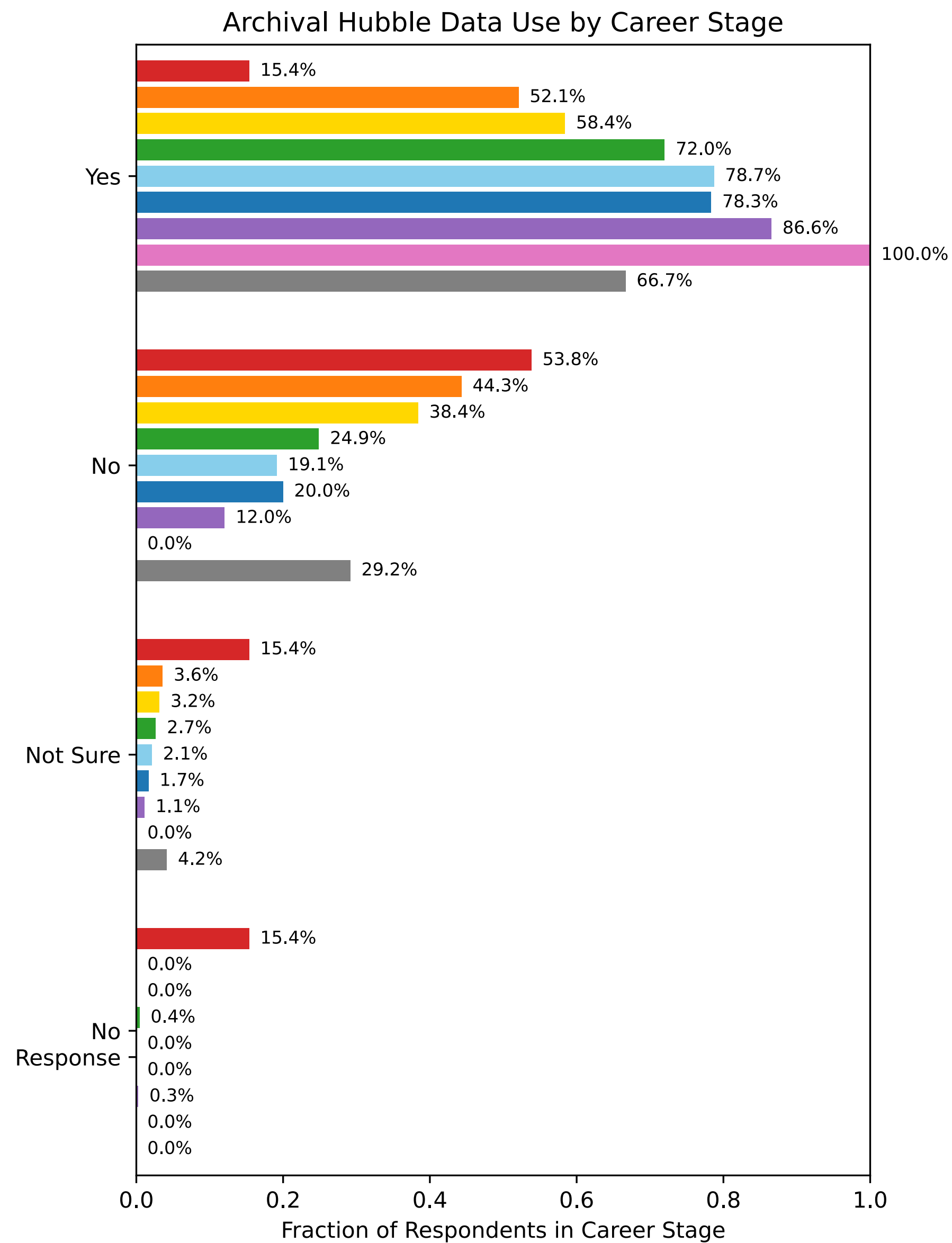


Career Stage





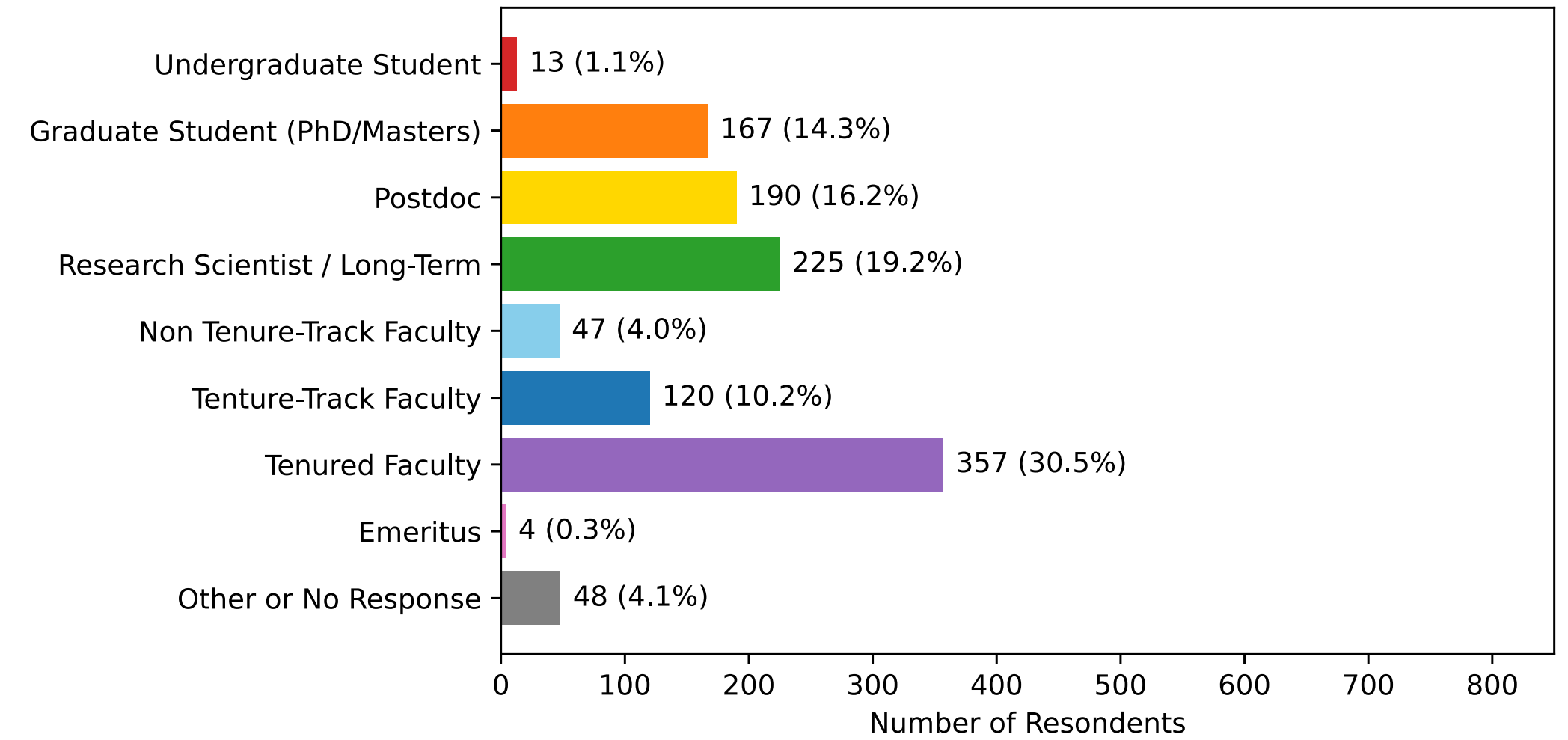
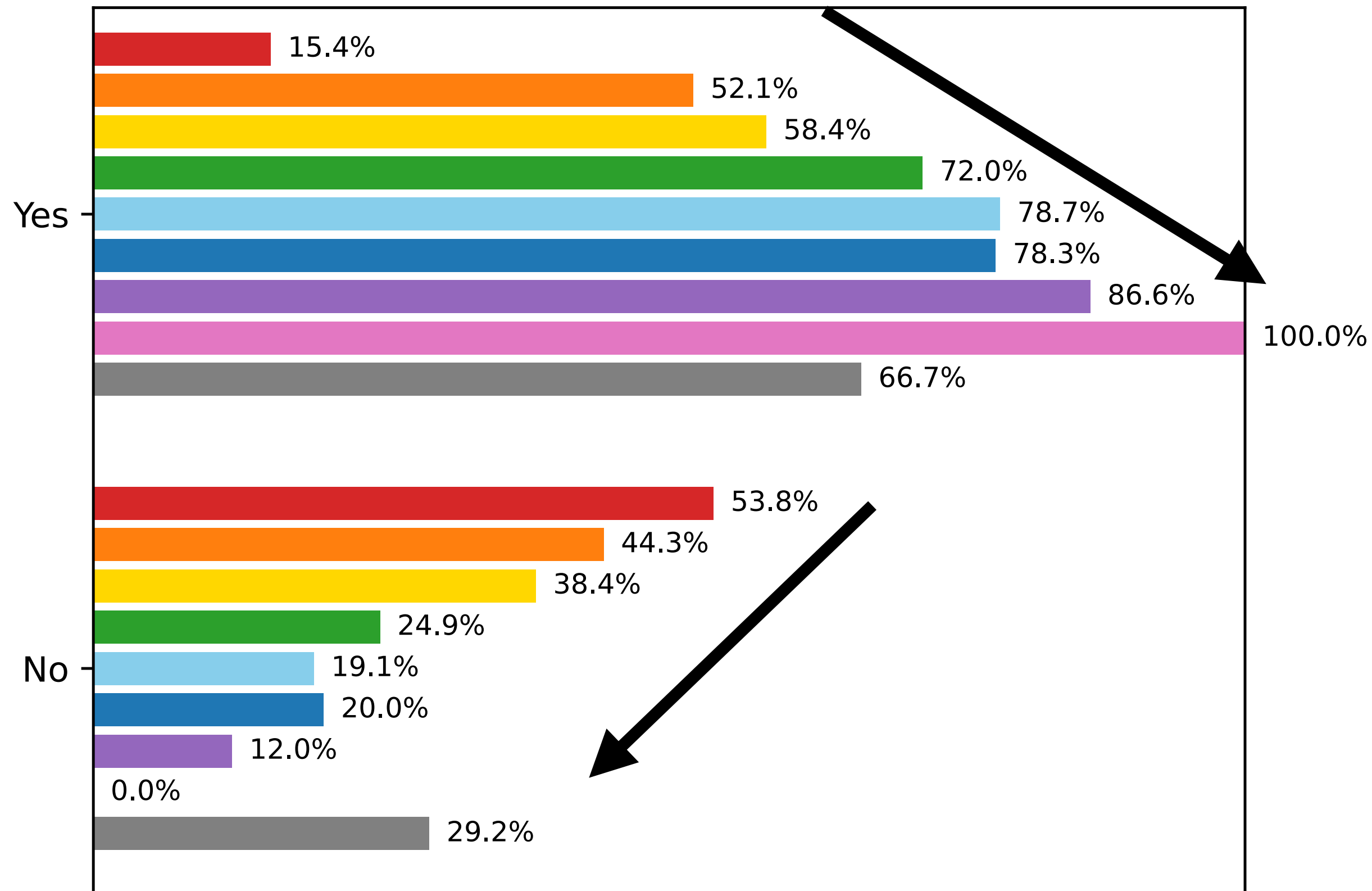
Archival HST Data Use / Career Stage





Archival HST Data Use / Career Stage

Archival Hubble Data Use by Career Stage





Archival JWST Data Use / Career Stage

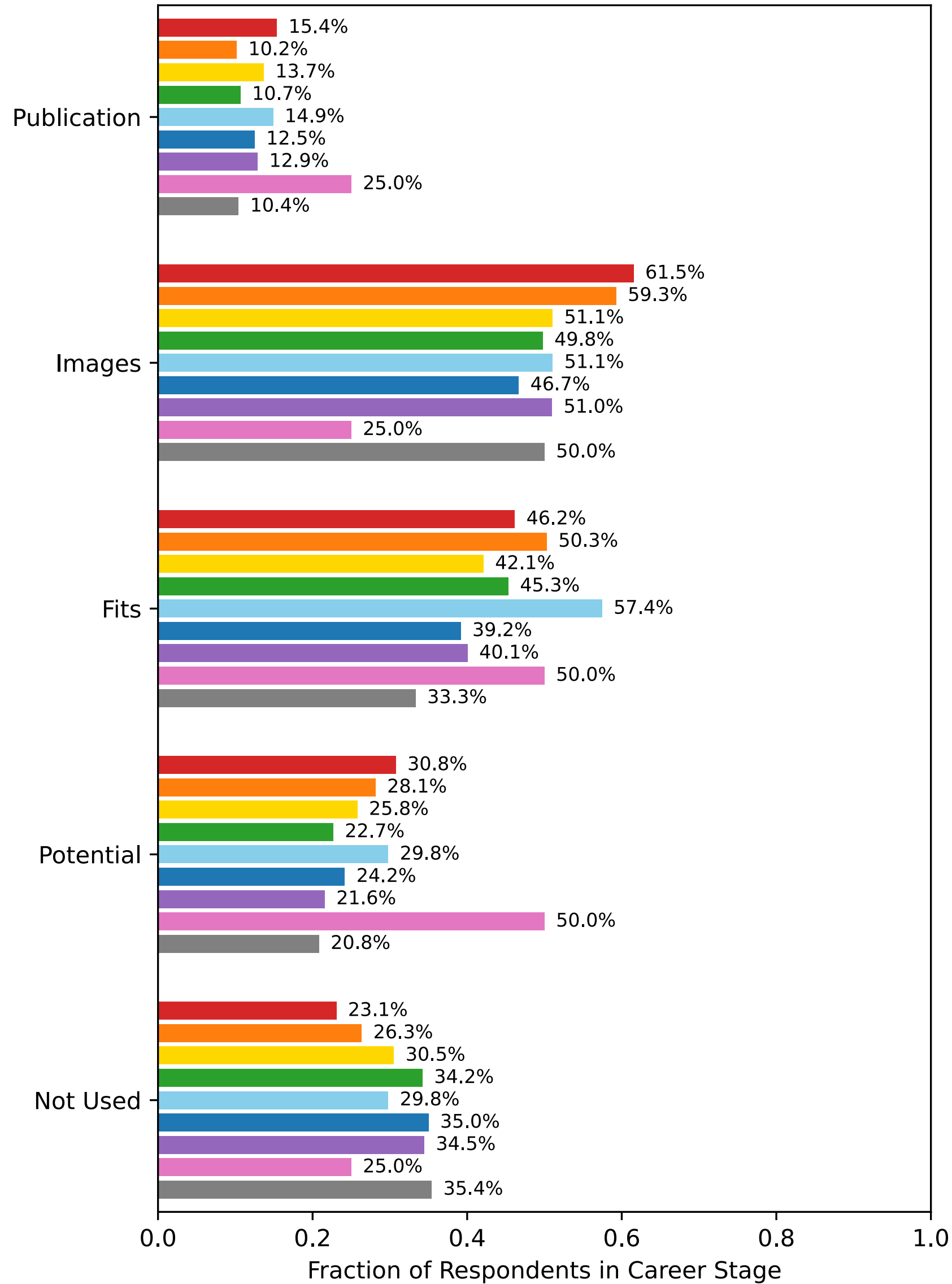
Used publicly-available data in a paper submitted for publication

Explored publicly-available reduced images (jpegs, pngs, tiff files)

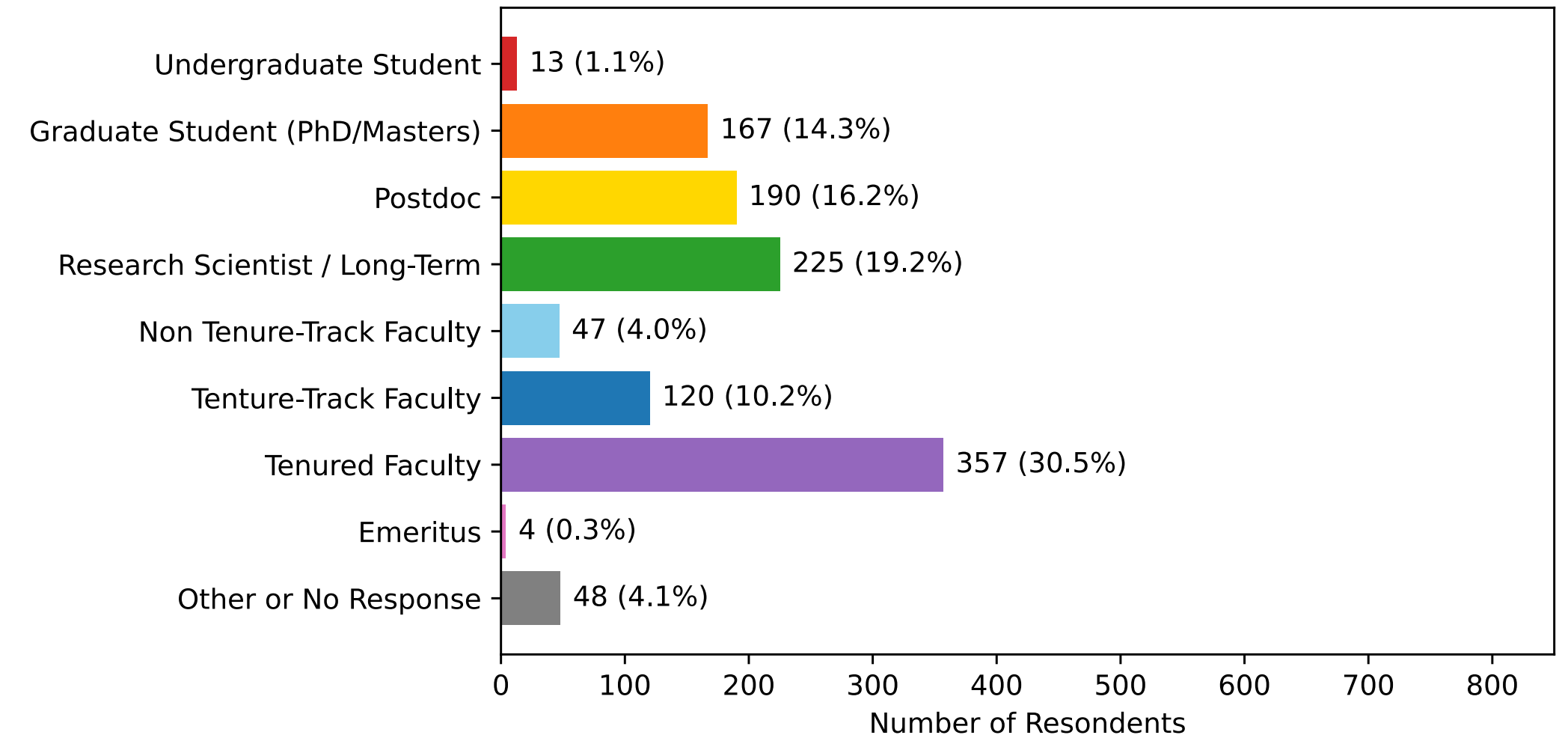
Explored publicly-available data (fits files)

Explored publicly-available data for a potential science project

Archival JWST Data Use by Career Stage

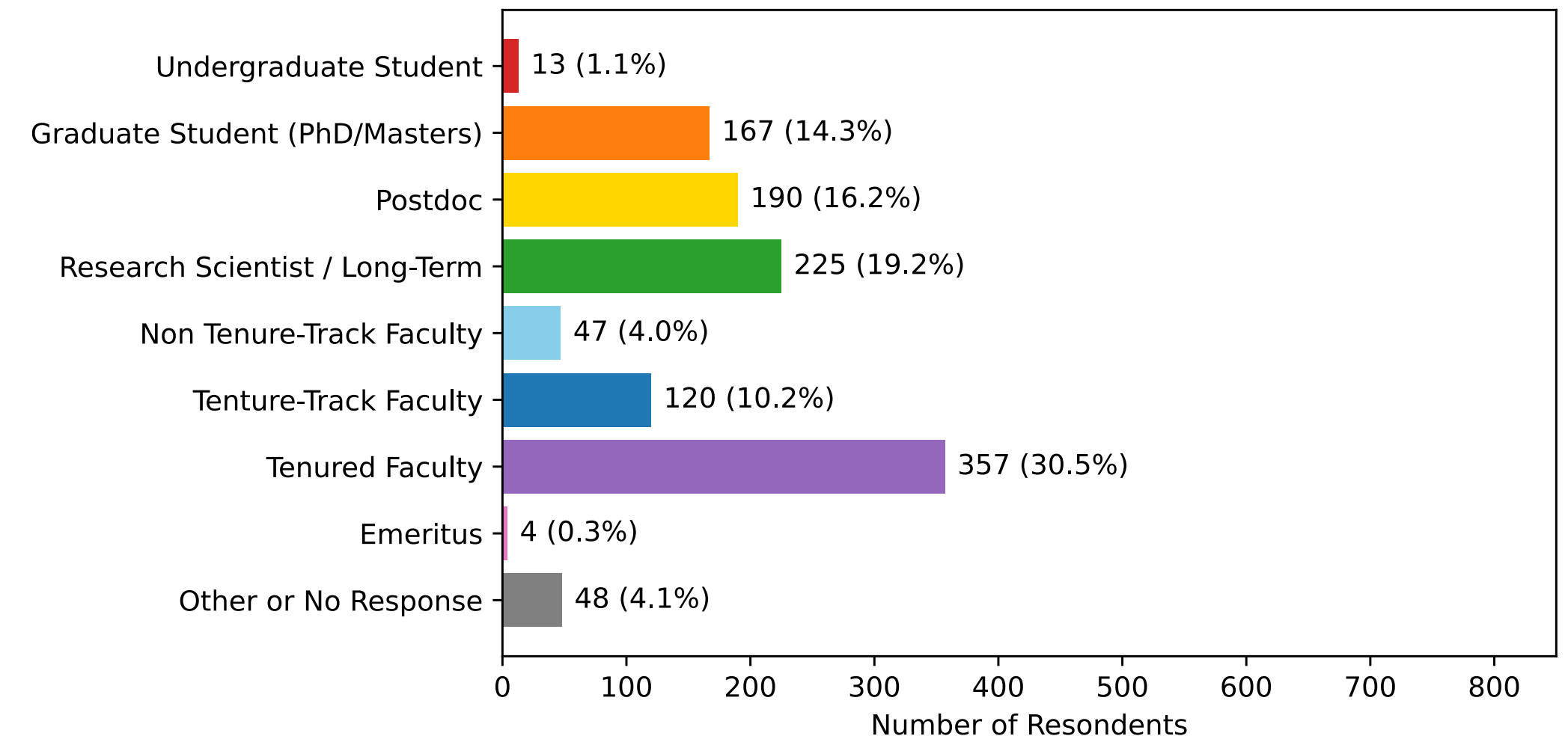
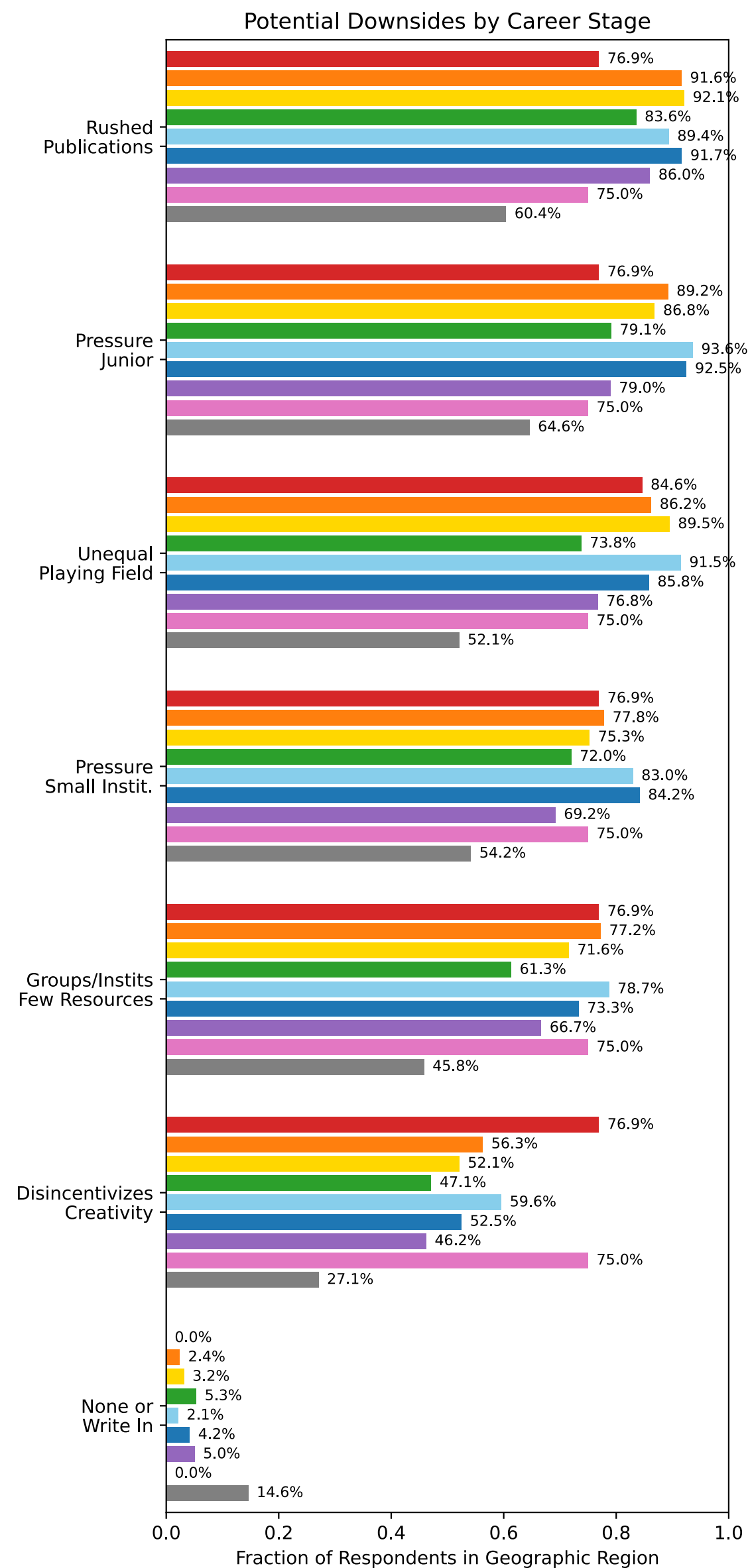
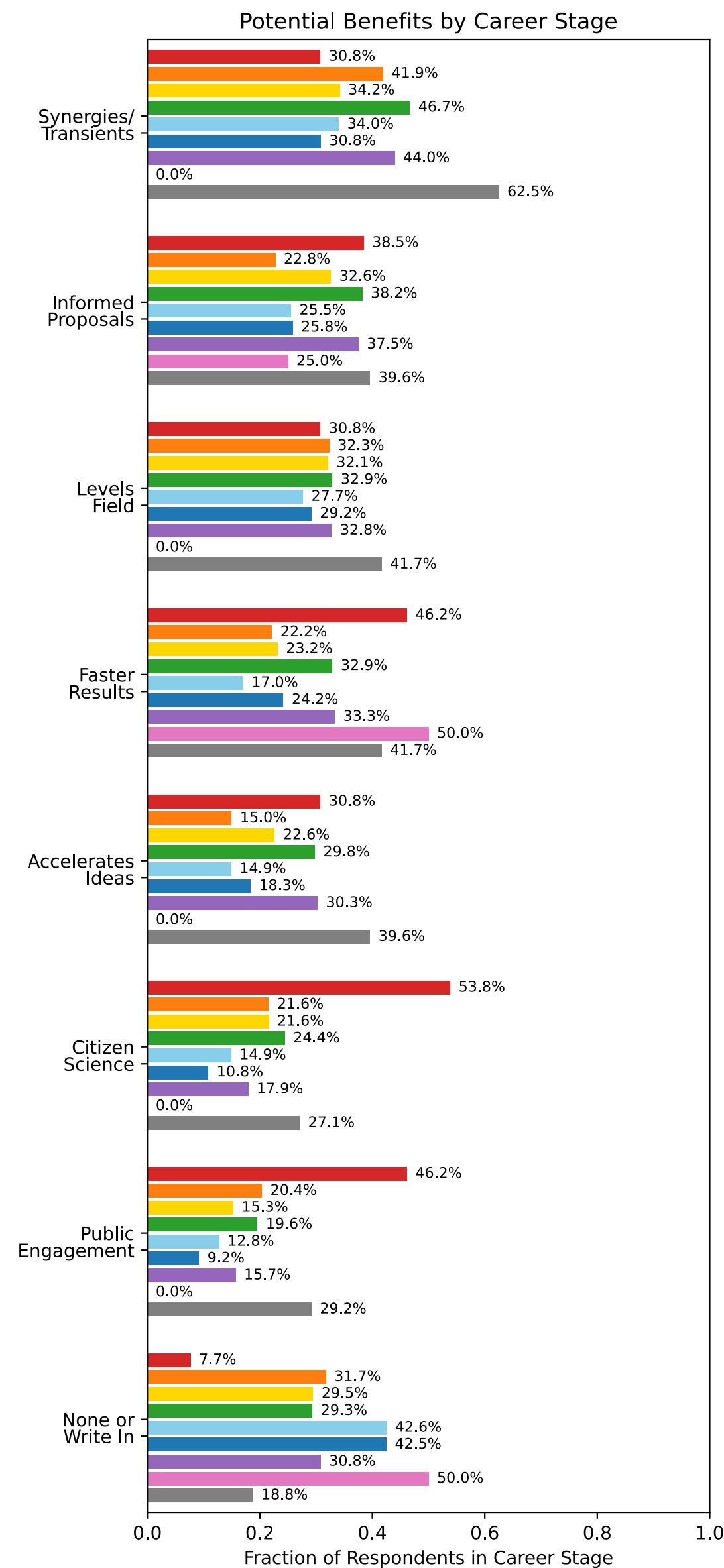


End Nov through mid Feb.



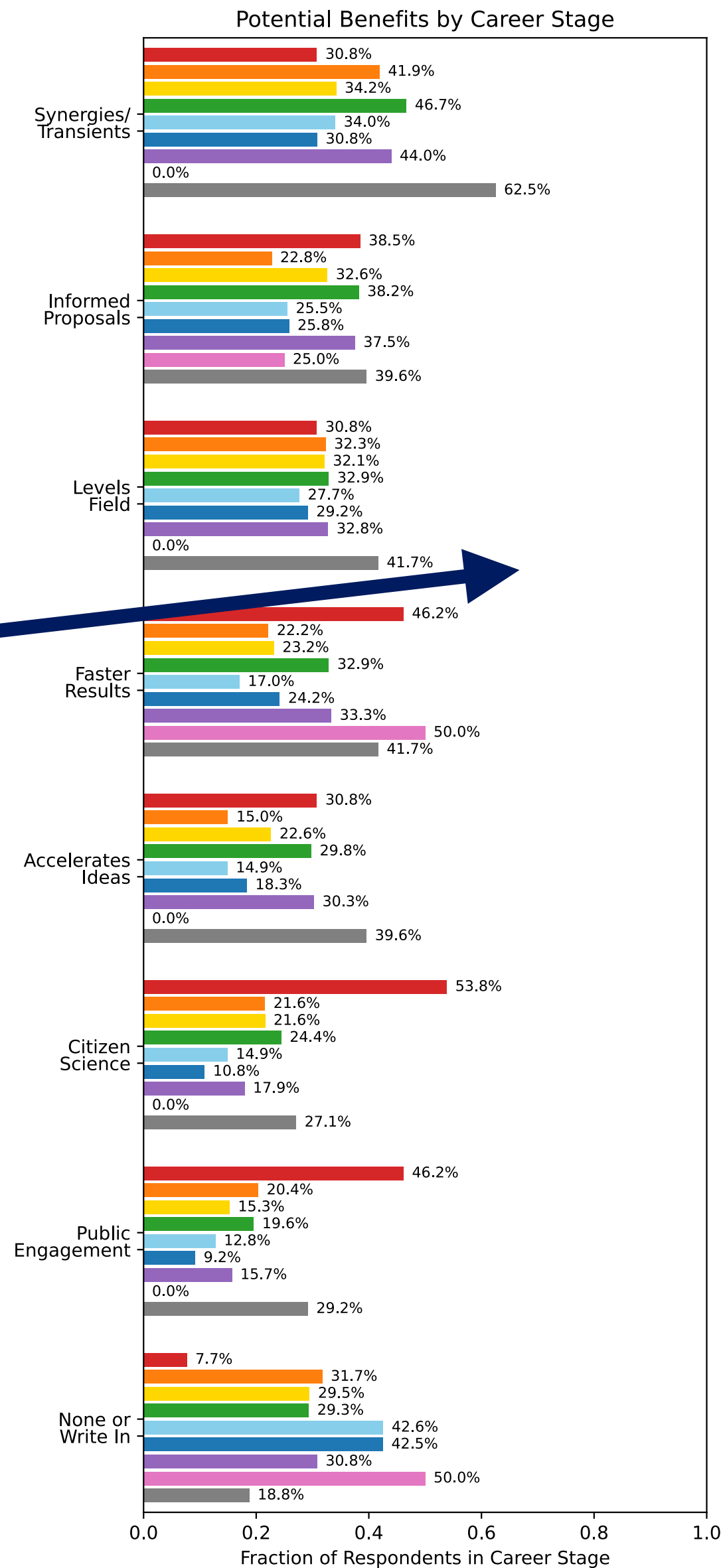


Potential Benefits/Downsides of Reduced EAP / Career Stage

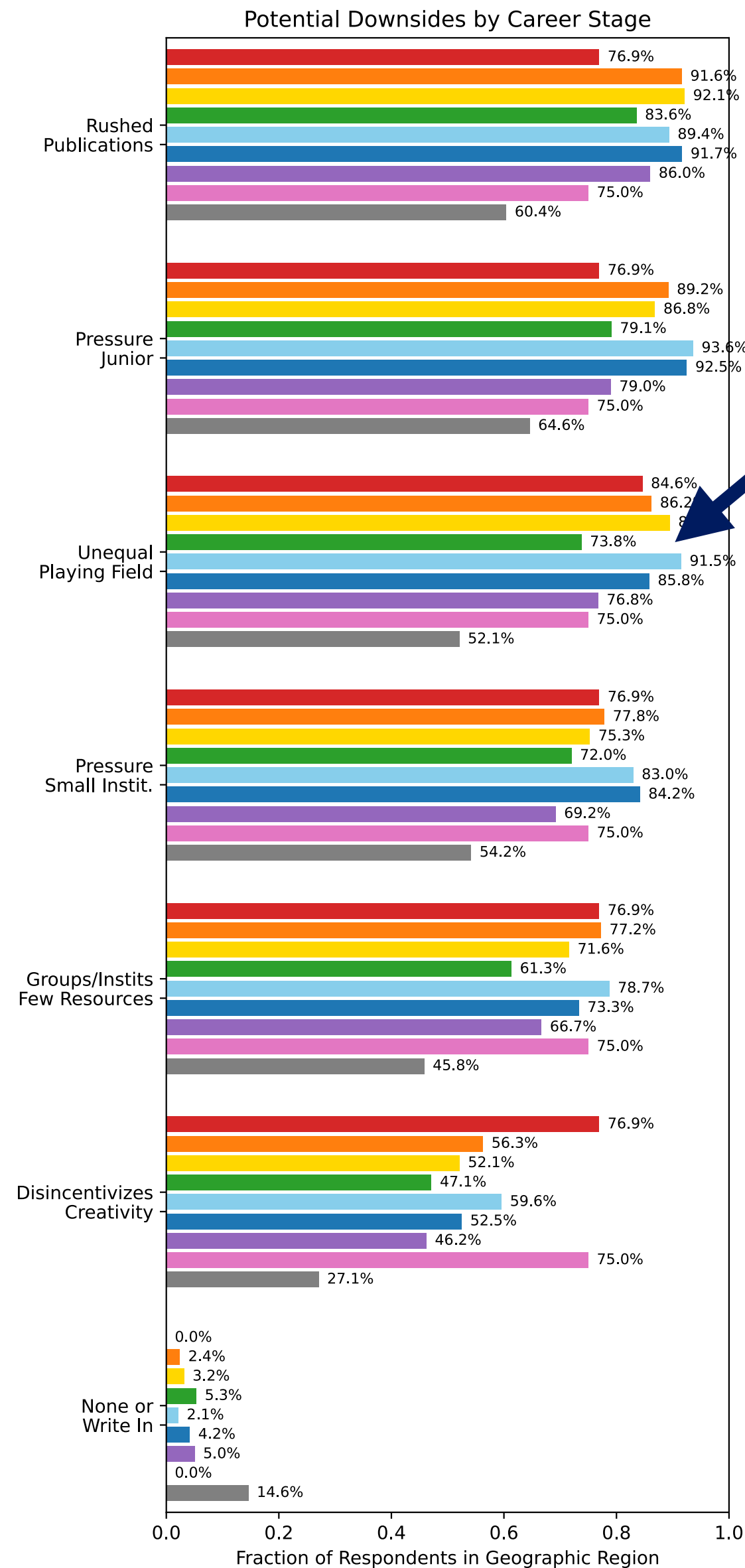




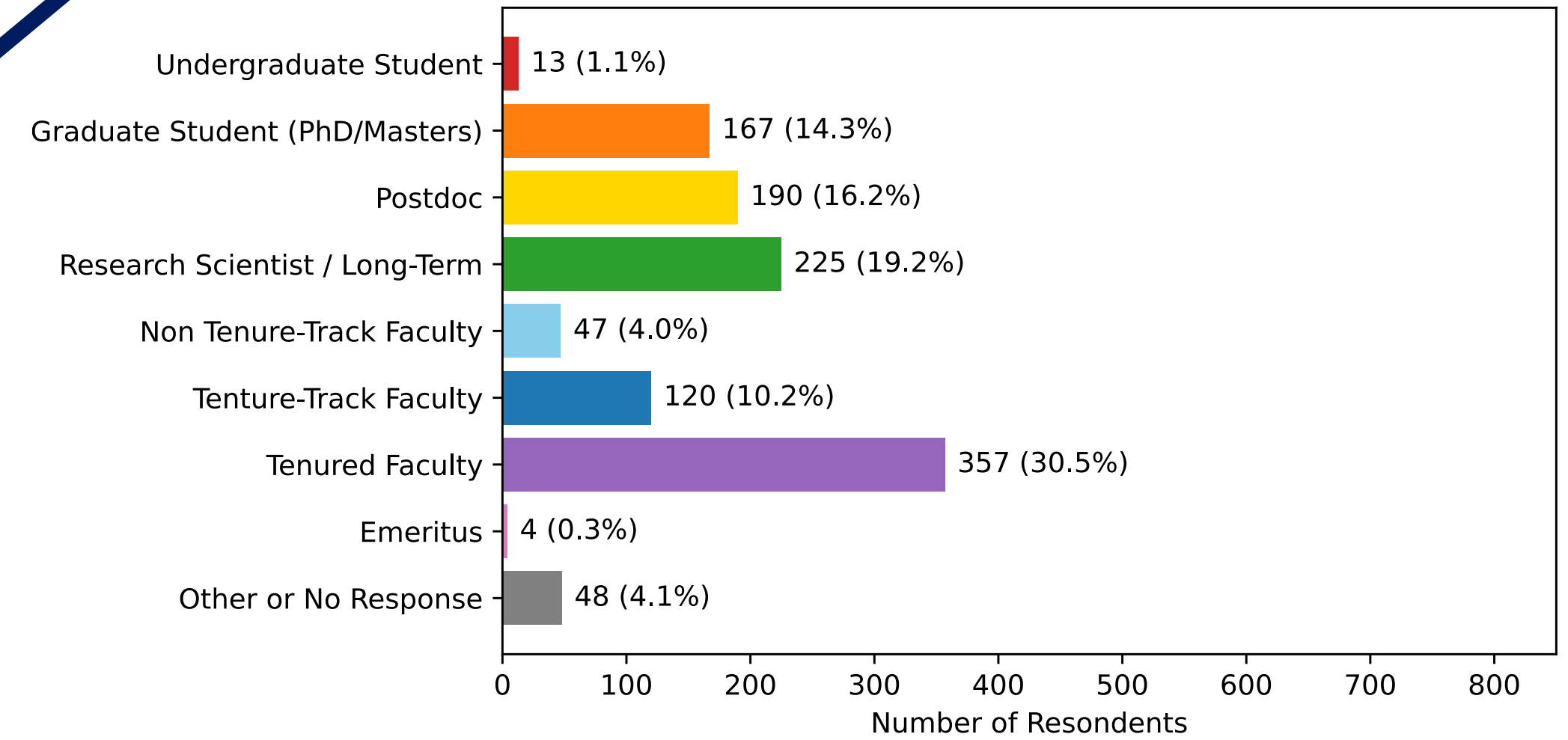
Potential Benefits/Downsides of Reduced EAP / Career Stage



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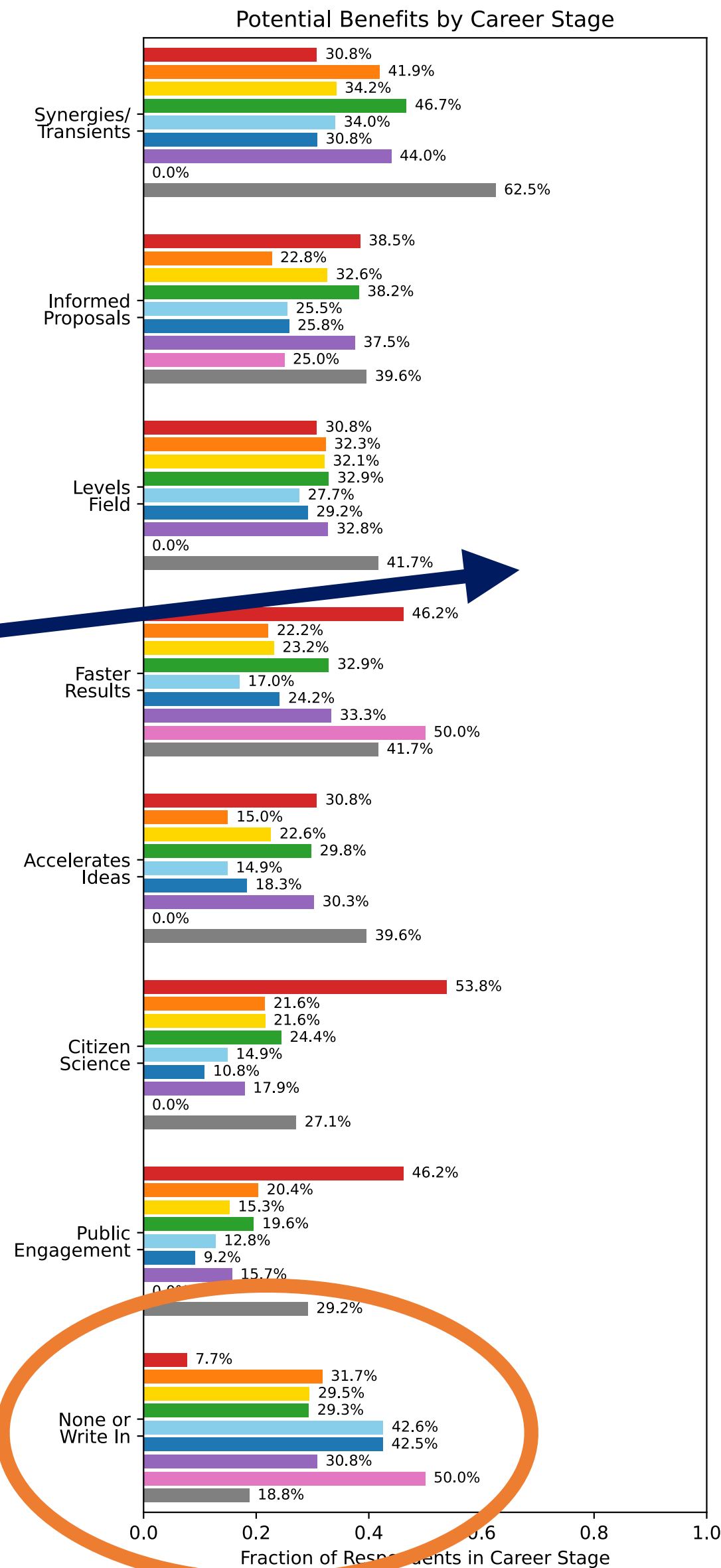


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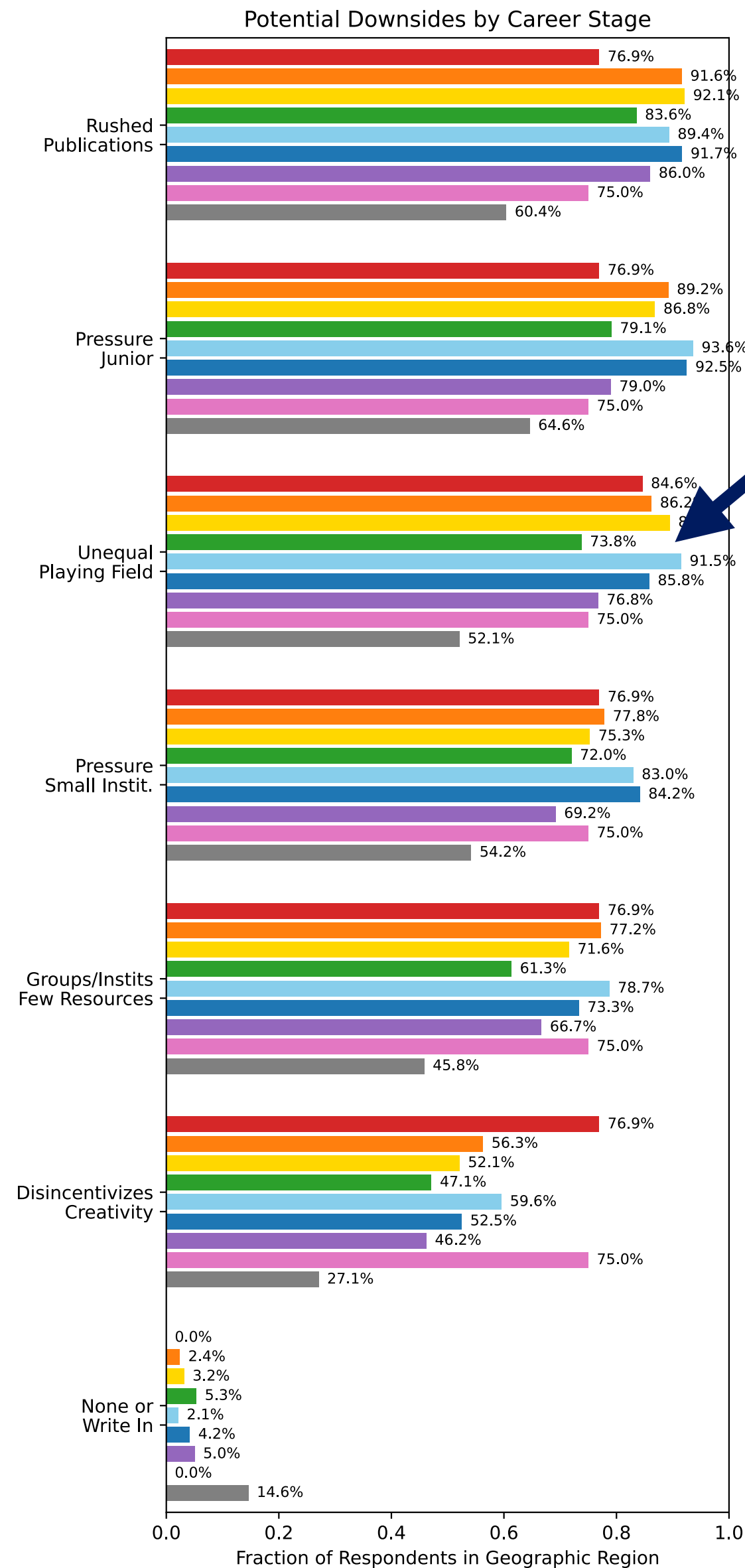




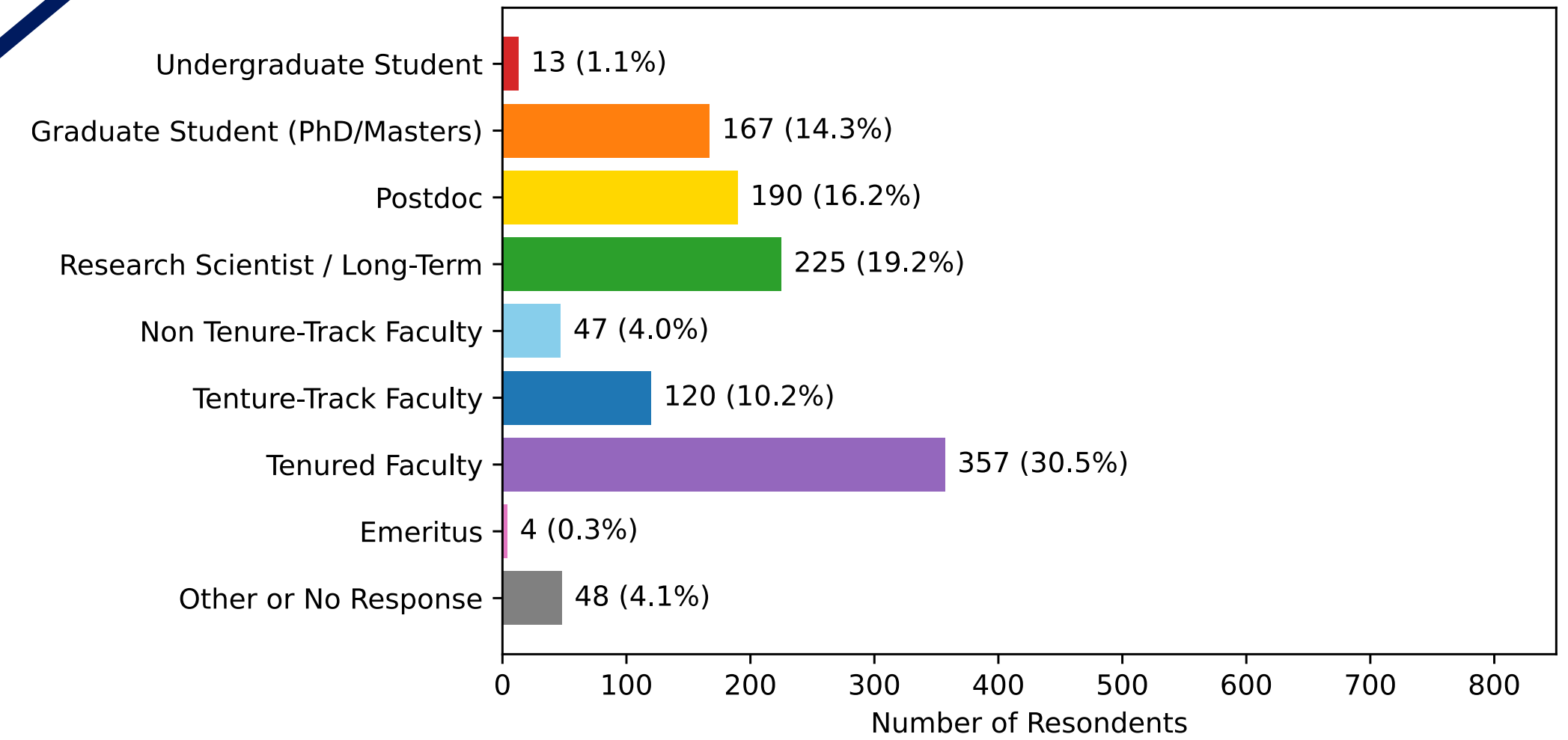
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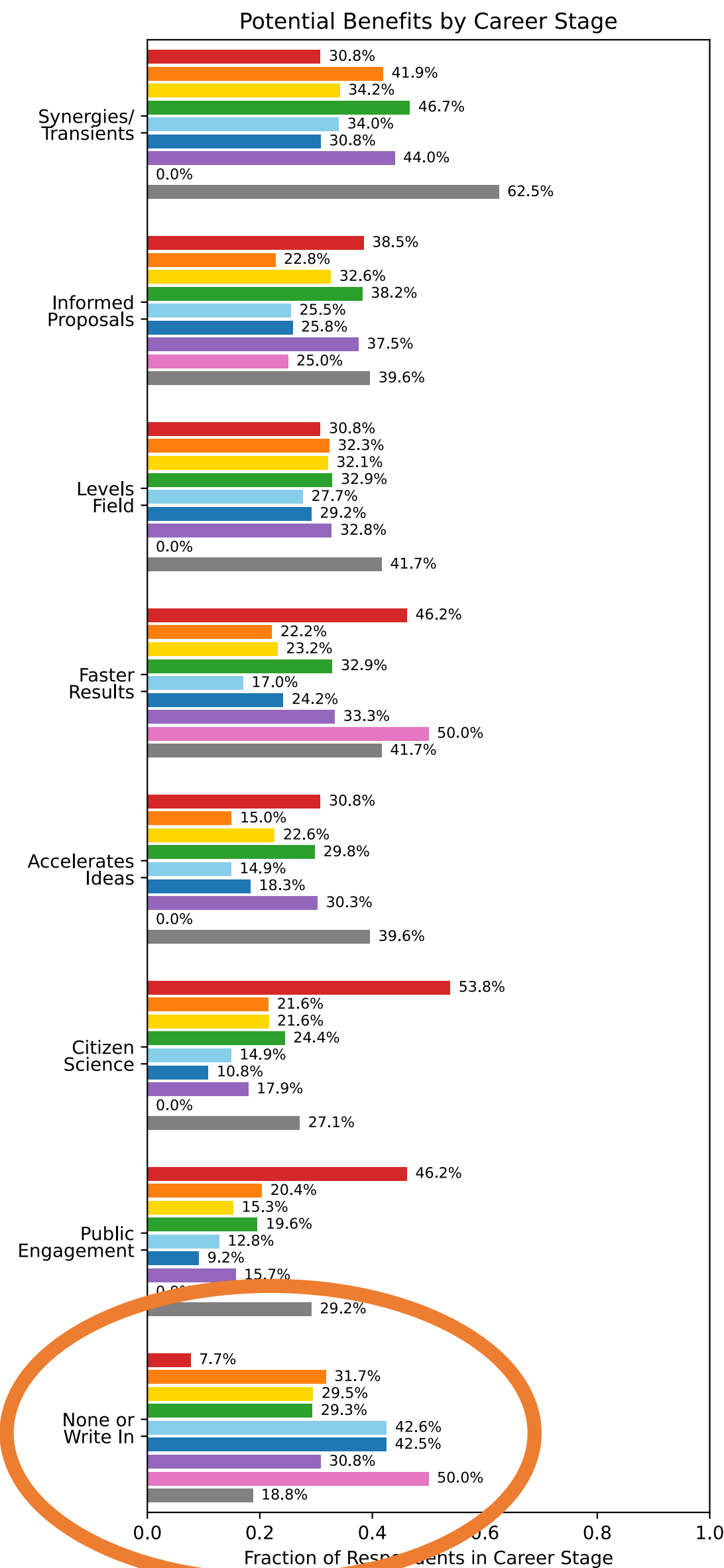


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Potential Benefits/Downsides of Reduced EAP / Career Stage



Some genuine potential benefits:

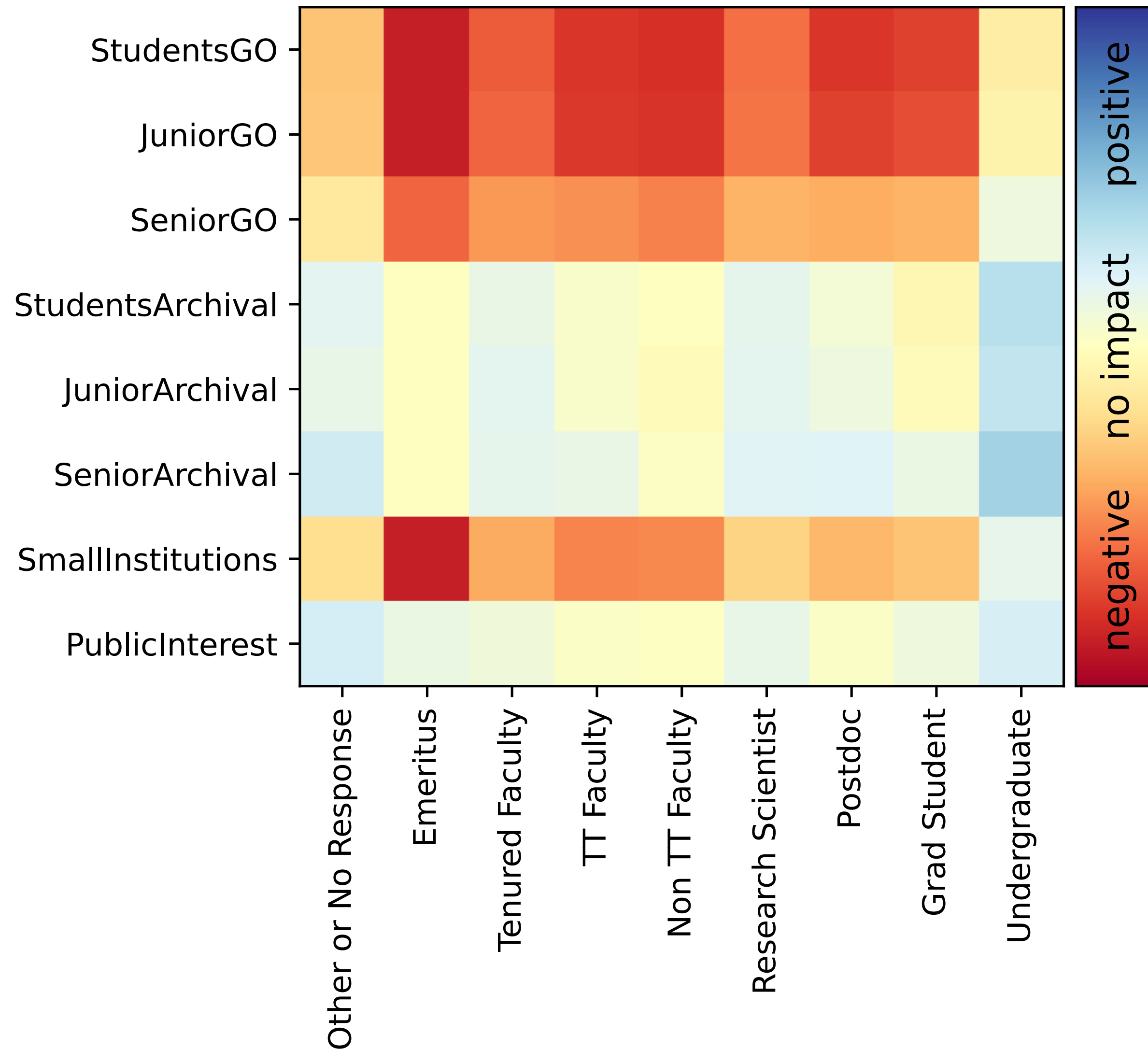
- Helps researchers with language barriers.
- Those who don't have access to a supportive community of mentors and resource analysts would have access to the data at the same time as their more well resourced colleagues.
- It will make the field much more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. It enables access to datasets required to be a successful astronomer. This obviously has a cascading effect in terms of who gets to do astronomy.

Some where a no response didn't suffice:

- There are no benefits.
- I really don't see any benefits. There is no need to share the photons right away.
- I see no positives that outweigh the negatives.
- I see zero benefits whatsoever. None of the above items will/would actually happen, and certainly not by making results or analyses that stand the test of time.
- There are no overall benefits that are in the public interest.
- <redacted for rudeness>



Impacts of reduced or zero EAP / Career Stage



- +2** : mostly positive
- +1** : somewhat positive
- 0** : no impact
- 1** : somewhat negative
- 2** : mostly negative

Calculated average of responses in each bin.



Preliminary results so far

- A minority of the astronomy community favours moving to zero EAP.
- A majority does not favour moving to zero EAP and feels:
 - The disadvantages significantly outweigh the advantages.
 - Junior researchers (students and postdocs) and researchers at small/low-resource/teaching-heavy institutions will be most impacted.
 - **These results do not vary with research field, career stage, or geographic region.**
- A large fraction of the community had already explored JWST by mid-February. (Very likely more now 7 months later!)



Next Steps

- Finish analysing the survey and compile report.
- Form a working group including STUC and JSTUC members.
- Working group will review the report and provide input to the STScI Director (and NASA).

- Anticipated timeline: report ready by mid-October.



Summary

This is still a work in progress...
More to come!