

DISCCRS VI: Profile of Early-Career Climate Researchers registered with DISCCRS September 1, 2009 – February 28, 2011

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Background. The Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research, DISCCRS (<http://discrs.org>), is a capstone program to bring together new Ph.D. scholars from the natural and social sciences, mathematics, engineering and other fields related to climate change, impacts and solutions. Recent Ph.D.s are targeted in order to introduce graduates to the community and to catalyze interdisciplinary understanding, to develop professional skills and to foster collaborative interactions. Central to this initiative are annual symposia and electronic resources (a webpage and weekly newsletter). The intensive, week-long **symposia** bring together international, interdisciplinary cohorts of recent graduates who are selected through a competitive application process. The symposia provide a forum where these future leaders can expand their scientific and professional outlook and forge lifelong interdisciplinary collegial networks. Reports on the DISCCRS I through V Symposia are available at <http://discrs.org>. An **electronic newsletter** disseminates news, resources, job announcements and other time-sensitive information to a global audience on a weekly basis. The **webpage** at <http://discrs.org> includes an online Ph.D. Dissertation Registry, <http://discrs.org/search.html>. Over 1,500 dissertations have been registered to date. This page showcases work across disciplinary and geographic boundaries. The webpage also provides global access to resources developed for and by symposium participants.

As part of the process to register dissertation abstracts, graduates are asked to complete a demographic profile so that the characteristics of interdisciplinary climate scholars can be documented and tracked.

This paper summarizes data collected from 318 early career scholars who registered for the DISCCRS VI program between September 1, 2009 – February 28, 2011.

Recruitment. The following research societies support DISCCRS by announcing the Symposia, the Dissertation Registry, the website, and other elements of the program to their members: Association of American Geographers (**AAG**), Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (**AERE**), American Geophysical Union (**AGU**), American Meteorological Society (**AMS**), American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (**ASLO**), Ecological Society of America (**ESA**), Environmental Studies Section of the International Studies Association (**ESS-ISA**), Science, Technology and Environmental Politics Section of the American Political Science Association (**STEP/APSA**), The Oceanography Society (**TOS**), and U.S. Society for Ecological Economics (**USSEE**). These sponsoring societies provide links from their pages to the DISCCRS website, distribute program announcements at their annual meetings and advertise the program through their publications and/or electronic communication. Announcements are also distributed through community email lists (view list at <http://discrs.org/news.html>), the DISCCRS weekly

newsletter, and a list of academic departments and individuals engaged in climate research. In all, 318 scholars registered and 204 of these applied for the DISCCRS VI Symposium.

CHARACTERISTICS OF DISCCRS REGISTRANTS

The DISCCRS program is international, with citizens of 96 countries registering since the Registry began in 2002. Throughout this report, membership in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was used to classify countries as “developed,” with all other countries classified as “developing.”

The full DISCCRS I – VI registry includes over 1500 registrants representing over 450 different Ph.D. granting institutions. Of the 318 DISCCRS VI registrants, 179 (56.3%) received their Ph.D. from United States institutions (Table I) and 139 (43.7%) from institutions outside the United States (Table II).

The DISCCRS VI cycle targeted graduates with Ph.D. degrees completed September 1, 2009 – February 28, 2011. A total of 318 abstracts were registered during that 35-month period. Of these 318 registrants, 170 (53.5%) registered within 12 months of completing their Ph.D. The majority, 261 (82.1%), registered in the 4 months prior to the March 7, 2011 DISCCRS VI Symposium application deadline.

[Note: Figures referenced below can be found starting on page 8 of this document.]

Citizenship (Figure 1). Figure 1 summarizes citizenship by geographic region for DISCCRS VI registrants. The Dissertation Registry attracted 318 recent graduates who were citizens of 52 countries. Of these, 125 were citizens of the United States. The rest were citizens of: Algeria (1), Argentina (1), Australia (10), Bangladesh (4), Brazil (4), Burkina Faso (1), Cameroon (2), Canada (22), China (19), Colombia (1), Ecuador (1), Egypt (1), Ethiopia (1), Finland (1), France (2), Germany (8), Ghana (2), Iceland (1), India (14), Indonesia (3), Iran (4), Iraq (1), Israel (1), Italy (5), Japan (5), Kenya (4), Korea, South (2), Malaysia (1), Mexico (2), Morocco (1), Netherlands (8), Nigeria (6), Pakistan (2), Philippines (4), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Romania (1), Russia (4), South Africa (1), Spain (6), Sri Lanka (1), Sudan (1), Sweden (2), Switzerland (3), Taiwan, Republic of China (5), Tanzania (1), Tunisia (1), Turkey (1), Uganda (3), United Kingdom (10) and Zimbabwe (1). Five did not specify their citizenship.

Country of Ph.D. (Figure 2). Figure 2 summarizes country of Ph.D. by geographic region. Of the 318 registrants, 179 (56.3%) completed their Ph.D. in the United States and of these 122 (68.1%) were American citizens. The remaining 57 graduates from United States institutions were citizens of: Argentina (1), Bangladesh (1), Canada (7), China (13), Colombia (1), Ecuador (1), France (2), Germany (1), Iceland (1), India (2), Indonesia (1), Iran (1), Iraq (1), Italy (1), Japan (2), Korea, South (2), Mexico (1), Netherlands (1), Philippines (2), Portugal (1), Romania (1), Russia (2), Sri Lanka (1), Sudan (1), Taiwan, Republic of China (5), Tanzania (1), Tunisia (1) and Turkey (1). One with a United States Ph.D. did not specify citizenship. Of the 125 American citizens who registered, only three completed a Ph.D. outside the United States. These three completed Ph.D.s in Canada (1), New Zealand (1) and Switzerland (1).

Country of Residence (Figure 3). This population of recent Ph.D. graduates is quite mobile and may have moved between when they completed their Ph.D. and when they registered. The

majority 177 (55.7%) resided in the United States when they registered. There were 82 (25.8%) registrants residing in other developed countries and 59 (18.6%) registrants residing in developing countries.

Age at Ph.D. (Figures 4a and 4b). Of the 318 who registered, 299 (94.0%) indicated their month and year of birth. Of these 299, the average age at Ph.D. was 33.1 years (median 31.8). Of the 125 American registrants, 119 provided their date of birth with an average age at Ph.D. of 32.7 years and median age 31.4 years. The average and median ages at Ph.D. among the 71 reporting American females were 32.7 and 31.3, respectively. Corresponding figures for the 48 reporting American males were 32.8 average and 32.1 median.

DISCCRS Registration and Completion of Ph.D. (Figure 5). Of the 318 registrants, 151 (47.5%) registered within 9 months post degree, 228 (71.7%) within 18 months and 265 (83.3%) within 24 months.

Gender (Figure 6). Of the 318 registrants, 314 indicated gender with 146 (46.5%) female and 168 (53.5%) male. Gender differences were found based on citizenship groupings. Of the 125 American citizens (100% response rate), 74 (59.2%) of registrants were female and 51 (40.8%) male. Among the 85 of 87 citizens from developed countries who responded, 40 (47.1%) of registrants were female and 45 (52.9%) male. Among the 101 citizens of developing countries (100% response rate), 31 (30.7%) of registrants were female and 70 (69.3%) were male.

Differences in the proportion of women who registered were also based on country of Ph.D. Women constituted 55.3%, 37.6% and 28.6% of registrants with Ph.D. degrees from the United States, developed countries and developing countries, respectively.

Ethnicity (Figure 7). Of the 125 American citizens who registered, 122 (96.7%) provided ethnicity. Of these, 8 (5.7%) were underrepresented minorities. This included 1 (0.8%) African American, 1 (0.8%) African American – German – Native American, 1 (0.8%) American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 (1.7%) Hispanic/Latino, 2 (1.7%) Hispanic/Latino – Puerto Rican and 1 (0.8%) White - Brazilian.

Field of study (Figures 8a, 8b, and 8c). The 318 registrants completed their PhD in the following fields: 143 (45.0%) physical sciences, 107 (33.6%) biological/ecological sciences, 56 (17.6%) social sciences and 12 (3.8%) mathematics or engineering. Of the 125 American citizens, 53 (42.4%) were physical scientists, 50 (40.0%) were biological/ecological scientists, 22 (17.6%) social scientists, and none indicated mathematics or engineering. The 101 citizens of developing countries indicated physical science (45 or 44.6%), biological/ecological science (33 or 32.7%), 14 (13.9%) social science and 9 (8.9%) math or engineering.

Employment Sector (Figure 9). Given the intervals between Ph.D. completion and DISCCRS registration, most were likely to be on their first job or waiting for their first job. The majority of the 177 United States residents who registered (133 or 75.1%) were employed in academia, 41 (23.2%) were employed in other sectors and 3 (1.7%) were unemployed. Of the 82 registrants from other developed countries, 2 (2.4%) stated they were unemployed, and 1 (1.7%) of the 59 residents of developing countries indicated they were unemployed.

Job Status (Figure 10). Of the 174 United States residents who were employed, 127 (73.0%) were on postdocs, 12 (6.9%) were in other temporary work, and 35 (20.1%) held permanent or potentially permanent positions. Of the 79 residents of other developed countries who were employed, 67 (84.8%) were on postdocs, 8 (10.1%) were in other temporary work, and 4 (5.1%) held permanent or potentially permanent positions. Fifty-eight of the residents of developing countries were employed, with 15 (25.9%) on postdocs, 12 (20.7%) were in other temporary work, and 31 (53.4%) held permanent or potentially permanent positions.

Perceptions of the job market (Figure 11). Registrants were asked to rate the job market as excellent, good, neutral/fair, bad, or hopeless. Of the 318 registrants, 305 provided both citizenship and job market perceptions. Of 125 American citizens, 123 (98.4%) indicated their perception of the job market. Responses of the American citizens were: 2 (1.6%) excellent; 20 (16.3%) good; 64 (52.0%) neutral/fair; 34 (27.6%) bad; and 3 (2.4%) hopeless. For other developed countries 84 of 87 (96.6%) responded, with: 1 (1.2%) excellent; 14 (16.7%) good; 40 (47.6%) neutral/fair; 28 (33.3%) bad; and 1 (1.2%) hopeless. For developing countries, 98 of 101 (97.0%) responded, with: 9 (9.2%) excellent; 34 (34.7%) good; 35 (35.7%) neutral/fair; 18 (18.3%) bad; and 2 (2.0%) hopeless.

Marital Status (Figure 12). Of the 318 registrants, 305 (95.9%) provided information on marital status. Of these, 183 (60.0%) were married. Among the American citizens, 123 of 125 (98.4%) provided marital status, with 76 (61.8%) married. Of these Americans, 38 (74.5%) of 51 males and 38 (52.8%) of 72 females were married, 3 (5.9%) males and 8 (11.1%) females were in permanent relationships, 9 (17.6%) males and 23 (31.9%) females were single, 1 (2.0%) male and 3 (4.2%) females were either separated or divorced.

Children (Figure 13). Overall 287 of the 318 registrants (90.3%) provided information about number of children. The majority (187 or 65.2%) of the 287 had no children. There were gender differences: overall, only 33 (24.4%) of the 135 females had at least one child compared with 67 (44.0%) of the 152 males. Of the 125 American registrants, 117 (93.6%) indicated number of children. Of the 69 American females, 15 (21.7%) had at least one child; and of the 48 American males, 18 (37.5%) had at least one child.

It is sad to see that female scholars continue to face a “penalty” when it comes to marriage and children. As Rossi so eloquently stated back in 1965, "Marriage, parenthood and meaningful work are major experiences in the adventure of life. No society can consider that the disadvantages of women have been overcome so long as the pursuit of a career exacts a personal deprivation of marriage and parenthood, or the pursuit of happiness in marriage and family life robs a woman of fulfillment in meaningful work."

DISCCRS SYMPOSIA

Five DISCCRS Symposia have been held to date: DISCCRS I, March 10-15, 2003, Guanica, Puerto Rico; DISCCRS II, March 26 – April 2, 2006, Pacific Grove, California; DISCCRS III, September 10-17, 2007, Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i, DISCCRS IV, November 2-9, 2008, Tonto National Forest, Arizona; and DISCCRS V, March 13-20, 2010, Tonto National Forest, Arizona. DISCCRS VI is scheduled for October 22-29, 2011 at La Foret Conference Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Symposium Application Success rates: The success rate of applicants for DISCCRS VI symposium selection was 16.7% (204 applications and 34 invitations). United States citizens was 25.8% (93 applications and 24 invitations). The success rate for United States residents was 22.4% (125 applications and 28 invitations).

Reports on all 5 DISCCRS Symposia are located on the DISCCRS webpage (<http://discrs.org/reports>).

References

Rossi, A.S., 1965: Women in science: Why so few? *Science* 148. 1196-1202.

Acknowledgments

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Table I. United States institutions granting Ph.D. degrees to DISCCRS VI dissertation registrants. Of the 318 graduates who registered, 179 (56.3%) completed their Ph.D. in the U.S. There are 74 U.S. institutions represented. Number of registrants and institution name is provided.

1 Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical Univ.	2 Univ. of California at Irvine
3 Arizona State Univ.	2 Univ. of California at San Diego
2 Brown Univ.	2 Univ. of California at Santa Barbara
3 Carnegie Mellon Univ.	2 Univ. of California at Santa Cruz
1 College of William and Mary	1 Univ. of Chicago
2 Colorado State Univ.	1 Univ. of Cincinnati
1 Columbia Univ.	4 Univ. of Colorado at Boulder
4 Duke Univ.	2 Univ. of Delaware
1 Florida State Univ.	3 Univ. of Florida
2 Georgia Institute of Technology	4 Univ. of Georgia
1 Harvard Univ.	1 Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa
1 Indiana Univ.	1 Univ. of Houston
1 Iowa State Univ.	1 Univ. of Illinois at Chicago
1 Louisiana State Univ.	3 Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
3 Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1 Univ. of Kentucky
3 Michigan State Univ.	1 Univ. of Maine at Orono
1 Michigan Technological Univ.	7 Univ. of Maryland at College Park
1 Montana State Univ.	1 Univ. of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
1 Naval Postgraduate School	3 Univ. of Michigan
1 New Jersey Institute of Technology	4 Univ. of Minnesota at Twin Cities
1 North Carolina State Univ.	2 Univ. of Montana at Missoula
2 Northern Arizona Univ.	1 Univ. of Nevada at Reno
1 Northwestern Univ.	1 Univ. of New Mexico
8 Oregon State Univ.	5 Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
3 Pennsylvania State Univ.	1 Univ. of Oregon
4 Princeton Univ.	5 Univ. of Rhode Island
1 Purdue Univ.	2 Univ. of South Florida
1 Rice Univ.	1 Univ. of Southern California
6 Rutgers Univ.	1 Univ. of Utah
1 Southern Illinois Univ.	6 Univ. of Washington
7 Stanford Univ.	3 Univ. of Wisconsin at Madison
2 State Univ. of New York at Stony Brook	1 Univ. of Wisconsin at Milwaukee
5 Texas A & M Univ.	1 Virginia Tech
1 Tulane Univ.	1 Washington State Univ.
4 Univ. of Alaska at Fairbanks	1 West Virginia Univ.
6 Univ. of Arizona	1 Yale Univ.
6 Univ. of California at Berkeley	
7 Univ. of California at Davis	

Table II. Institutions from countries outside the U.S. granting Ph.D. degrees to DISCCRS VI dissertation registrants. Of the 318 graduates who registered with DISCCRS VI, 139 (43.7%) completed their Ph.D. outside the United States, with 107 institutions represented in this group. The 72 institutions from developing countries are listed on top followed by the 35 developing country institutions.

<p># Institution (Country) 1 Concordia Univ. (Canada) 2 Dalhousie Univ. (Canada) 1 Edinburgh Napier Univ. (United Kingdom) 2 ETH Zurich (Switzerland) 1 Friedrich-Schiller-Univ. at Jena (Germany) 2 Georg-August-Univ. Goettingen (Germany) 1 Hokkaido Univ. (Japan) 1 Imperial College (United Kingdom) 1 Instituto de Ciencias del Mar (ICM-CSIC) (Spain) 1 Irish EPA (Ireland) 1 Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium) 1 Kiel Univ. (Germany) 1 Laval Univ. (Canada) 1 Loughborough Univ. (United Kingdom) 1 Maastricht Univ. (Netherlands) 2 Macquarie Univ. (Australia) 1 Martin Luther Univ. at Halle-Wittenberg (Germany) 1 McGill Univ. (Canada) 2 Monash Univ. (Australia) 1 Nagoya Univ. (Japan) 1 Queen's Univ. (Canada) 1 Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) (Sweden) 1 Sapienza Univ. of Rome (Italy) 1 Stockholm Univ. (Sweden) 1 Swedish Univ. of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden) 1 Tohoku Univ. (Japan) 1 Tokai Univ. (Japan) 1 Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan) 1 TU Bergakademie Freiberg (Germany) 1 Univ. of Bremen (Germany) 1 Universidad de Cantabria (Spain) 1 Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) (Spain) 1 Universite Bordeaux I (United Kingdom) 1 Université du Québec à Montréal (Canada) 1 Université Paul Sabatier-Toulouse III (France) 1 Univ. College London (United Kingdom)</p>	<p># Institution (Country) 2 Univ. of Alberta (Canada) 2 Univ. of Barcelona (Spain) 1 Univ. of Basel (Switzerland) 2 Univ. of Bergen (Norway) 1 Univ. of Bremen (Germany) 1 Univ. of Bristol (United Kingdom) 4 Univ. of British Columbia (Canada) 1 Univ. of Caen at Lower Normandy (France) 2 Univ. of Cambridge (United Kingdom) 1 Univ. of Canterbury (New Zealand) 1 Univ. of Copenhagen (Denmark) 1 Univ. of Dundee (United Kingdom) 3 Univ. of East Anglia (United Kingdom) 1 Univ. of Eastern Finland (Finland) 1 Univ. of Edinburgh (United Kingdom) 1 Univ. of Granada (Spain) 1 Univ. of Guelph (Canada) 1 Univ. of Hamburg (Germany) 1 Univ. of Kalmar (Sweden) 1 Univ. of Melbourne (Australia) 1 Univ. of New Brunswick (Canada) 1 Univ. of New South Wales (Australia) 1 Univ. of Oxford (United Kingdom) 1 Univ. of Plymouth (United Kingdom) 1 Univ. of Rostock (Germany) 1 Univ. of Salford (United Kingdom) 1 Univ. of South Australia (Australia) 6 Univ. of Tasmania (Australia) 1 Univ. of Tokyo (Japan) 3 Univ. of Toronto (Canada) 1 Univ. of Utrecht (Netherlands) 2 Univ. of Victoria (Canada) 2 Univ. of Vigo (Spain) 1 Univ. of Wollongong (Australia) 1 Univ. of York (United Kingdom) 3 Utrecht Univ. (Netherlands)</p>
<p># Institution (Country) 1 Adam Mickiewicz Univ. (Poland) 1 Alexandria Univ. (Egypt) 1 Andhra Univ. (India) 2 Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) (Thailand) 2 Chinese Academy of Sciences (China) 1 Cochin Univ. of Science & Technology (India) 1 Goa Univ. (India) 1 Hebrew Univ. at Jerusalem (Israel) 2 Indian Institute of Science (India) 1 Indian Institute of Technology at Bombay (India) 1 Institute of Atmospheric Physics, CAS (China) 1 Islamic Azad Univ. (Iran) 1 Jadavpur Univ. at Kolkata (India) 1 Jawaharlal Nehru Univ. (India) 2 Kwame Nkrumah Univ. of Science and Technology (Ghana) 1 Makerere Univ. (Uganda) 1 Masinde Muliro Univ. of Science and Technology (Kenya)</p>	<p># Institution (Country) 1 National Dairy Research Institute (India) 1 Pt. Ravishankar Shukla Univ. Raipur CG (India) 1 Qaid-i-Azam Univ. at Islamabad (Pakistan) 1 Russian State Hydrometeorological Univ. (Russia) 1 Saint-Petersburg State Univ. (Russia) 1 Tarbiat Modares Univ. (Iran) 1 Tel Aviv Univ. (Israel) 1 Universidade Federal Fuminense (Brazil) 1 Univ. Federal of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) 2 Univ. of Agriculture at Faisalabad (Pakistan) 1 Univ. of Benin (Nigeria) 1 Univ. of Calabar (Nigeria) 2 Univ. of Lagos (Nigeria) 1 Univ. of Nairobi (Kenya) 1 Univ. of Pune (India) 1 Univ. of São Paulo (Brazil) 1 Univ. of the Free State (South Africa) 2 Univ. of the Philippines at Los Banos (Philippines)</p>

Figure 1: Citizenship

Citizenship for the 318 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011), grouped by geographic region.

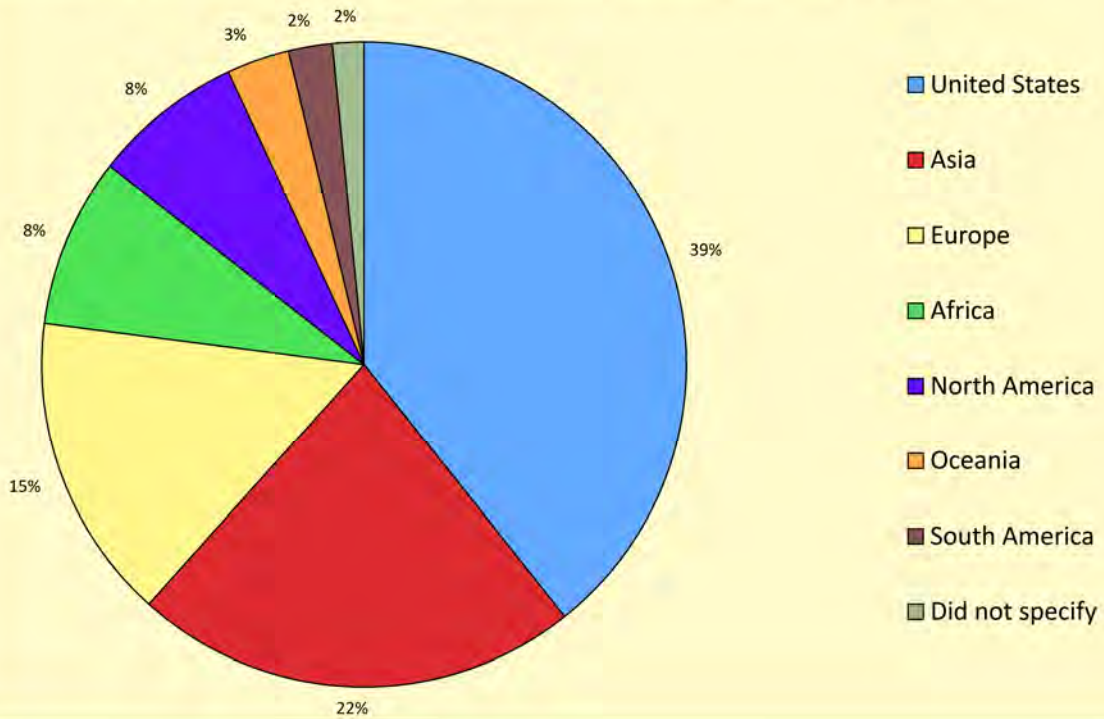


Figure 2: Country of Ph.D.

Country of Ph.D. for the 318 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011), grouped by geographic region.

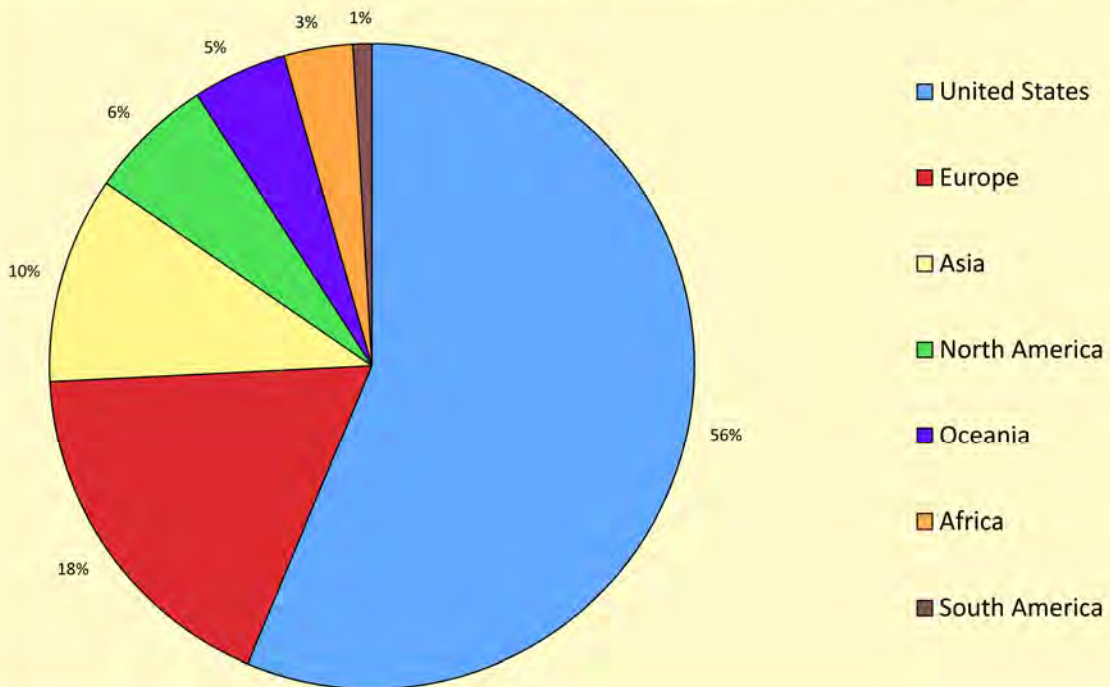


Figure 3: Country of Residence

Country of residence at the time of registration for the 318 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011), grouped by geographic region.

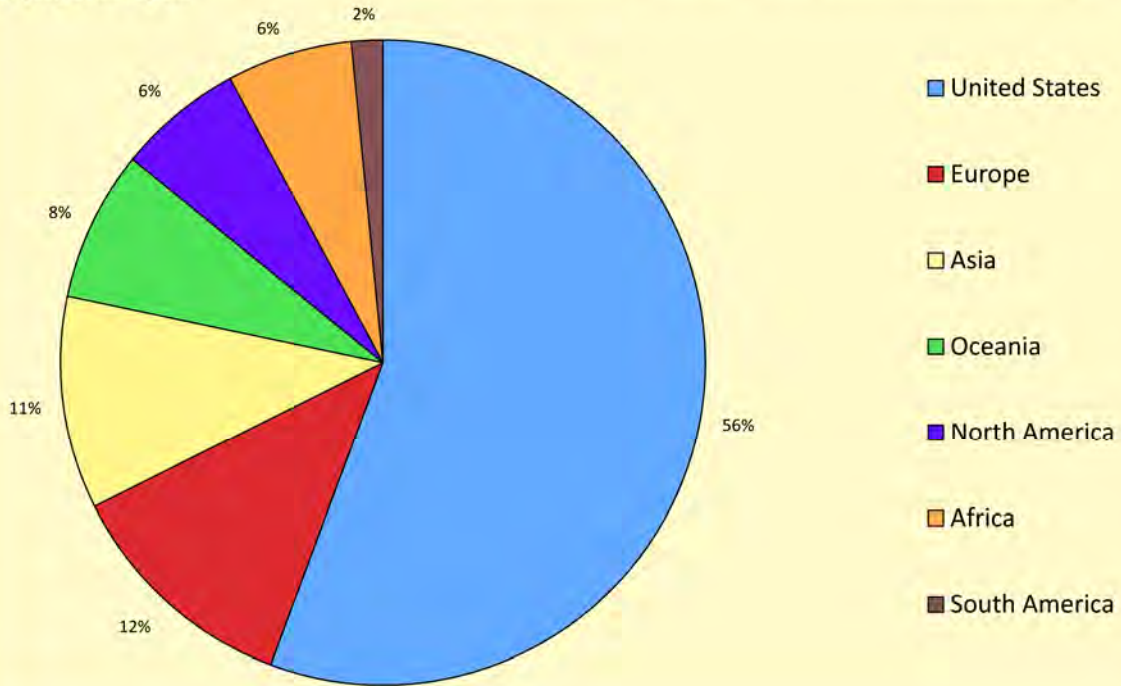


Figure 4a: Age at Ph.D.

Age at Ph.D. for the 299 of 318 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011), who provided age information. Average age at time of Ph.D. was 33.1 years.

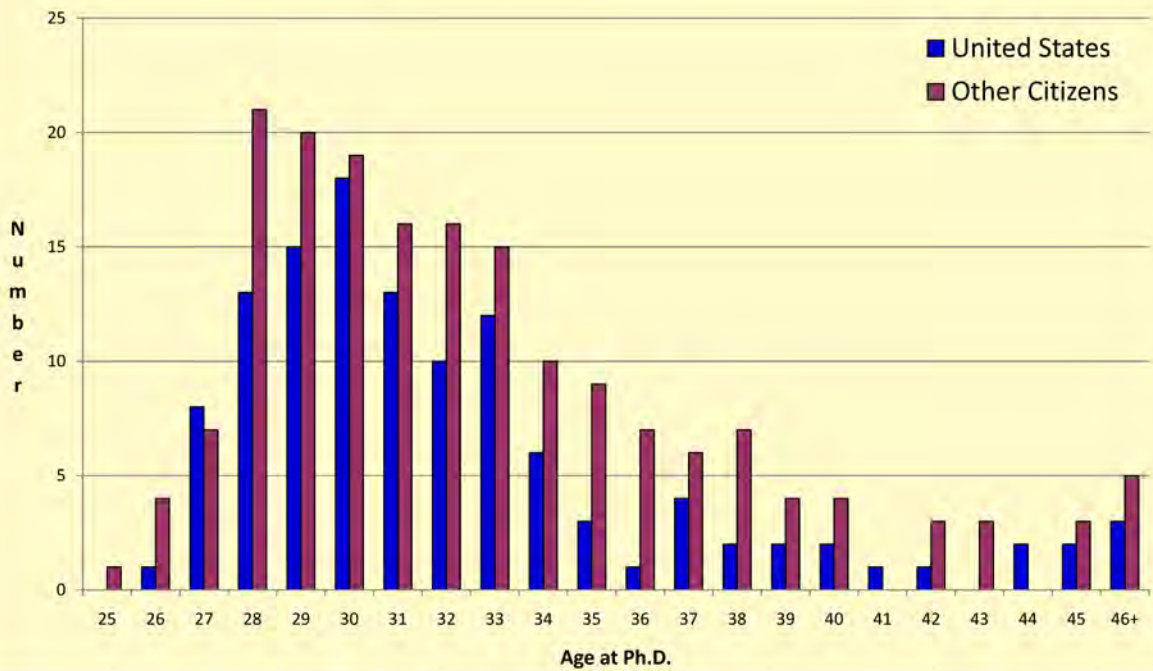


Figure 4b: Age at Ph.D.

Age at Ph.D. for the 119 of 125 United States citizen DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011), who provided age and gender information. Average age at time of Ph.D. was 32.7 years.

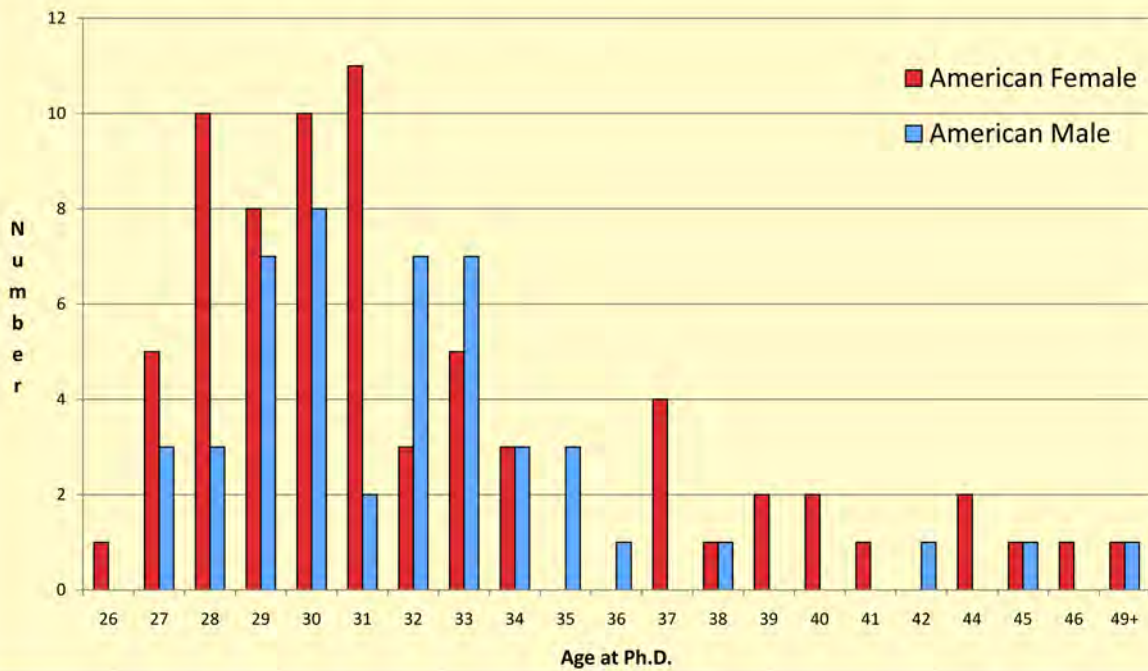


Figure 5: Time Interval between Ph.D. Completion and DISCCRS Registration

Time interval between Ph.D. completion and DISCCRS registration for the 318 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011). Most (54%) registered within 12 months of completing their Ph.D., and 72% within 18 months.

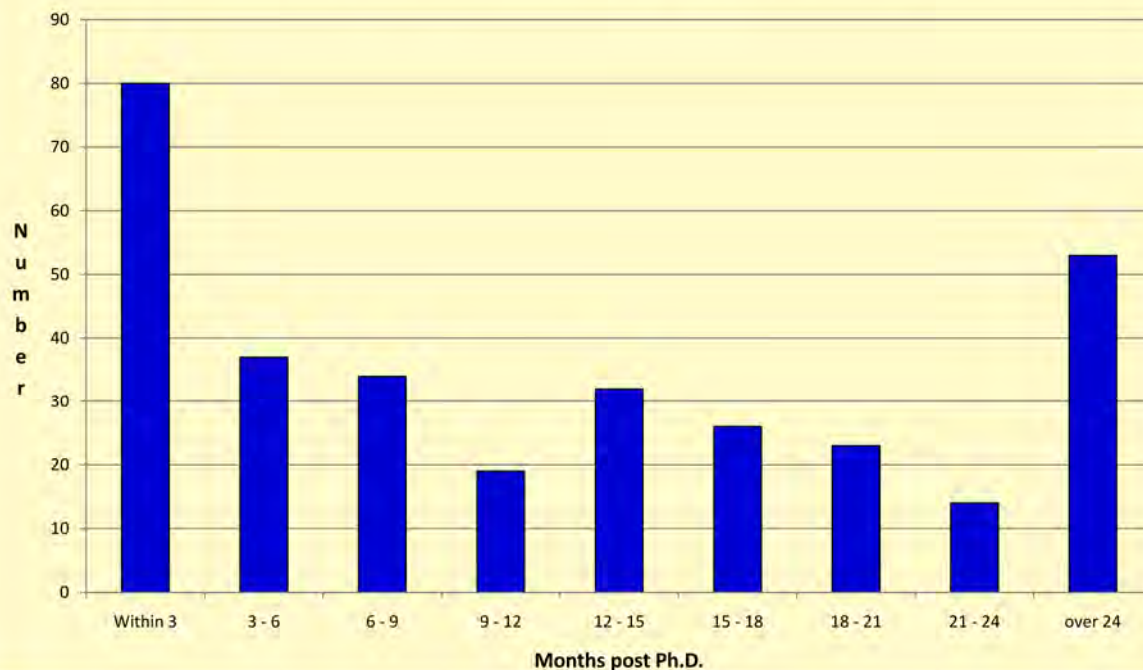


Figure 6: Gender

Gender for the 314 of 318 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011) who provided gender information.

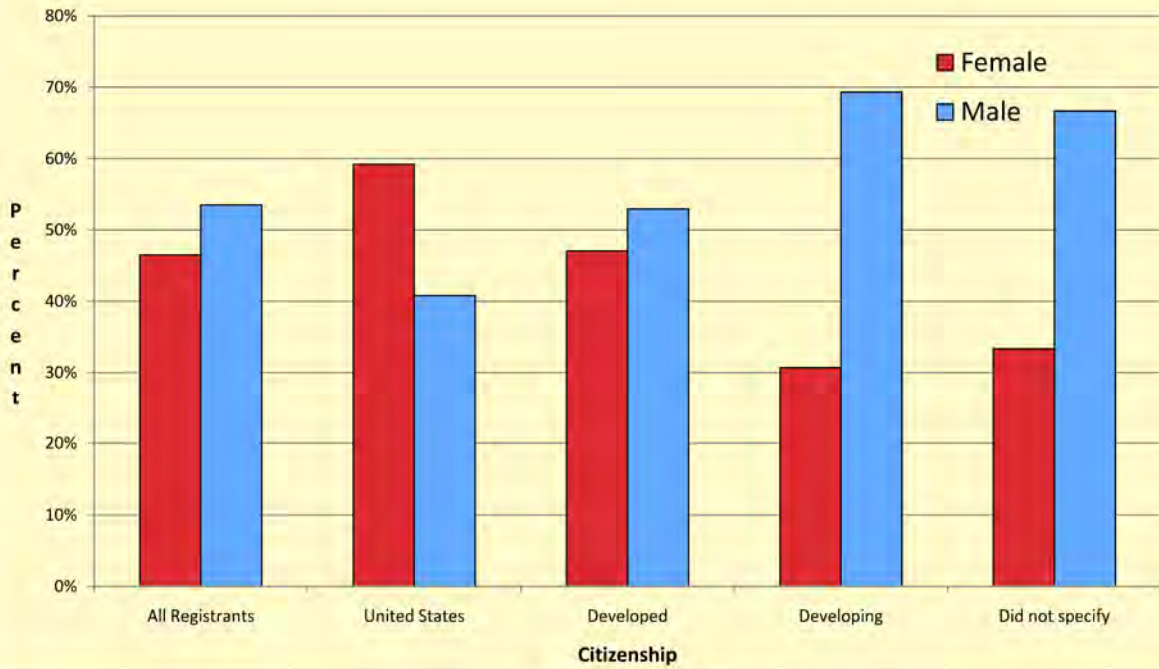


Figure 7: Ethnicity of American Citizens

Ethnicity of American citizens for the 122 of 125 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011) who provided ethnicity information.

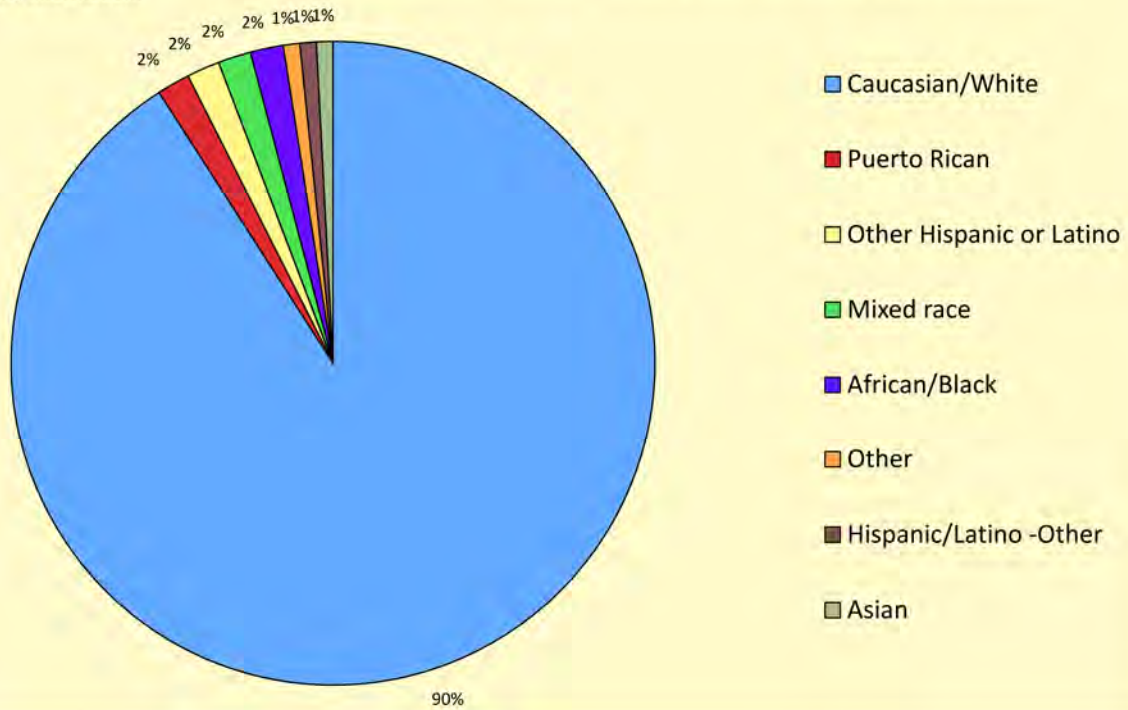


Figure 8a: Field of Study

Field of study for the 313 of 318 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011) who provided citizenship information, grouped by specialty and geographic region of citizenship.

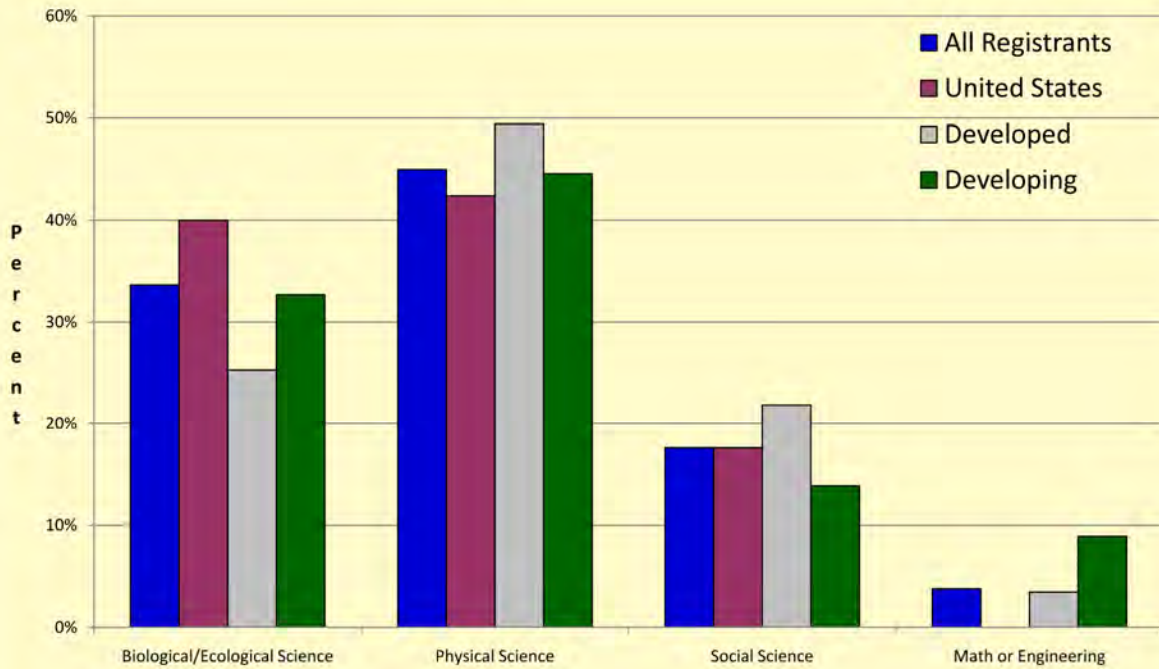


Figure 8b: Field of Study

Field of study for the 318 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011), grouped by specialty and geographic region where Ph.D. was awarded.

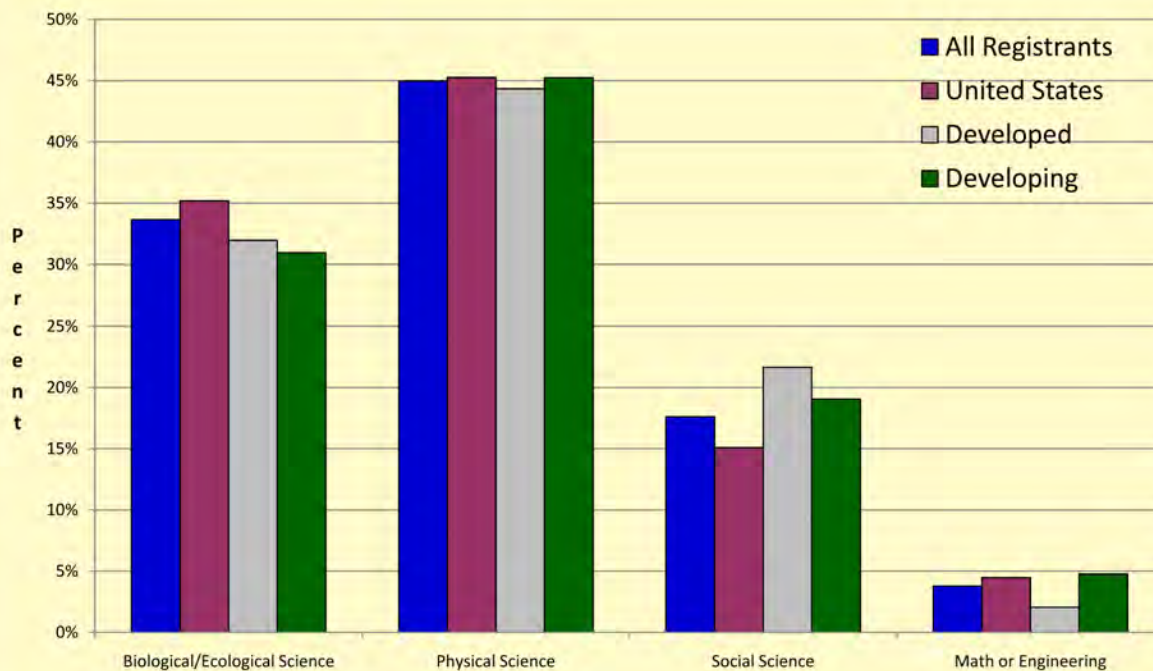


Figure 8c: Field of Study

Field of study for the 318 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011), grouped by geographic region where Ph.D. was awarded and specialty.

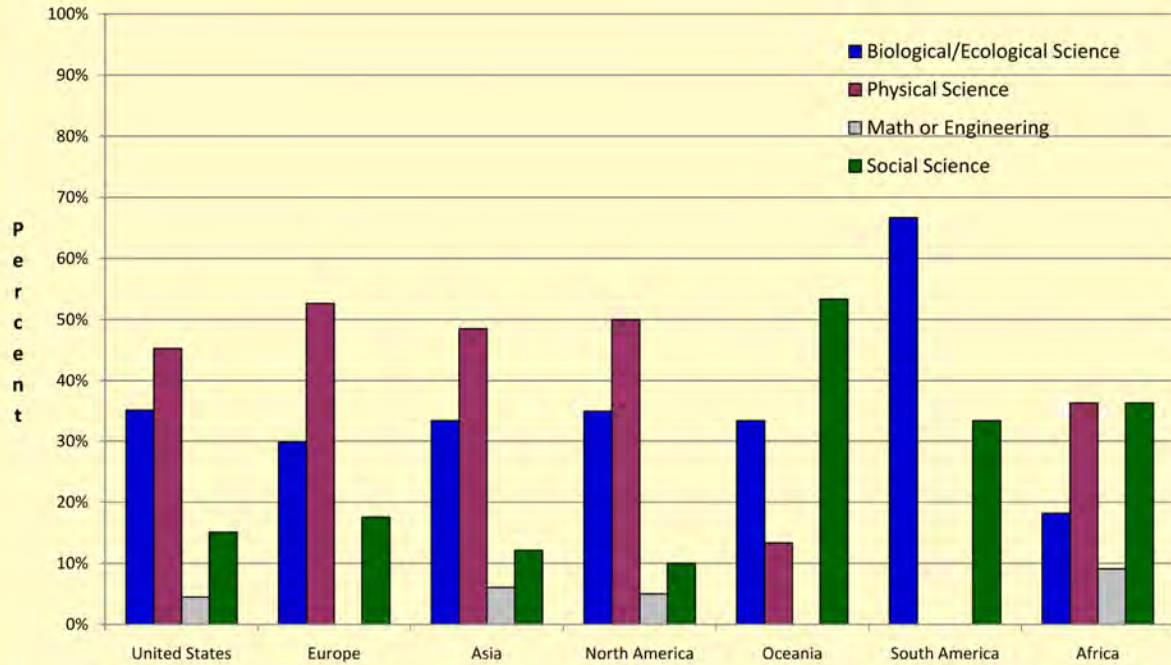


Figure 9: Employment Sector

Employment sector for the 177 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011), who were United States residents at the time of registration.

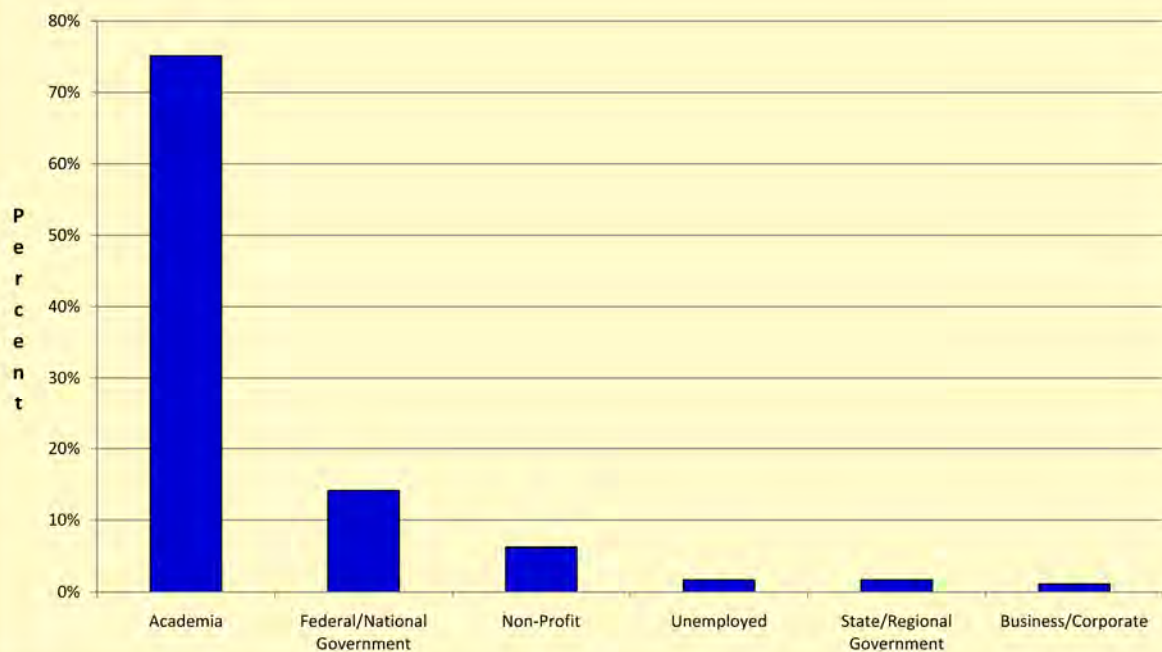


Figure 10: Job Status

Job status for the 317 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011) who provided job status information, grouped by country of residence at time of registration.

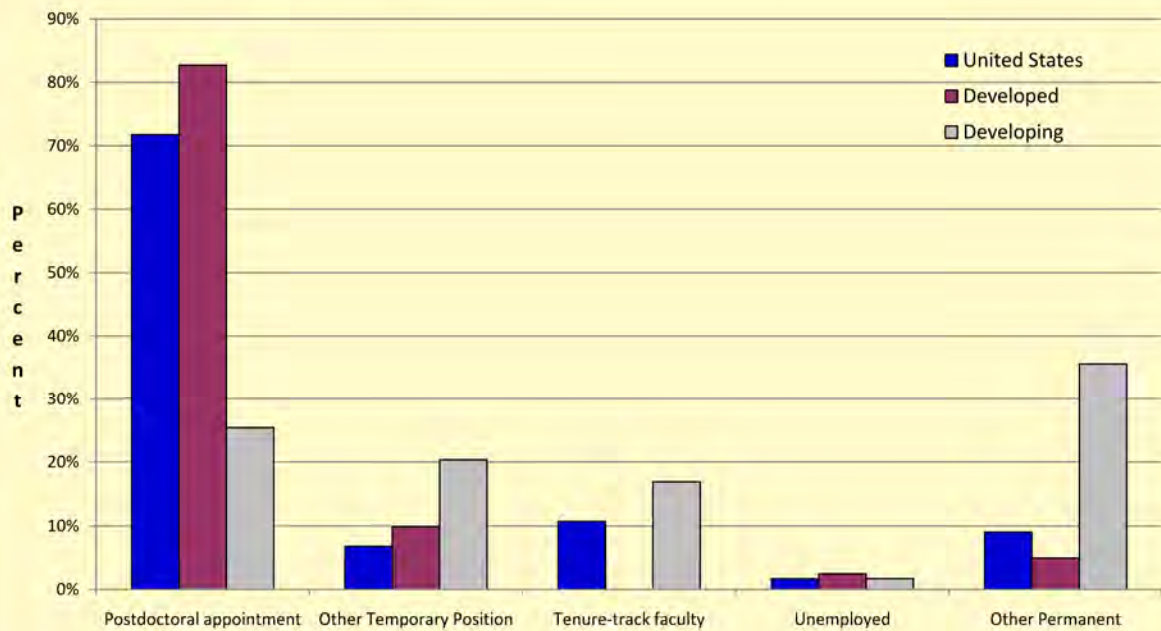


Figure 11: Job-market Perceptions

Job-market perceptions of the 305 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011) who provided both citizenship and job market perceptions.

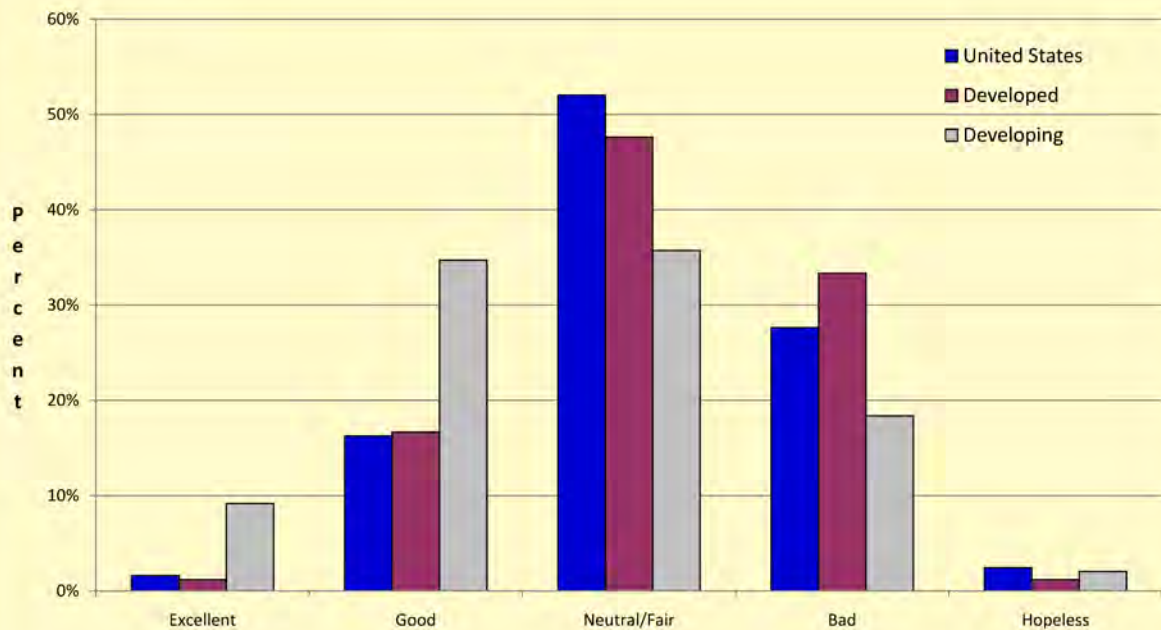


Figure 12: Marital Status

Marital status of the 123 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011) who were United States citizens and provided marital status.

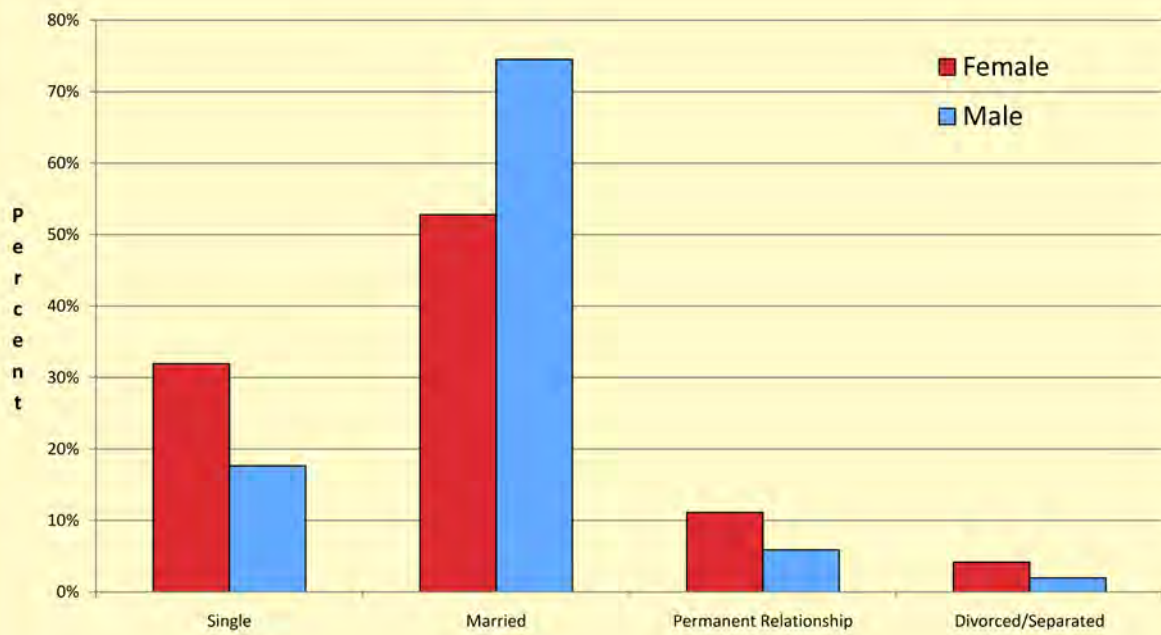


Figure 13: Children

Children reported by the 117 DISCCRS registrants (September 1, 2009 -February 28, 2011) who were United States citizens and provided information on number of children.

