

RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTE

May 6 - 7, 2021

Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security & Diplomacy
Josef Korbel School of International Studies
University of Denver

Sponsored by Carnegie Corporation of New York



Perceptions of Engagement

Julia Macdonald and Ryan Powers

“Should we get engaged?”



A fraught question



Walt says, “No... At least, not yet.”

FP news | analysis | podcasts | the magazine | channels | newsletters | events
FP INSIDER ACCESS: POWER MAPS | CONFERENCE CALLS | SPECIAL REPORTS

VOICE

How to Get Tenure

The top ten things junior faculty need to know — and why it should matter to the rest of us.

By Stephen M. Walt



A fraught question



 **POLITICAL VIOLENCE AT A GLANCE**

EXPERT ANALYSIS ON VIOLENCE AND ITS ALTERNATIVES

[ABOUT](#) [CONTRIBUTORS](#) [TOPICS](#) [SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#)

WHY ENGAGEMENT CAN'T WAIT—WALT ON TENURE AND BRIDGING THE GAP



Others say, “Yes! Society needs you now.”

Who has the evidence?

- We lack basic descriptive data on who, when, and how scholars engage, and perceptions of such engagement
- Most studies use poor measures of relevance, not engagement.
- Many decisions based on advice from personal experience and anecdote
- We can do better. Let's see how much of the conventional wisdom is right

Where is the [good] evidence?

- Shifting the focus from relevance to engagement - more useful metric and gives us a richer picture
- How common is engagement? When are most people engaging? How are they engaging?
- How is engagement perceived? Do other scholars think junior scholars should be engaged? Engaged in what?
- How do these views vary by rank, research affiliation, etc?

Breakout Activity?

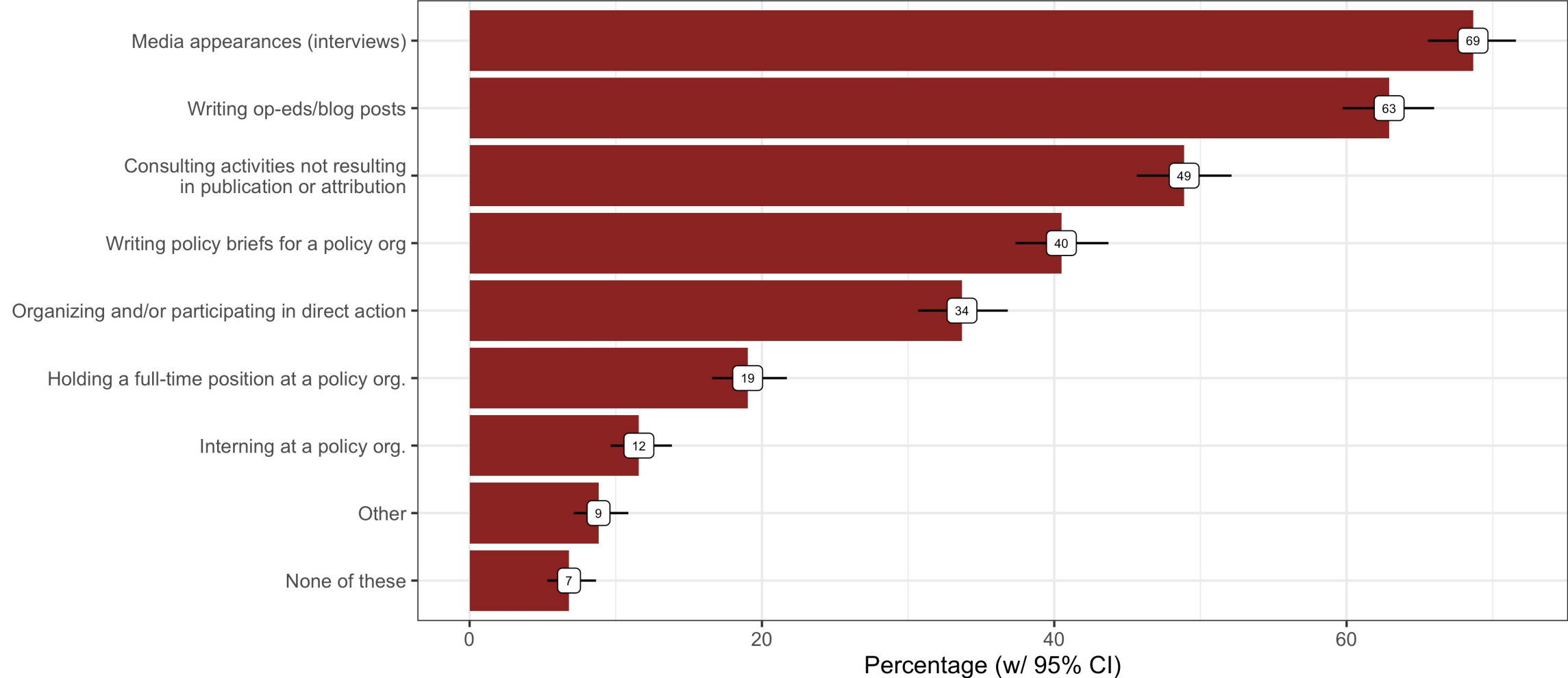
- What do you think? What is your experience?
- We fielded a survey in 2019 to try and get better data on different modes of policy engagement and perceptions of engagement
- Break into groups to answer a few of the survey questions
 - What is your answer (there may be disagreement within groups)?
 - How do you think the majority of scholars responded?
- 10 minutes for small group discussion and then report back

Survey methodology

- Online survey sent to all ~4,700 IR scholars employed by colleges and universities in the United States in Winter 2019
 - 971 responded (~20 percent)
- Resulting sample is close to population on gender, rank, and university type.
 - Differences are substantively small, but sometimes statistically significant
- Asked about attitudes and behaviors, allowing us to systematically characterize policy engagement and put received wisdom to the test

How do scholars engage?

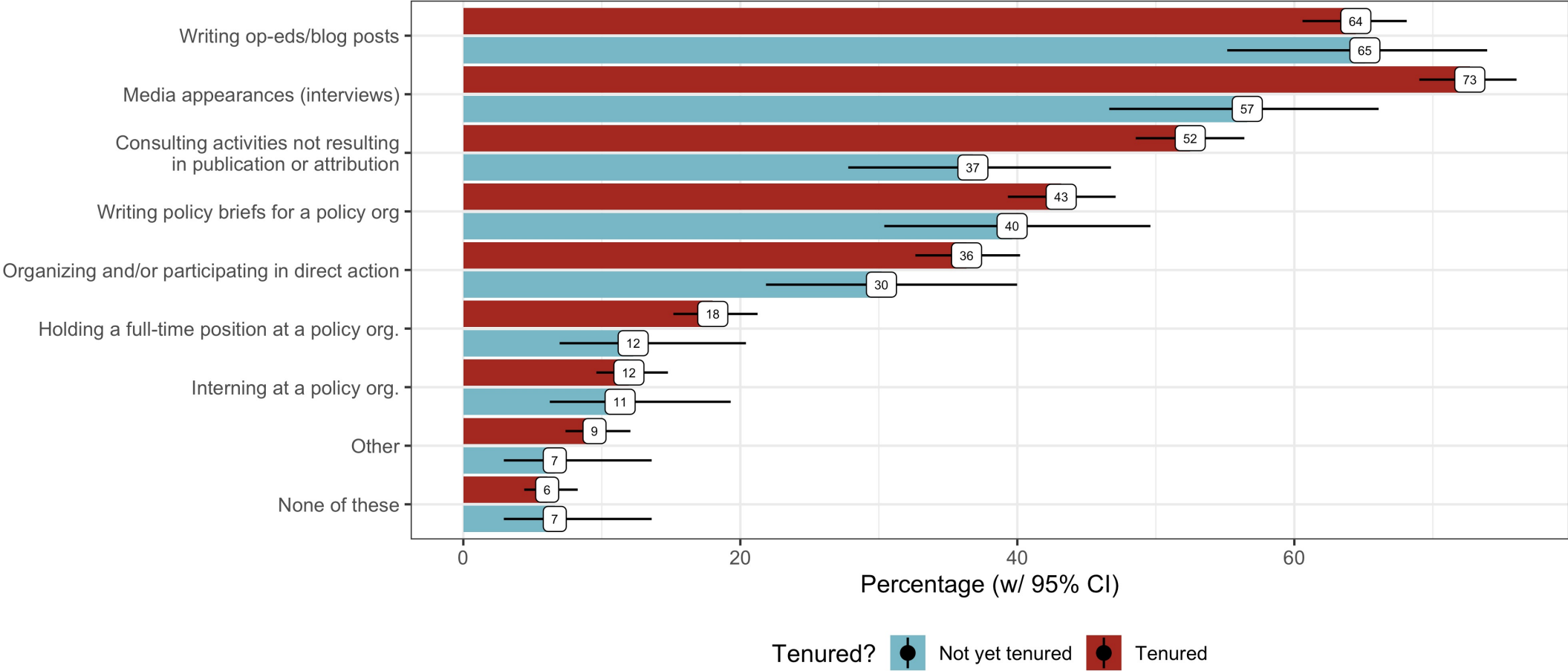
In which of the following types of policy-related activities have you participated in your professional capacity as a scholar? Check all that apply.



Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

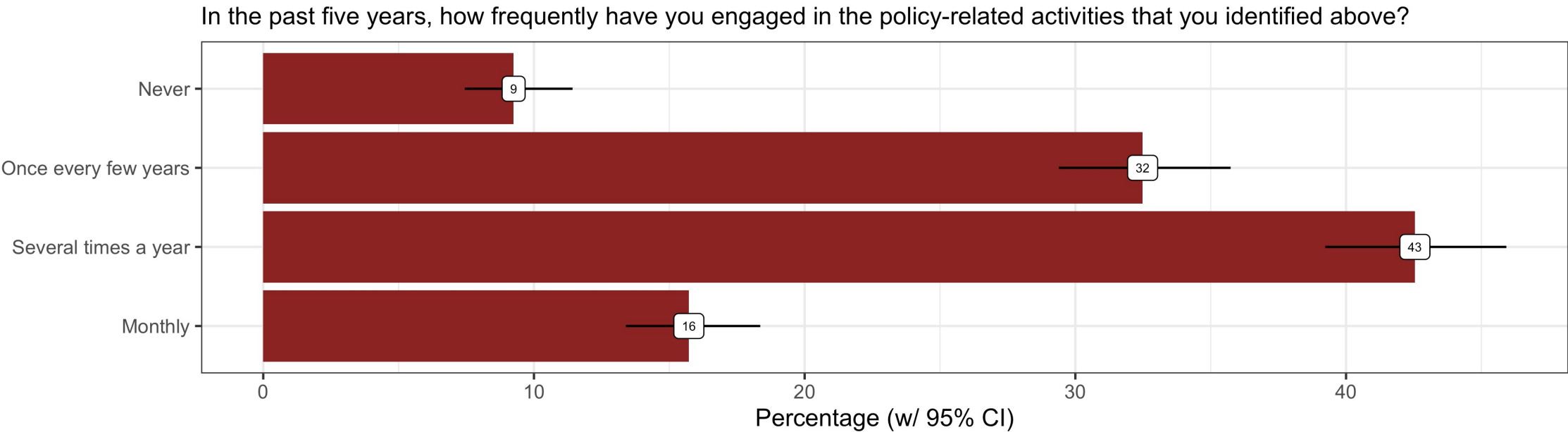
How do scholars engage?

In which of the following types of policy-related activities have you participated in your professional capacity as a scholar? Check all that apply.



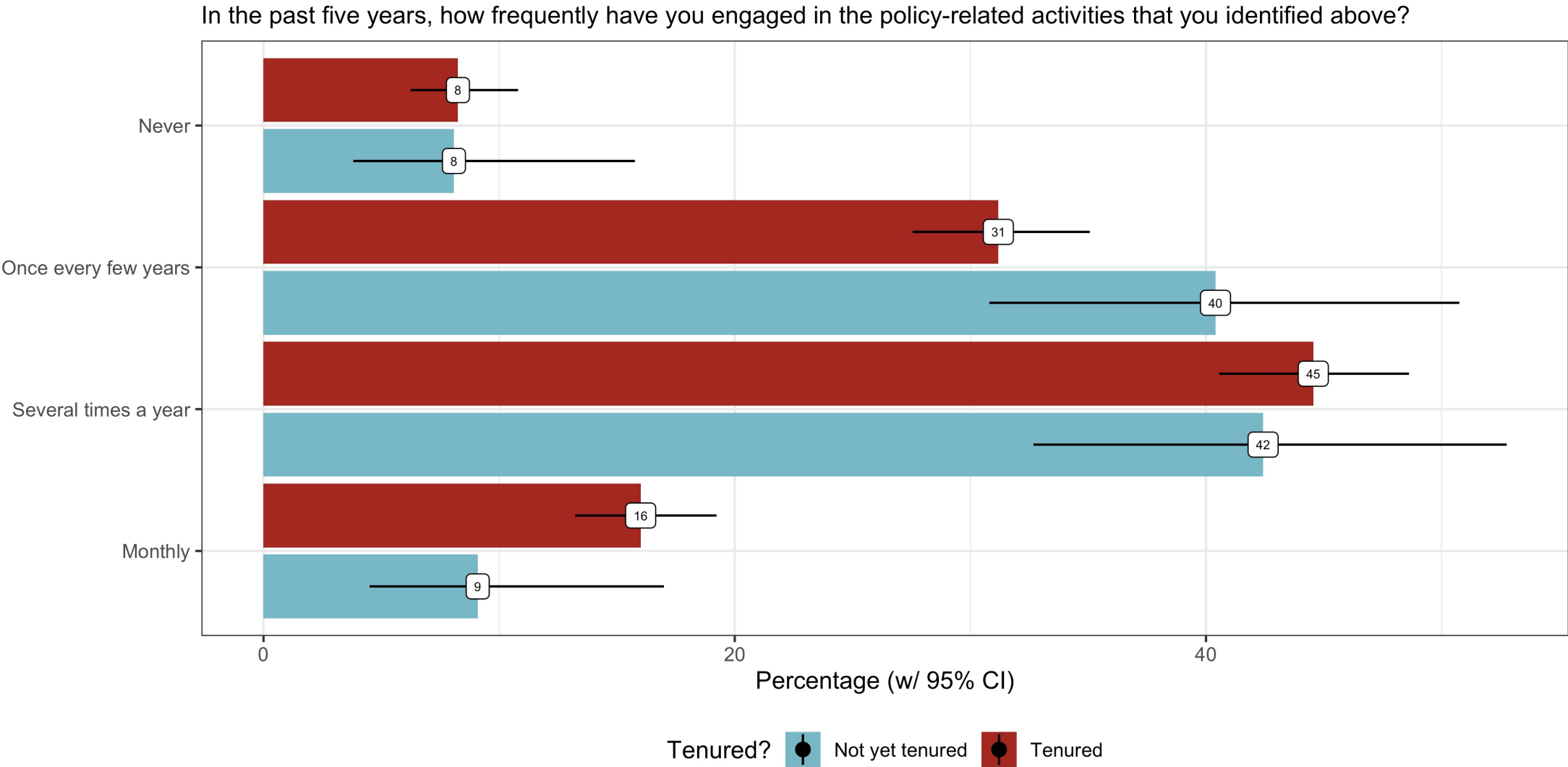
Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

How often do scholars engage?

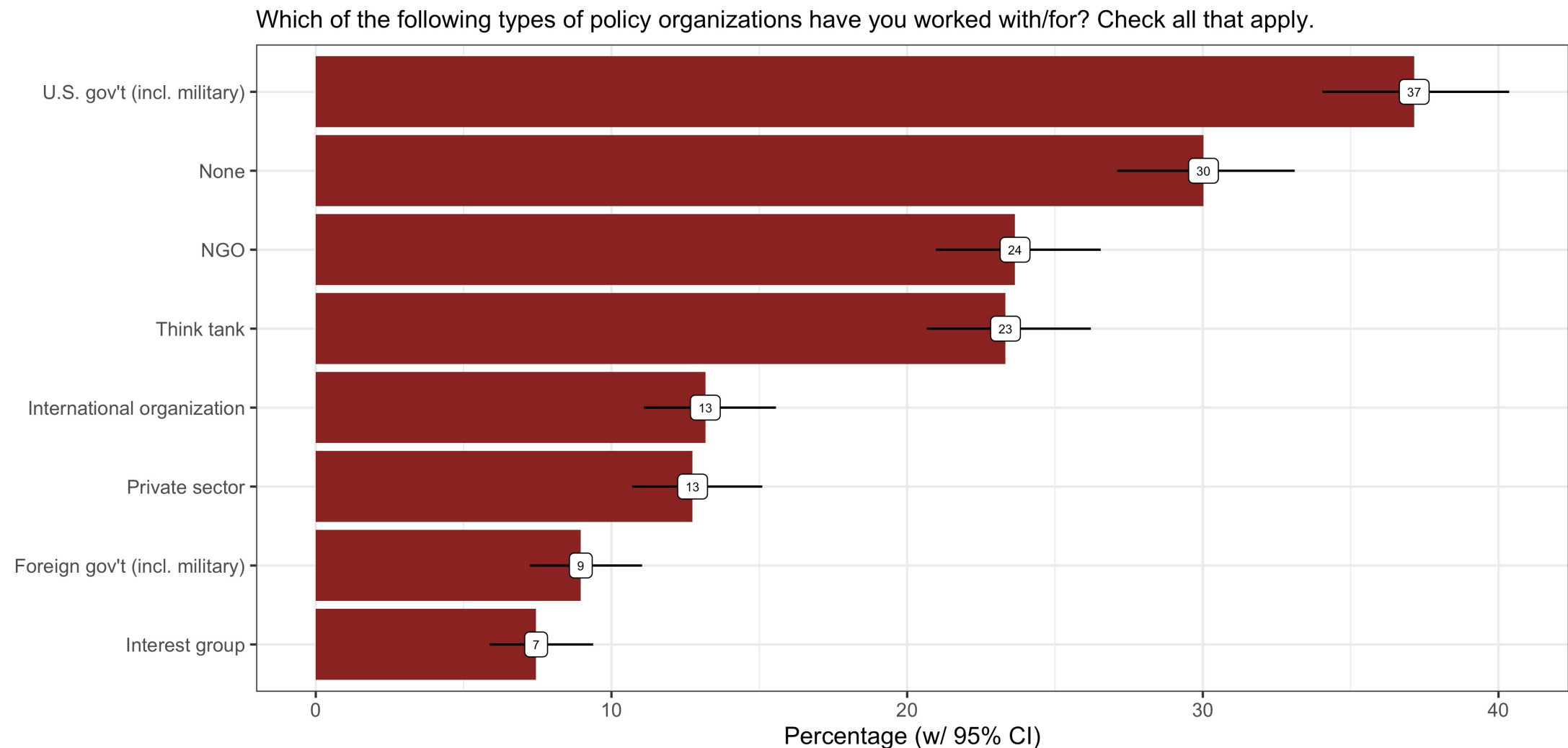


Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

How often do scholars engage?

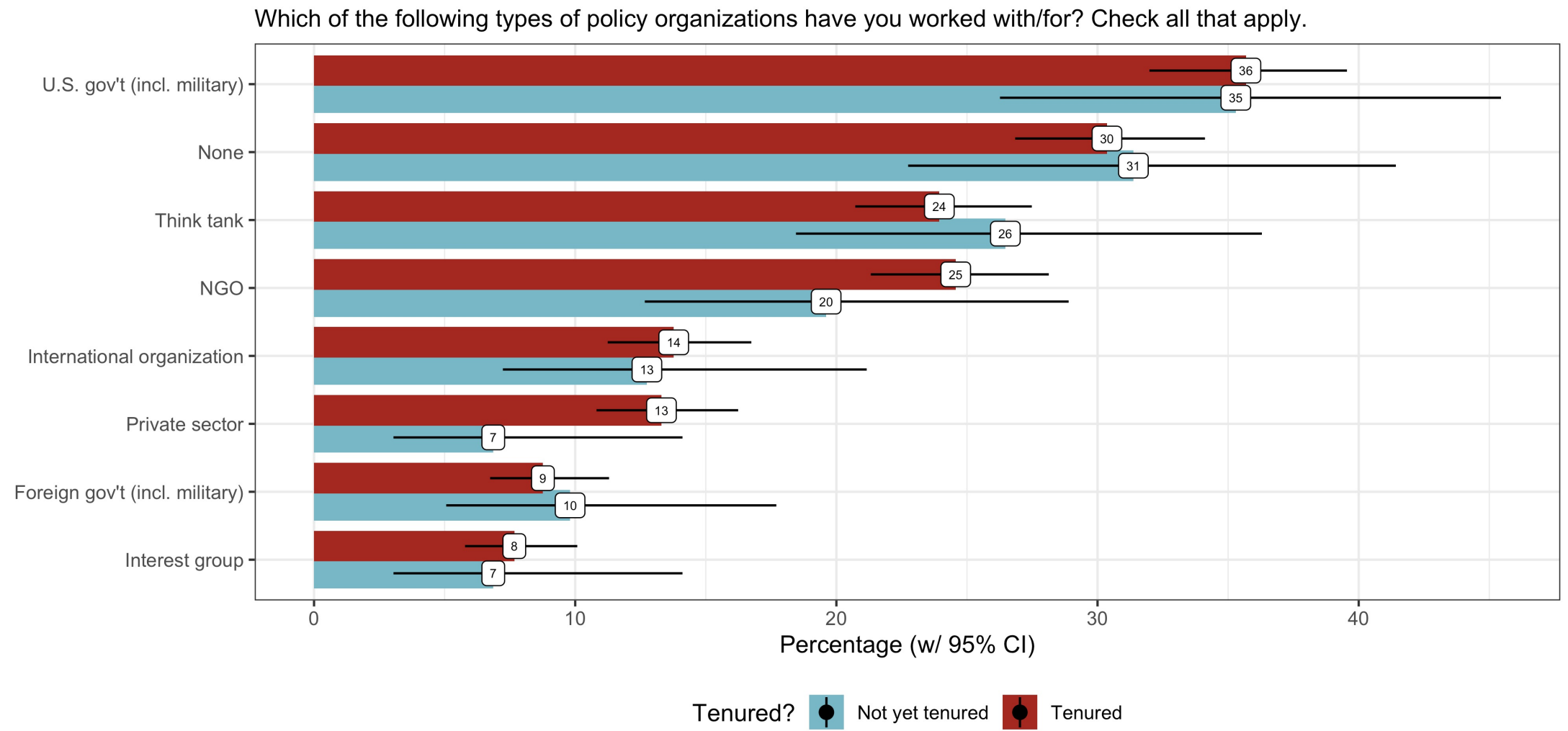


With whom do scholars engage?



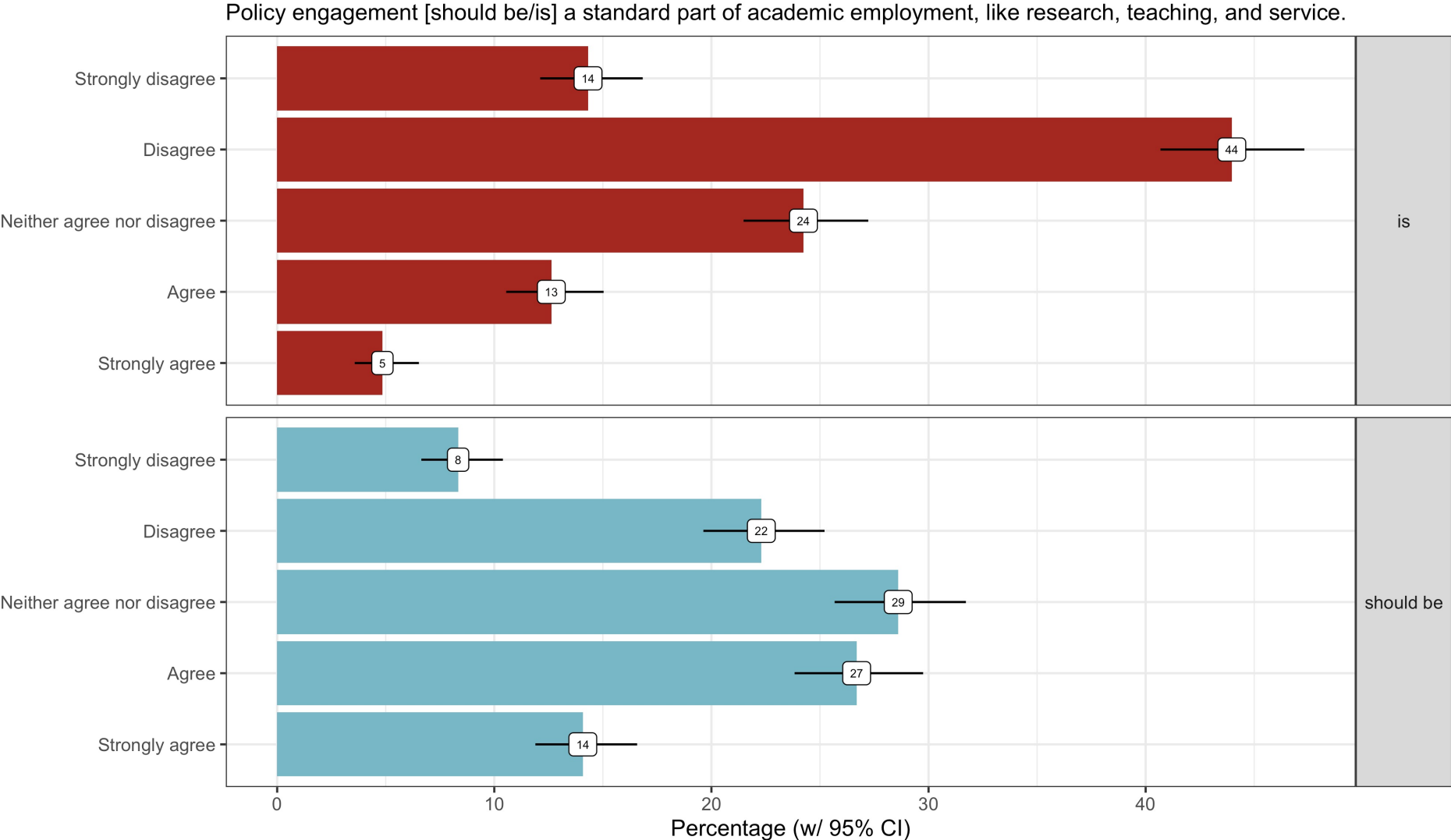
Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

With whom do scholars engage?



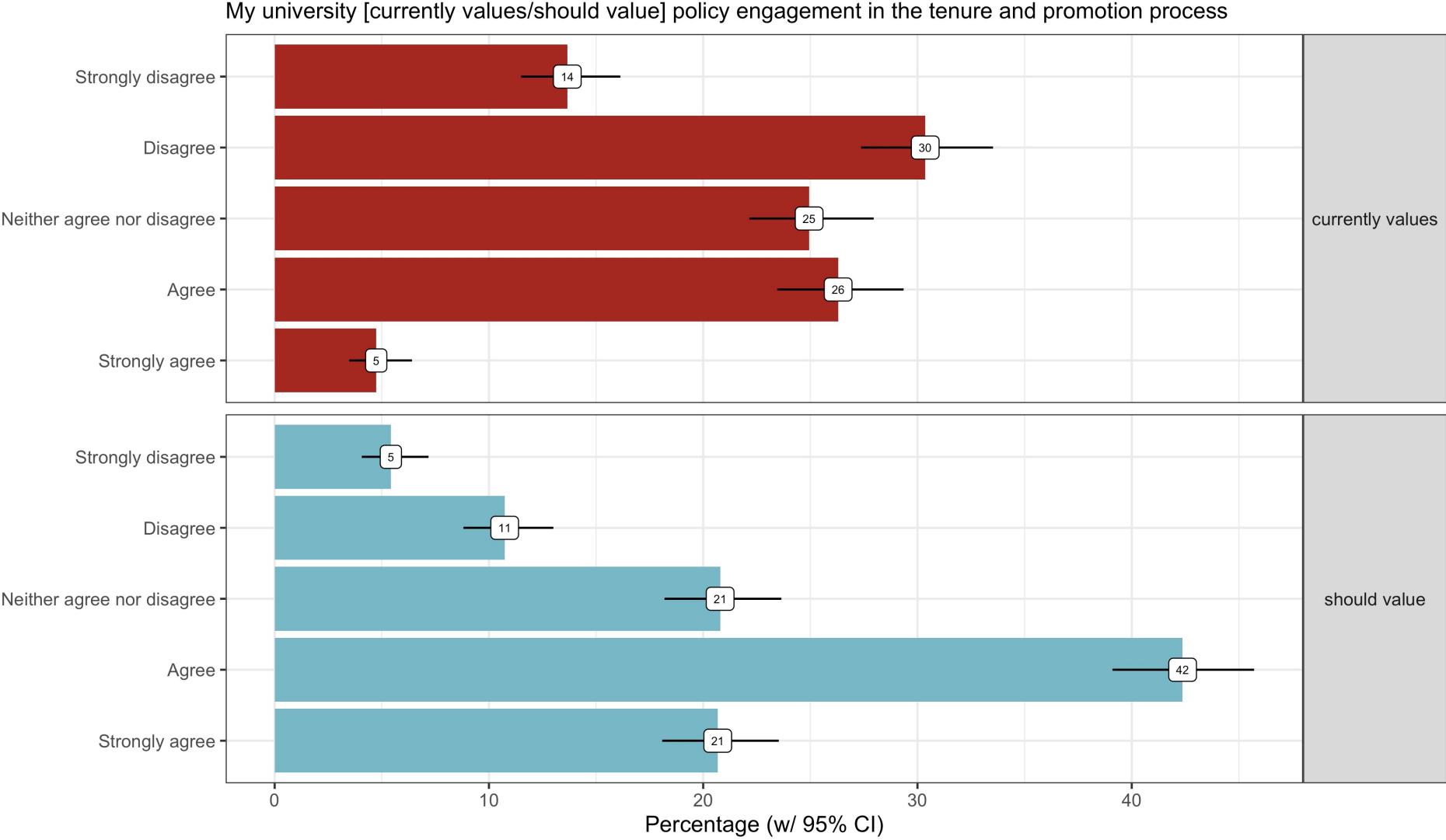
Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

How do/should we value policy engagement?



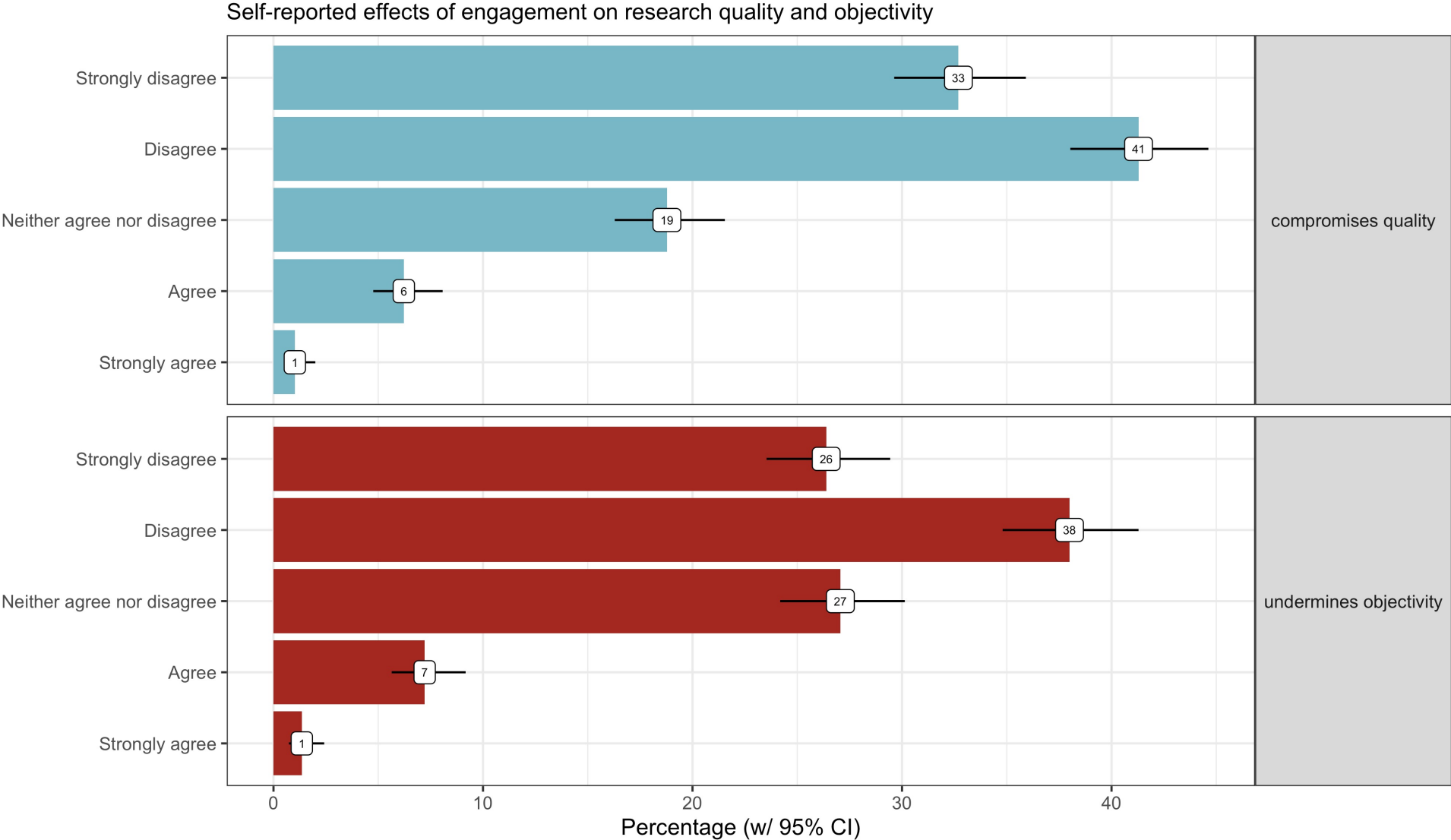
Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

How do/should we value policy engagement?



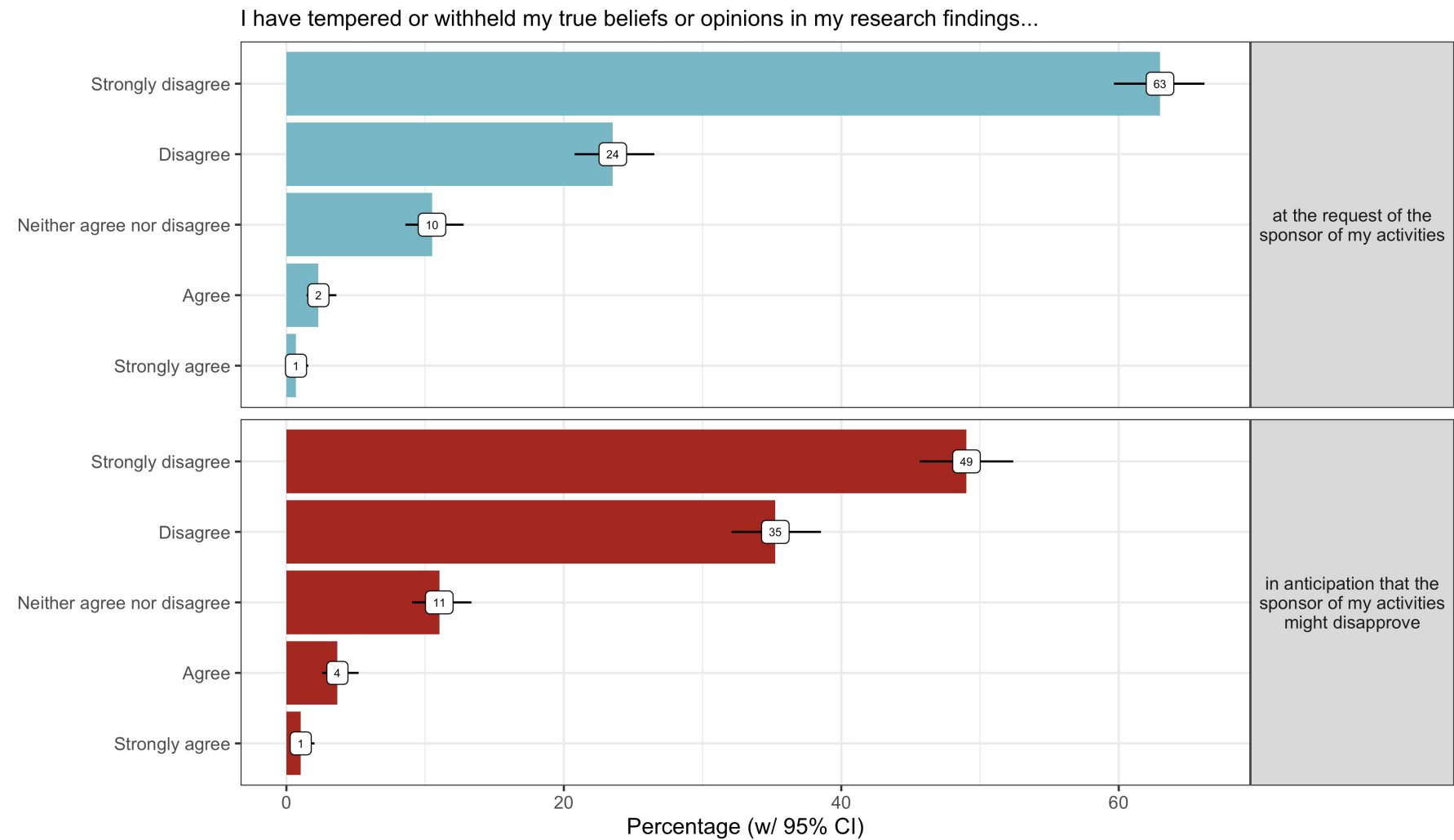
Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

Corrupting effects of engagement?



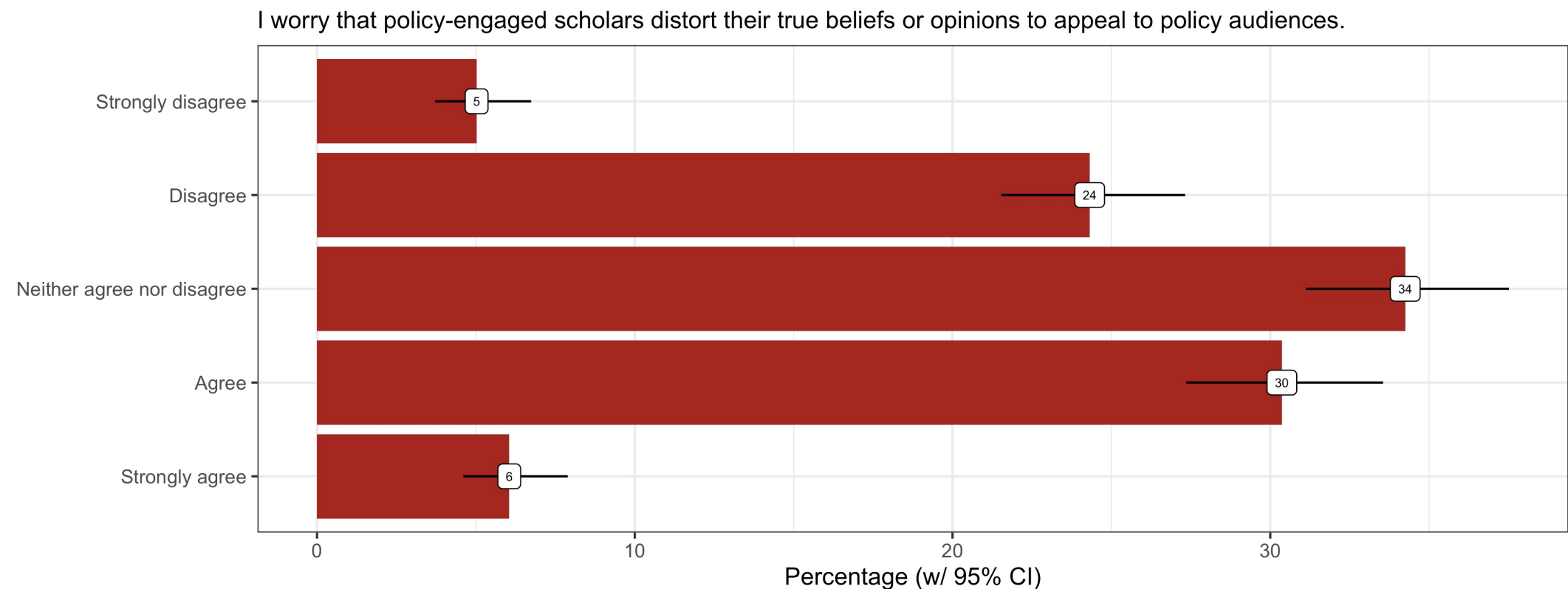
Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

Corrupting effects of engagement?



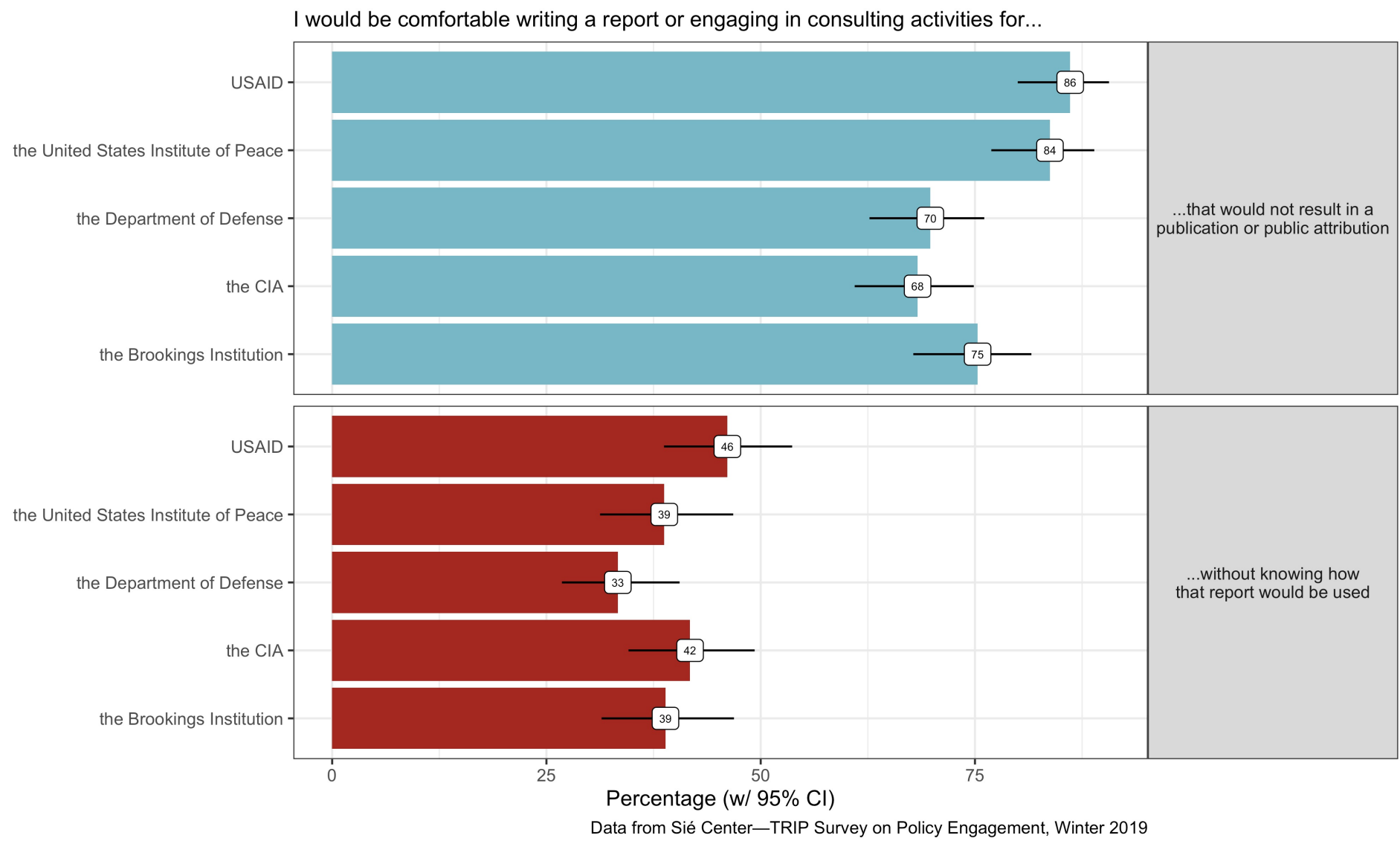
Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

Corrupting effects of engagement?

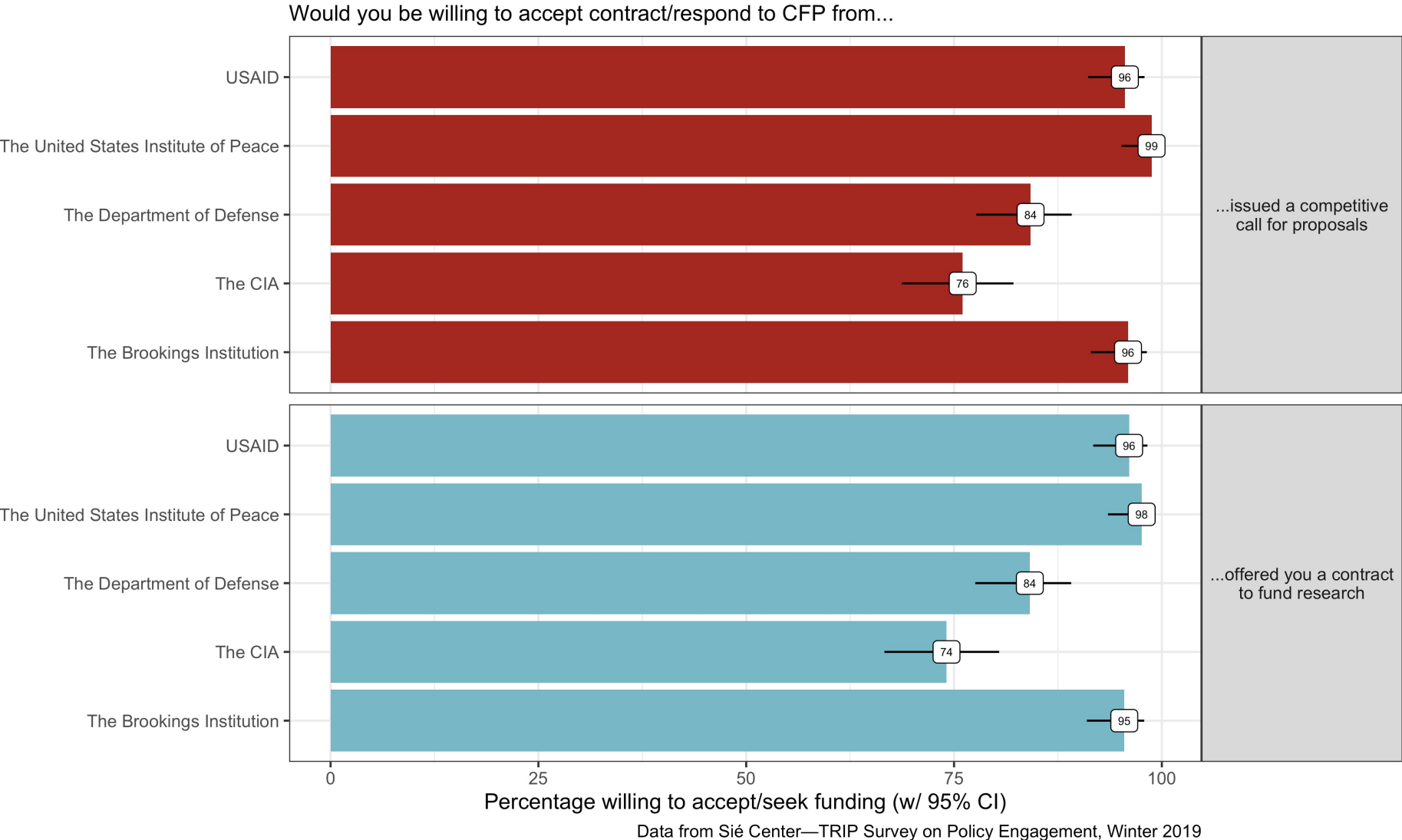


Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

Under what conditions are scholars willing to engage?



Under what conditions are scholars willing to engage?

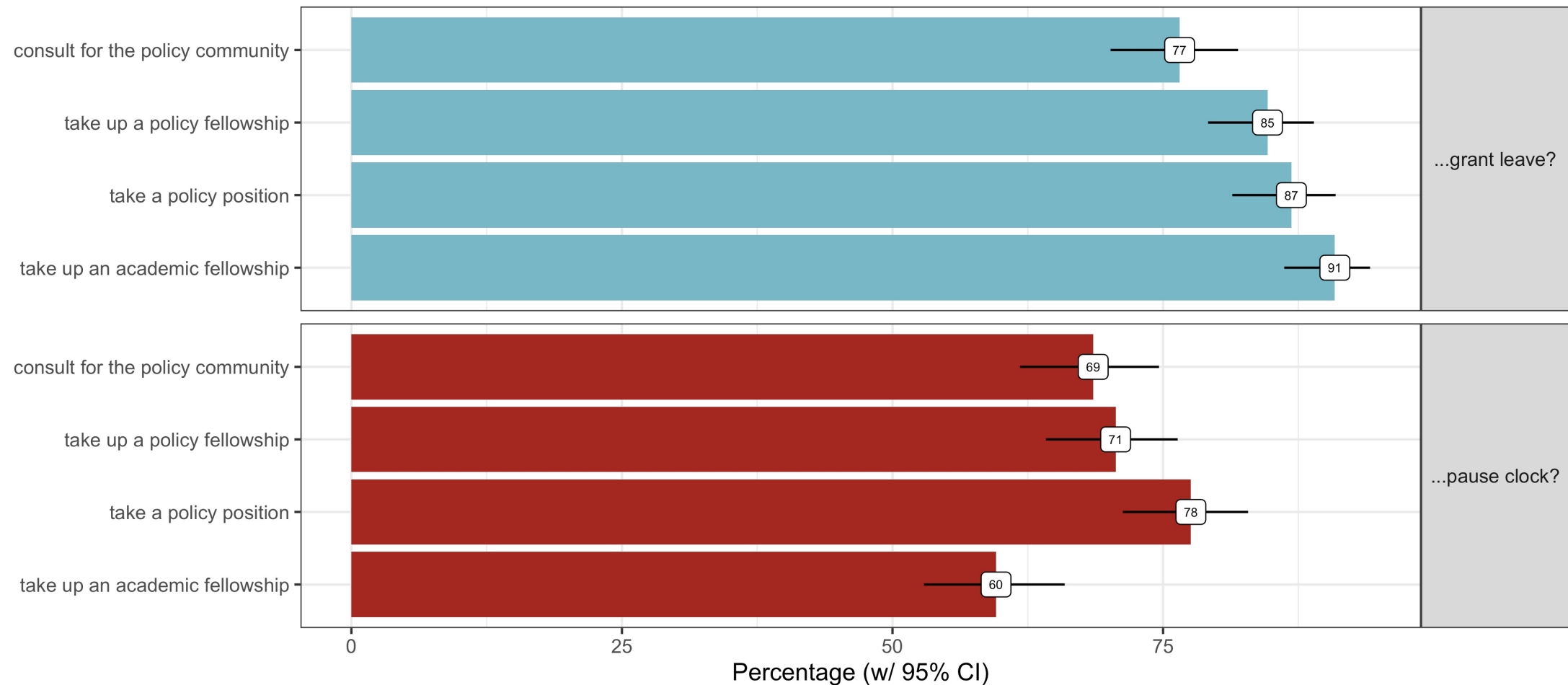


Views on pre-tenure leave for policy work

- We included an experiment to study how the respondents judged the value of different kinds of pre-tenure policy work
- Respondents read a hypothetical scenario in which a **tenure-track assistant professor** in their department requested a leave of absence in order to take one of four randomly assigned outside positions:
 1. Academic fellowship (baseline)
 2. Policy fellowship
 3. A policy position
 4. Consult for the policy community
- We then asked respondents **if the request ought to be granted** and if the colleague's **tenure clock should be stopped** for the duration of the fellowship
- The academic fellowship serves as the baseline since it is conventionally seen as a prime opportunity for junior scholars to publish, network, and raise the profile of their home institution.

Views on pre-tenure leave for policy work

Consider a hypothetical scenario in which a tenure track assistant professor at your university has requested a year of leave to _____. Should your department...



Data from Sié Center—TRIP Survey on Policy Engagement, Winter 2019

Discussion

- Comparing aggregate results to breakout group discussions - Are they similar? Different? What is surprising?
- What do these results mean for junior scholars? What should we take from this?
- What would be useful to know from future surveys or research to inform this discussion?