

Memo
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Career Ties with Xi

In terms of career ties with Xi, we see gradual decreases of working experience among alternate members between 2012 and 2022. The share of Central Committee full members with working experience with Xi increased from 2012 to 2017 but decreased from 2017 to 2022 (Figure 1). A closer look at the ties with Xi shows that among alternate members, there is a significant decrease in the number of individuals with long career history with Xi between 2012 and 2022 (Figure 3), and among full members, we see an increase in the number of members with extensive working experience with Xi (Figure 3). These changes can potentially be explained by Xi promoting allies and former colleagues.

Members with Narrow Career Paths

On the members with narrow career paths, I thought it would be interesting to examine their career/expertise. Some reports/analyses are talking about Xi promoting technocrats, especially those with experience in the Aerospace industry. It turns out that among full members, Xi is not promoting more technocrats with narrow career paths (Figure 4), and among alternate members, there is such pattern but the difference is not very significant (Figure 5). Xi is also promoting more finance experts, and non-natural science and non-engineering academics.

Expertise of CCP Central Committee Members

I then went on to look at the overall expertise of Central Committee members. Xi is having more technocrats and scientists on the central committee (sacrificing the number of financial experts) (Figure 6), especially at the politburo level (Figure 7). Among full members, the decrease in financial experts and increase in technocrats (especially scientists) are quite evident (Figure 8), while among alternate members changes are less significant (Figure 9).

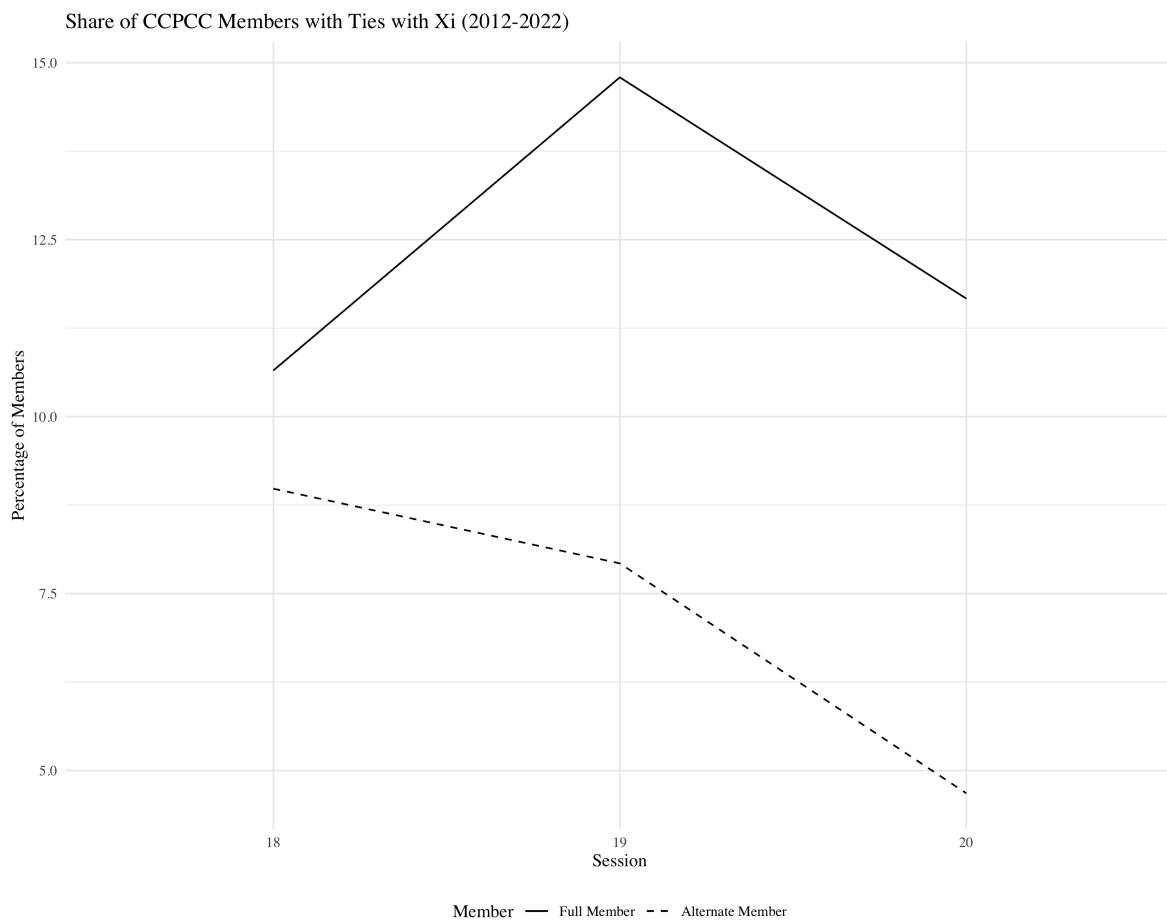


Figure 1: Share of CCP Central Committee Members with Ties with Xi Jinping (2012-2022)

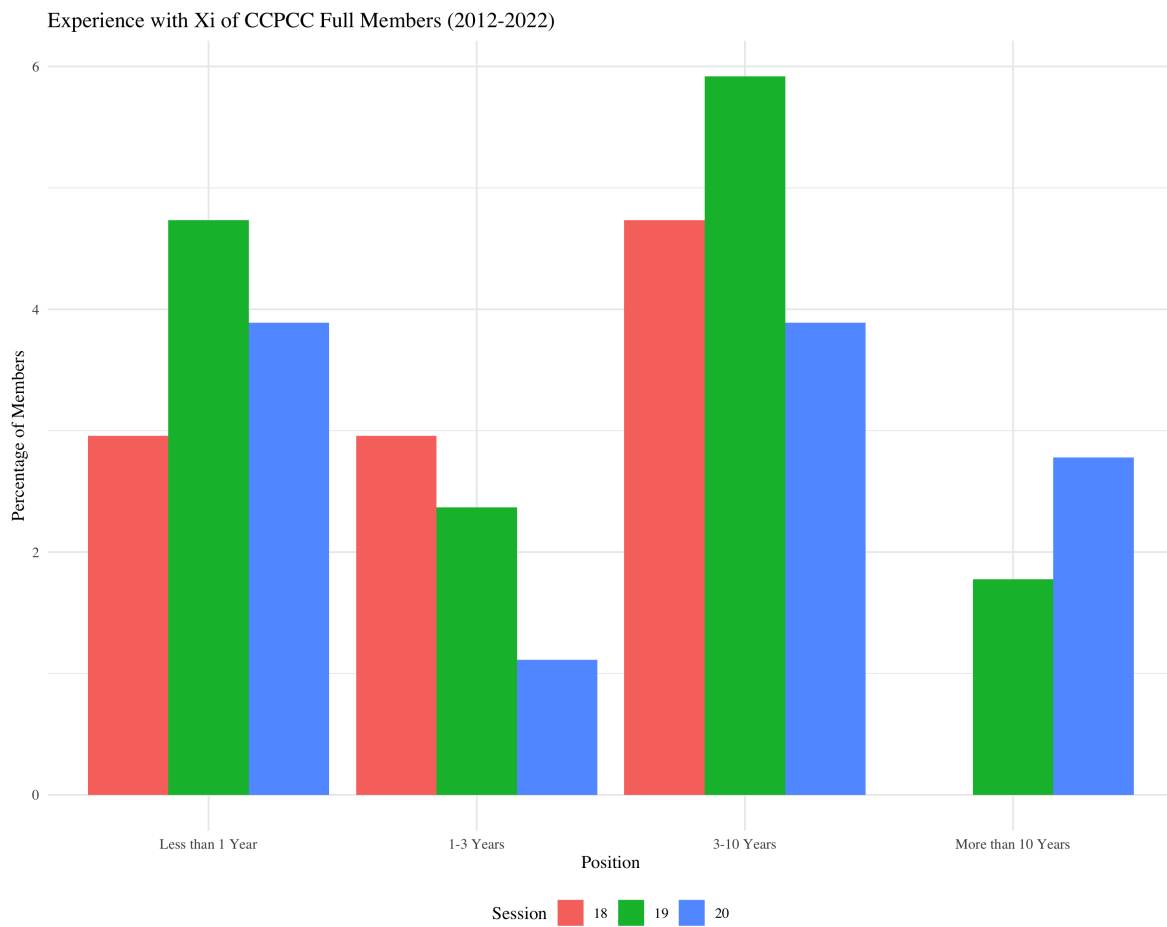


Figure 2: Ties with Xi Jinping among CCPCC Full Members (2012-2022)

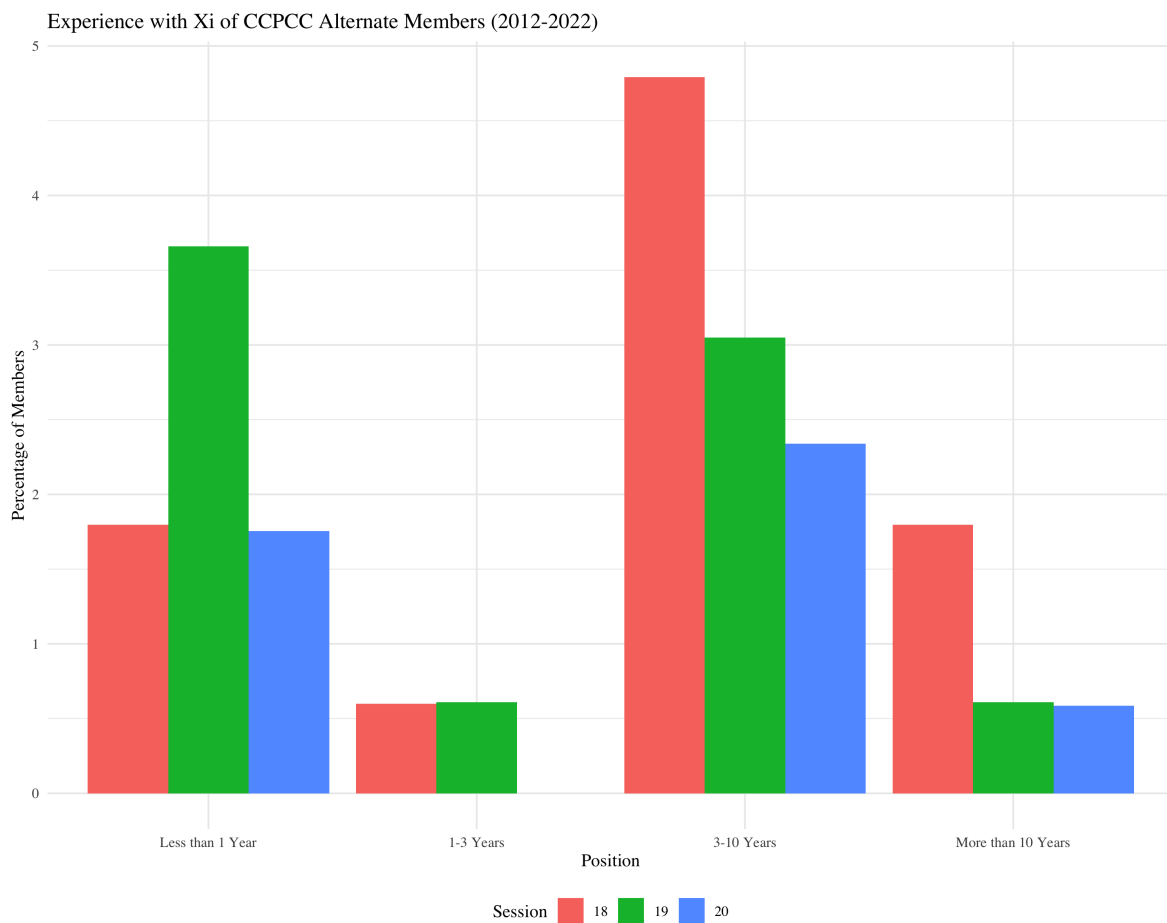


Figure 3: Ties with Xi Jinping among CCPCC Alternate Members (2012-2022)

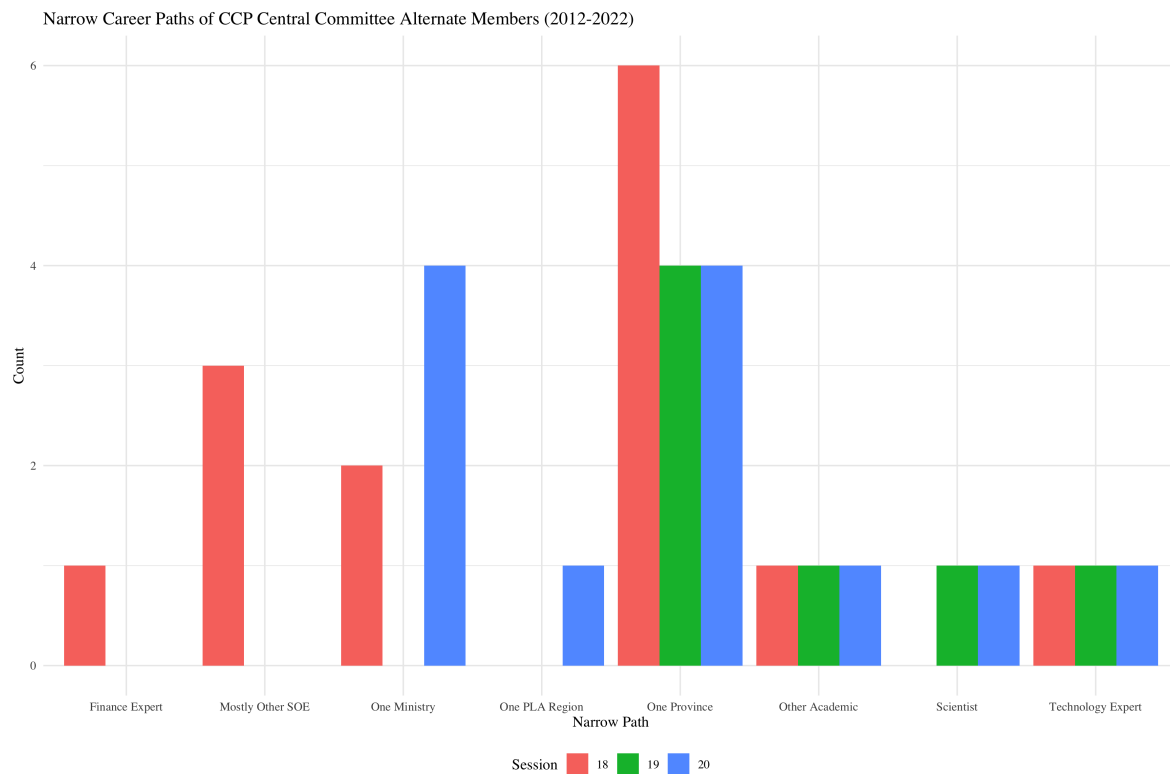


Figure 4: Narrow Career Paths of CCPCC Full Members(2012-2022)

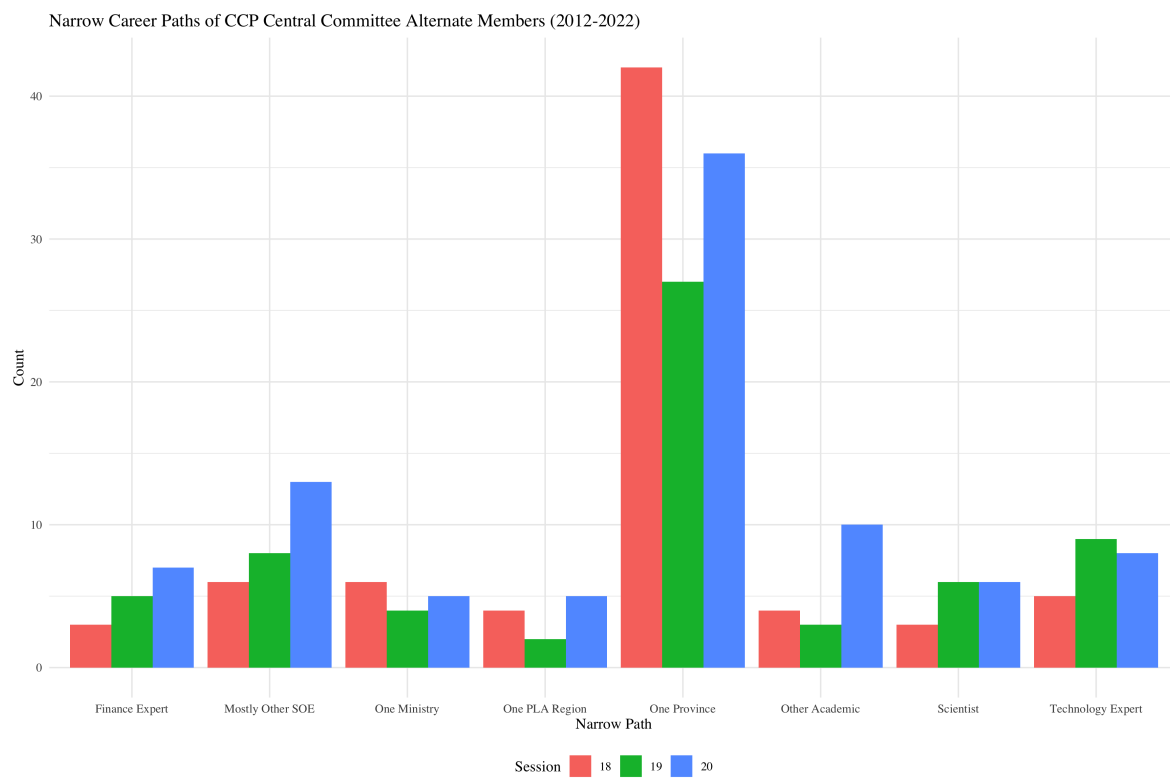


Figure 5: Narrow Career Paths of CCPCC Alternate Members(2012-2022)

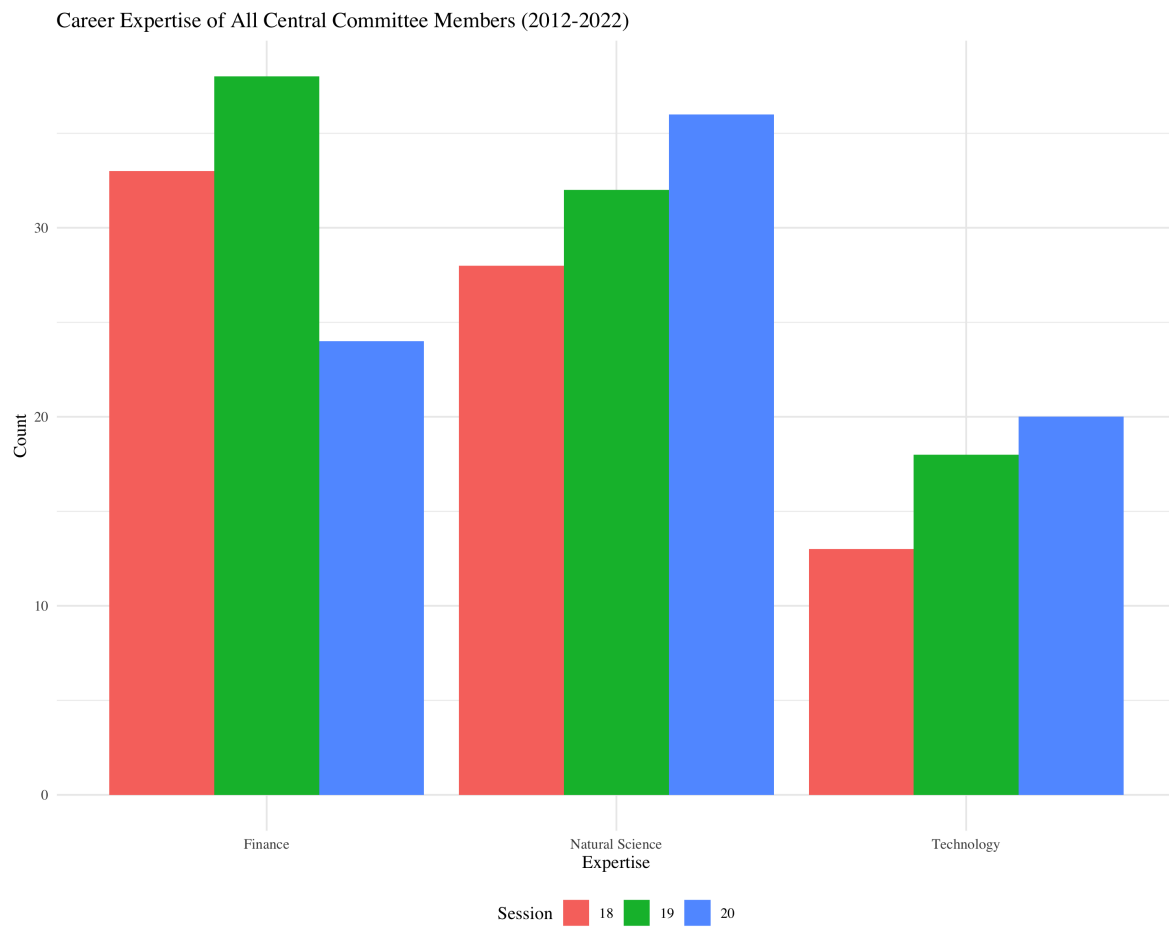


Figure 6: Expertise of All CCPCC Members (2012-2022)

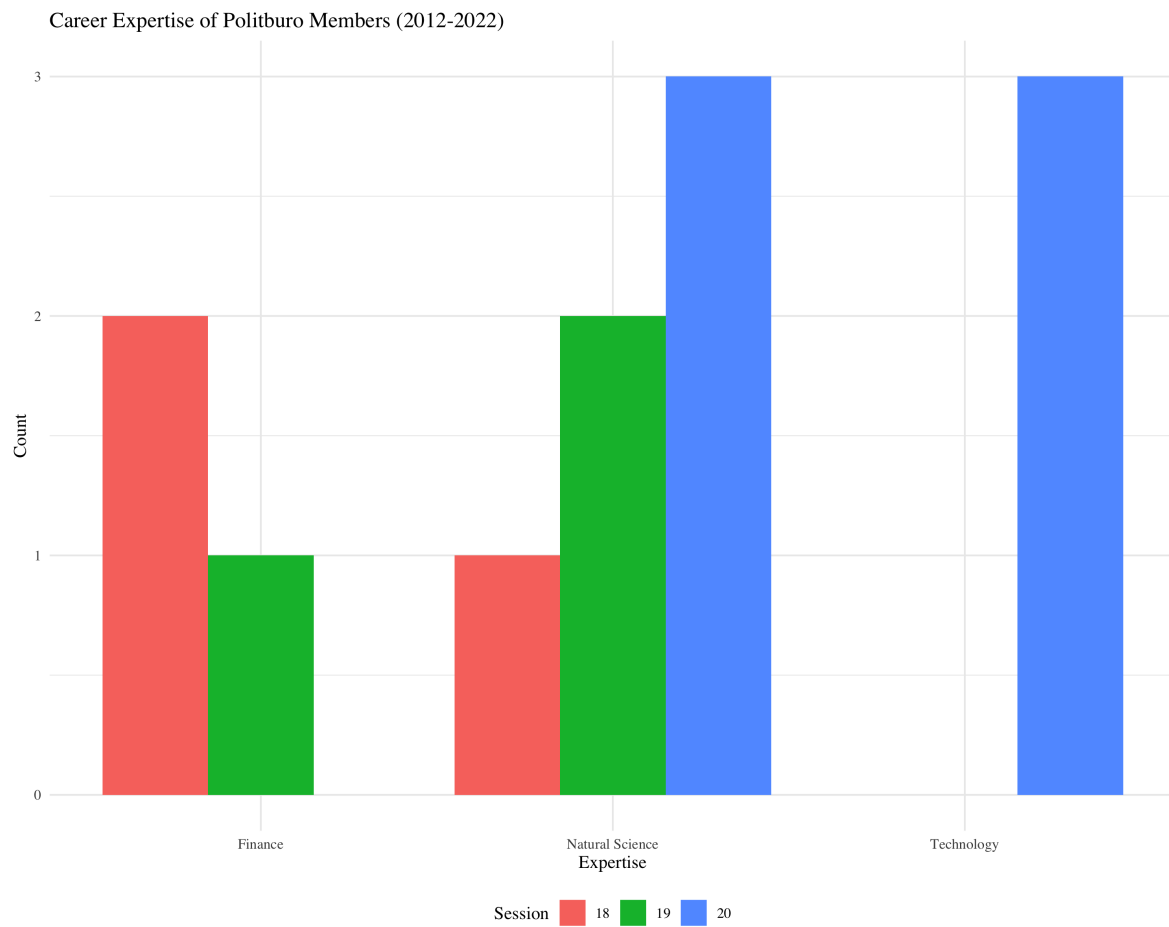


Figure 7: Expertise of Politburo Members (2012-2022)

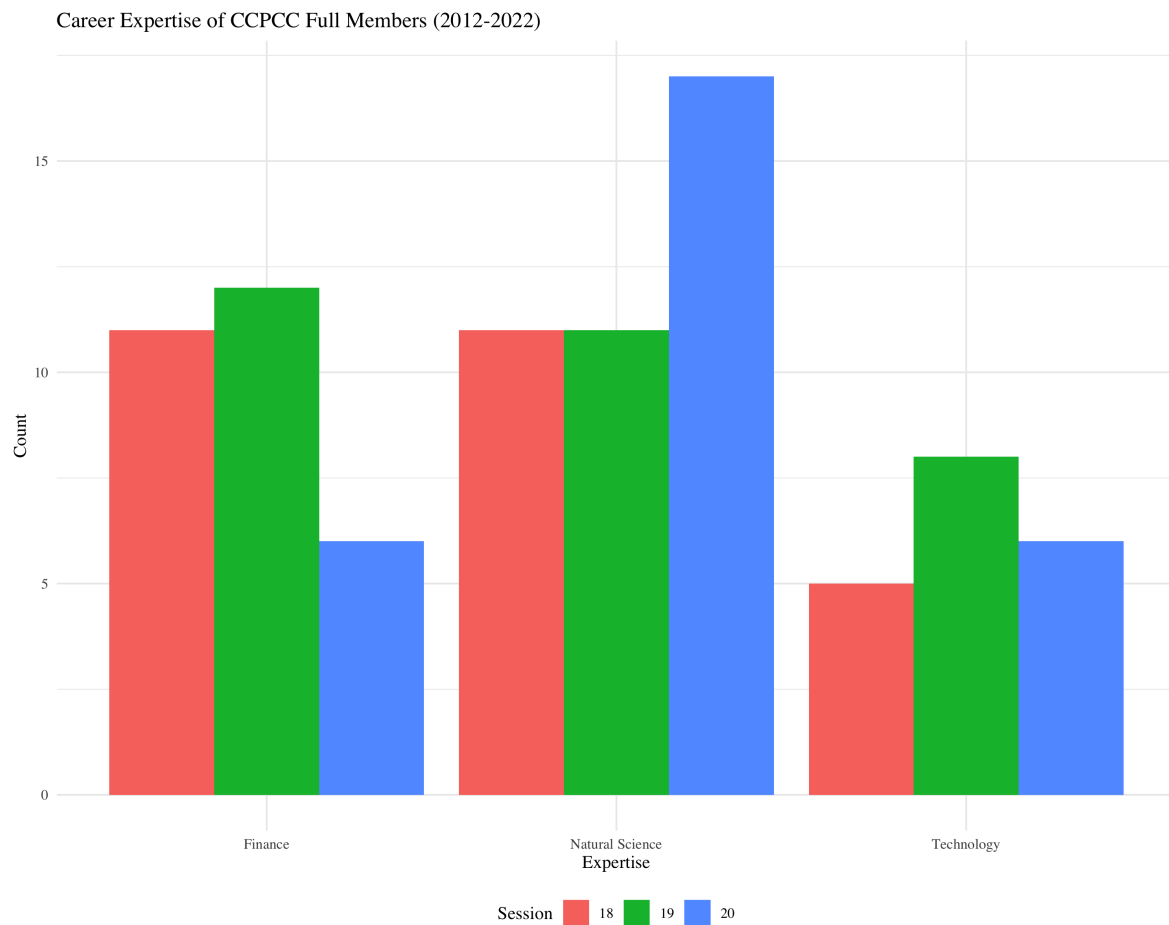


Figure 8: Expertise of CCPCC Full Members (2012-2022)

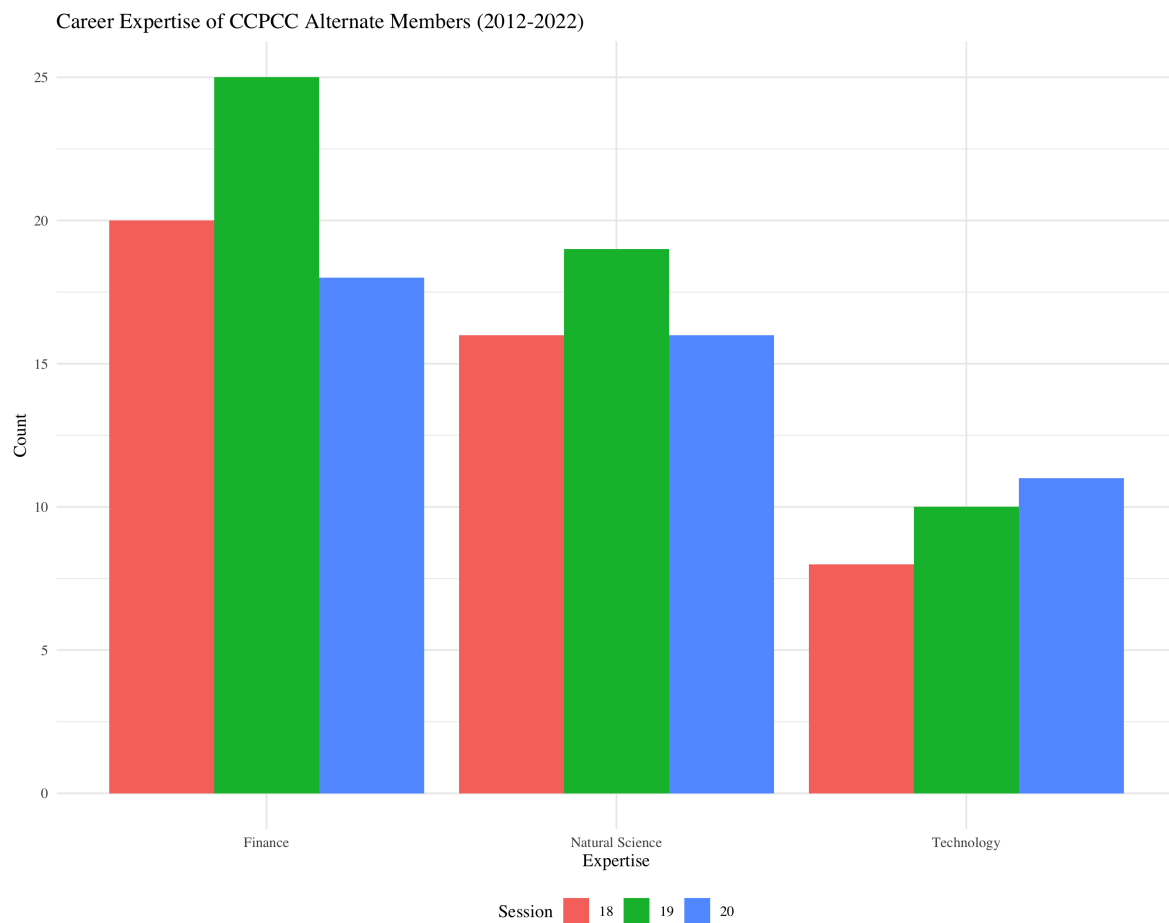


Figure 9: Expertise of CCPCC Alternate Members (2012-2022)