

Results from Survey on COVID-19 and PhD Time Use

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This survey

Goal: understand how students in Econ-related PhD programs were using their time at the beginning of the shelter-in-place period

- First sent on May 18, 2020
- Closed on May 29, 2020
- Sent to econgrads, ppol listserve, and G-year-specific mailing lists
- N=114
- Wanted to collect data on time use, productivity and whether students were working on COVID-19-related projects
- No identifying data collected (so no data on program, specific G-year, race)
- Data and survey questions available upon request

Contents

1. Changes in Time Use: Aggregate Results

- Summary of changes in time use

- What replaced time spent on research?

- Relative productivity

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- Summary of changes in time use

- Impact of going remote on research activity

- Relative productivity

3. Results by Gender

- Summary of changes in time use

- Relative productivity

Aggregate Results

Sample composition

	Count	Fraction	N
Identified as female	51	0.46	112
Identified as G3+	75	0.66	113
Reported a field	76	0.67	114
Reported Macro as one of the fields	8	0.07	114
Reported Labor as one of the fields	31	0.27	114
Reported Health as one of the fields	2	0.02	114
Reported Environmental as one of the fields	2	0.02	114
Reported Public as one of the fields	9	0.08	114
Reported PE as one of the fields	8	0.07	114
Reported IO as one of the fields	6	0.05	114
Reported Development as one of the fields	12	0.11	114
Reported Behavioral as one of the fields	8	0.07	114
Reported Theory as one of the fields	2	0.02	114
Reported Econometrics as one of the fields	1	0.01	114
Reported Finance as one of the fields	7	0.06	114
Reported International as one of the fields	3	0.03	114
Observations	114		

Note: It would be helpful to compare the number of respondents by field to the actual breakdown across Econ/Public Policy.

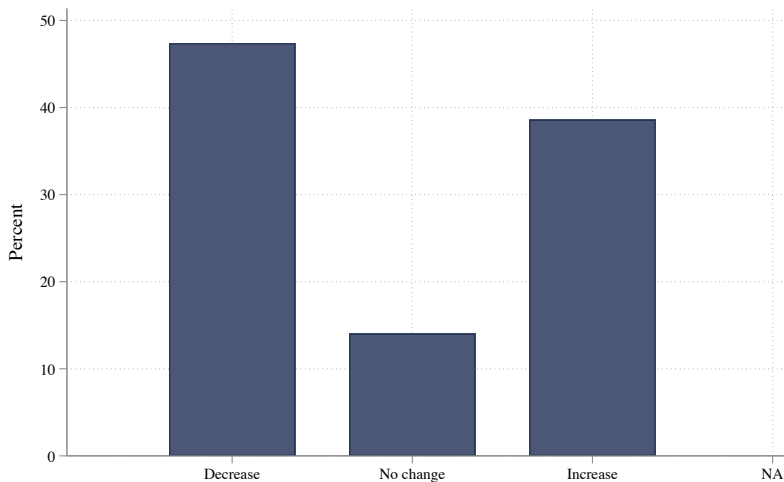
Summary of change in time spent on each activity

Percent of sample (%)

	Decrease	No change	Increase	NA
Research	47.4	14.0	38.6	0.0
Teaching	14.9	19.3	10.5	55.3
Interactions with advisors	56.1	23.7	17.5	2.6
Seminars & workshops	58.8	25.4	15.8	0.0
Administrative tasks	11.4	40.4	36.8	11.4
Caretaking	6.1	31.6	31.6	30.7
Volunteering	22.8	43.9	7.0	26.3
Sleep	28.9	26.3	44.7	0.0
Socializing & self care	47.4	12.3	40.4	0.0
Other	11.4	21.9	64.9	1.8
Observations	114			

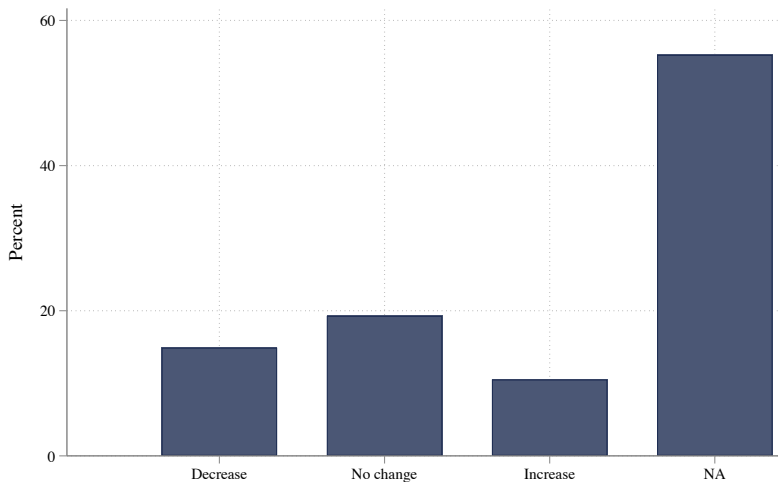
Change in time spent on research

“How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?”



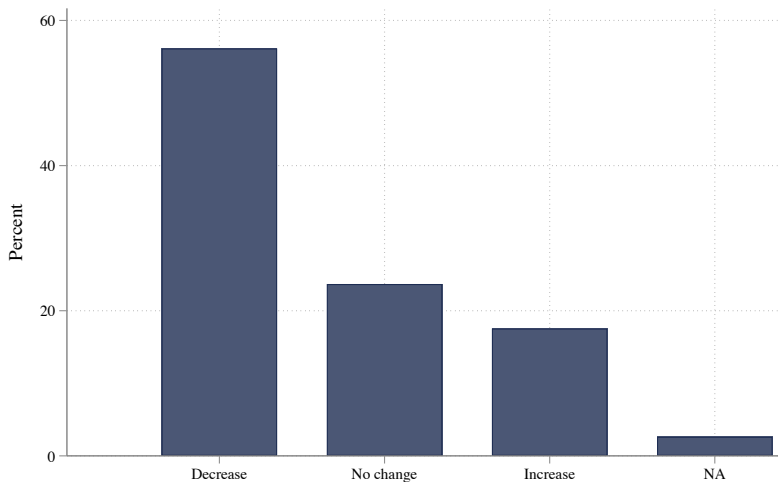
Change in time spent on teaching

"How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?"



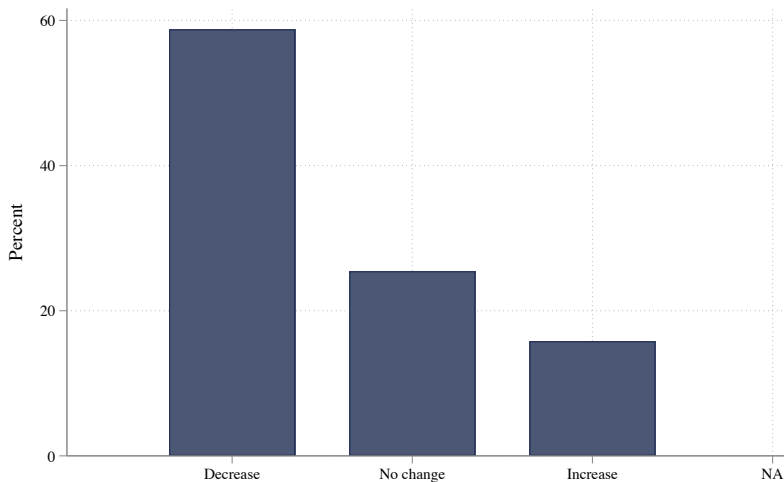
Change in time spent on interactions with advisors

“How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?”



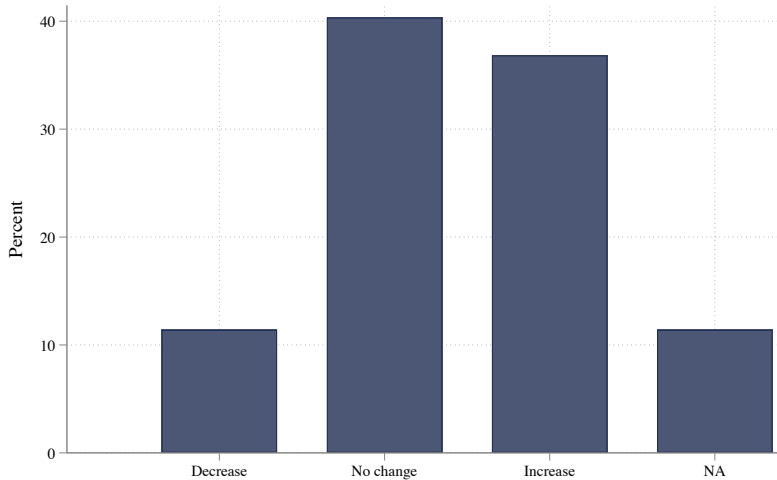
Change in time spent on seminars and workshops

“How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?”



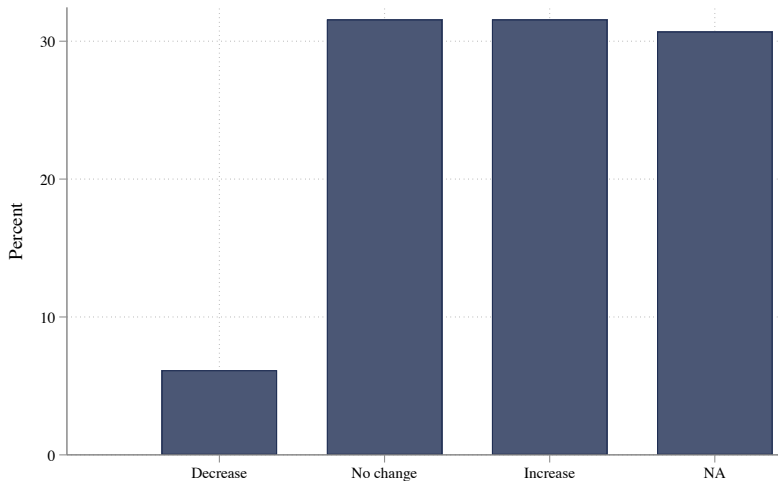
Change in time spent on administrative tasks

“How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?”



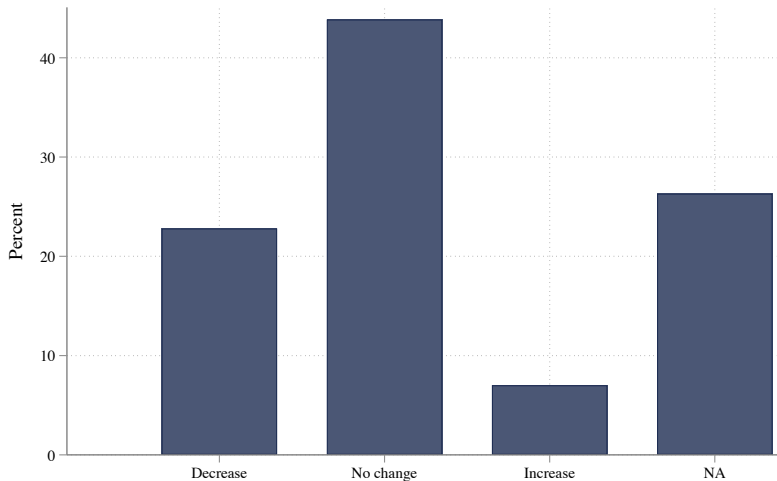
Change in time spent on caretaking (children, family, friends)

"How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?"



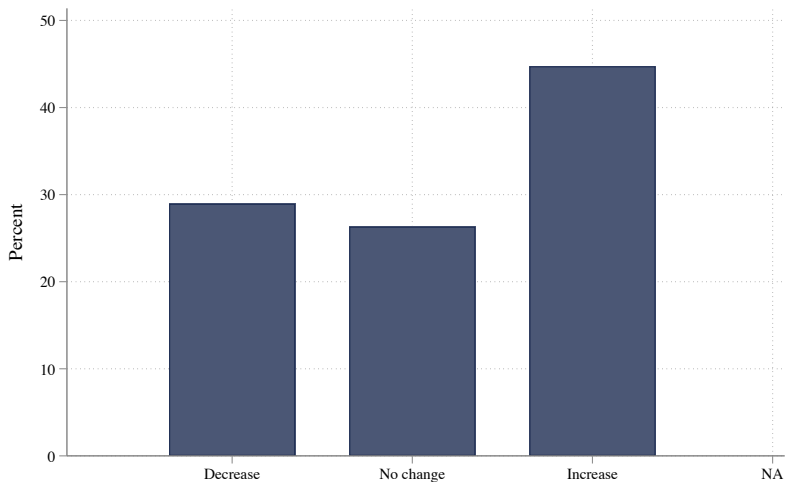
Change in time spent on volunteering

“How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?”



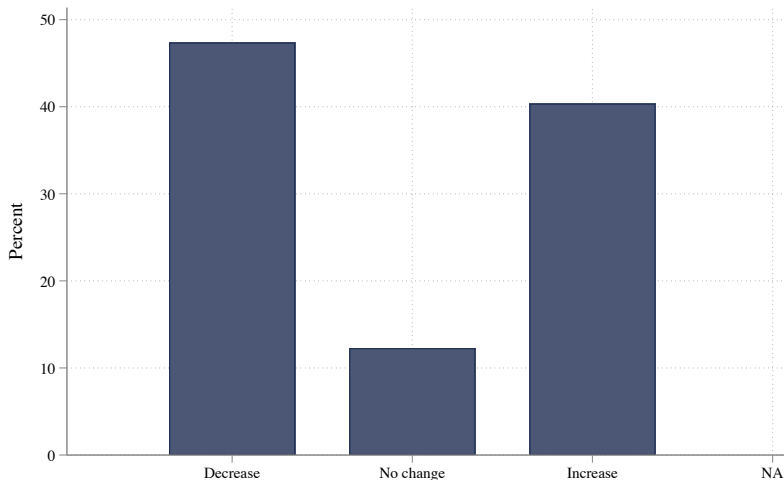
Change in time spent on sleep

“How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?”



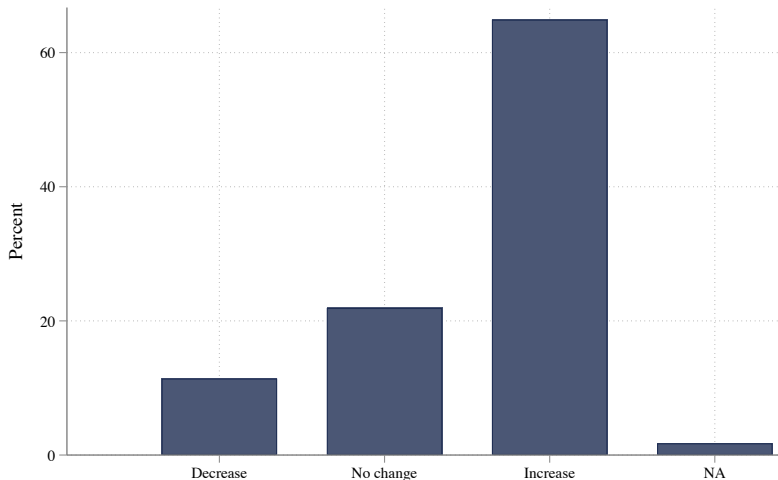
Change in time spent on socializing and self care (e.g., exercising, therapy, baking)

“How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?”



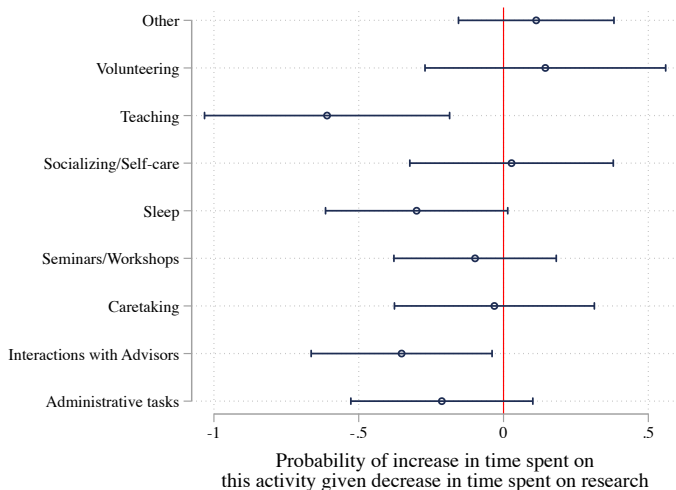
Change in time spent on other activities (e.g. stress mgmt, reading the news, social media use)

“How did your time spent on each of the following activities change from February 2020 to April 2020?”



What replaced time spent on research?

Regression of indicator for increase in time spent on each activity on decrease in time spent on research

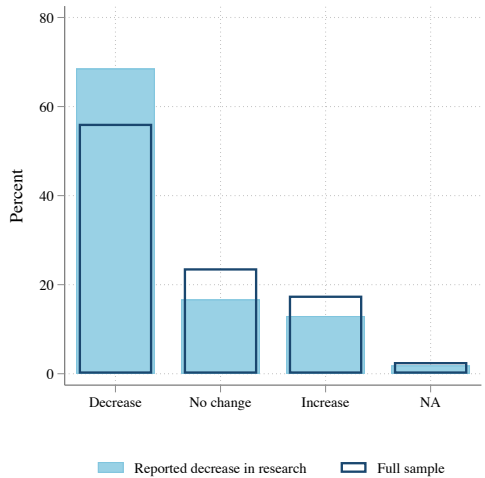


Note: These results exclude the NA category.

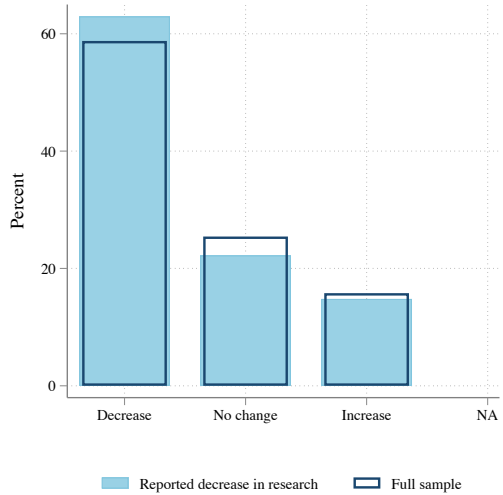
○ Impact — 95% CI

Those who spent less time on research spent less time with advisors and in seminars/workshops

Advisors

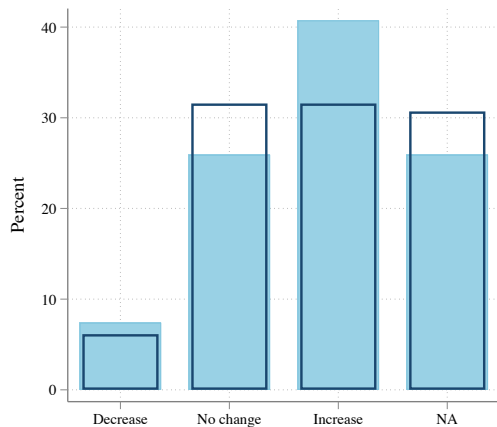


Seminars and workshops



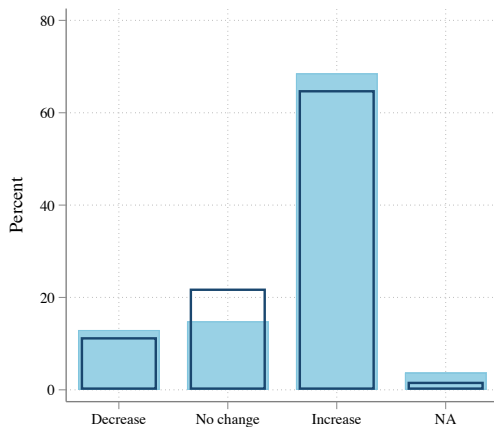
They also spent more time on caretaking, reading the news, managing stress and other activities

Caretaking (e.g., children, family, friends)



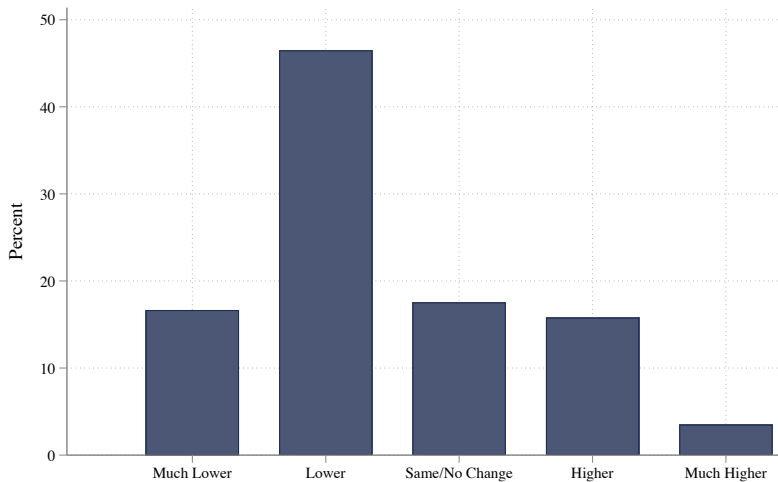
Reported decrease in research Full sample

Other (e.g., stress mgmt, news, social media)



Reported decrease in research Full sample

“Relative to February 2020, my April 2020 productivity was...”



Results by G-year

Sample composition by G-year

	G1/G2		G3+	
	Count	Fraction	Count	Fraction
Identified as female	16	0.42	35	0.48
Reported a field	26	0.68	50	0.67
Reported Macro as one of the fields	3	0.08	5	0.07
Reported Labor as one of the fields	10	0.26	21	0.28
Reported Health as one of the fields	0	0.00	2	0.03
Reported Environmental as one of the fields	0	0.00	2	0.03
Reported Public as one of the fields	6	0.16	3	0.04
Reported PE as one of the fields	6	0.16	2	0.03
Reported IO as one of the fields	3	0.08	3	0.04
Reported Development as one of the fields	3	0.08	9	0.12
Reported Behavioral as one of the fields	7	0.18	1	0.01
Reported Theory as one of the fields	1	0.03	1	0.01
Reported Econometrics as one of the fields	1	0.03	0	0.00
Reported Finance as one of the fields	2	0.05	5	0.07
Reported International as one of the fields	0	0.00	3	0.04
Observations	38		75	

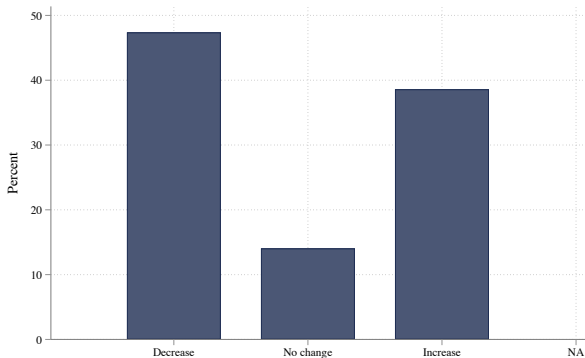
Summary of change in time spent on each activity

Percent of sub-sample (%)

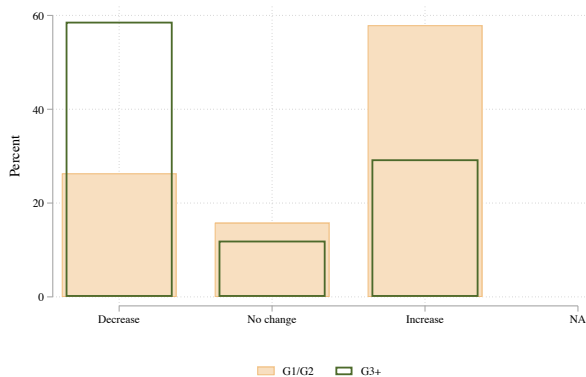
	G1/G2				G3+			
	Decrease	No change	Increase	NA	Decrease	No change	Increase	NA
Research	26.3	15.8	57.9	0.0	58.7	12.0	29.3	0.0
Teaching	2.6	10.5	0.0	86.8	20.0	24.0	16.0	40.0
Interactions with advisors	52.6	26.3	13.2	7.9	58.7	22.7	18.7	0.0
Seminars & workshops	68.4	15.8	15.8	0.0	54.7	30.7	14.7	0.0
Administrative tasks	7.9	36.8	34.2	21.1	13.3	42.7	37.3	6.7
Caretaking	2.6	26.3	34.2	36.8	8.0	33.3	30.7	28.0
Volunteering	23.7	39.5	5.3	31.6	22.7	45.3	8.0	24.0
Sleep	26.3	28.9	44.7	0.0	30.7	24.0	45.3	0.0
Socializing & self care	42.1	13.2	44.7	0.0	49.3	12.0	38.7	0.0
Other	13.2	21.1	63.2	2.6	9.3	22.7	66.7	1.3
Observations	38				75			

G1/G2s report an increase the amount of time spent on research, while G3+s report a decrease

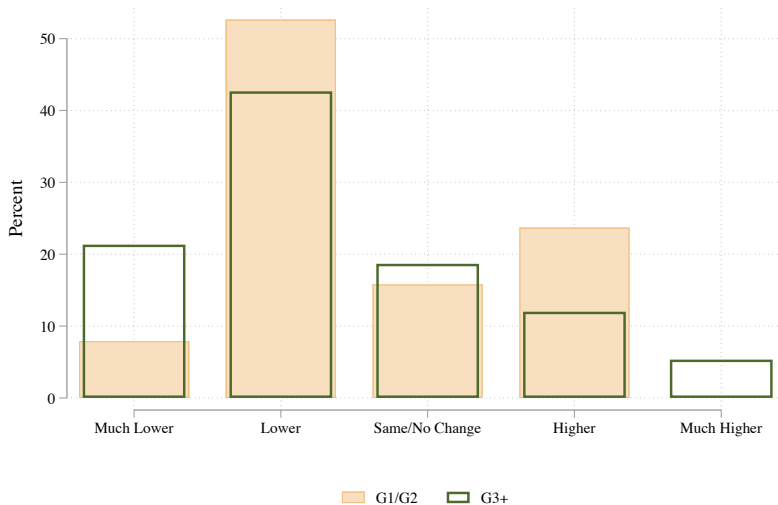
Aggregate



By G-year



“Relative to February 2020, my April 2020 productivity was...”



Results by Gender

Sample composition by Gender

	Women		Men	
	Count	Fraction	Count	Fraction
Identified as G3+	35	0.69	38	0.63
Reported a field	31	0.61	44	0.72
Reported Macro as one of the fields	3	0.06	5	0.08
Reported Labor as one of the fields	15	0.29	16	0.26
Reported Health as one of the fields	2	0.04	0	0.00
Reported Environmental as one of the fields	1	0.02	1	0.02
Reported Public as one of the fields	3	0.06	6	0.10
Reported PE as one of the fields	1	0.02	7	0.11
Reported IO as one of the fields	0	0.00	6	0.10
Reported Development as one of the fields	5	0.10	6	0.10
Reported Behavioral as one of the fields	3	0.06	5	0.08
Reported Theory as one of the fields	1	0.02	1	0.02
Reported Econometrics as one of the fields	0	0.00	1	0.02
Reported Finance as one of the fields	1	0.02	6	0.10
Reported International as one of the fields	0	0.00	3	0.05
Observations	51		61	

Summary of change in time spent on each activity

Percent of sub-sample (%)

	Women				Men			
	Decrease	No change	Increase	NA	Decrease	No change	Increase	NA
Research	52.9	15.7	31.4	0.0	42.6	13.1	44.3	0.0
Teaching	13.7	15.7	15.7	54.9	14.8	21.3	6.6	57.4
Interactions with advisors	52.9	35.3	7.8	3.9	59.0	14.8	24.6	1.6
Seminars & workshops	62.7	23.5	13.7	0.0	55.7	26.2	18.0	0.0
Administrative tasks	7.8	37.3	39.2	15.7	14.8	42.6	34.4	8.2
Caretaking	5.9	31.4	33.3	29.4	6.6	31.1	31.1	31.1
Volunteering	23.5	45.1	9.8	21.6	23.0	41.0	4.9	31.1
Sleep	29.4	27.5	43.1	0.0	29.5	26.2	44.3	0.0
Socializing & self care	47.1	13.7	39.2	0.0	47.5	11.5	41.0	0.0
Other	7.8	15.7	74.5	2.0	14.8	24.6	59.0	1.6
Observations	51				61			

“Relative to February 2020, my April 2020 productivity was...”

