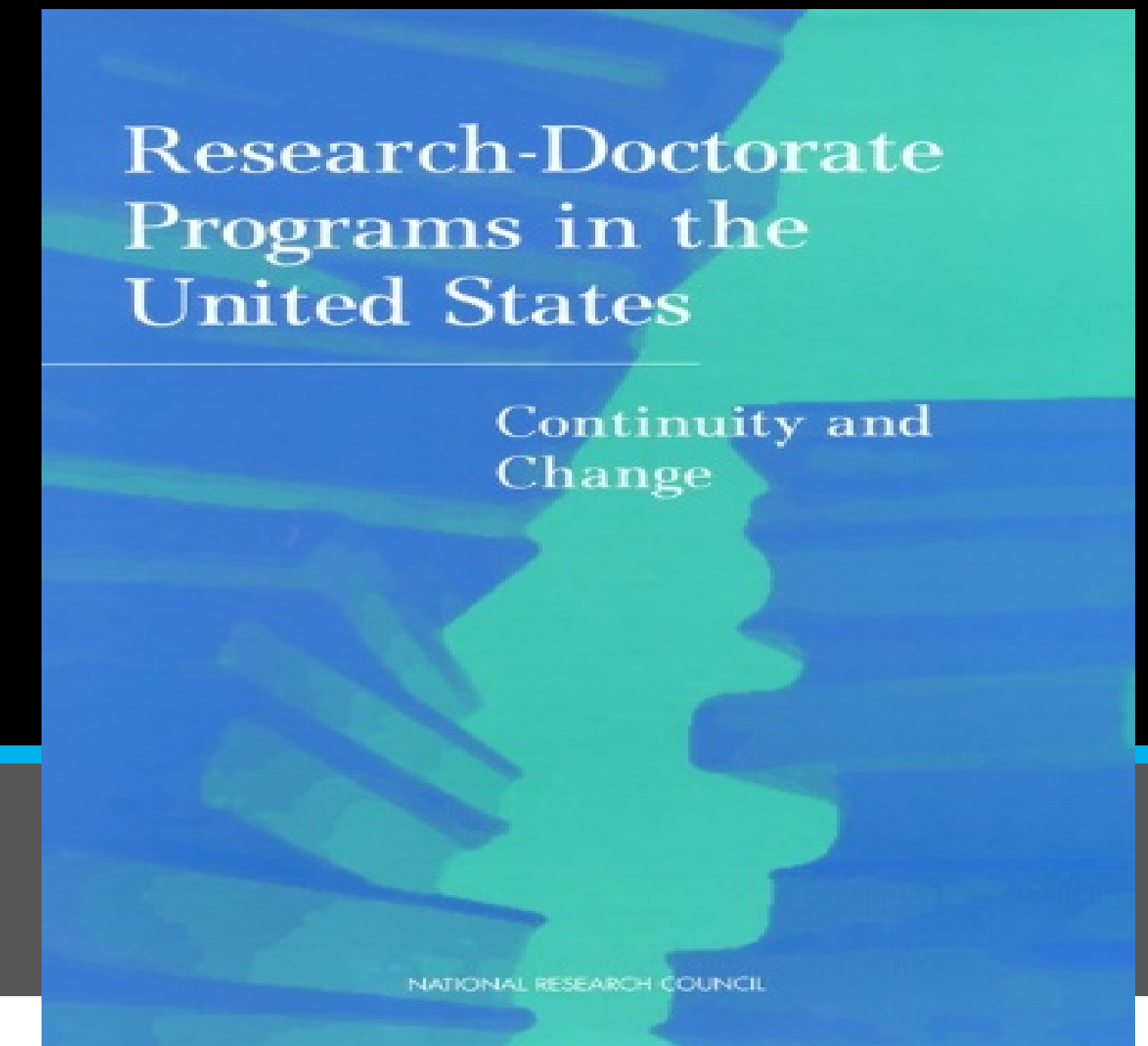


Uneasy Partnerships: Factors that Foster Excellence in Psychological Science

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Overview

“Peer” views of doctoral program quality in the sciences have been collected for decades in the United States.

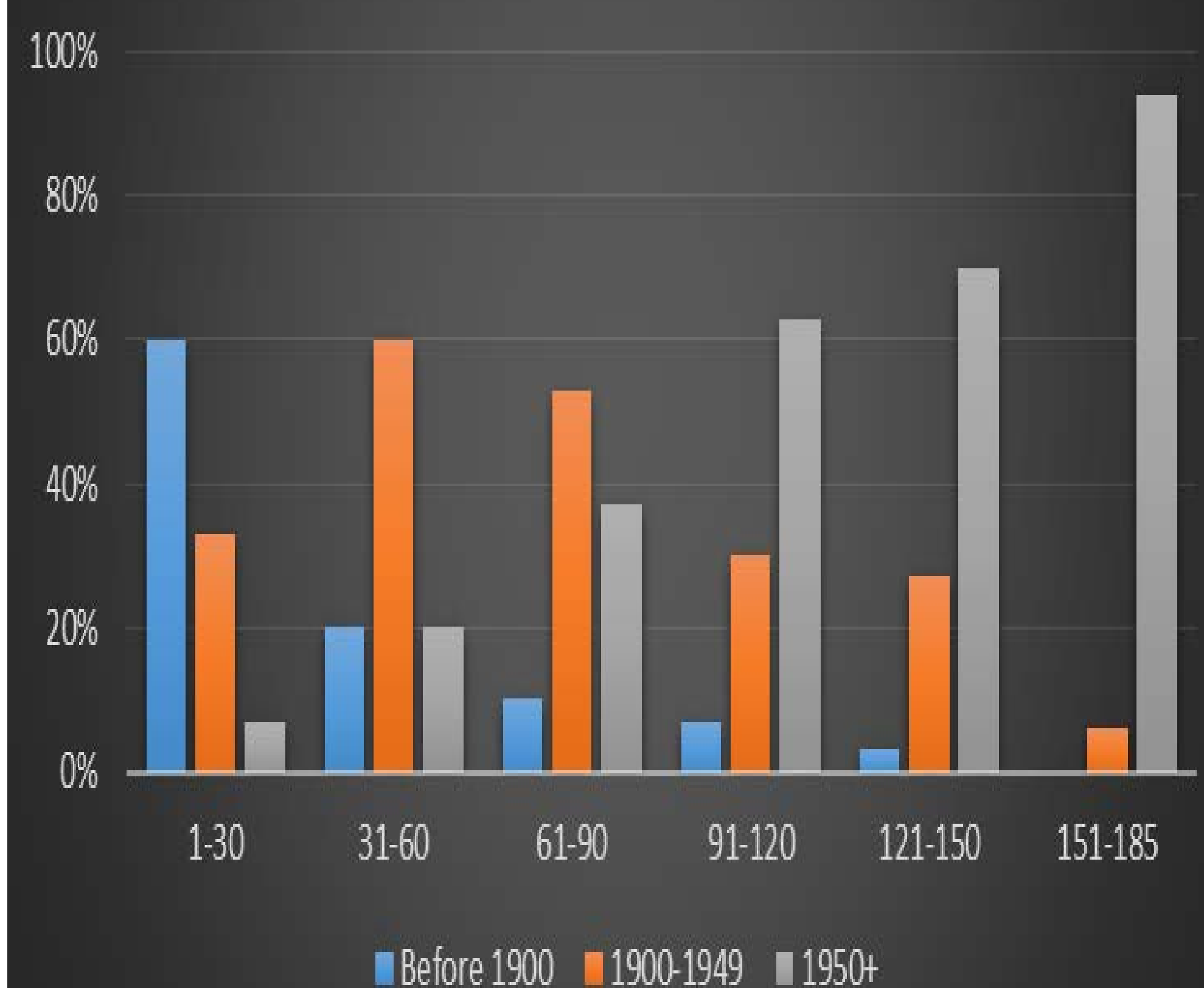
Recent methodological refinements promise deeper insights into the factors influencing “perceived quality” of doctoral education in Psychology.

Faculty productivity and student support and outcomes seem linked to contemporary measures of “perceived quality” of doctoral programs in Psychology.

The 1993 NAS Study Committee Assessed Research-Doctorate Programs in Psychology at **185 Participating Institutions** and Found More Highly Ranked Programs Tended to be Located at Institutions Having Awarded Doctorates for Over 100 Years

(Goldberger, Maher, and Flattau, 1995)

Distribution of 185 Psychology Programs (1995)



2006 NAS Study Approach

“The Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs conducted by the National Research Council (NRC) provides data that allow comparisons to be made among similar doctoral programs around the United States, with the goal of informing efforts to improve current practices in doctoral education.

The assessment, which covers doctoral programs in 61 fields at 222 institutions, offers accessible data about program characteristics that will be of interest to policymakers, researchers, university administrators, and faculty, as well as to students who are considering doctoral study. Furthermore, the assessment analyzes and combines these data to create ranges of rankings that allow the comparison of different doctoral programs within a field...”

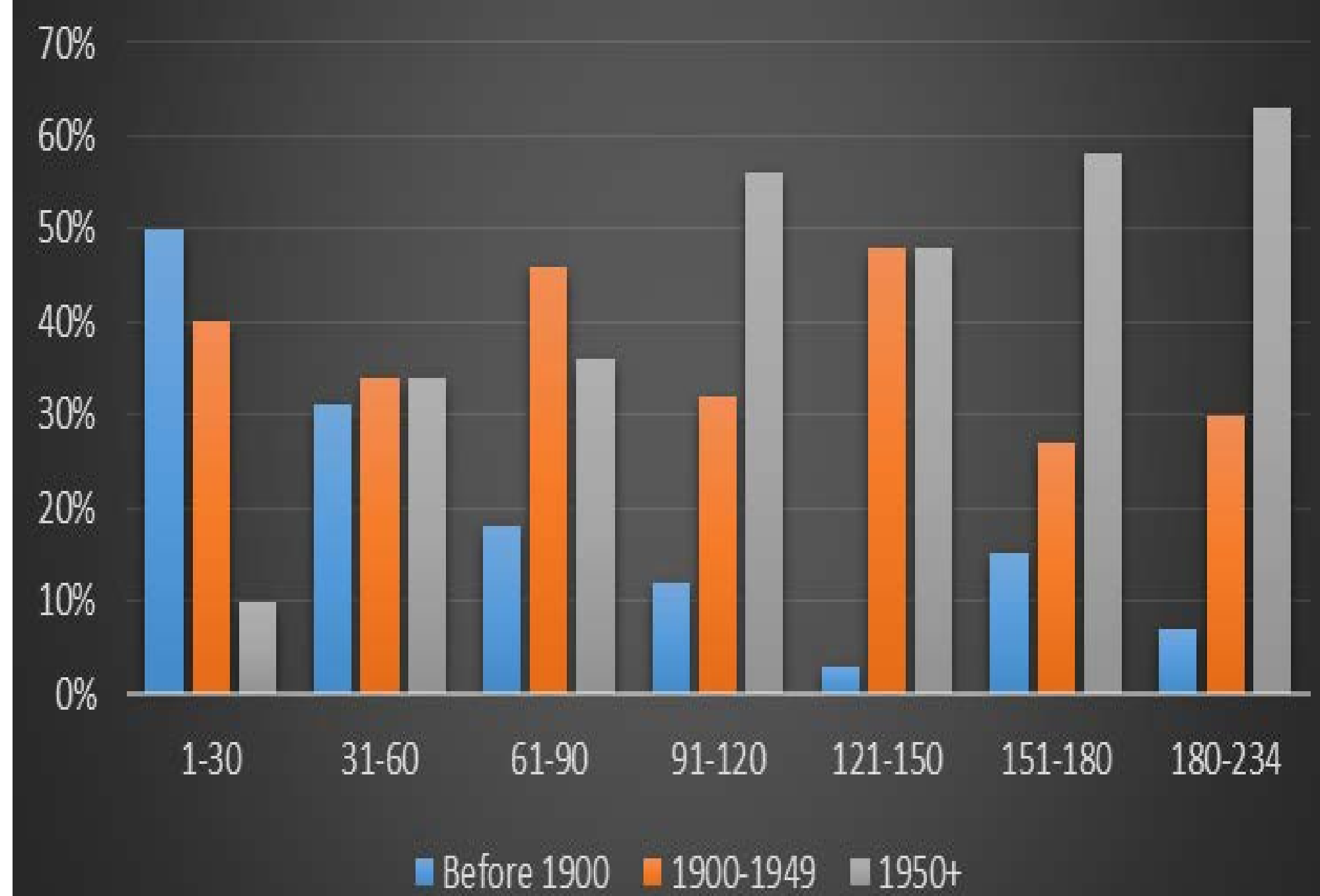
“Faculty were surveyed to get their views on the importance of different characteristics of programs as measures of quality. Ratings were based on faculty members’ views of how those measures related to program quality...”

(Ostriker, et al., 2009)

The 2006 NAS Study Committee Gave the **160 Participating Institutions** the Option to Nominate Psychology Programs by Sub-Discipline, and Once Again Found that More Highly Ranked Programs Tended to be Located at Institutions Having Awarded Doctorates for Over 100 Years – With Some Exceptions

(Ostriker, Kuh, and Voytuk, 2011)

Distribution of 236 Psychology Programs (2011)



Partial Listing of “Quality” Research-Doctorate Programs in Psychology at Institutions Awarding Doctorates Since 1950

(Ostriker, Kuh, and Voytuk, 2011)

Overall Program Ranking	Institution	Program Name	E.g.: Avg. # Pubs (2000-2006) per Faculty
In Top 50 Programs	Florida State University	Psychology	2.36
	University of California-Santa Barbara	Psychology	1.66
	University of Miami	Psychology	1.16
	SUNY-Binghamton	Behavioral Neuroscience	2.18
	SUNY-Stony Brook	Psychology	1.36
In Next 30	Arizona State University	Psychology	1.55
	SUNY-Albany	Social-Personality Psychology	1.05
	University of Alabama	Psychology	0.76
	SUNY-Albany	Clinical Psychology	2.3
	SUNY-Albany	Biopsychology	2.93
	SUNY-Binghamton	Cognitive Psychology	1.81
	University of California-Irvine	Psychology	0.95
	Brandeis University	Psychology	1.05
	Northeastern University	Psychology	1.05
	University of California-Riverside	Psychology	1.18
Selection of Programs Ranked in Bottom 30	Auburn University	Human Development & Family Studies	1.03
	Southern Methodist University	Psychology	0.62
	Wright State University	Human Factors and Industrial/Organizational Psychology	0.37
	Brigham Young University	Psychology	0.76
	University of North Texas	Health Psychology and Behavior	0.18

Some Factors Thought to Be Related to “Perceived Quality”

(Ostriker, et al. 2009)

1. Research Activity: # pubs; # citations; % faculty with grants; scholarly recognition (e.g. awards)
2. Student Support and Outcomes: % funded; % completing degree; time-to-degree; employment outcomes

References

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