

RANGELAND RESTORATION PRACTITIONER'S PERSPECTIVES

CSU The California State University

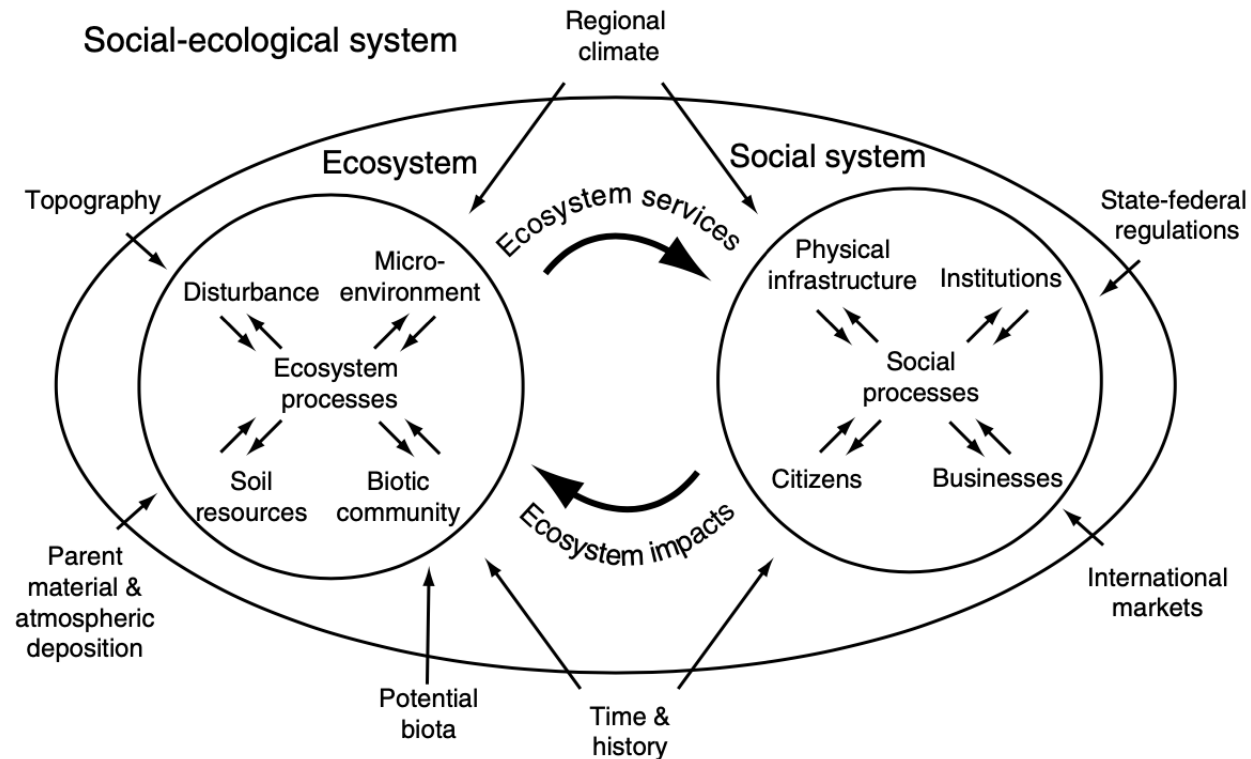
AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



CAL POLY

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SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS



Rangelands provide numerous services

- ecological, economic, and cultural

Human Impacts

- climate change
- human use and development

RESTORATION

Defined:

The management process that helps improve aspects of an ecosystem that have been degraded, in a way that increases ecological integrity and involves and benefits all stakeholders

RESTORATION CONT.

Restoration has ecological and social components

- ecological: use management practices to achieve the desired ecology
- social: policy, management programs, funding opportunities

It's a process



Holl, 2020

UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF RESTORATION

What's understood:

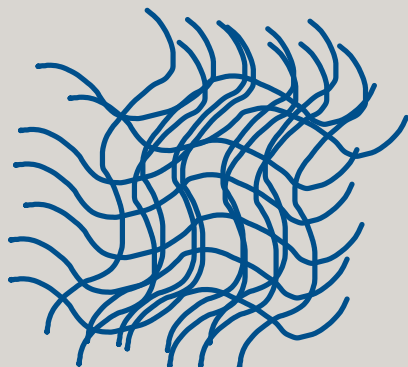
- Ecology and “human dimension”

understanding context = helps understand the best solutions

Individual perspective



Social Fabric (context)



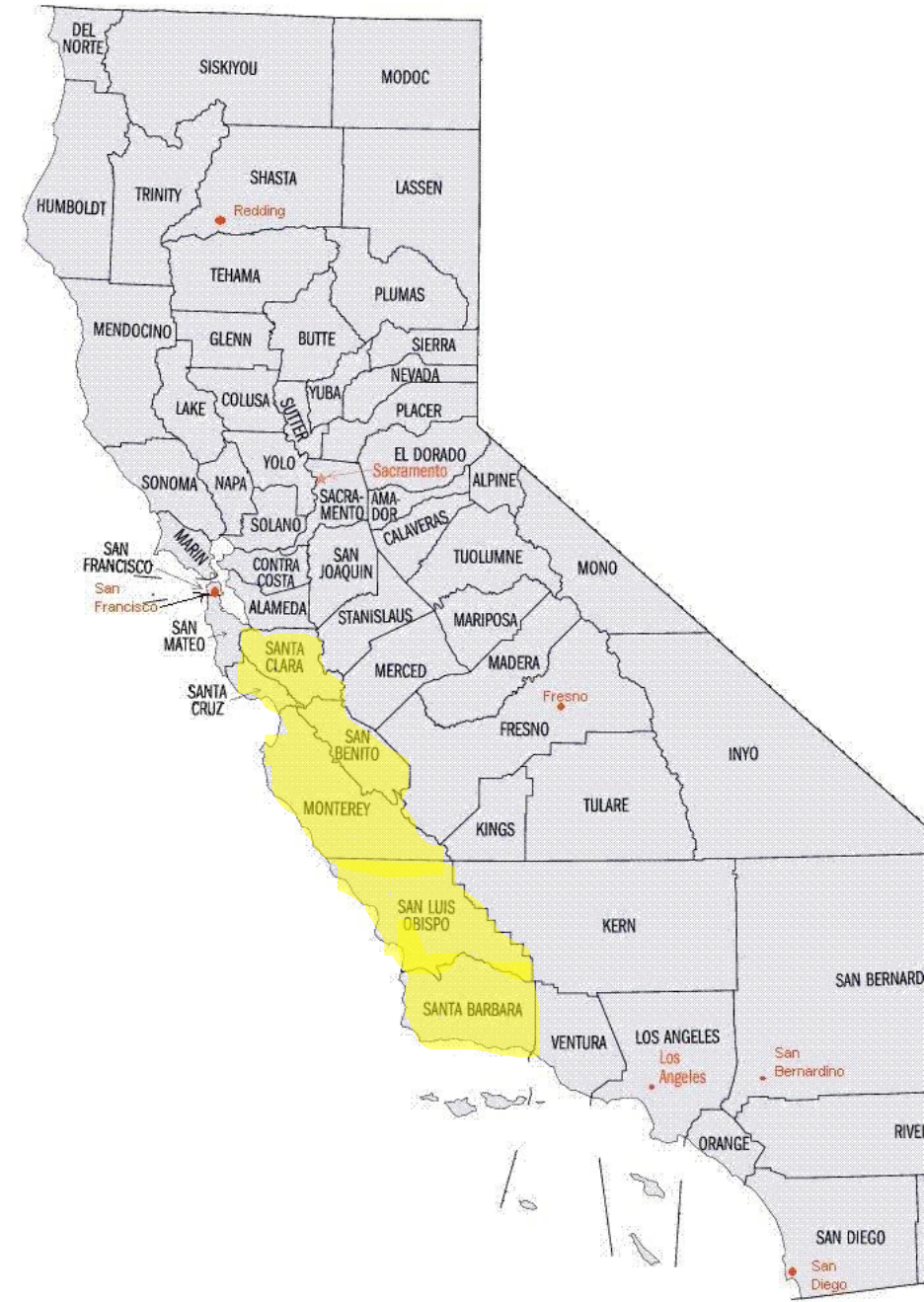
RANGELAND RESTORATION PRACTITIONERS' PERSPECTIVES

Research Questions:

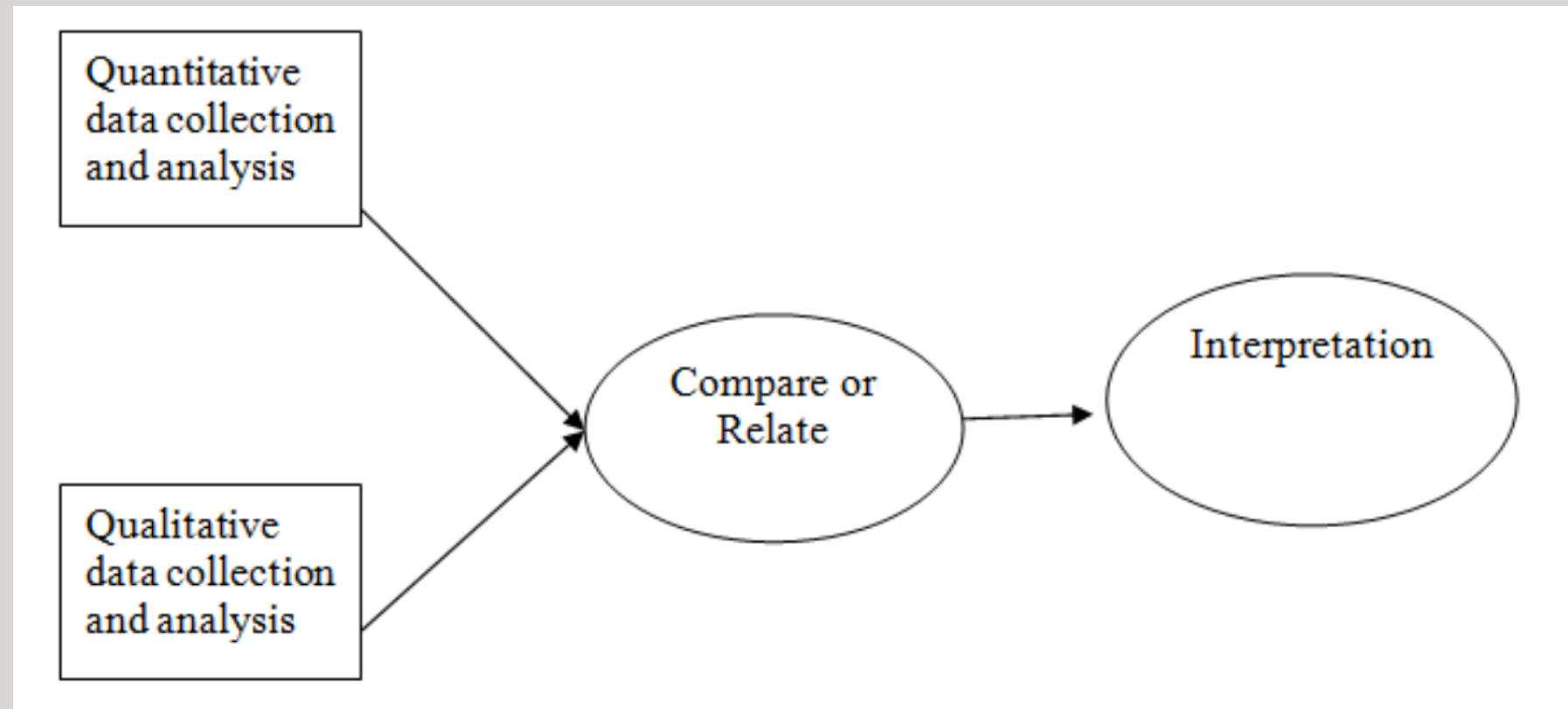
1. Where do practitioners source information from to inform their practices?
2. How do practitioners view collaboration efforts?
3. How do practitioners' goals and barriers influence their decision-making?

PRACTITIONERS

- County, state, or federal agency
- NGO
- Academic institution
- Private business
- Rancher
- Private landowner



CONVERGENT PARALLEL DESIGN



SURVEYS

(DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS)

Recruitment:

- Central Coast Rangeland Coalition
- Professional network

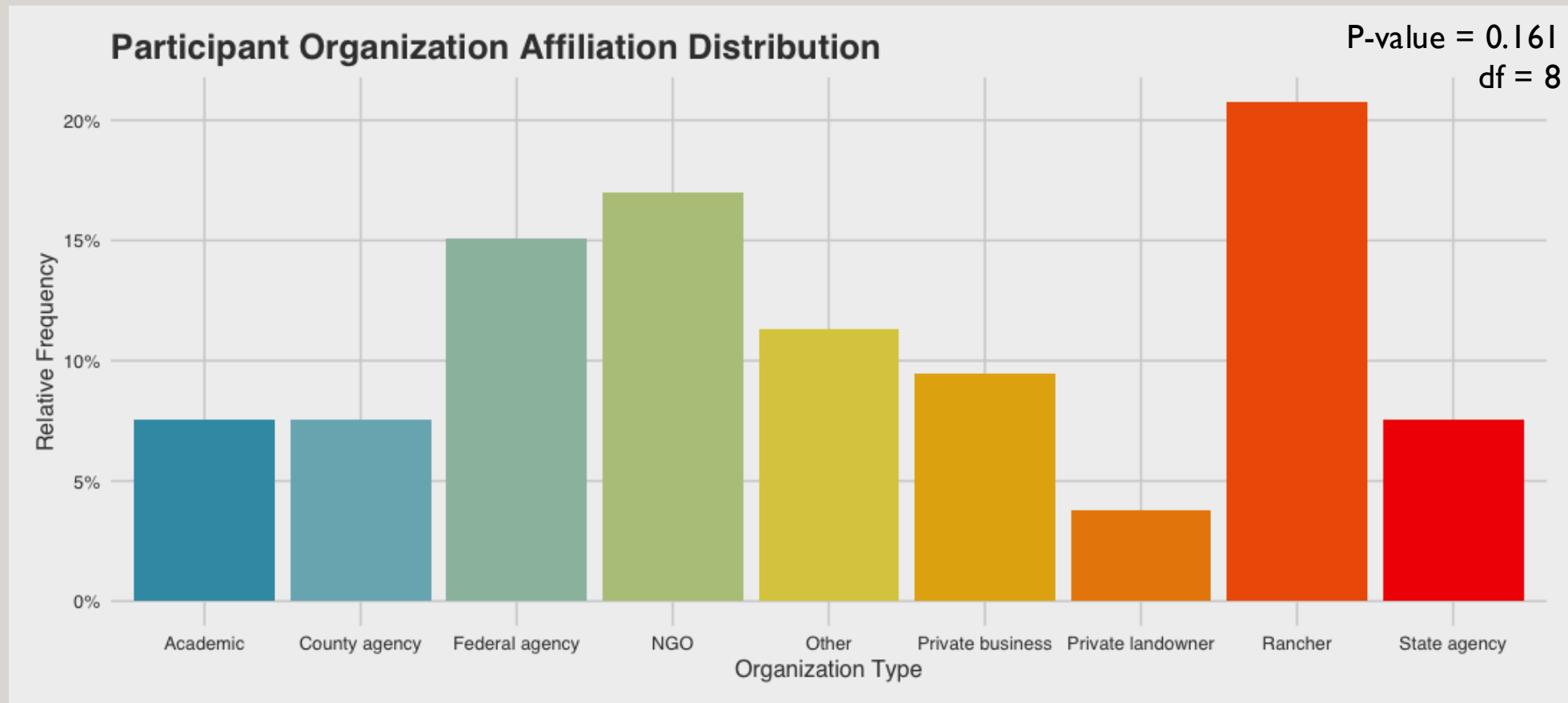
Survey:

- Online survey platform, 5-10 minutes, 12 question

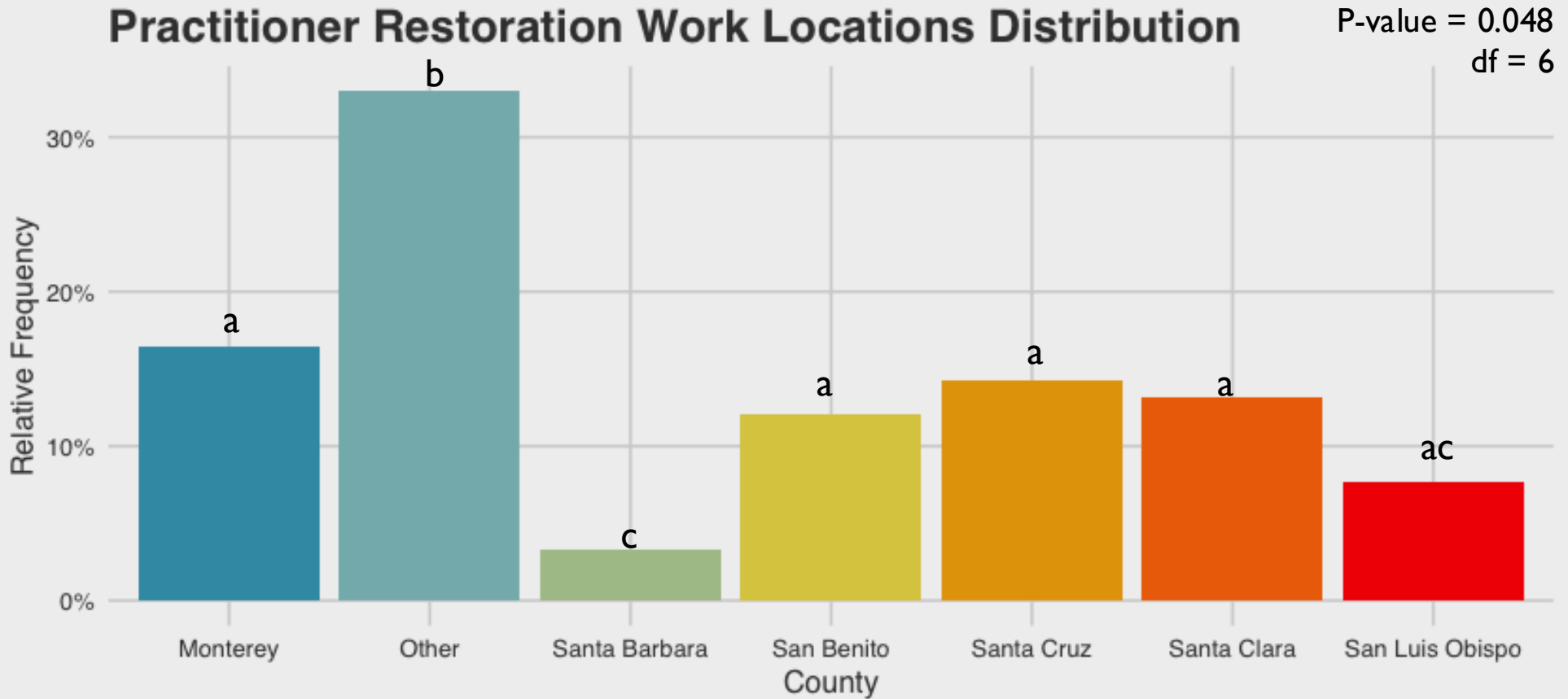
Analysis:

- Sample size = 53 participants
- Descriptive statistic analysis (chi-squared goodness-to-fit test)
 - p-value correction (false discovery rate)
- Differences between variables (Pearson's chi-squared test)

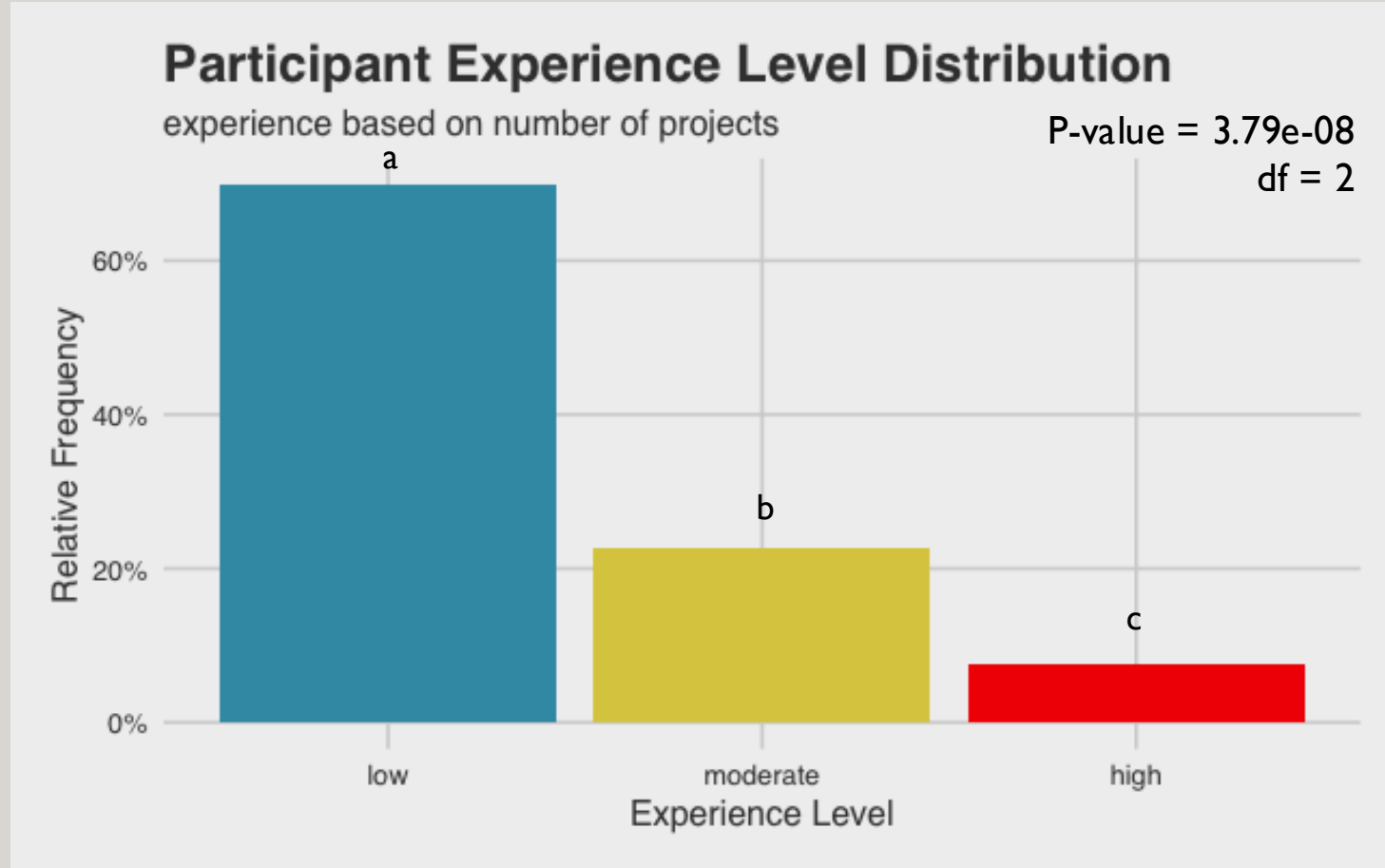
DESCRIBING THE DATASET (ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION)



DESCRIBING THE DATASET (WORK LOCATIONS)

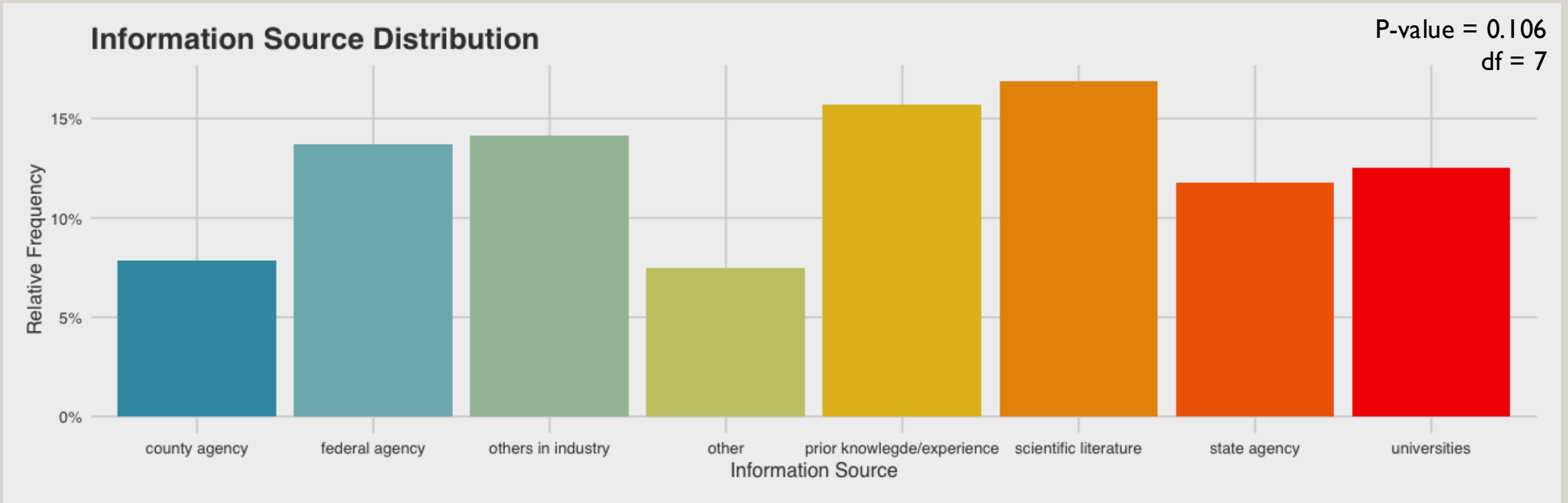


DESCRIBING THE DATASET (EXPERIENCE LEVELS)

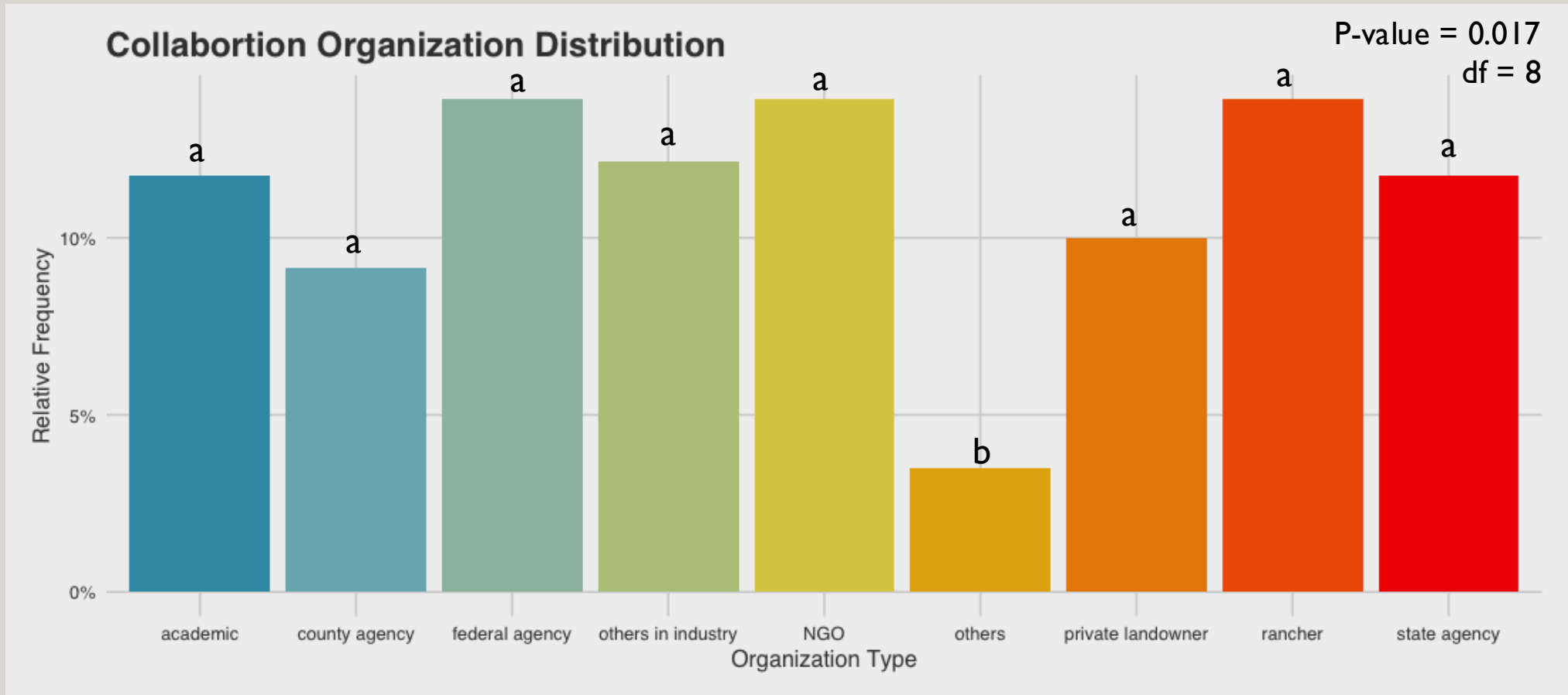


Low = 1-5 projects Moderate = 6-15 projects High = 15+ projects

DESCRIBING THE DATASET (INFORMATION SOURCES)

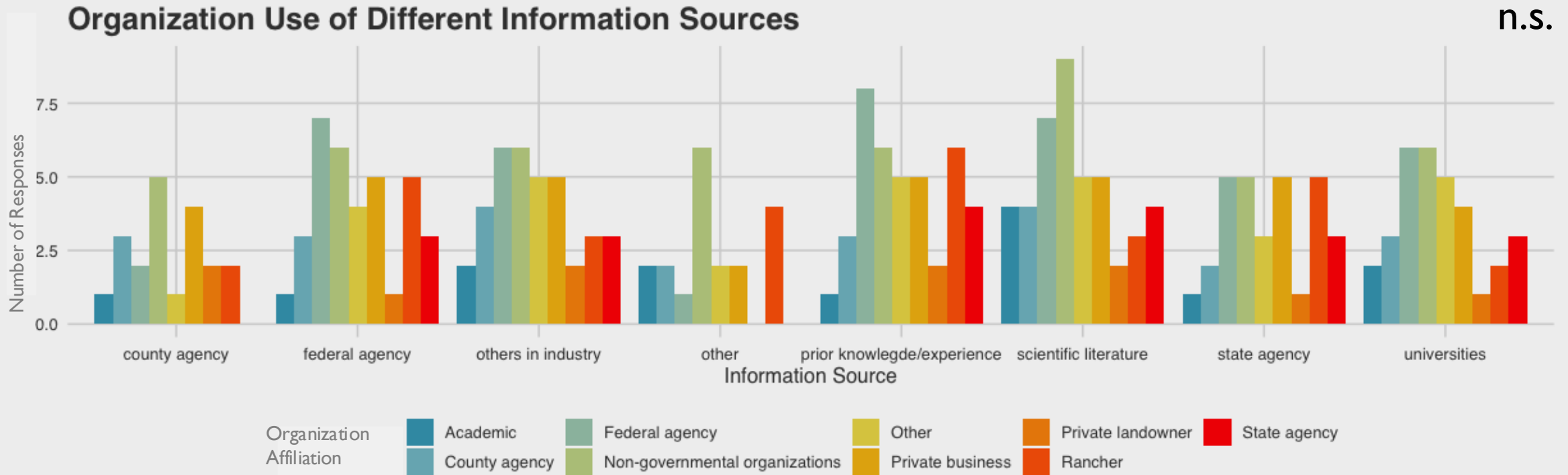


DESCRIBING THE DATASET (COLLABORATION ORGANIZATIONS)



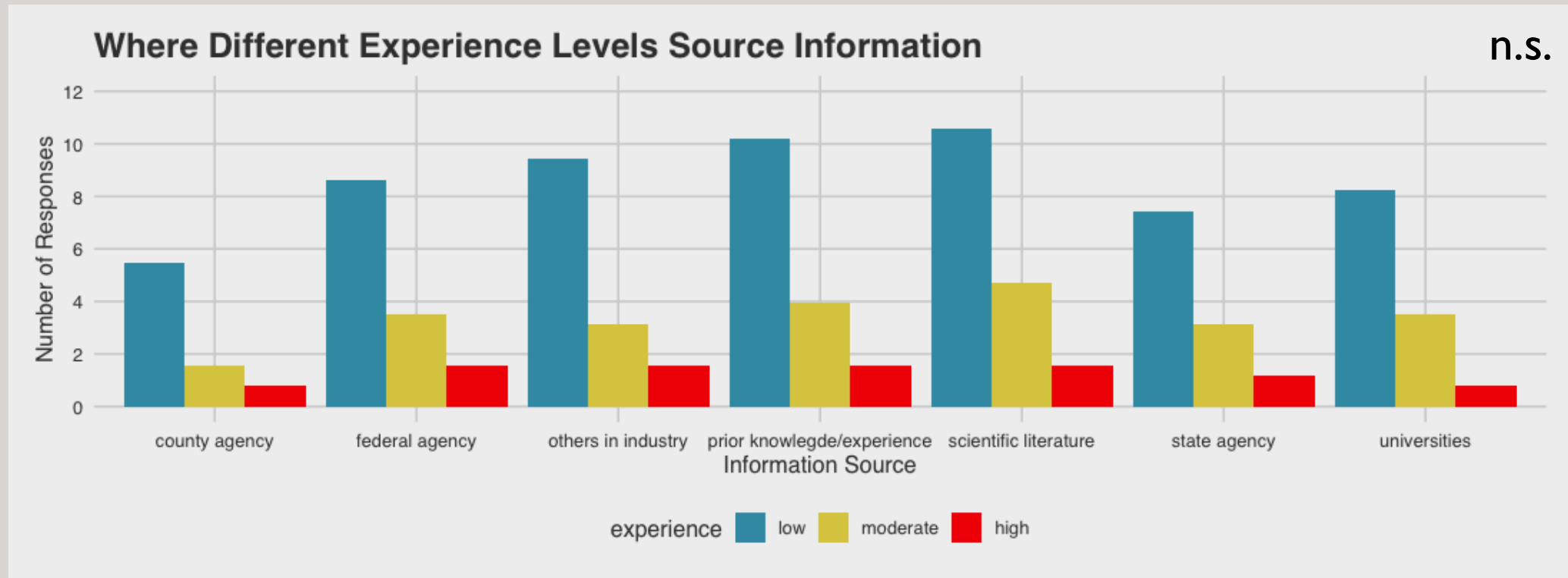
THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION AND WHERE SOMEONE SOURCES INFORMATION

Where do practitioners source information from to inform their practices?



THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXPERIENCE LEVEL AND WHERE SOMEONE SOURCES INFORMATION

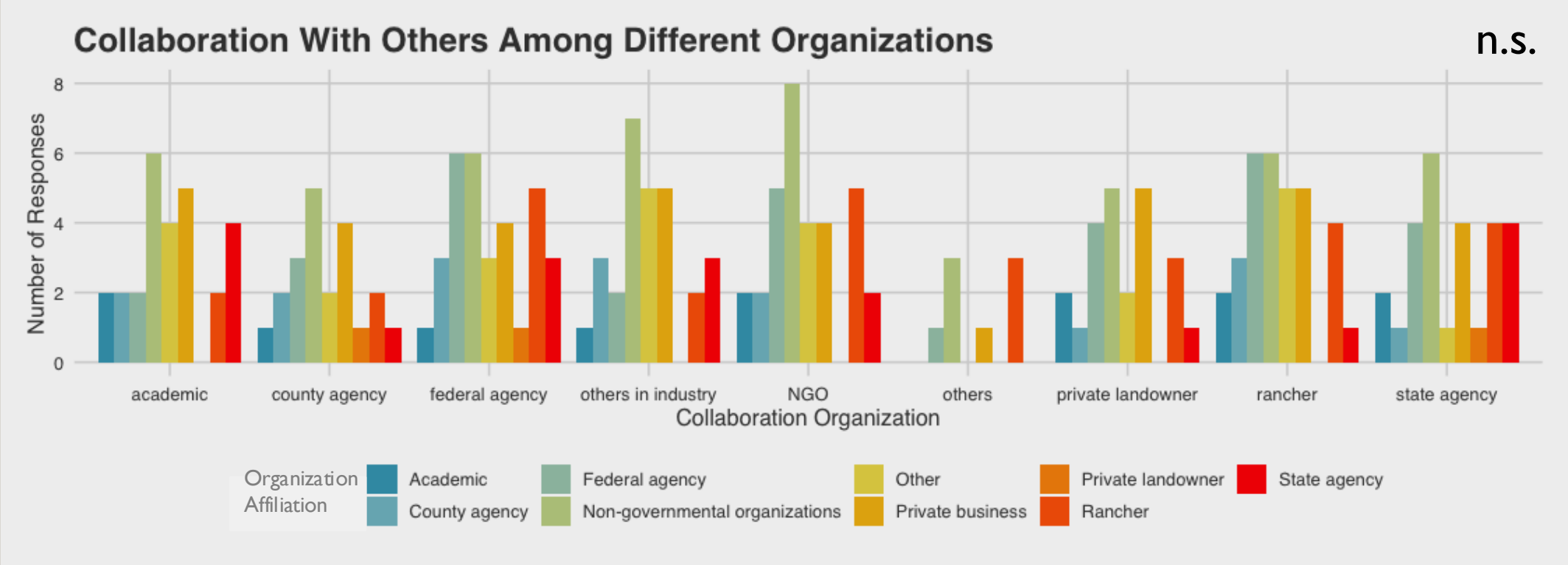
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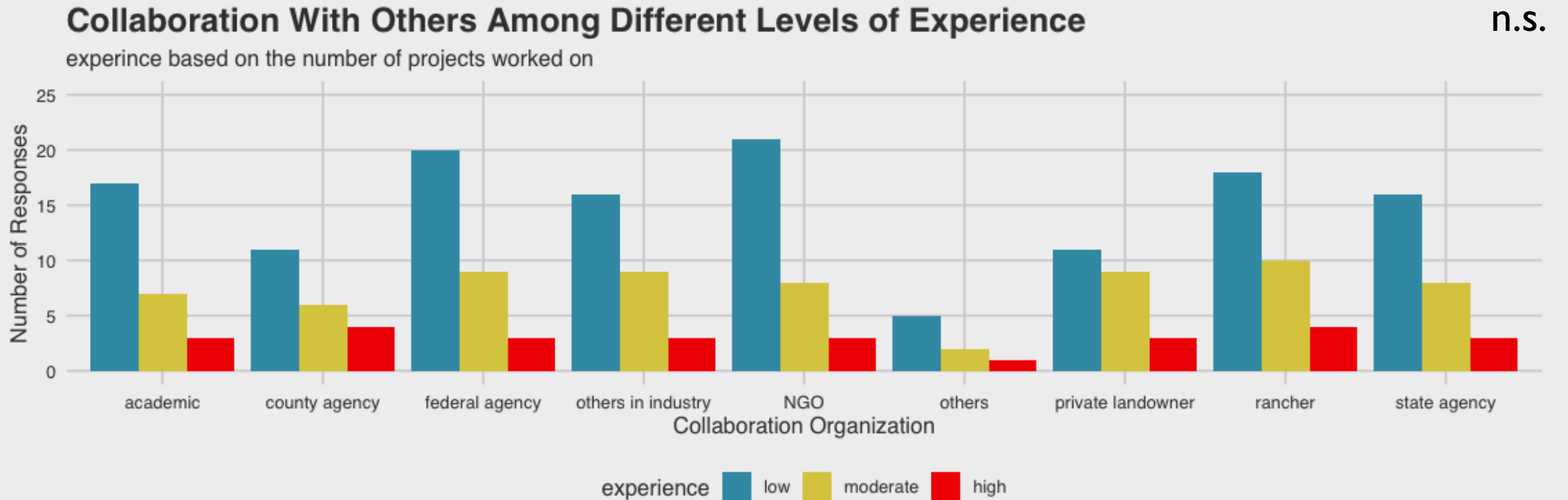
THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION AND WHO SOMEONE COLLABORATES WITH

How do practitioners view collaboration efforts?



THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXPERIENCE LEVEL AND WHO SOMEONE COLLABORATES WITH

How do practitioners view collaboration efforts?



Low = 1-5 projects, Moderate = 6-15 projects, High = 15+ projects

SURVEY SUMMARY

1. A practitioner's organizational affiliation and experience level do not relate to where they get information from and who they collaborate with
2. Other factors may influence where practitioners get information and who they work with
3. Qualitative research is important when studying social-ecological systems

INTERVIEWS

(DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS)

Performed over Zoom

- audio recorded and transcribed

Reflexive thematic analysis

- iterative
- developing codes in the transcript and identifying themes

PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW RESULTS

Themes:

- Rangeland restoration practitioners have different understandings of the word restoration
- Restoration is goal-oriented and dependent on individual perspectives
- Experts are the most trusted knowledge sources
- Practitioners prefer to work with those who have shared interests
- Collaboration is largely dependent on the individuals a practitioner has to work with
- Most of the barriers to restoration are social

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

- Learning about people through categorization does not tell the whole story
- Individual perspectives are diverse
- The success of restoration comes down to the individuals

MAXWELLS NEXT MOVES

Research:

- developing themes from interviews
- comparing the quantitative and qualitative data
- finishing report

Personal:

- graduate in December
- look for career opportunities within this community
- continue work in natural resource and rangeland management



THANK YOU!

Acknowledgments:

- Central Coast Rangeland Coalition
- Family and friends
- The California State University Agricultural Research Institute
- Cal Poly Institutional Review Board: IRB Protocol Number: 2024-076-CP, Date Approved: 5-6-2024

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