



The experience and confidence of researchers in conducting cross-disciplinary research

---Survey findings from the IMPALA-MUDI research project

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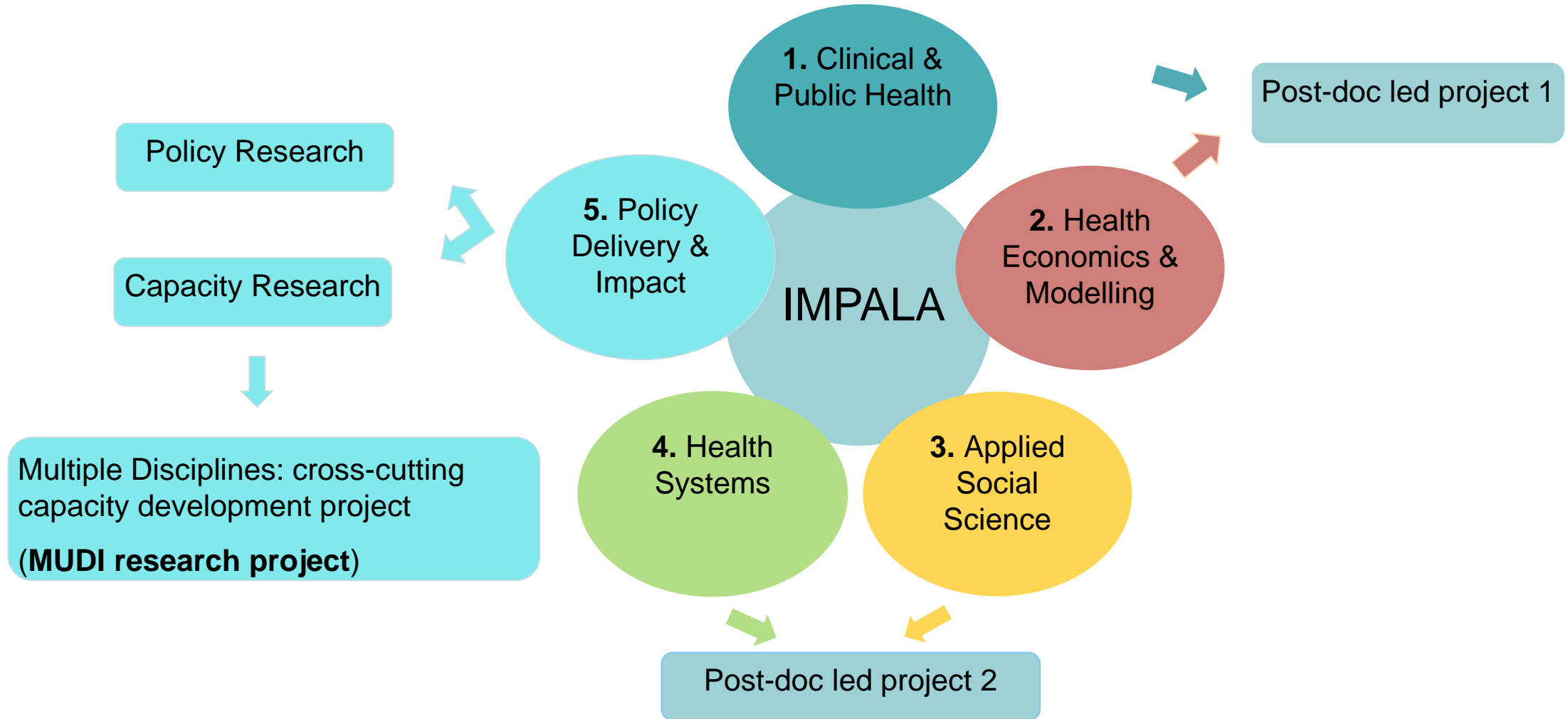
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Work through the talk

- Background
 - The IMPALA programme & MUDI research project
 - Why the survey?
- Methods
 - Survey development
 - Data analysis
- Findings
- Discussions

Background

The IMPALA Programme, MUDI research project



Why to have the survey?

Collaboration Readiness

Individual qualities

Previous experience in conducting cross-disciplinary research

Confidence in conducting cross-disciplinary research

Perspectives sharing, not research

So what?

A survey on **previous experience** and **confidence** in conducting cross-disciplinary research

Aims to:

1. explore researchers' previous experience and confidence in conducting cross-disciplinary research; and
2. **identify actions** for further improvement on cross-disciplinary research experience and confidence.

Methods

Content of the survey

1. Personal information
 2. Previous **research experience**
 3. Self-assessment of **confidence**
- in conducting cross-disciplinary research

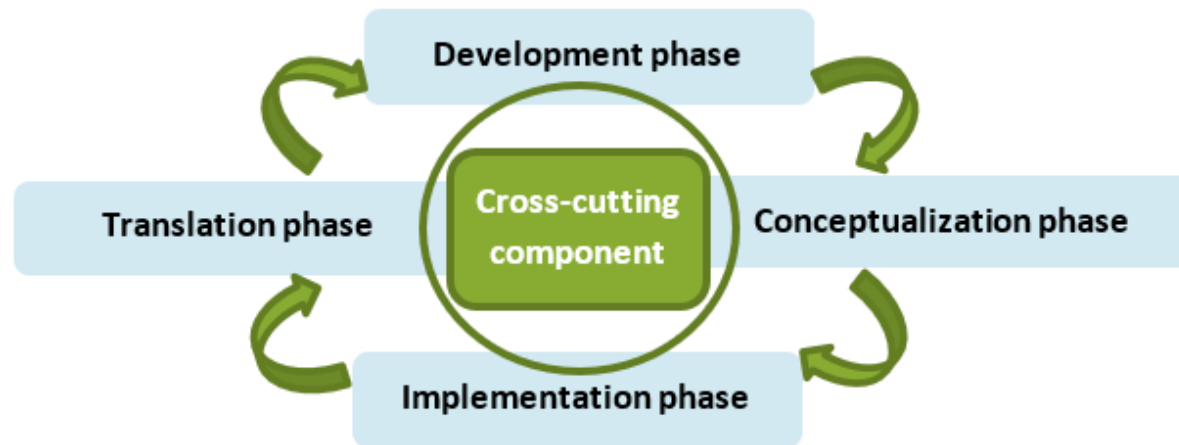
Based on **required competencies from literature**
in conducting cross-disciplinary research

e.g.: able to seek an exchange of theories, concepts,
and approaches with those from other disciplines

Structure of the survey questions

Qs on **previous research experience** in conducting cross-disciplinary research

“yes-no” answers



(Adapted from Hall, K.L., et al., 2012)

Did you have previous experience in...

e.g.:

➤ creating a **network** for further collaborations?

e.g.:

➤ **modifying** your own perspectives on **research questions** as a result of interactions with colleagues from fields other than your own?

Qs on self-assessment of **confidence** in conducting cross-disciplinary research

a **5-point scale** ranging from **extremely confident** (=5) to **extremely unconfident** (=1)

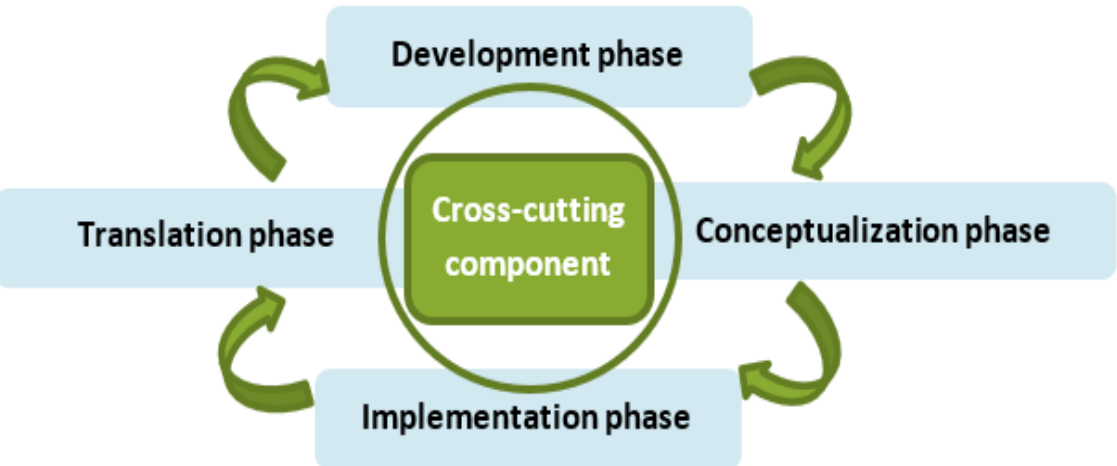
Data analysis

% of those who had **previous experience** in conducting cross-disciplinary research

% of those who were **“extremely confident”/“confident”** in conducting cross-disciplinary research

A. Data were stratified by academic rank:

- Professors
- Senior researchers
- Early career researchers



B. Data were stratified by primary academic discipline:

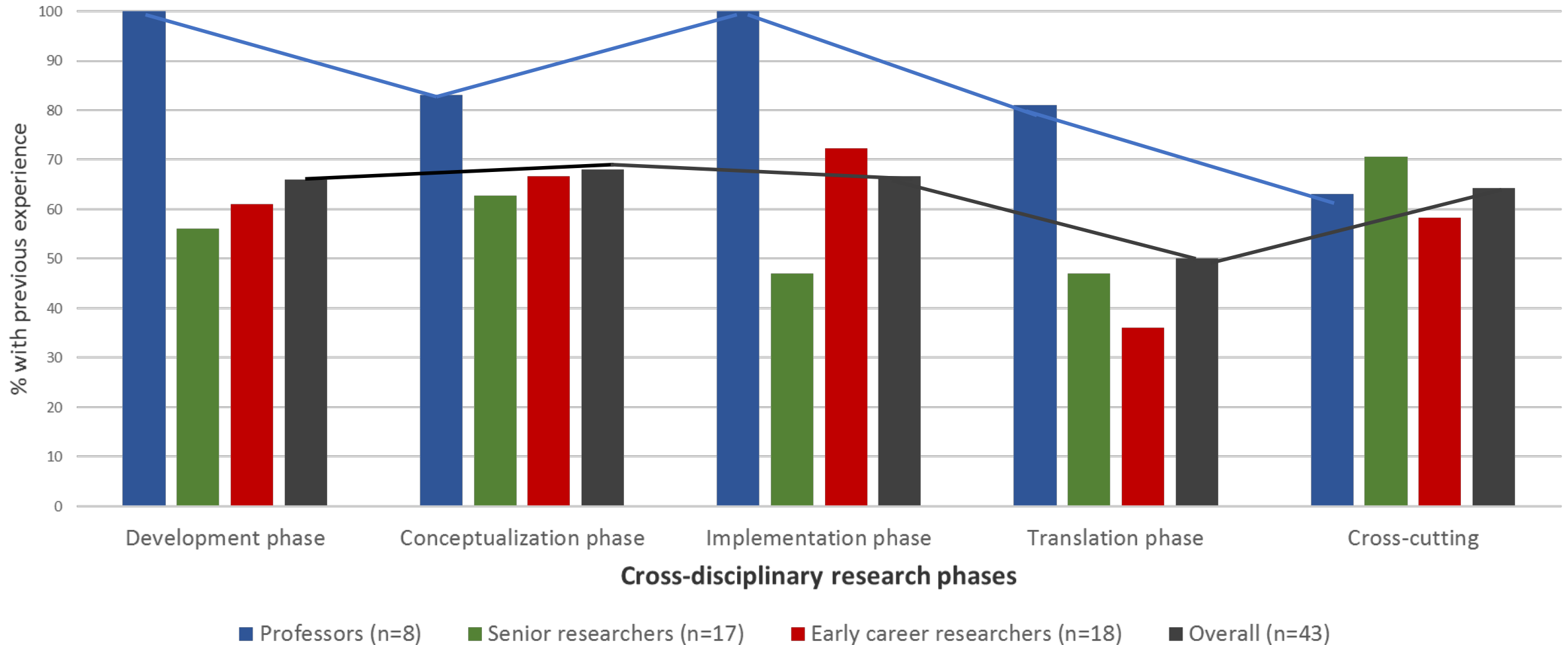
- Medicine/Clinical Sciences
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Others

Findings

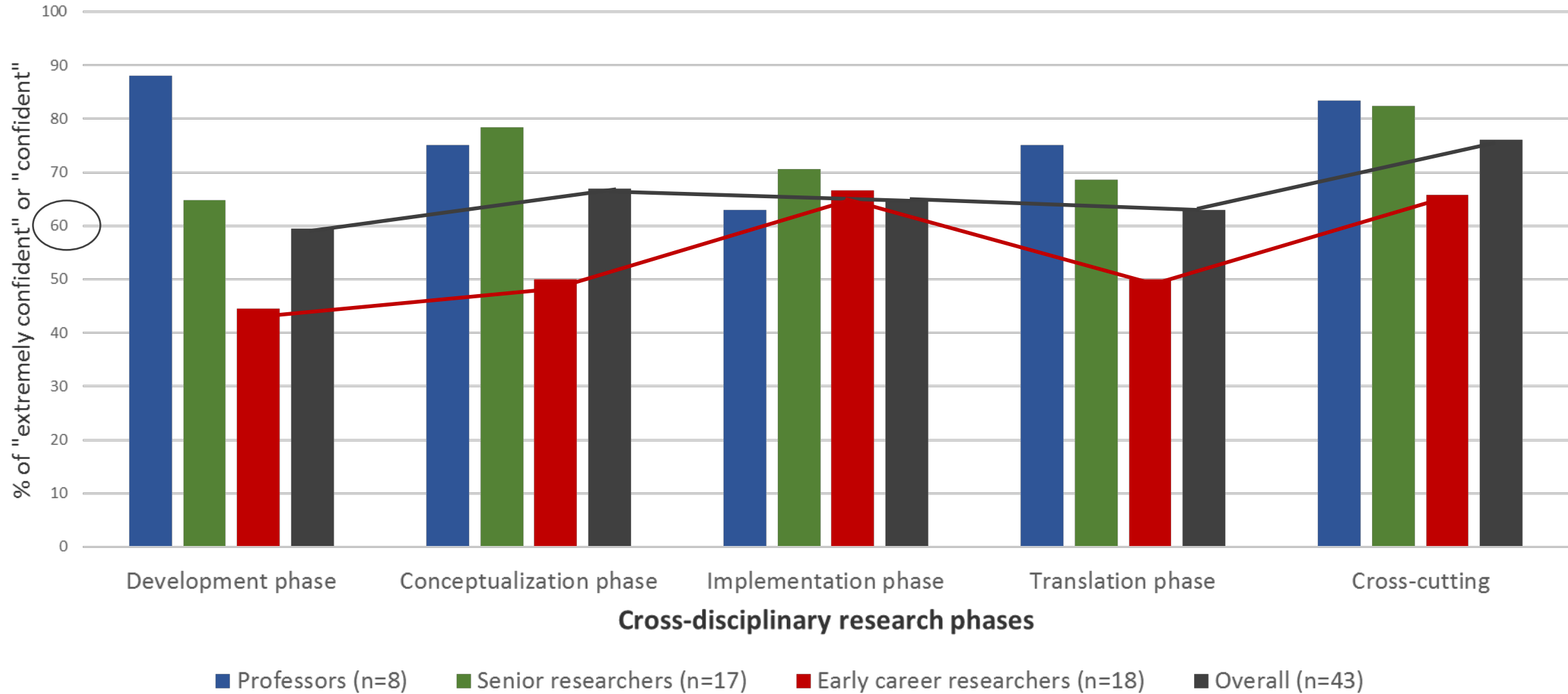
Researcher respondents' characteristics (43/58)

Items	Option	N=43	%
Academic Rank	Professor	8	19
	Senior researchers (including readers, associate professors, senior lecturers)	17	40
	Early career researchers (including assistant professors, lecturers, research fellows, post-docs, research assistants and PhD students)	18	42
Primary Academic Discipline	Medicine & Clinical Sciences	28	65
	Humanities & Social Sciences	11	26
	Others	4	9
Received academic degrees in more than one discipline	Yes	24	56
	No	19	44
Self-assessed professional background	Multi-disciplinary	32	74
	Uni-disciplinary	11	26

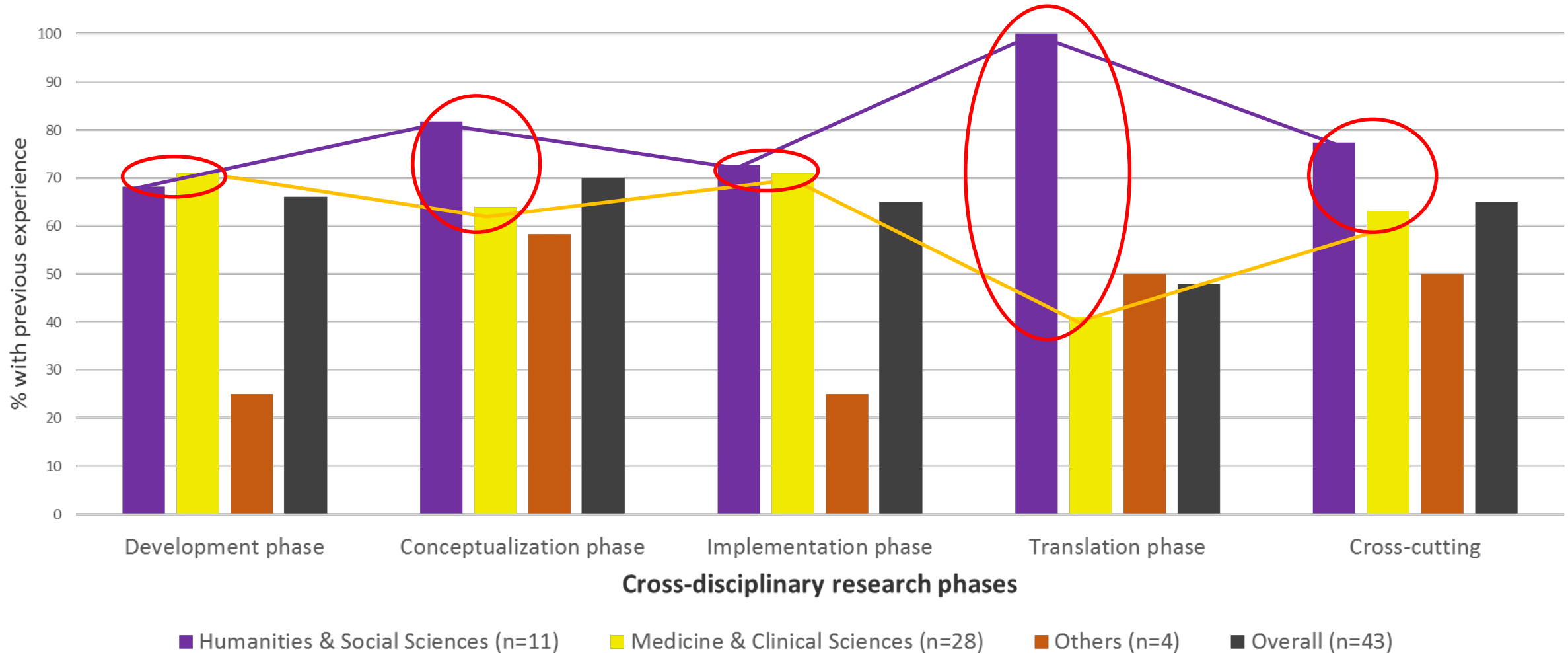
Researchers' previous experience by academic rank



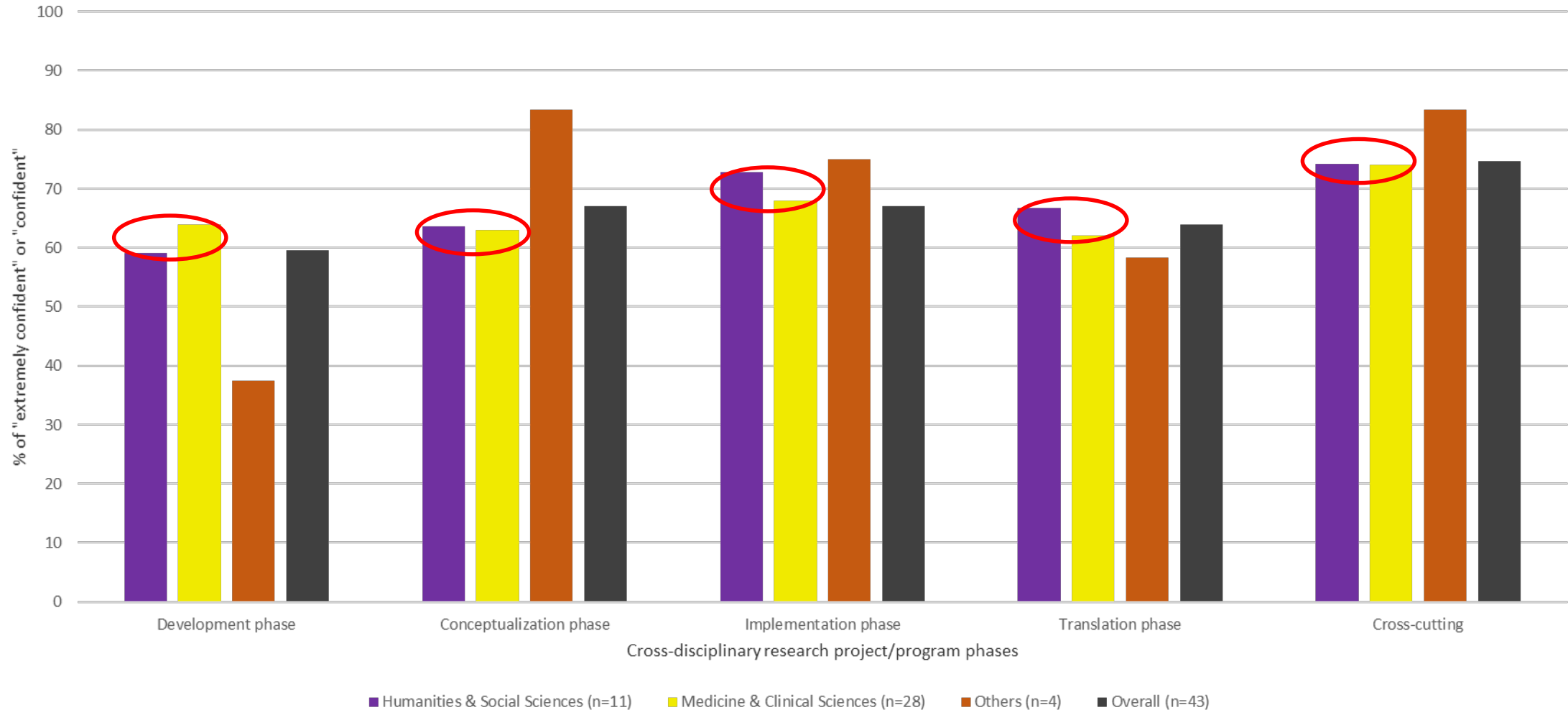
Researchers' confidence by academic rank



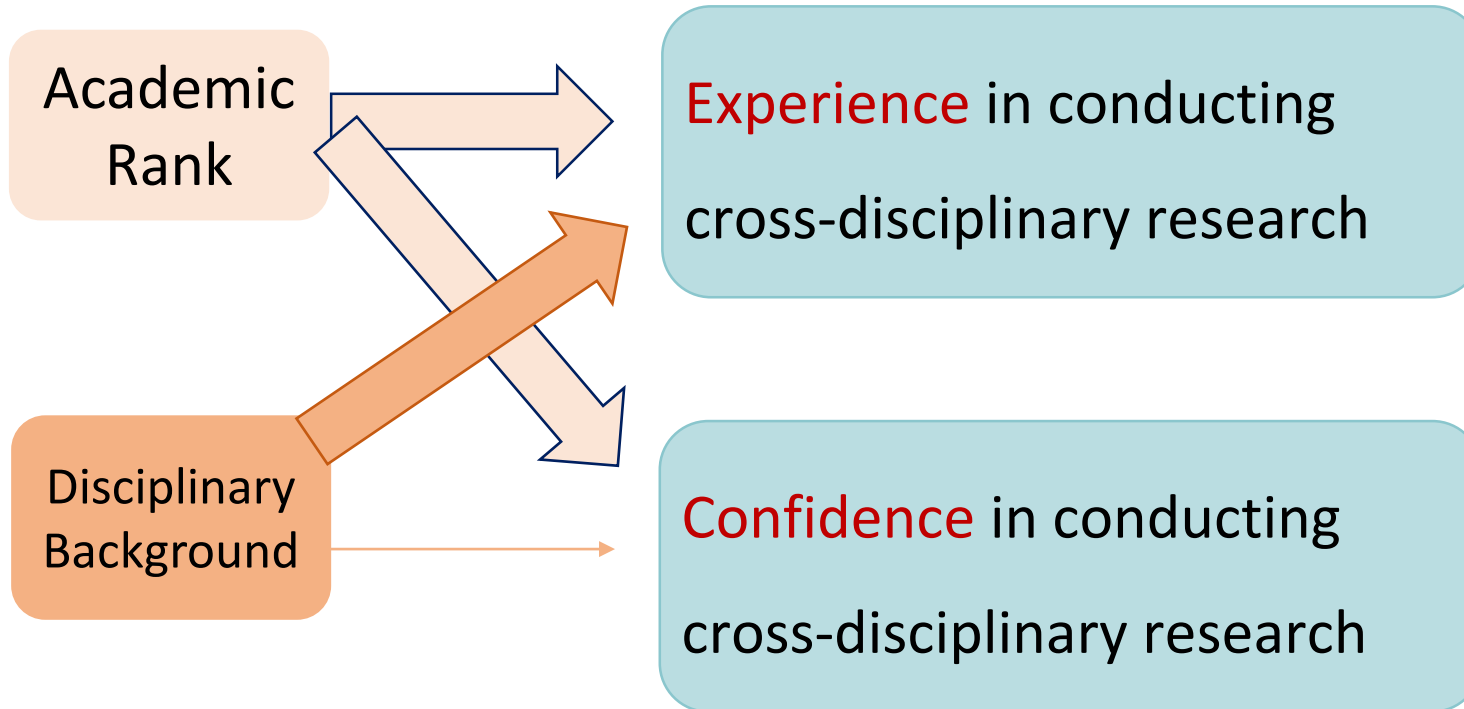
Researchers' previous experience by primary academic field



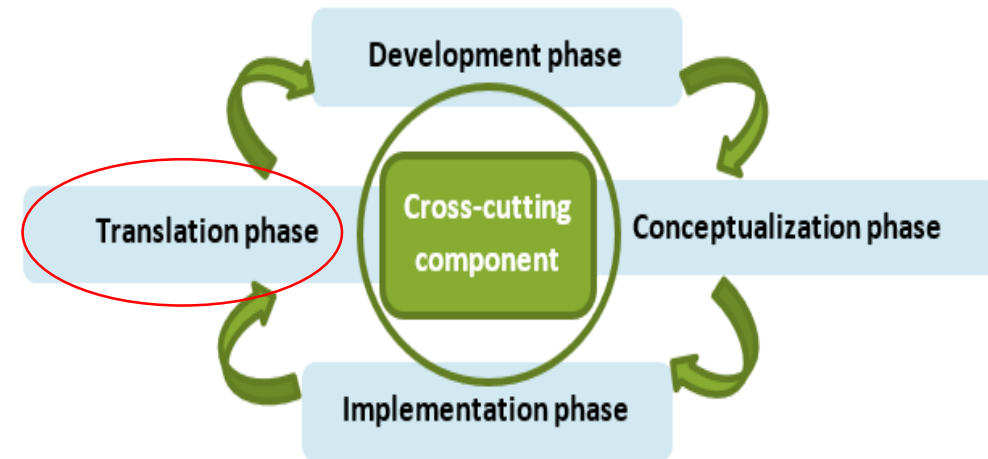
Researchers' confidence by primary academic field



To summarize



Experience by research phases



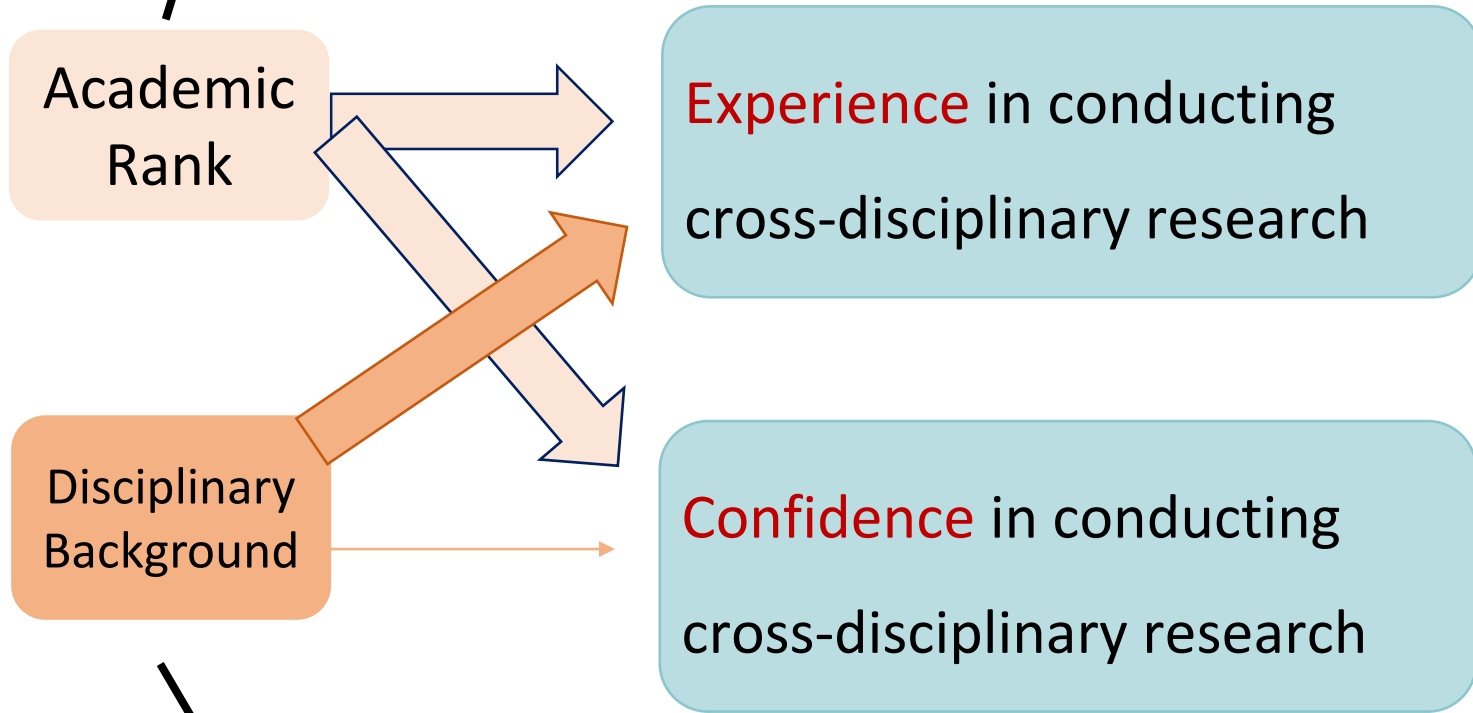
Discussion points

survey objectives

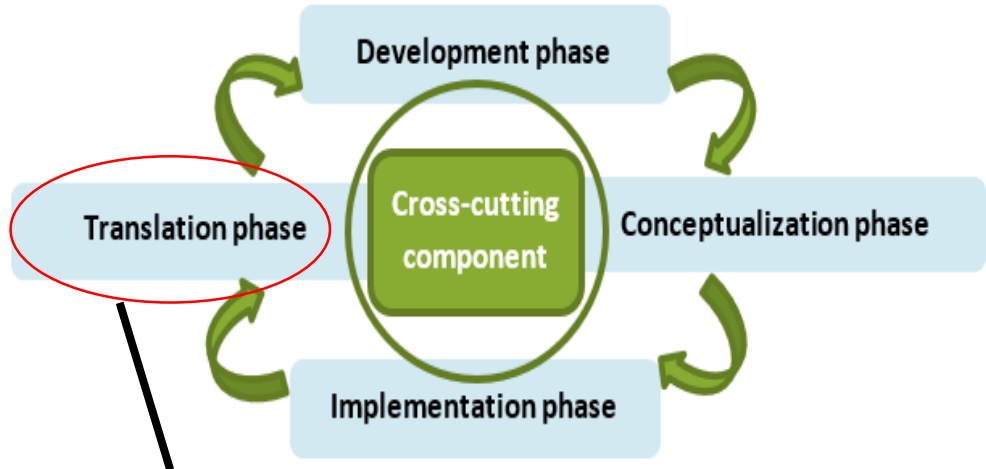


main findings

1. Early career researchers' experience and confidence in conducting cross-disciplinary research



Experience at each research phase



3. Translational research experience

2. Identify disciplinary strong points & cross-fertilization

Suggested actions for the improvement of IMPALA programme

- **Increase IMPALA researchers' translational skills** such as writing-up technical outputs/publications from multidisciplinary research projects and disseminating multidisciplinary research results to peers, practitioners, the public and policy makers.
- **Create opportunities for networking and cross-fertilization** among IMPALA researchers, especially for early career researchers.



Thank you very much for your time.

**Feel free to contact me regarding fostering cross-disciplinary research
(yan.ding@lstmed.ac.uk).**