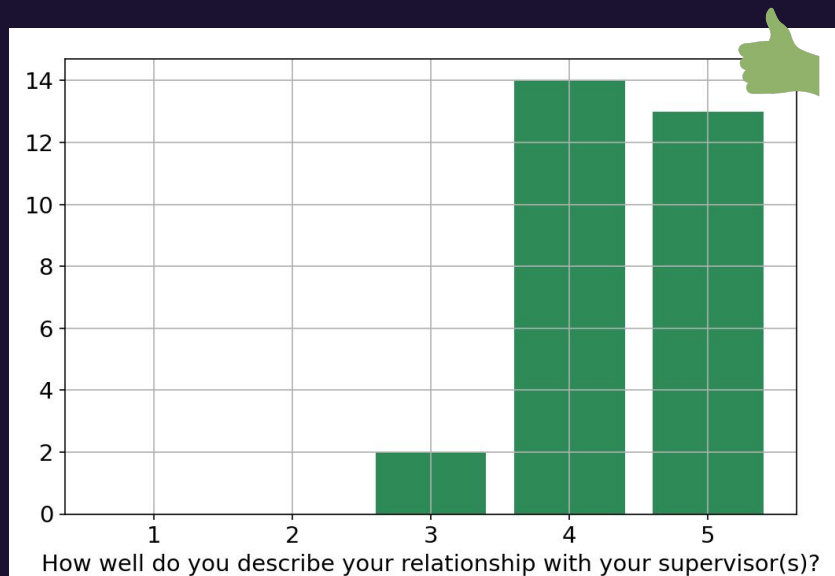


Perspectives of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researchers on the Laboratory

Théophile Cartraud, Isabel Goos
Biennale APC 2024
23/05/2024

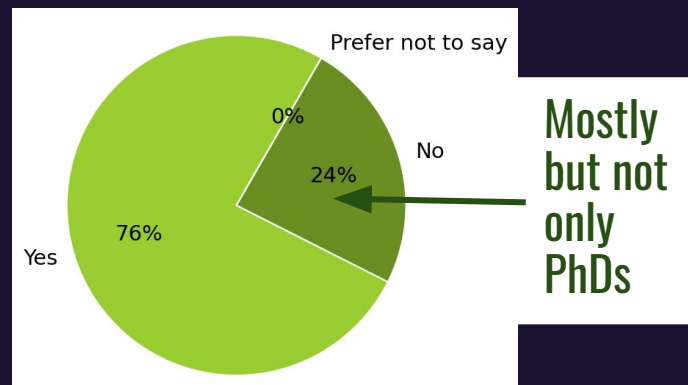
Relationship with superiors



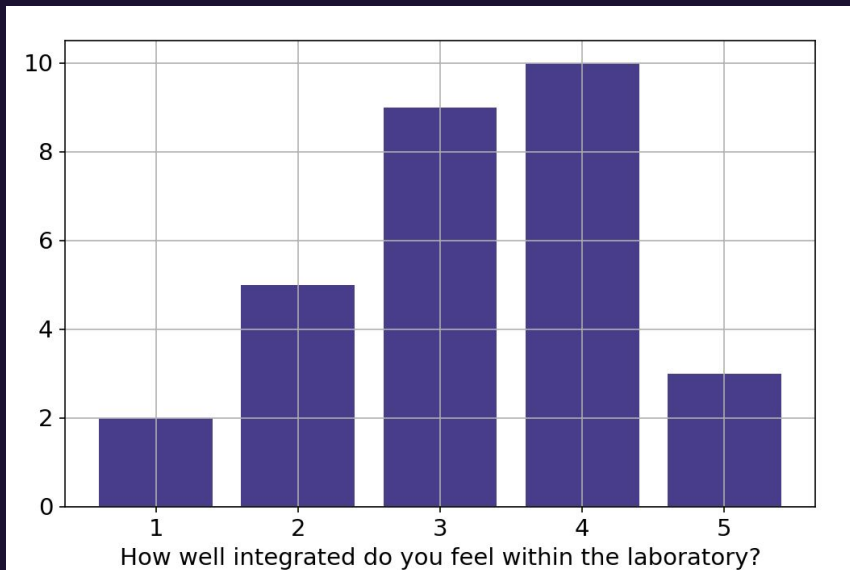
Very
bad

Very
good

Would you feel comfortable speaking to your thesis **committee** (for PhDs) / to some **superior** (for PostDocs) if you had an issue with your supervisor(s)?



Integration

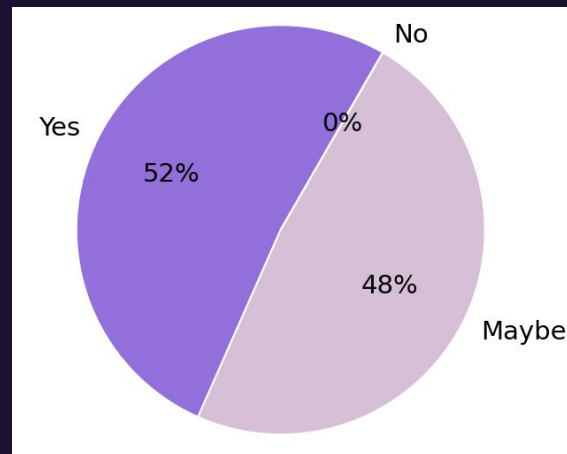


Not integrated
at all



Completely
integrated

Regardless of your previous answer, do you think the lab should offer more **support for integration?**



Some comments on this topic

“It could be nice to have more **interaction** between groups.”

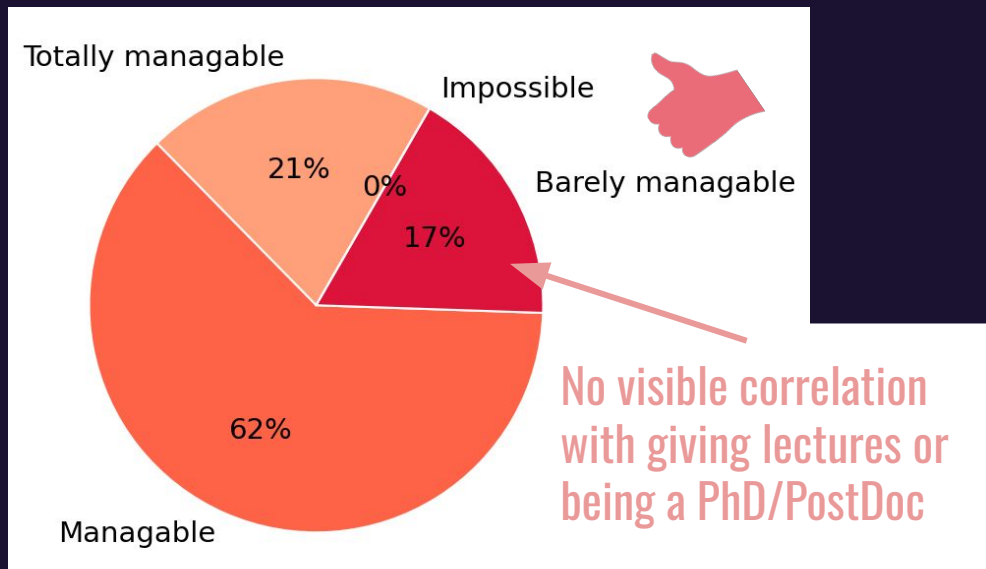
Organization of events: “Maybe something more formal for docs and postdocs could be organized, so that they know each other more easily (personally, I still don't know lots of PhDs/Postdocs in the lab).”

“More **social events**, organize occasions to get to know permanent researchers and other people of the laboratory.”

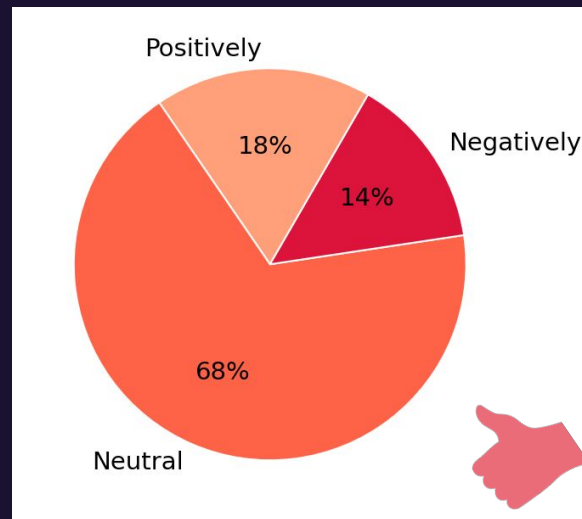
Language barrier: “It is very difficult to get to know other people in the lab, especially if you don't speak (much) french.”

Work-life balance



Do you feel that your **workload** is manageable?




How does your research activity **impact** your **personal life**? (e.g., family time, hobbies, social activities)



Question for foreigners: did APC meet your expectations?

- “Yes and it even **exceeded** my expectations”
- “Yes, I’m **happy** to be here”
- “Yes, I got more than what I expected” 
- “Yes”
- “In terms of **infrastructure** it is not meeting my expectations. In terms of **scientific** and **social inclusion** I am not feeling integrated at all. However, I believe I have at least 50% of responsibility for this.”
- “It’s OK” 

- 
- “**Not** entirely”
 - “**Partially.** I was expecting a more thrilling and dynamic environment but I find it’s quite the opposite.”
 - “I had no expectations of APC but I think I miss the **social/convivial** aspects of my last lab, and being able to go grab a coffee etc. It is a shame there is no cafe in the building.”

More thoughts on this topic:

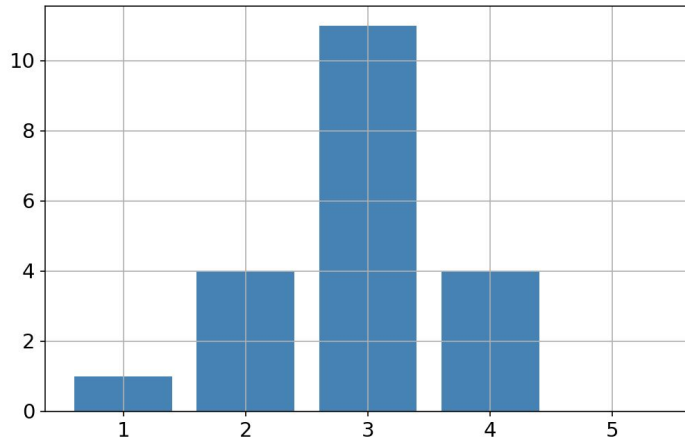
“I think there should be a support or introduction for PHD students that want to **give lectures** (ie: find how to get a teaching contract, who to contact ...)”

“Maybe organize **wellness sessions** (yoga, sophrology, theatre) to learn how to handle stress and provide **group/team-building activities.**”

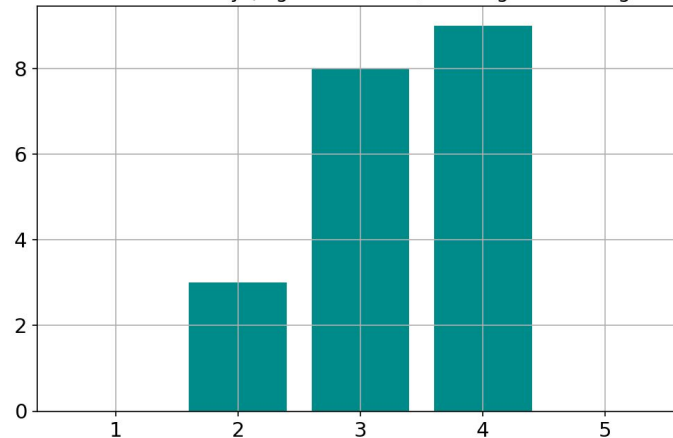
“There could be a more **scientific ambience** - e.g. have journal clubs and cafés where PhDs present to the whole lab (and not just to other PhDs like in the PhD conferences) to encourage collaboration and discussion between **junior and senior** staff, etc.”

Accessibility and safety

How would you rate the accessibility of the laboratory facilities for blind individuals or individuals with low vision or other disabilities not related to mobility?



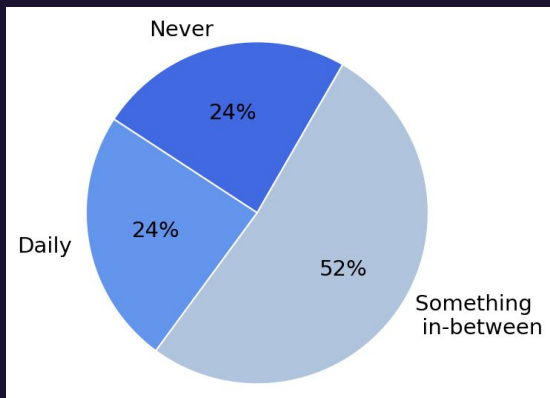
How would you rate the accessibility of the laboratory facilities for individuals with low mobility (e.g.: wheelchair, walking or standing issues)?



“Elevators are often broken, heavy doors at the entrance.”

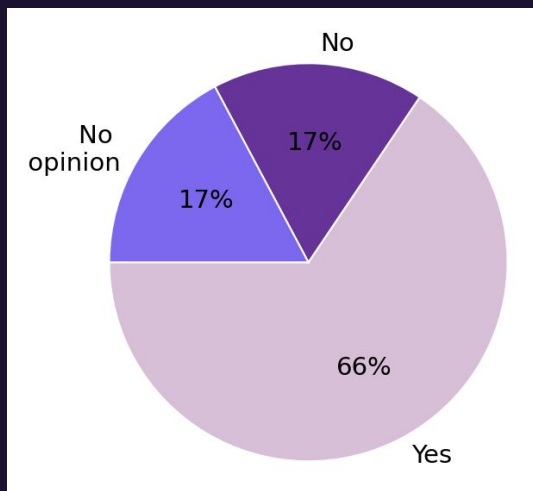
Tools

How often do you use **AI**?



Interest in having a full (paid) version of **Overleaf**: 34% are interested in this

Would you be interested in following some **course or tutorial** on some AI tool, programming language or any other tool of this kind?



“The huge impact of AI on society raises essential ethics questions that must be addressed before building our everyday life around them”

Interested in some course?

“French course”

“I would like to further understand the internals of **LLM** (attention/transformers) and also some **overview of tools** to better integrate them into daily work. Also, some more technical aspect, like **MLOps**”

“A course about **machine learning**.”

“**LLMs**”

“specific **programming** courses”

“**copilot**”
“**Image and video generation**
tools for use in slides”

“More advanced **machine learning** courses”

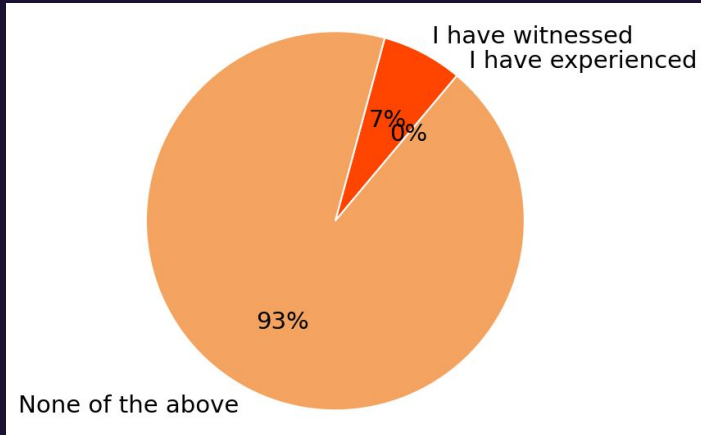
“**Outreach**
resources”

“**LLM** models, generation of **image** with **AI** (practical and theoretical courses)”

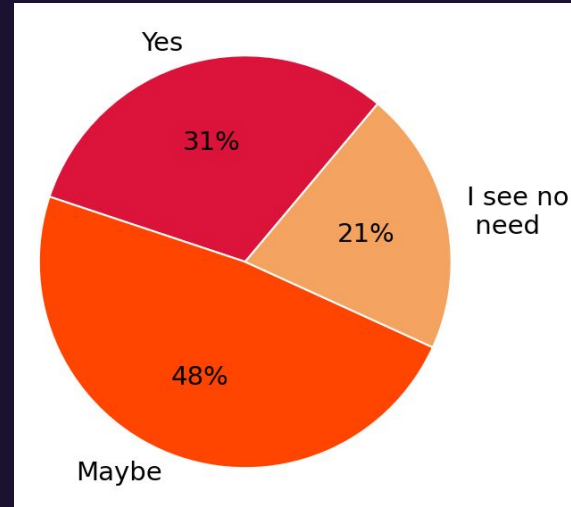
Question from us: can we share these interests with the organizers of the café informatique?

Harassment?

Have you ever experienced or witnessed **harassment** in the laboratory environment?
(e.g., verbal, physical, sexual)



Should APC improve its **prevention measures** against discrimination and harassment?



“PHD Supervisors not acting nicely towards their students (repeatedly).”

“Students harassed and black-mailed by their supervisors.”

Some ideas to improve relationships

Avoid isolated students.

“Neutrality of follow-up committee.”

“Mentors: PostDocs mentoring PhDs”

Reminding PhDs students of their rights.



To summarize

What can we do about the **integration** of PhDs and PostDocs in the lab (on a personal & practical level → accomodation)?

Is there something that can be done regarding the thesis **committee**?

What about **social activities** → formal offers & self organization?

What can be done to **improve relationships** with supervisors?

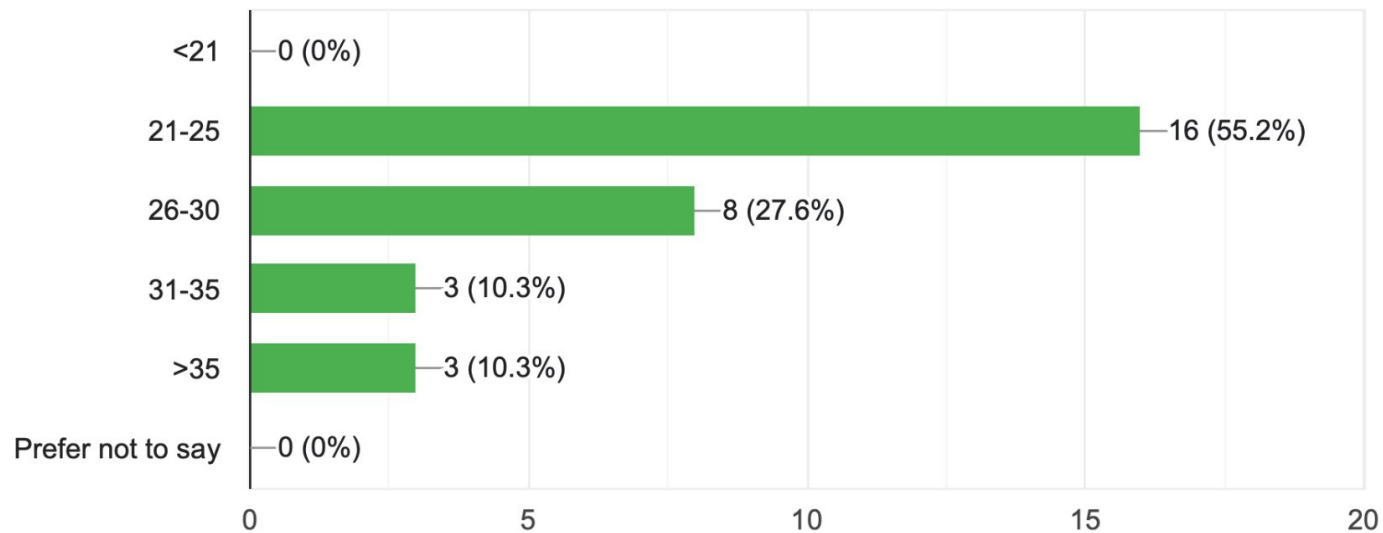
Formation parallel to basic academic activities: Programming, AI tools, Overleaf, French, communication

Now, we want to hear your input!

Backup

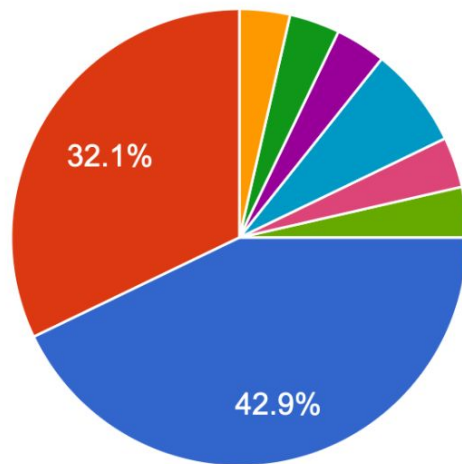
Age

29 answers



Nationality

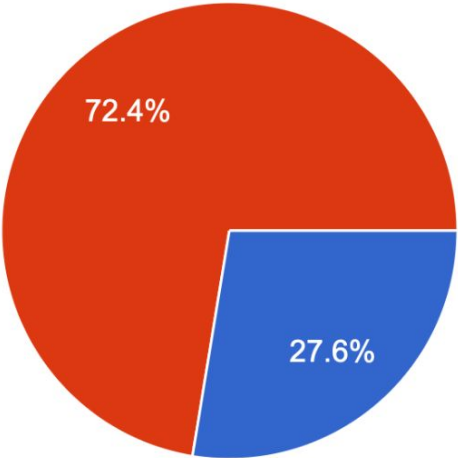
28 answers



- French
- From the European Union (Except France)
- Colombian
- Viet Nam
- India
- Indian
- Chile
-

Gender

29 answers



- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

What are you?

29 answers

