

BIG TEAM SCIENCE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH



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THE STRUGGLE TO RECRUIT A GLOBAL LAB

A long way: Replication crisis – Big team science – Generalizability Crisis – producibility crisis?

struggle to recruit populations & researchers beyond Western Europe & North America (Dunn et al., 2018; Paris et al., 2020) – in participation & leadership

Also in scientific publishing – with samples & authors remaining 64% American & European & only 4% from Asia & Middle east in mainstream journals. (Thalamyer, Toscanelli & Arnett, 2021)





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WHAT ARE SOME BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION?

Doble et al., 2018 & Silan et al., 2021: underfunded local infrastructure, smaller pockets of research, applied vs research psychology, indigenous psychology, language barriers

Some initial conversations in place but needs more data for solutions

To identify unique barriers to participating & leading big team/open science networks for LMIC researchers: [ABRIR](#)

ABRIR

'Advancing Big Team Reproducible Science through Increased Representation':

identifying challenges uniquely faced by researchers from the Global South and devising best practices that can be shared within the academic community.

[Website](#) | [Workshop series](#)





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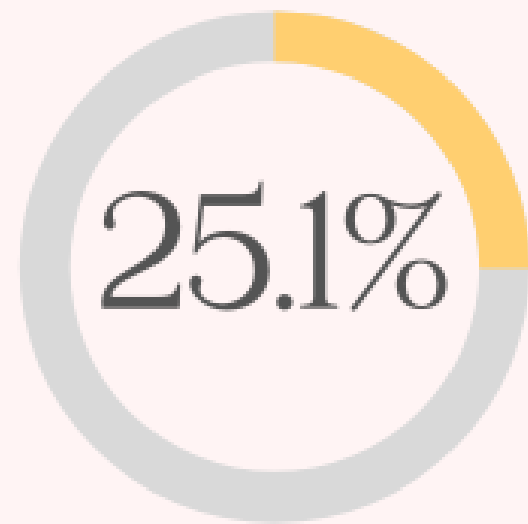
WHAT WE FOUND

During the workshop series, we piloted a survey that looked at barriers to participation & leadership in big team open science in various categories

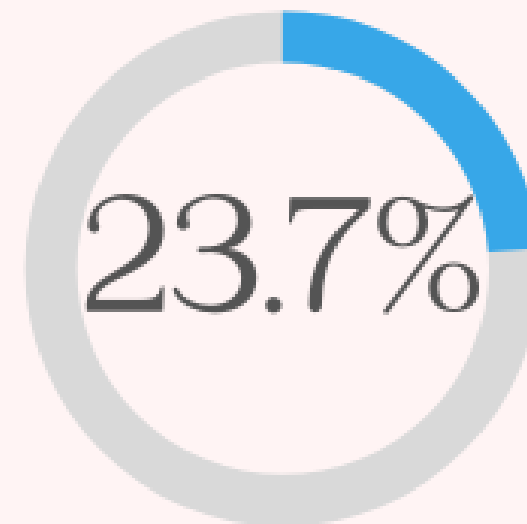
We reflect on the myriad categories raised by researchers before us (see: Doble et al., 2018; IJzerman et al., 2021; Silan et al., 2021; Srivastava, 2012)



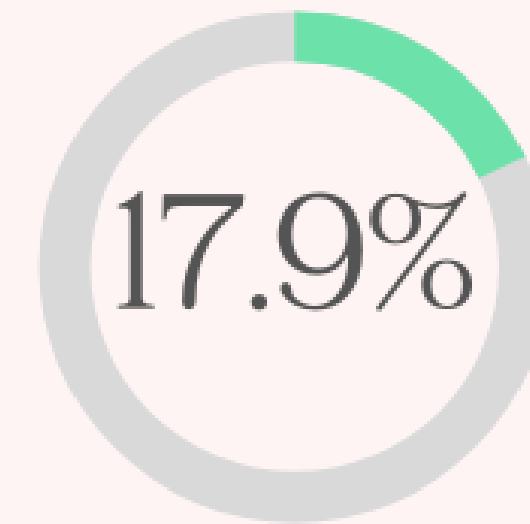
What kind of barriers to open/big-team science?



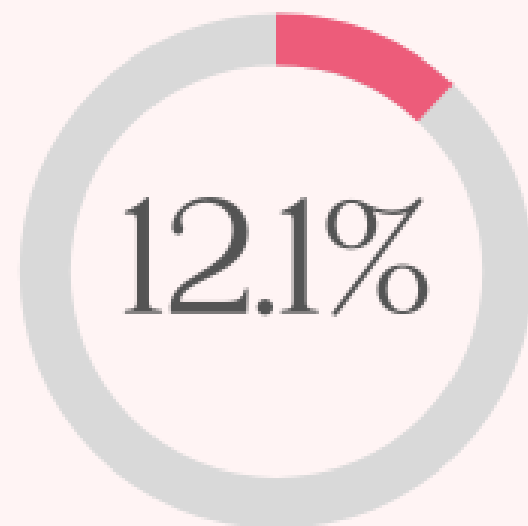
Institutional
Barriers



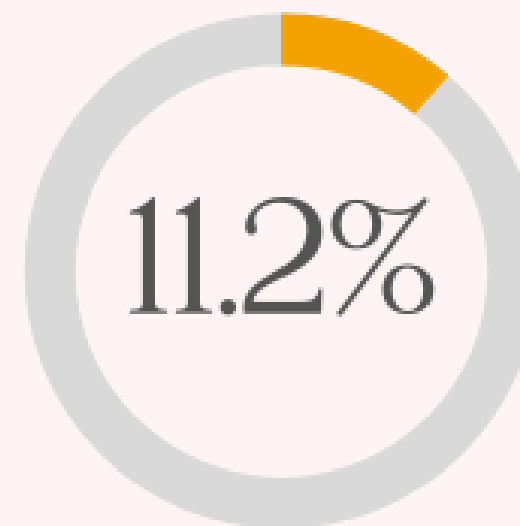
Systemic Barriers



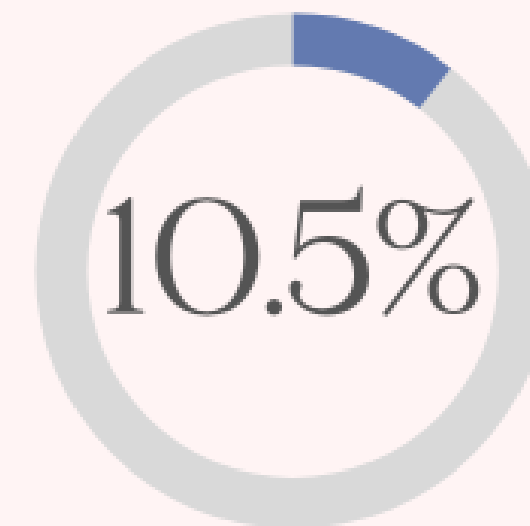
Financial Barriers



Personal Barriers

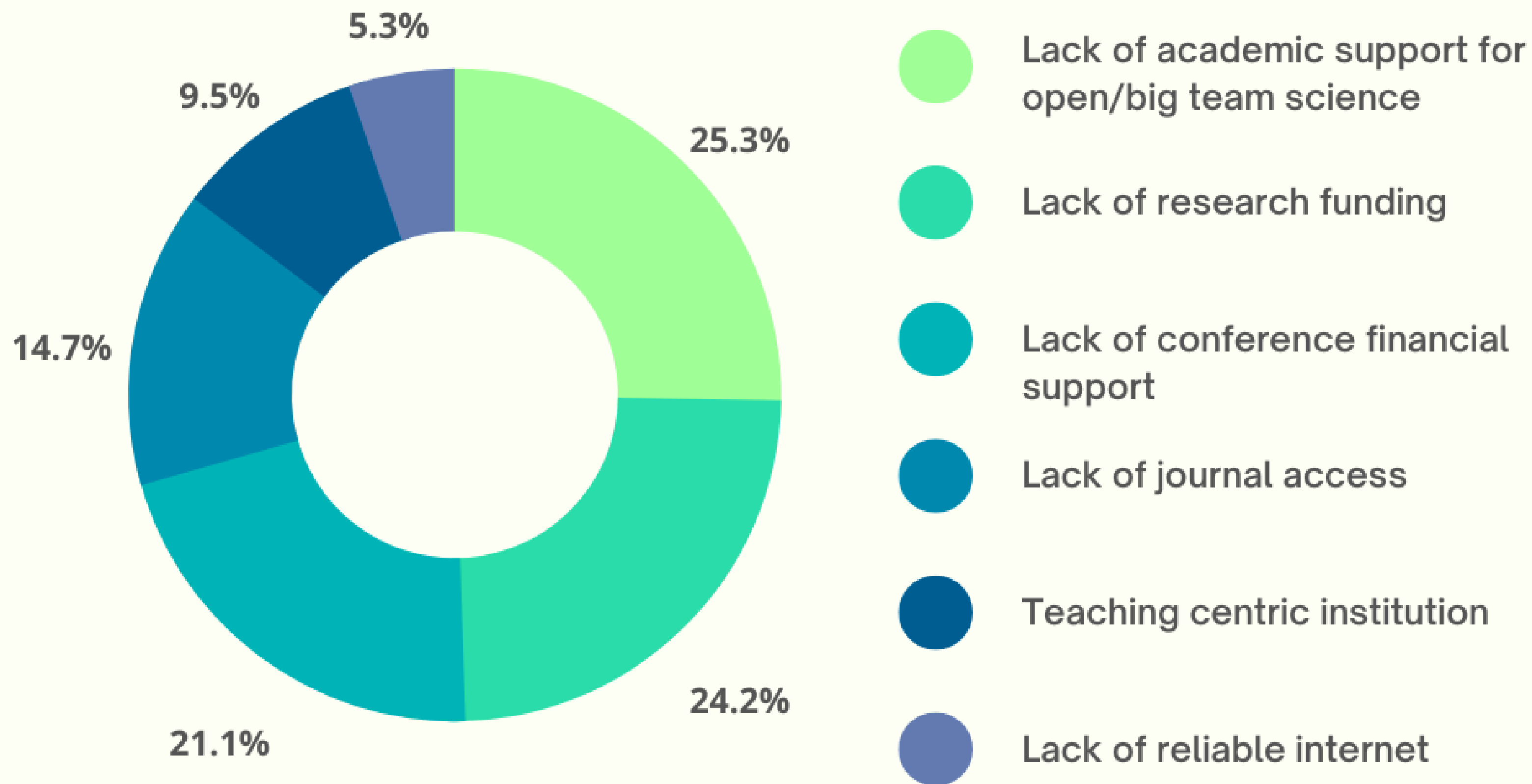


Political Barriers

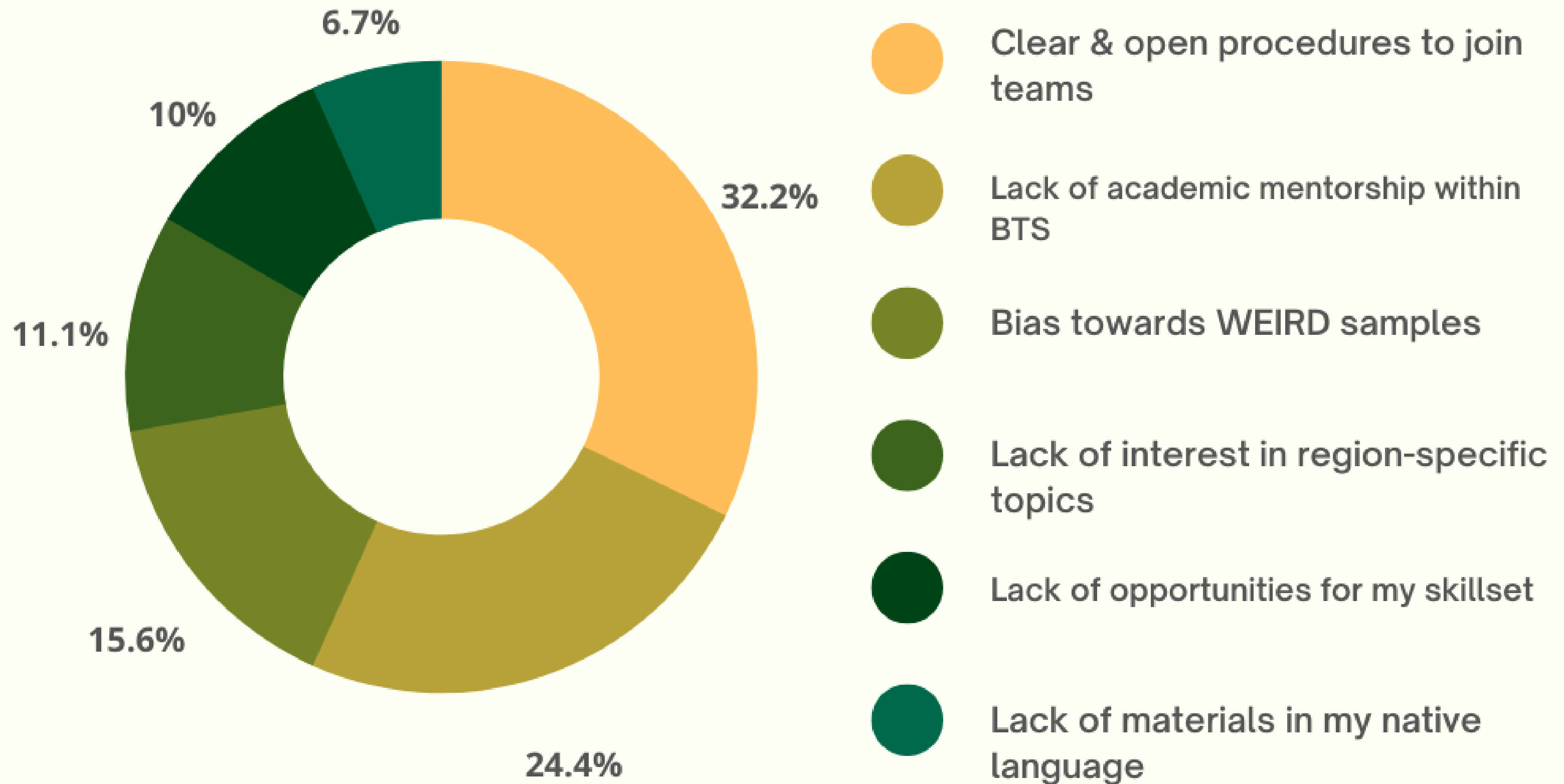


Geographical
Barriers

Institutional Barriers



Systemic Barriers





Financial Barriers

A majority stated 'Lack of financial resources" with 37.1% respondents reports "Lack of government grants for open/big-team science"

Political Barriers

Lack of governmental support for research/science in general was a huge barrier to participation in big team open science.

41.4%





82.9%

Personal barriers

A lack of time & work-life balance awarded to academics doing open science voluntarily acts as a barrier too.

Geographical Barriers

Being physically distance from research centers at high income countries & meeting times outside of one's time zone sets up new obstacles.

65.9%



We are still collecting data

[Link to our survey.](#)
[here](#)



Are you from a LMIC? Or from any minoritized group? Or have been part of BTS and want to give your opinion?

**Best practices: For
increased Global
North–South
collaborations**



What can research organizations/associations do?

- Provide clear onboarding procedures + Mentorship
- Increase Access: conference grants/free virtual attendance, open publishing, staggered leadership meetings across time-zones
- Increase reach: consider conferences in Asia/ME/Africa/Latin American institutions, rotate venues on an annual basis
- Remove questions related to the nationality/passport as obligatory during job interviews
- Add more information on visa/work permit procedures and HR assistance to the job ads

What can individual researchers do?

- **Work permit restrictions:** if you want to hire a Ph.D. student or postdoc and you have an expected start date for the project, advertise for the specified position at least six months in advance. This way, you will avoid a situation in which you are forced to reject a candidate from LMIC because they cannot secure a visa and work permit within the stipulated period;
- **Editorial Policies:** be cognisant of your editorial board – include psychological scientists from LMICs.
- **Peer Review:** Do not insist on proofreading completed by native English speakers. Proofreaders should always be professionals who are trained for the job.

What can individual researchers do?

- **Implicit bias:** If you are a Senior Scholar from a developed (WEIRD) country, familiarise yourself with the methods and ways in which psychology is taught and in which research is conducted in one of the non-WEIRD countries. Talk to ECRs from non-WEIRD countries and let them explain the situation. Regardless of whether the ECR you are talking to or interviewing is from a WEIRD or non-WEIRD country, familiarise yourself with their work, read their CV and pay attention to publications. Do not rush to conclusions and make potentially patronizing suggestions without first reading their biography. If you are not familiar with their academic work, let them explain.