

Policy orientation diversity & student self-sorting in higher education

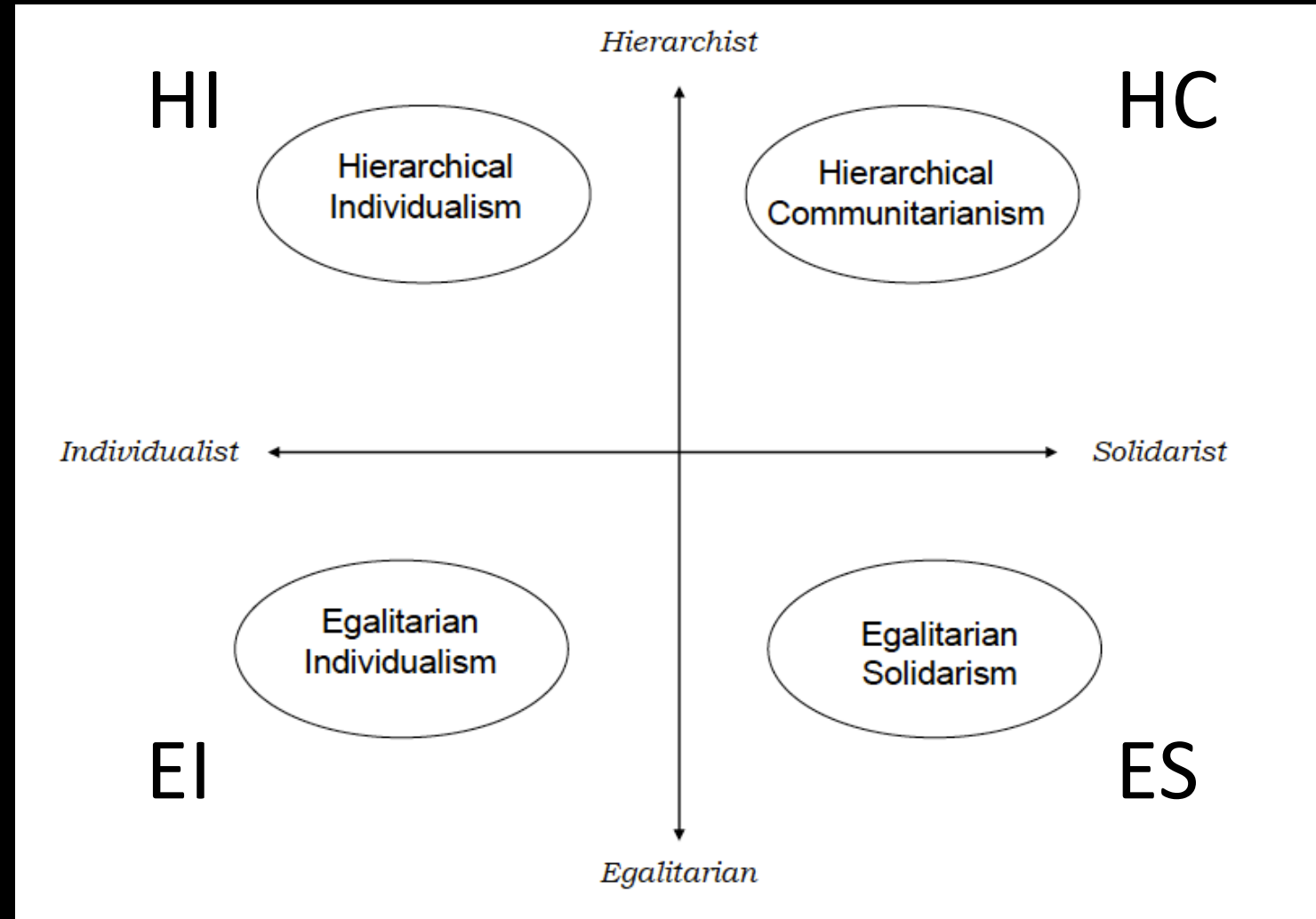
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Exposure to intellectual diversity matters

- Policy disagreements stem not just from knowledge asymmetries
 - Members of the public with the greatest climate literacy are the most polarized in terms of policy preferences (Kahan 2012)
- Academic disciplines themselves embody ideological norms
 - Economists tend to see markets as the way society should allocate goods; Engineers tend to view problems as amenable to technical solutions (Sarewitz 2004, Neff and Carroll 2016)
- A well-educated student, we assert, must be prepared to navigate a world characterized by divergent cultural orientations and policy framings.

Cultural Cognition

Daniel Kahn



Exposure to intellectual diversity matters

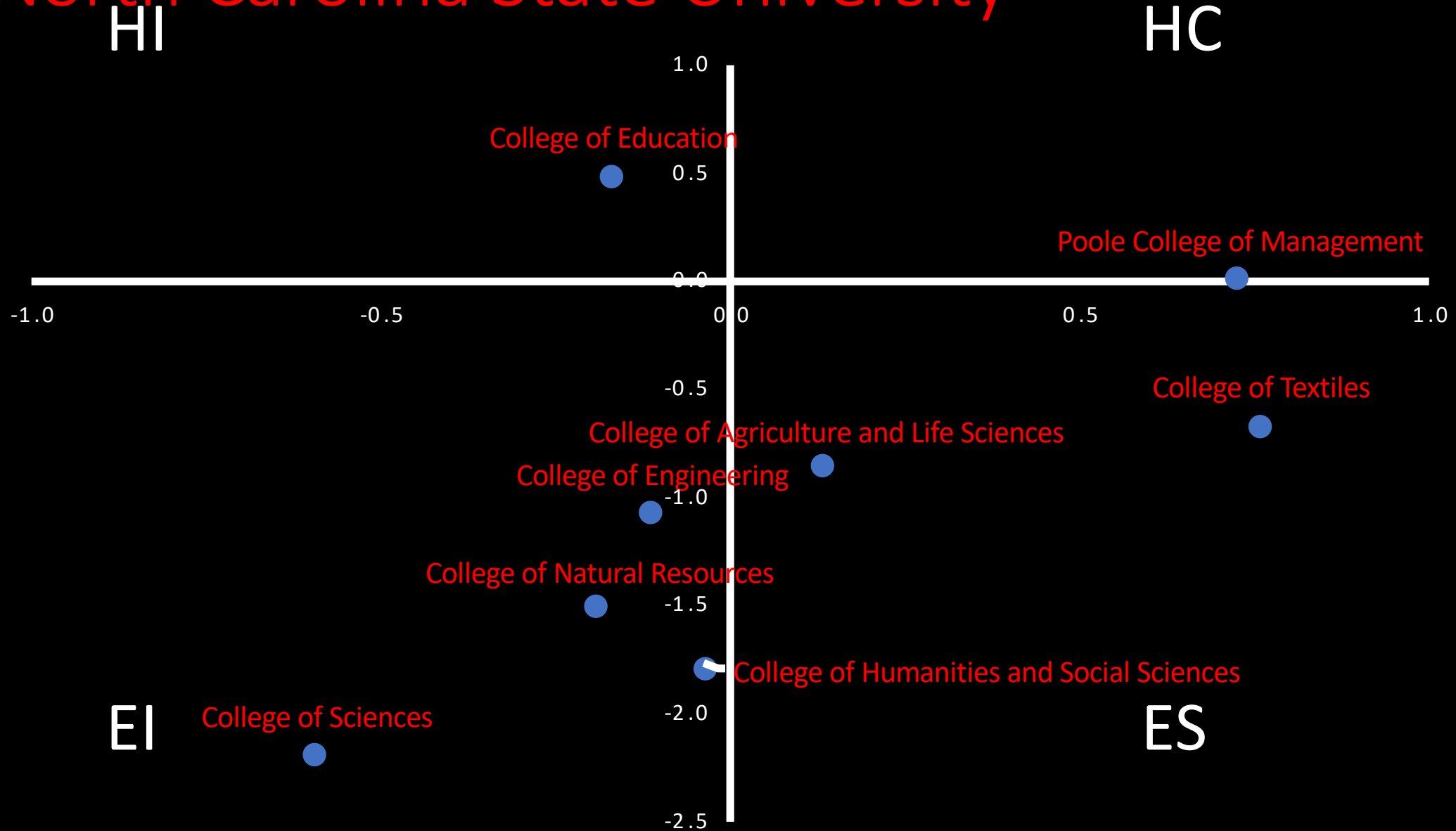
- **RQ: *To what extent are university-level students exposed to peers with divergent cultural and policy orientations?***
- Analytical method
 - Survey (Pilot 2017-18; full survey 2018-19)
 - Sampling to allow comparison between colleges on Western Washington University's campus
 - Eventual expansion
 - Multiple campuses
 - Longitudinal across students' careers

Axes of interest

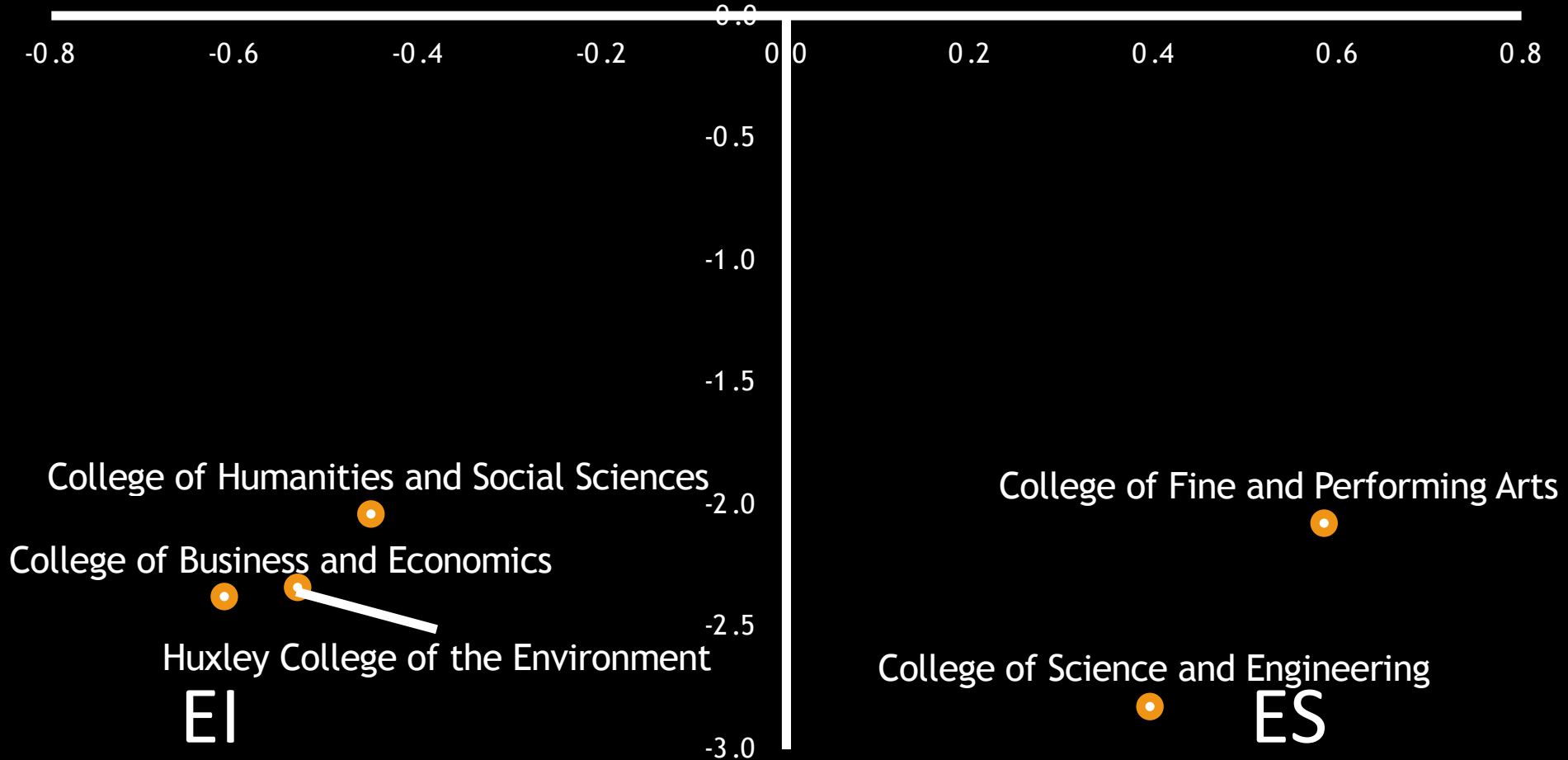
- Cultural cognition (Dan Kahan)
- Markets/capitalism
- Proper role of government
- Technology
- Myths of nature

- Pilot phase:
 - North Carolina State University (n=97)
 - Western Washington University (n=30)

North Carolina State University



Western Washington University



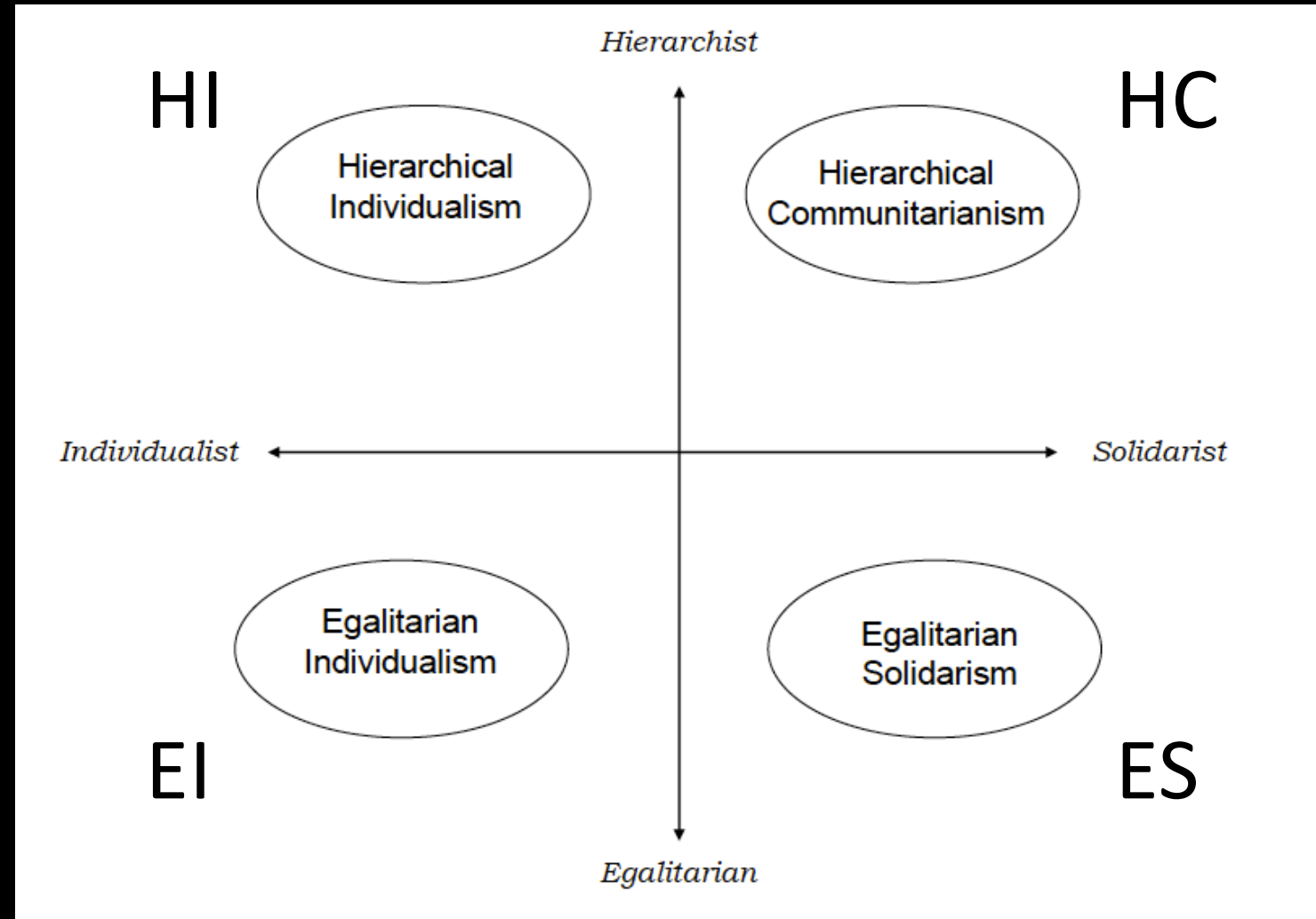
North Carolina State University

Western Washington University

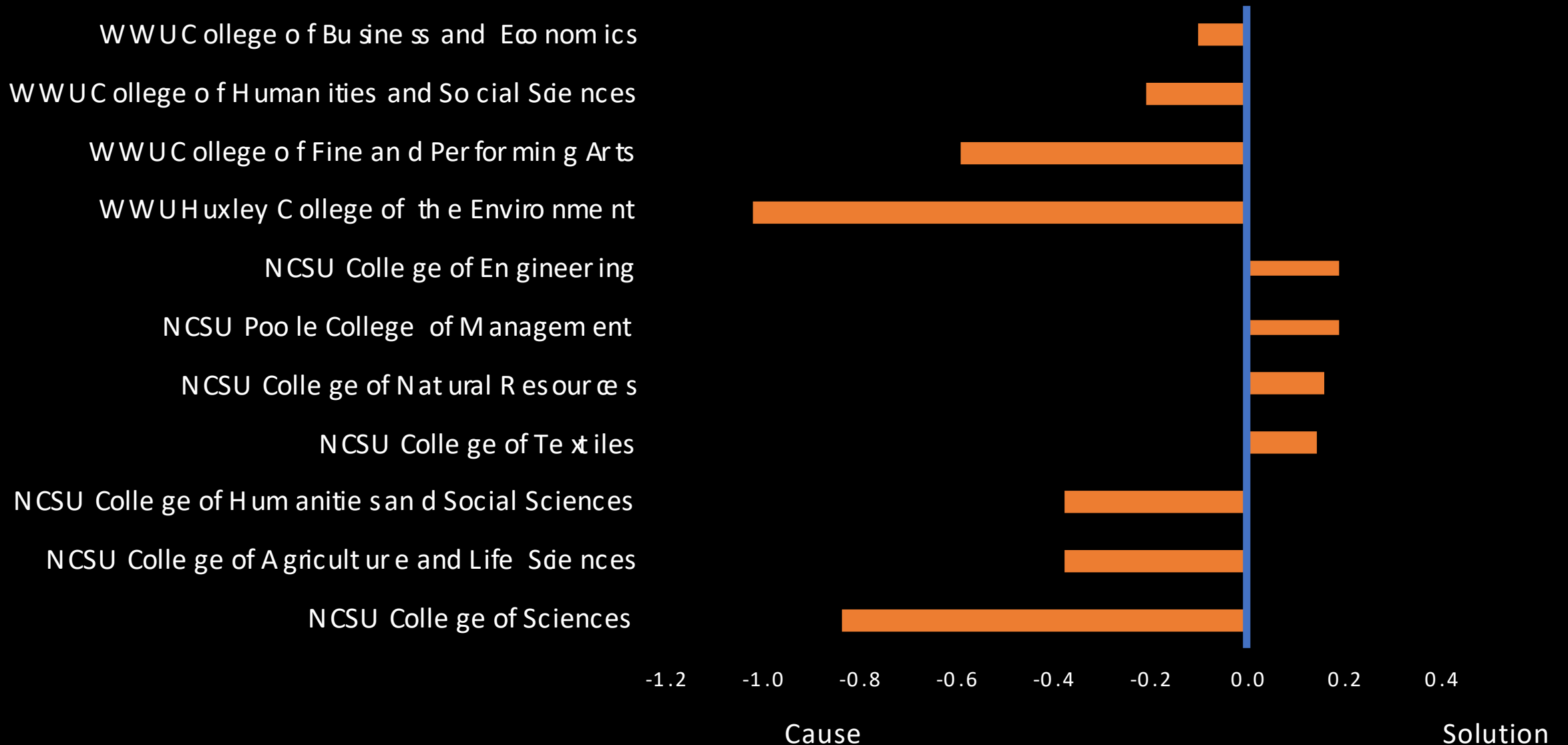


Cultural Cognition

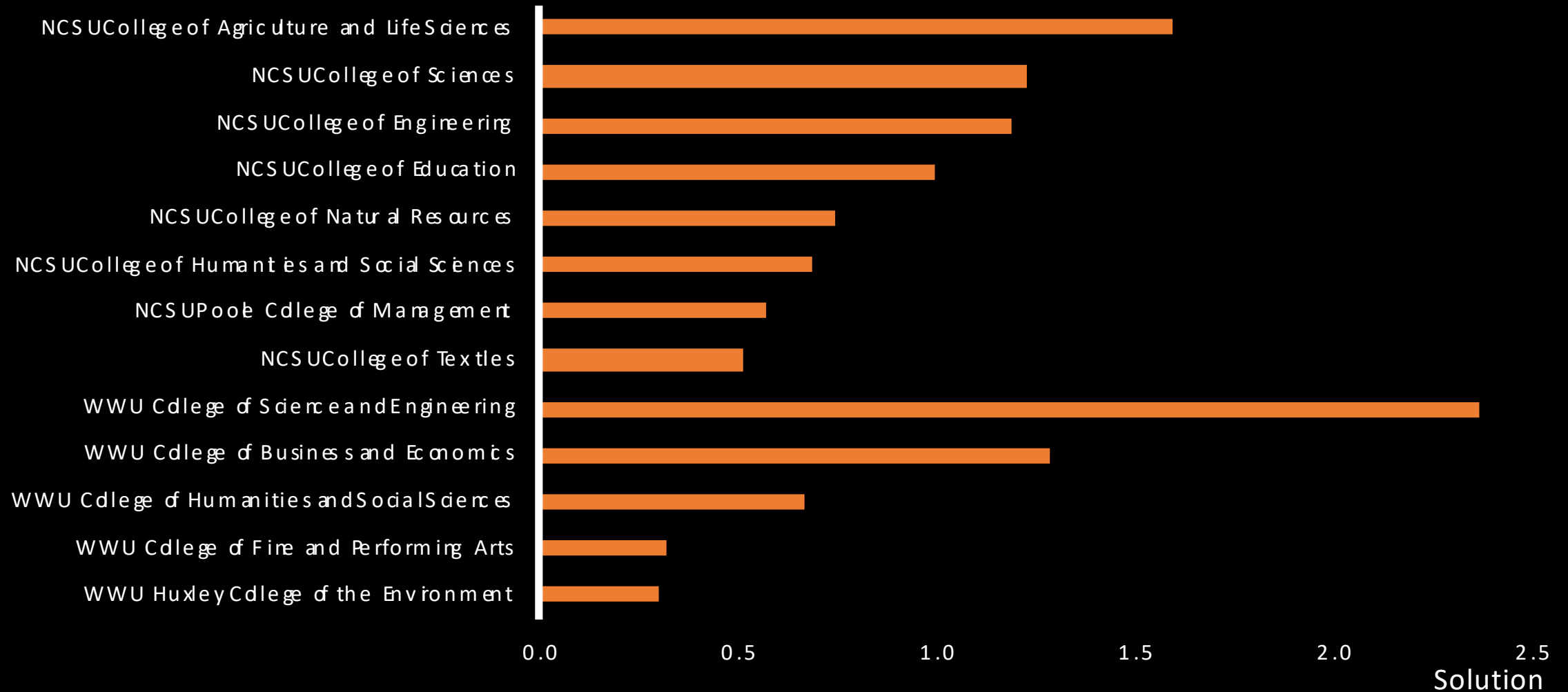
Daniel Kahn



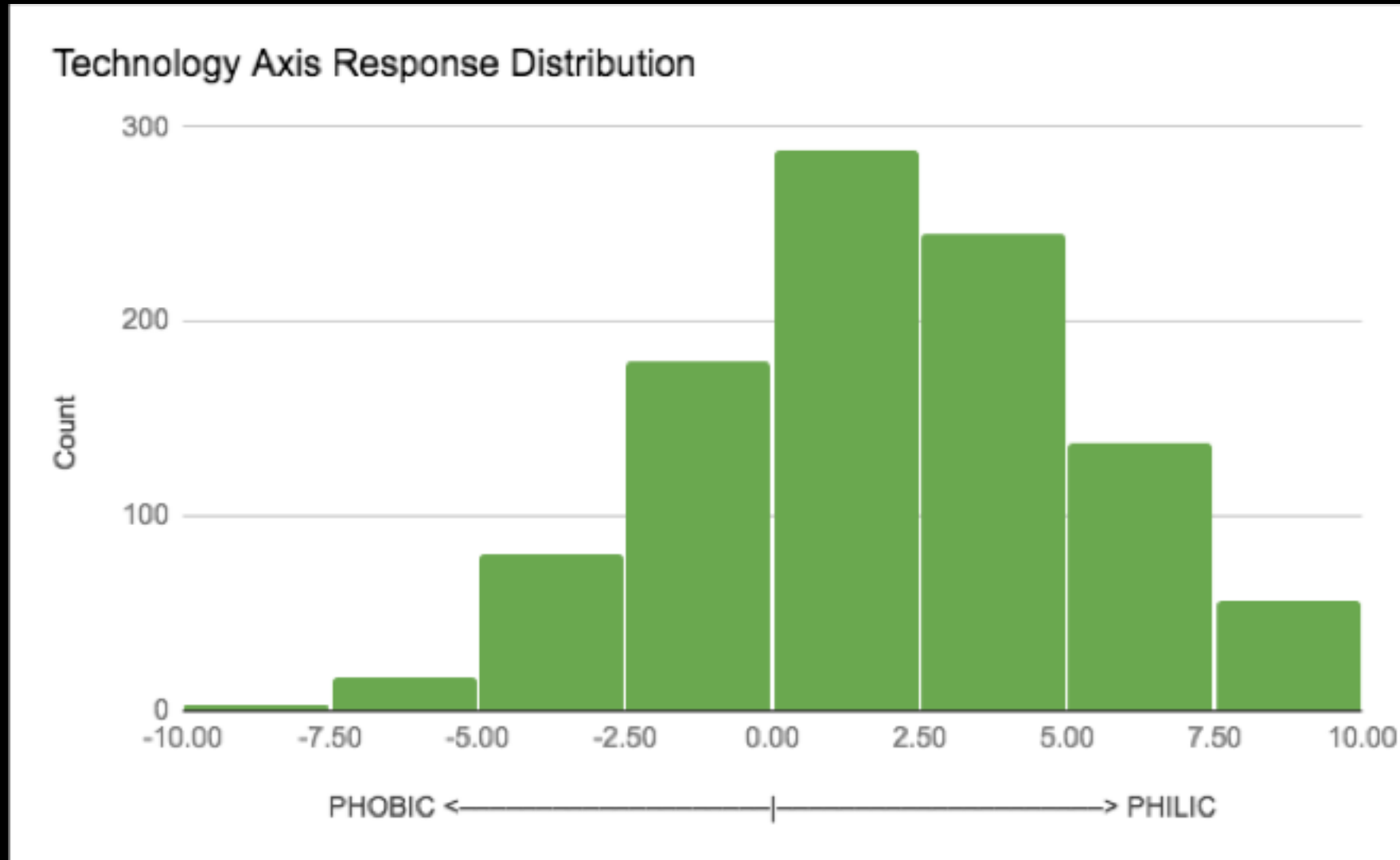
Markets: The cause of, or the solution to socio-environmental problems



Technology: The cause of, or the solution to socio-environmental problems



Ecotypes Technology Axis



<https://jimproctor.us/ecotypes/ecotypes-axis/technology/>

Next steps

- Revise instrument
- Continued focus groups
- Full WWU implementation in the fall

- Answer your insightful questions

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