



# PREDICTABLE POLITICS:

Whether Undergraduate Students' College Majors Relate  
to their Sociopolitical Views at Olivet Nazarene University

By Joshua Dille



# Statistics at Olivet Nazarene University:

- The average Engineering major is *more politically conservative* than the average Art major.

# Statistics at Olivet Nazarene University:

- The average Nursing major is *more politically liberal on economic issues* than the average Business Administration major.

# Statistics at Olivet Nazarene University:

- The average Psychology major is *more pro-choice* than the average Elementary Education major.

# Statistics at Olivet Nazarene University:

- The average Social Work major is *more supportive of government-provided healthcare* than the average Accounting major.

# Introduction

- What can one learn about a student based on their college major?
- Compared to their peers in the same discipline, how alike are they?
- Relationship between students' college major and political stance

# Hypothesis & Predictions

- Patterns of sociopolitical orientation among students sharing the same college major
  - *Statistically significant differences between major groups*
  - *Accounting, Business Administration, and Engineering the most conservative majors studied*
  - *Art, Nursing, Psychology, and Social Work the most liberal majors studied*
- Greater levels of conservatism overall present at ONU, compared to secular institutions previously studied

# Survey Contents

- Demographic Information
  - *age, gender, major, year in school, ethnicity, & voter status*
- Self-Assessment Questions
  - *Social, Economic, & General views*
- Issue-Based Questions
  - *Abortion, Same-Sex Marriage, Marijuana, Racial Discrimination, Income Inequality, Government Medical Insurance, Business Regulation, & Government Services*



# Methods

- Participants

- *1267 total responses, 702 analyzed*
- *12 majors with largest sample sizes selected for analysis*
- *61% female, 39% male*
- *85% White, 5% Black, 6% Hispanic, 2% Asian*
- *77% registered to vote in their home state*

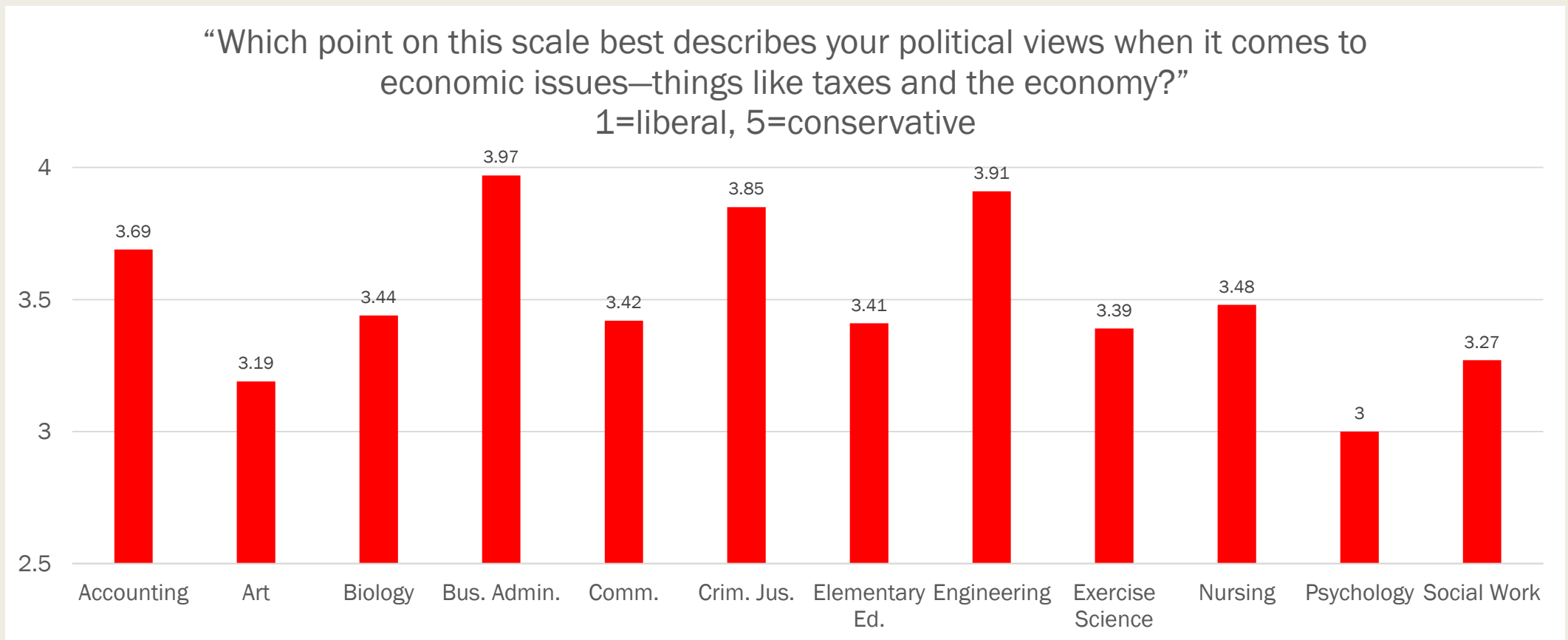
# Methods

- Procedure
  - *Survey distributed in September 2016 to all ONU undergrads*
  - *Survey incentive*
  - *42% response rate*
- One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) in SPSS
  - *Independent Variable: College Major*
  - *Dependent Variable(s): Self-Assessment and Issue-Based Questions*

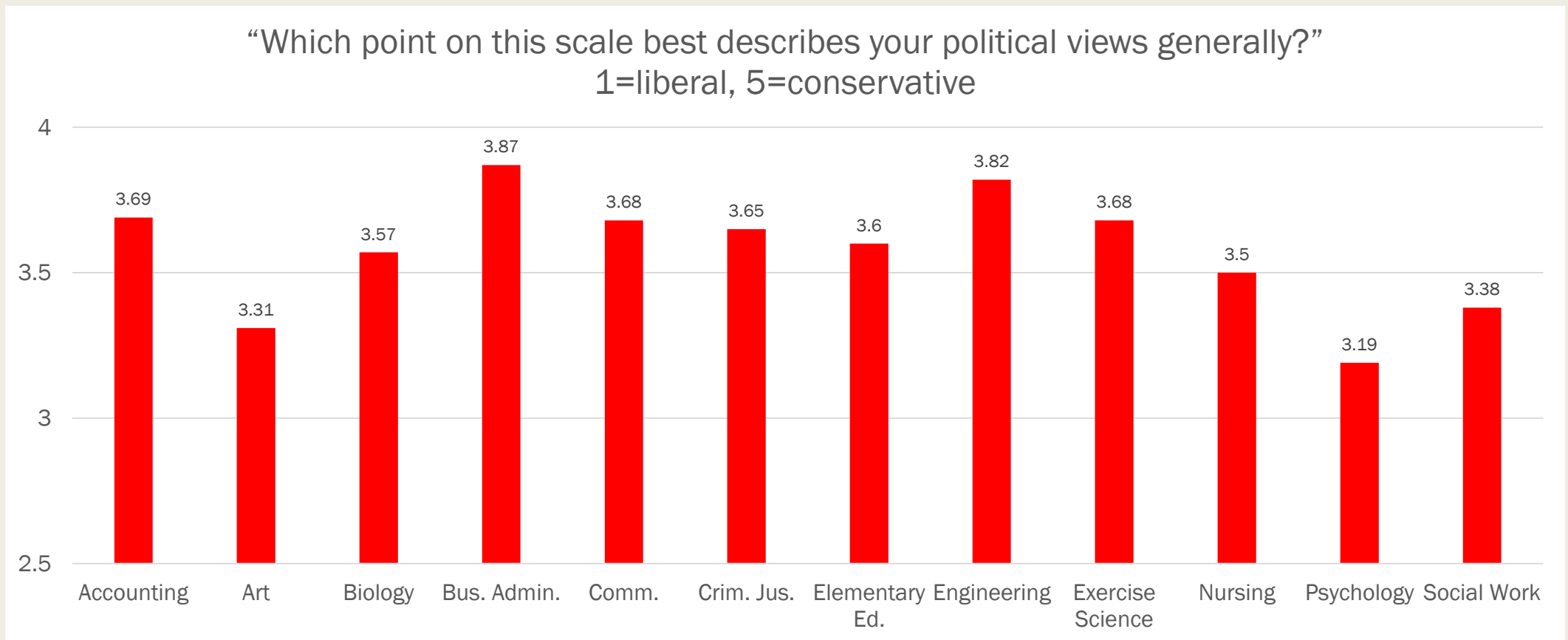
# Results

- Statistically Significant Differences ( $p < 0.05$ )
- Significant Differences between the 12 major groups in 7/11 questions

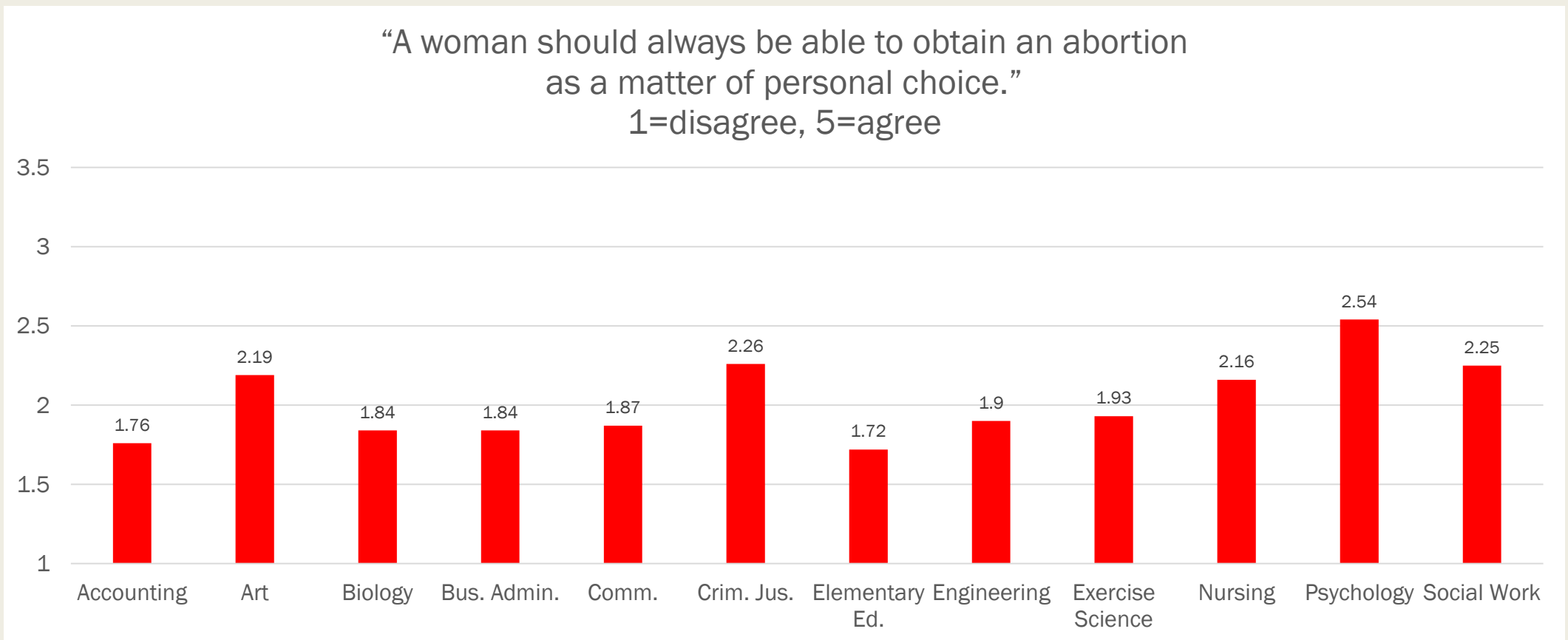
# Economic Views Self Assessment ( $p=0.001$ )



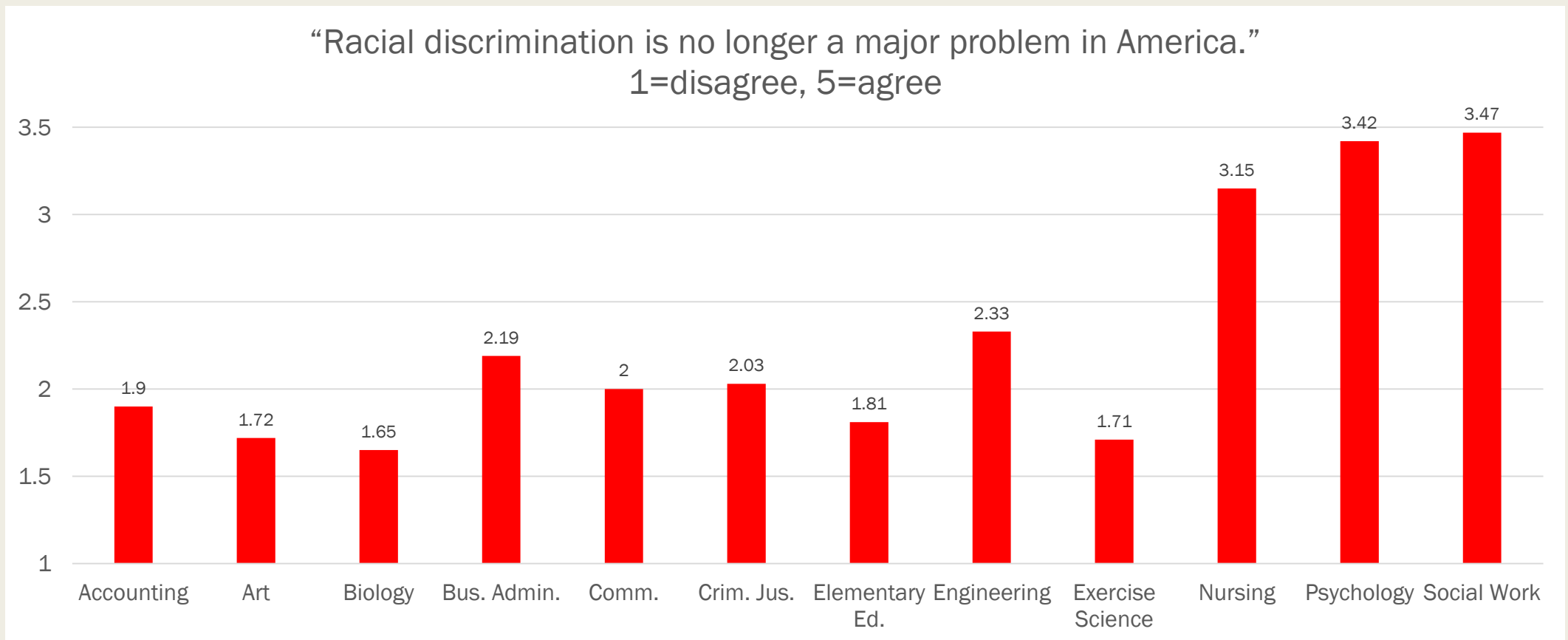
# General Views Self Assessment ( $p=0.014$ )



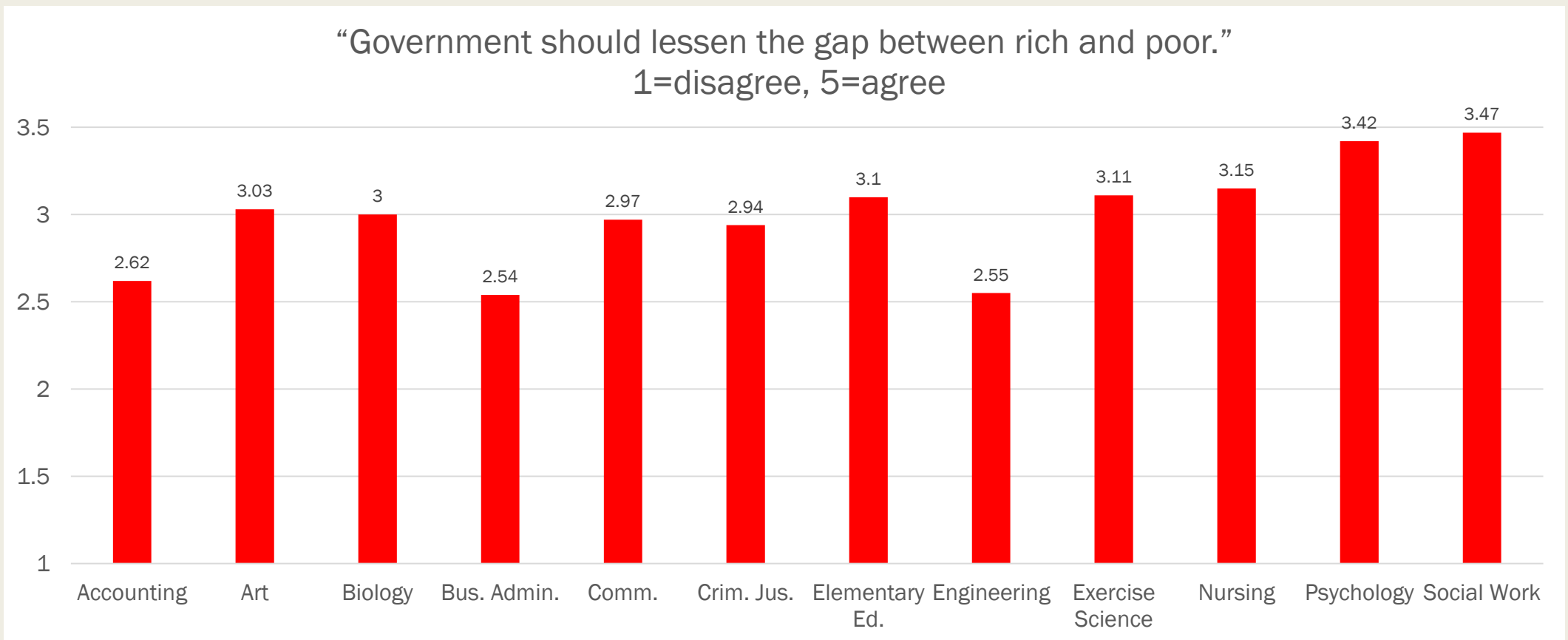
# Abortion Issue ( $p=0.019$ )



# Racial Discrimination Issue ( $p=0.001$ )

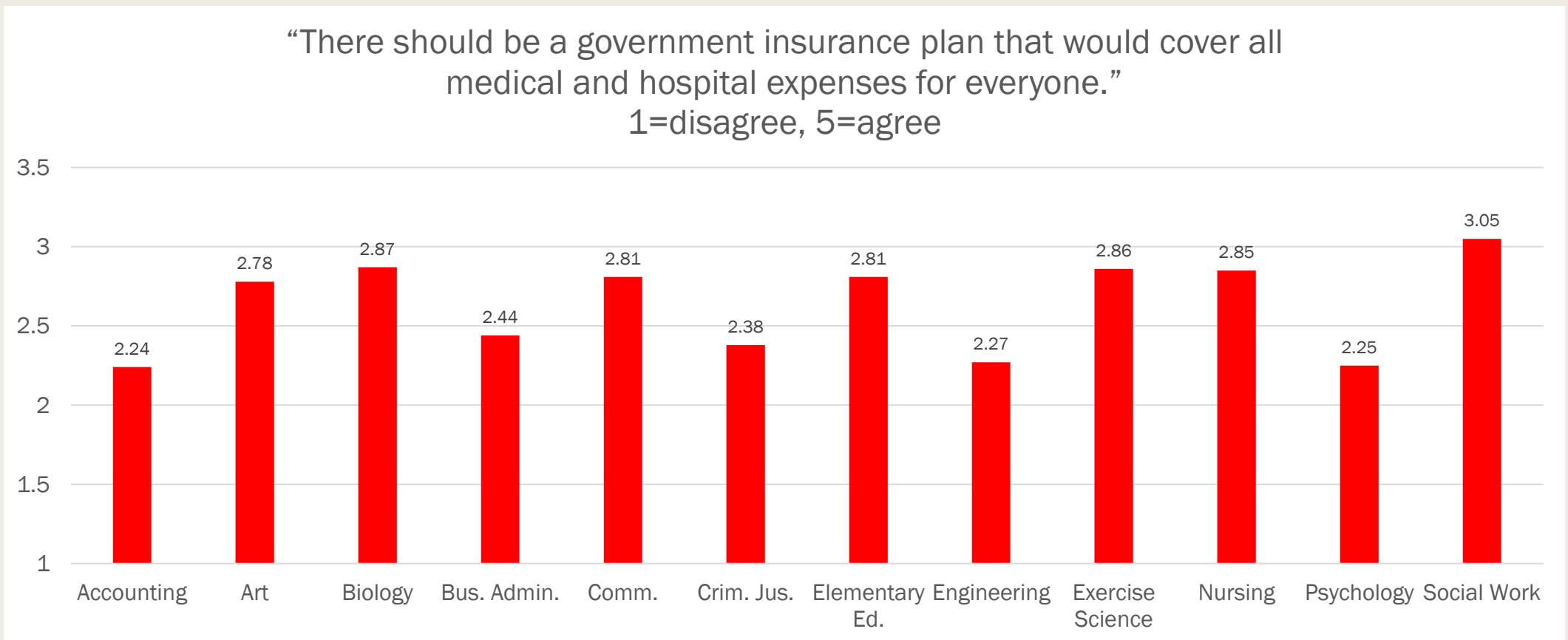


# Income Inequality ( $p=0.001$ )



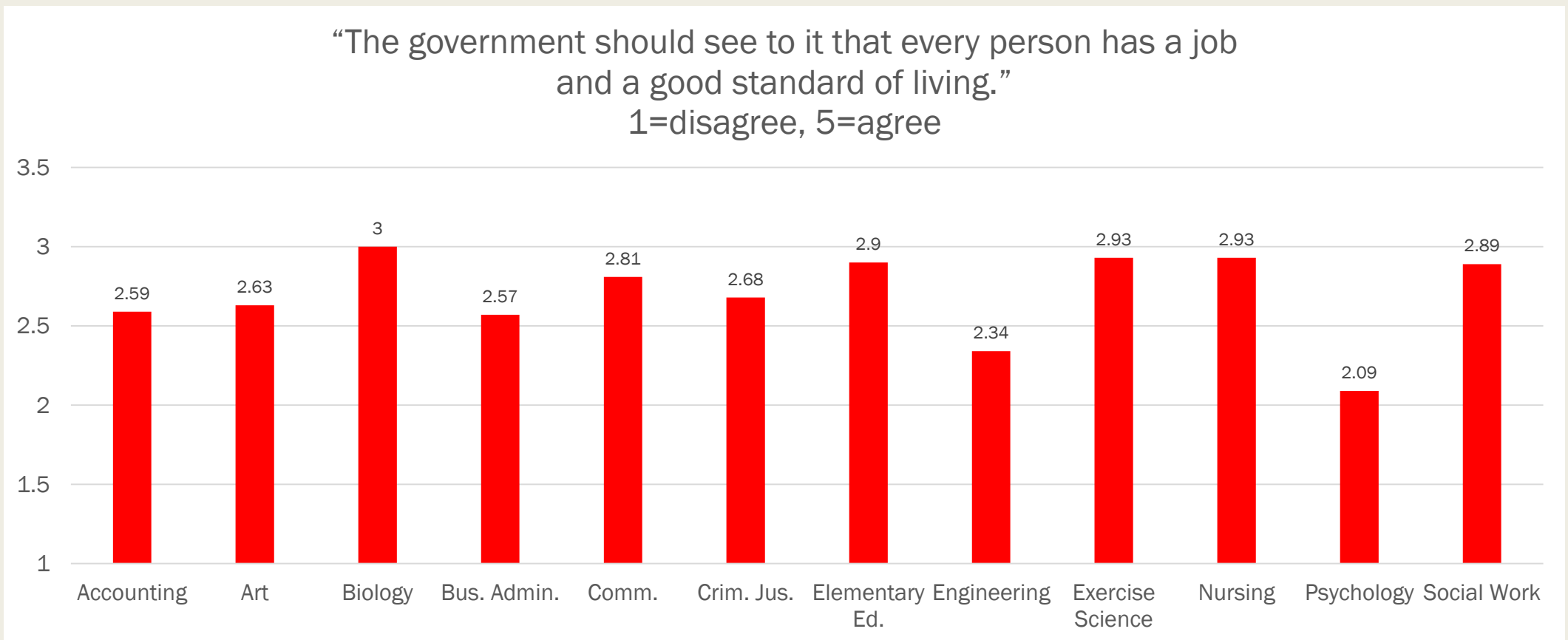


# Government Healthcare ( $p=0.001$ )



# Government Services

( $p=0.001$ )



# Questions with No Statistical Significance

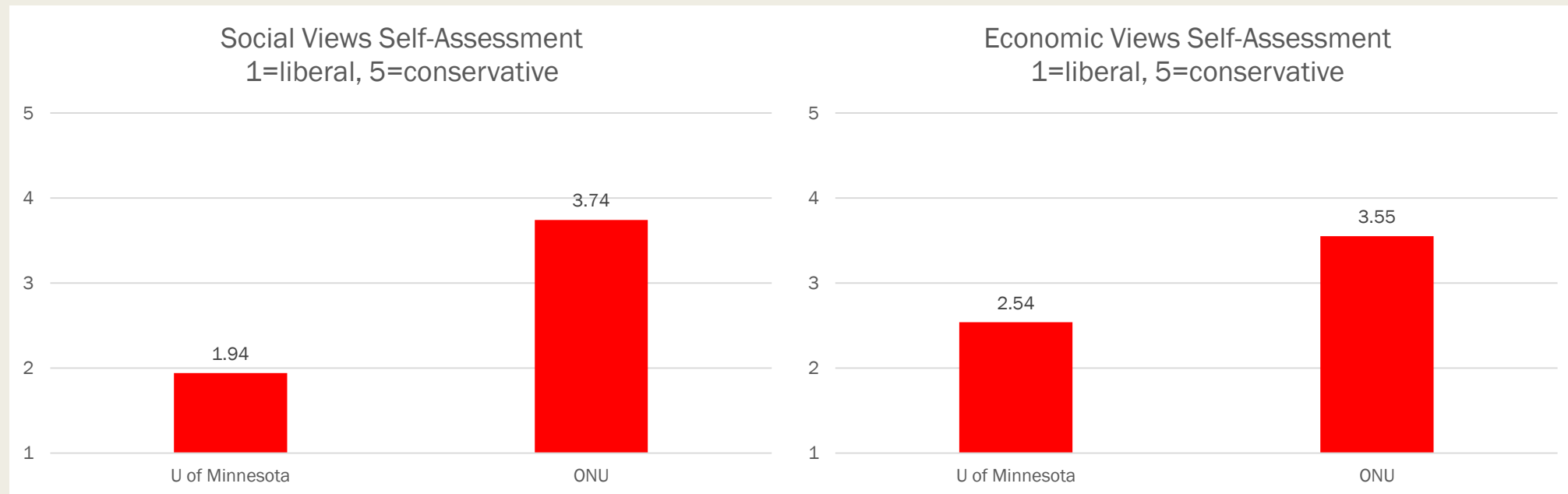
- Self-Assessment on Social Views
- Issue-Based Questions
  - *Same-Sex Marriage*
  - *Marijuana*
  - *Business Regulation*

# Discussion

- Confirmed: Significant Relationship between Major and Sociopolitical Views
  - *Holland's Theory of Person-Environment Fit*
    - Self-Selection
    - Socialization
    - Accentuation
- Confirmed: "Predictable" Major Groups
  - *Accounting, Business Administration, Engineering*
  - *Art, Nursing, Psychology, & Social Work*

# Discussion

- Comparison between University of Minnesota study and *Predictable Politics*



# Conclusion

- Predictable Politics! Identifiable patterns between major groups and sociopolitical views.
- Filling a gap in the research on Person-Environment Fit

Q & A