

Middle East Scholar Barometer

Co-directed by Shibley Telhami and Marc Lynch
Kirsten Langlois, Project Manager

**A Joint Initiative of the University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll
and the Project on Middle East Political Science
at George Washington University**

Survey Methodology

This survey was carried out November 10-17, 2023, online using the University of Maryland's Qualtrics platform. The poll was distributed to 3,214 recipients resulting in 936 responses. Recipients included those who are members of the Middle East and North Africa section of the American Political Science Association (APSA), the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), as well as members of the American Historical Association (AHA) who specialized in the Middle East, and other relevant contacts of the Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) at George Washington University. The poll was conducted using an anonymous link sent out via email, which did not collect any identifiable information about the respondents. The poll was designed using the University of Maryland's Qualtrics platform, which generated the anonymous link that was sent out, and the data from the responses were also collected on this platform. The questions, some of which were repeat questions from previous polls, were prepared by the two principal investigators in consultation with the academic advisory committee of the Middle East Scholar Barometer.

Note: Percentages may not always add to one hundred due to rounding

Dear Colleague,

We would like to invite you to take this brief scholars' survey on Middle East politics (Middle East Scholar Barometer). In this survey, the sixth since February 2021, we repeat some of the same questions from previous rounds so we can track shifts over time, as well as ask some new, timely questions, especially about the ongoing Israel-Gaza war. We kept it short so that the survey should take 5-7 minutes to complete. Please note that we will make no effort to sell anything to you, your answers will remain confidential, and you will remain anonymous. We will also share the final aggregate results with you. If at any time you find that you do not want to answer a question, feel free to skip it and move on to the next one. We value all feedback on this project.

Thank you in advance!

Best,

Marc Lynch

Professor of Political Science and International
Affairs Director
Director, Project on Middle East Political
Science (POMEPS)

Shibley Telhami

Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and
Development
Director, University of Maryland Critical Issues
Poll

Questions:

This research is being conducted by Dr. Shibley Telhami at the University of Maryland, College Park and Dr. Marc Lynch at George Washington University. We are inviting you to participate in this research project because you are a scholar focusing on the Middle East and North Africa. The purpose of this research project is to gauge expert opinions on Middle East politics.

Below you will find a series of questions related to Middle East scholarship, followed by demographic questions, that should only take you five minutes to complete. As this survey is being conducted using an anonymous link, no identifiable information about you will be collected.

Any potential loss of confidentiality will be minimized by not collecting your email address (through the use of anonymous links) or any other information that can allow you to be identified. The data from this survey will be securely stored in the principal investigator's password protected accounts.

If we write a report or article about this research project, your identity will be protected to the maximum extent possible. Should you need to reach us for any reason regarding this survey, please contact us at sadatoffice@umd.edu.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the University of Maryland Institutional Review Board at irb@umd.edu.

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part at all. If you decide to participate in this research, you may stop participating at any time. By consenting below, you indicate that you are at least 18 years of age.

I acknowledge that I have read the information about the survey above and I give my consent in order to participate: **[PN: FORCE RESPONSE]**

	Total
1. I consent	100%
2. I do not consent (if you selected this option, please exit the survey now)	0%

Q1. Do you feel the need to self-censor when speaking about the Middle East in an academic or professional capacity?

	Total	Outside the United States	Inside the United States
Yes	66.1%	61.4%	69.2%
No	33.9%	38.6%	30.8%

Q2. What are the primary reasons for limiting your speech about the Middle East in an academic or professional capacity? (Select all that apply)

	Total	Outside the United States	Inside the United States
Government legal restrictions on permissible speech	21.0%	31.8%	14.1%
Concerns about discipline from academic administrators at your institution	31.0%	27.0%	33.6%
Concerns about affecting institutional fundraising	14.0%	12.8%	14.8%
Concerns about the campus culture or offending students	41.0%	23.7%	52.1%
Concerns about pressure from external advocacy groups	42.6%	38.0%	45.5%
I do not feel a need to limit my speech	30.7%	36.9%	26.8%

Q3. Do you feel the need to self-censor when speaking about the Palestinian-Israeli issue in an academic or professional capacity?

	Total	Outside the United States	Inside the United States
Yes	77.4%	70.3%	82.0%
No	22.6%	29.7%	18.0%

Q4. What are the primary reasons for limiting your speech about the Palestinian-Israeli issue in an academic or professional capacity? (Select all that apply)

	Total	Outside the United States	Inside the United States
Government legal restrictions on permissible speech	21.6%	31.0%	15.7%
Concerns about discipline from academic administrators at your institution	38.7%	35.4%	40.8%
Concerns about affecting institutional fundraising	18.1%	16.8%	18.9%
Concerns about the campus culture or offending students	48.3%	30.3%	59.7%
Concerns about pressure from external advocacy groups	51.7%	49.3%	53.2%
I do not feel a need to limit my speech	20.9%	27.4%	16.8%

[PN: ASK Q4A. ONLY IF Q3=1 “Yes”] Q4A. On which issue do you most feel the need to self-censor: [PN: RANDOMIZE]

	Total	Outside the United States	Inside the United States
Criticism of Palestinians	9.1%	5.5%	11.1%
Criticism of Israel	83.0%	86.4%	81.1%
Criticism of U.S. policy	1.6%	1.0%	1.9%
Other [PN: FIXED]	6.3%	7.0%	5.8%

Q5. Have you experienced any greater direct or indirect need to self-censor since the start of the Israel-Gaza war on October 7, 2023?

	Total	Outside the United States	Inside the United States
Yes	69.8%	66.1%	72.3%
No	30.2%	33.9%	27.7%

Q6. Have you experienced any new pressures or restrictions from your institution on your ability to speak about these issues since the start of the Israel-Gaza war on October 7, 2023?

	Total	Outside the United States	Inside the United States
Yes	31.7%	28.2%	34.0%
No	68.3%	71.8%	66.0%

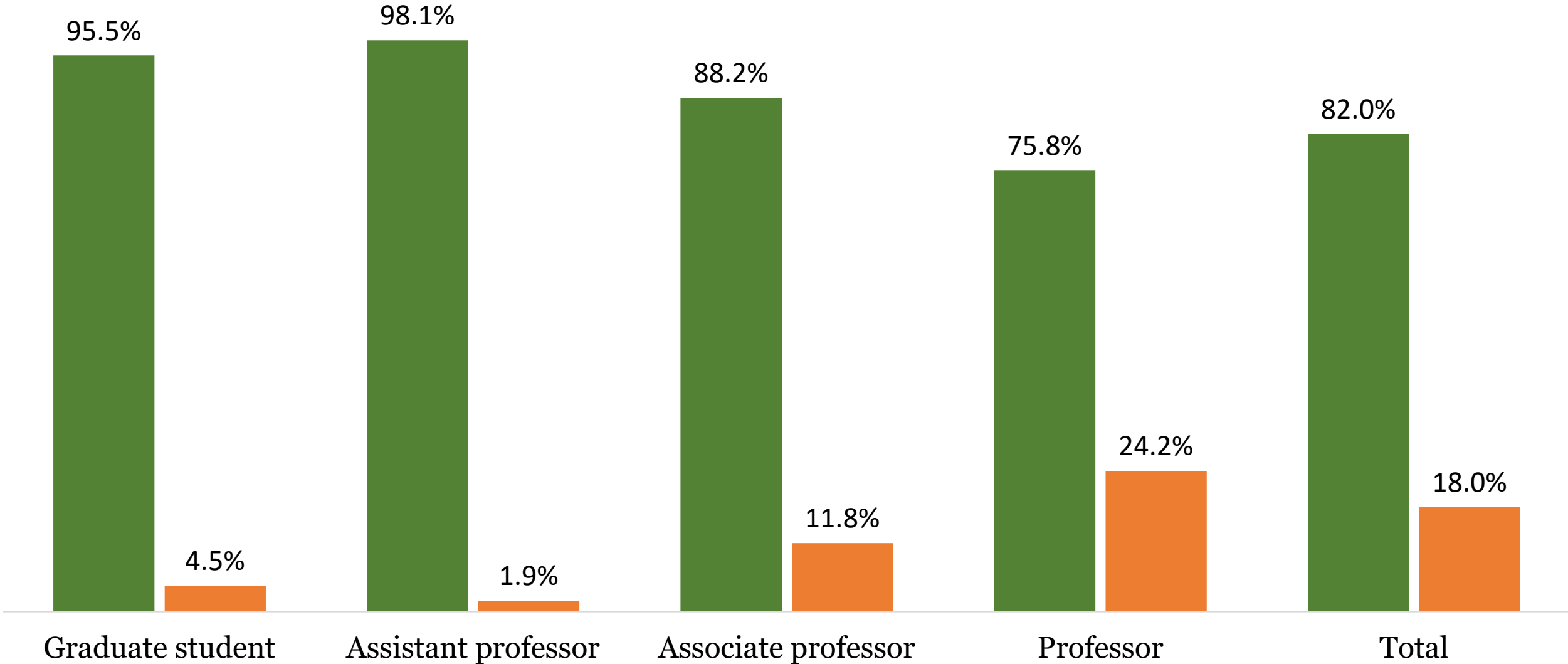
Q7. To what extent are the following sentiments prevalent at your institution?

	Total	Outside the United States	Inside the United States
Antisemitism			
A lot	4.0%	3.6%	4.3%
Somewhat	10.5%	6.2%	13.4%
A little	27.3%	19.6%	32.5%
Not at all	36.1%	48.2%	28.2%
Does not apply	5.0%	8.7%	2.6%
I don't know	17.0%	13.8%	19.1%
Anti-Muslim			
A lot	12.0%	9.2%	13.8%
Somewhat	22.2%	14.0%	27.5%
A little	24.8%	22.4%	26.3%
Not at all	22.6%	35.3%	14.6%
Does not apply	4.3%	8.1%	1.9%
I don't know	14.0%	11.0%	16.0%
Anti-Israeli			
A lot	15.9%	18.1%	14.5%
Somewhat	21.2%	20.2%	21.9%
A little	23.6%	21.3%	25.2%
Not at all	22.8%	24.5%	21.6%
Does not apply	4.4%	5.8%	3.6%
I don't know	12.0%	10.1%	13.3%
Anti-Palestinian			
A lot	16.5%	8.5%	21.4%
Somewhat	24.9%	18.9%	28.7%
A little	21.9%	21.9%	21.9%

Not at all	19.2%	30.7%	11.9%
Does not apply	4.1%	6.7%	2.6%
I don't know	13.4%	13.3%	13.5%

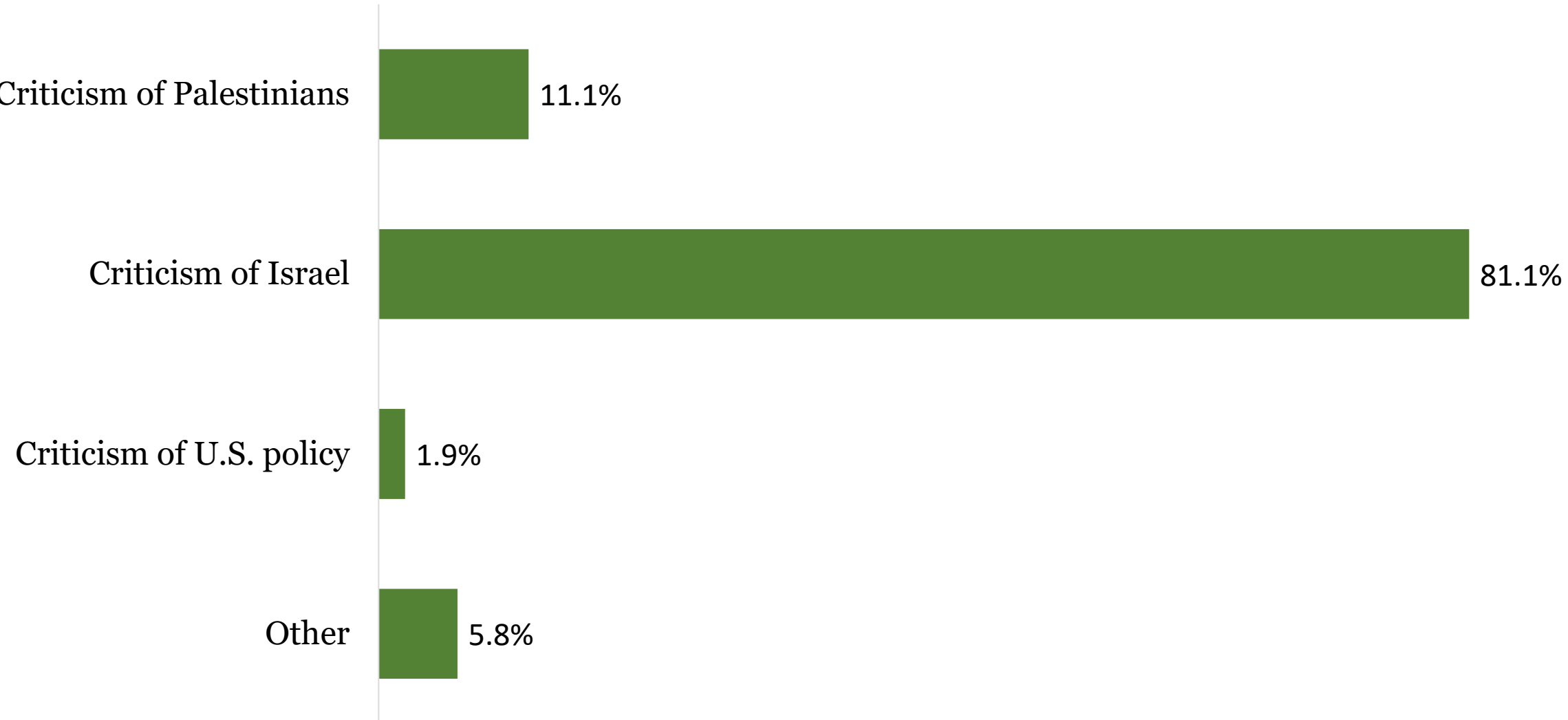
**Q. Do you feel the need to self-censor when speaking about the Palestinian-Israeli issue in an academic or professional capacity?
[Only among respondents inside the US]**

■ Yes ■ No



These results are among 936 respondents, from the Middle East Scholar Barometer fielded November 10 - 17, 2023 online using the University of Maryland's Qualtrics platform.

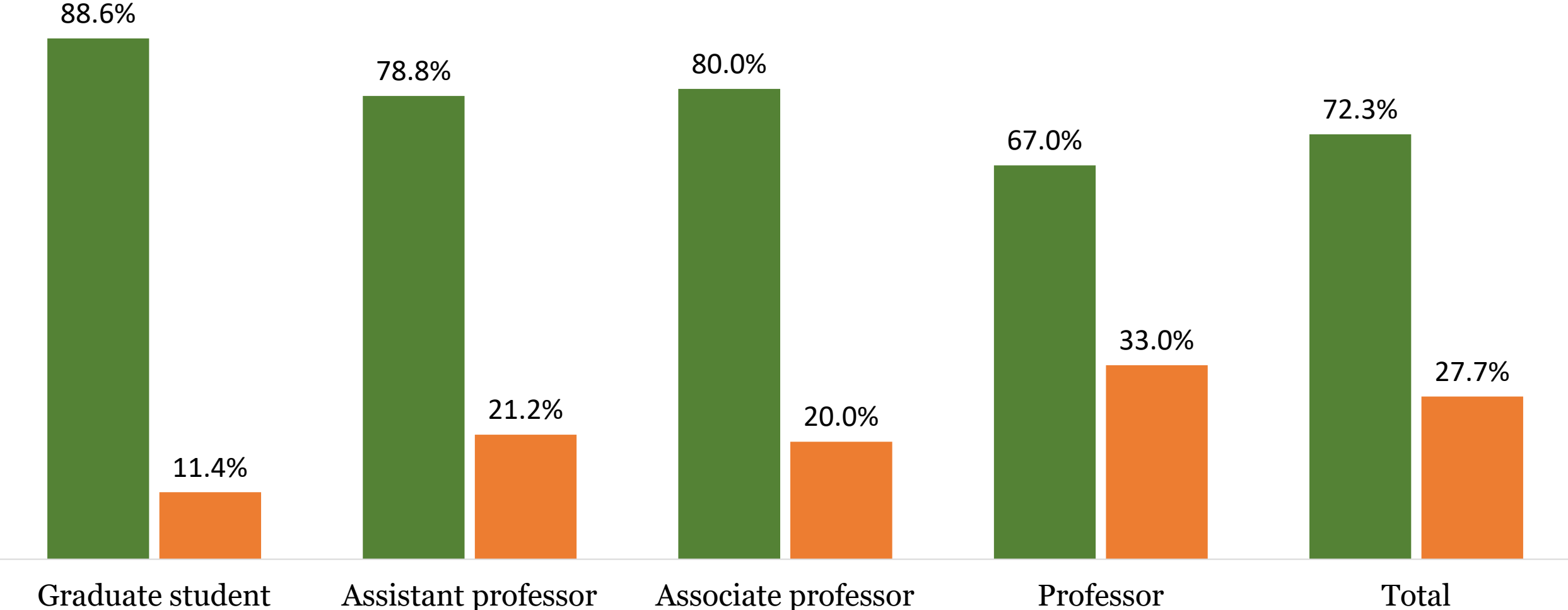
**Q. On which issue do you most feel the need to self-censor:
[Only among those who answered "yes" to self-censoring when speaking about
Israel/Palestine]
[Only among respondents inside the US]**



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**Q. Have you experienced any greater direct or indirect need to self-censor since the start of the Israel-Gaza war on October 7, 2023?
[Only among respondents inside the US]**

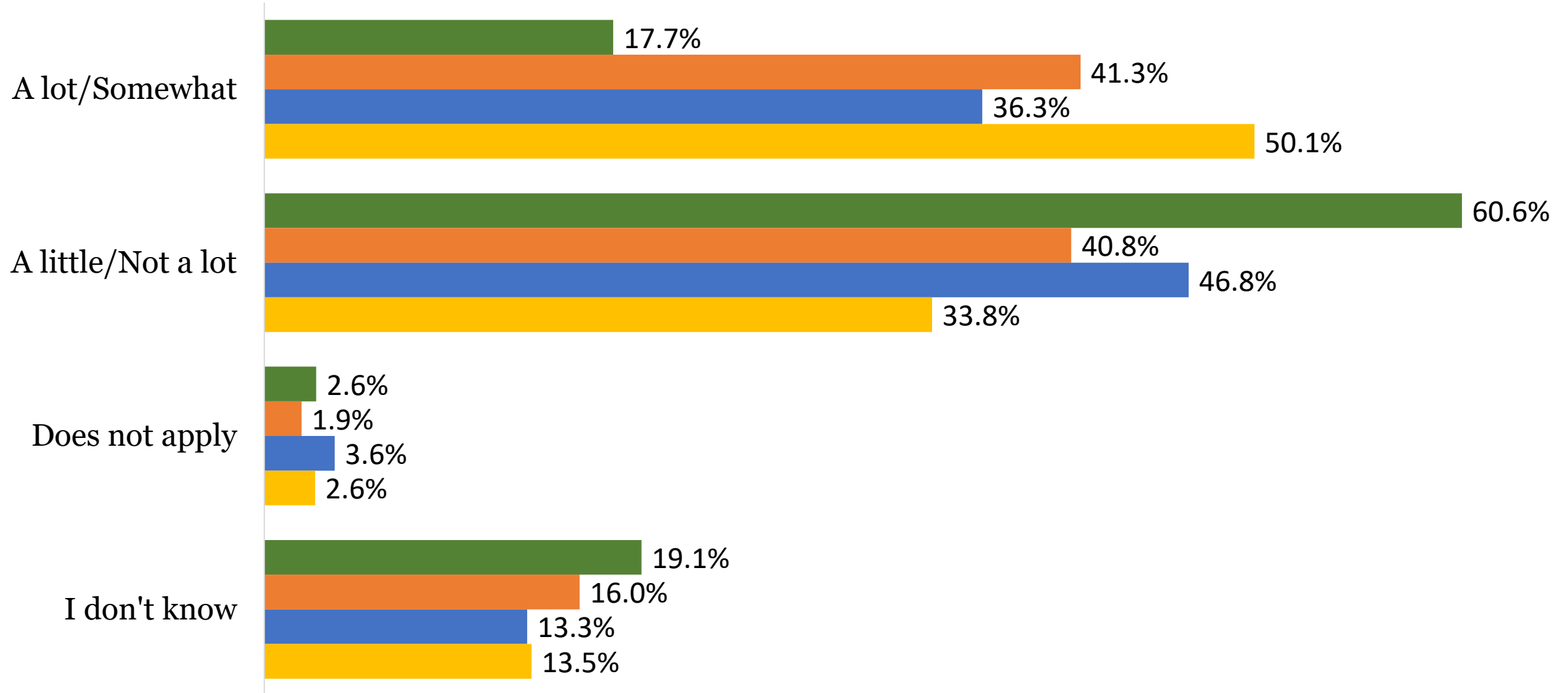
■ Yes ■ No



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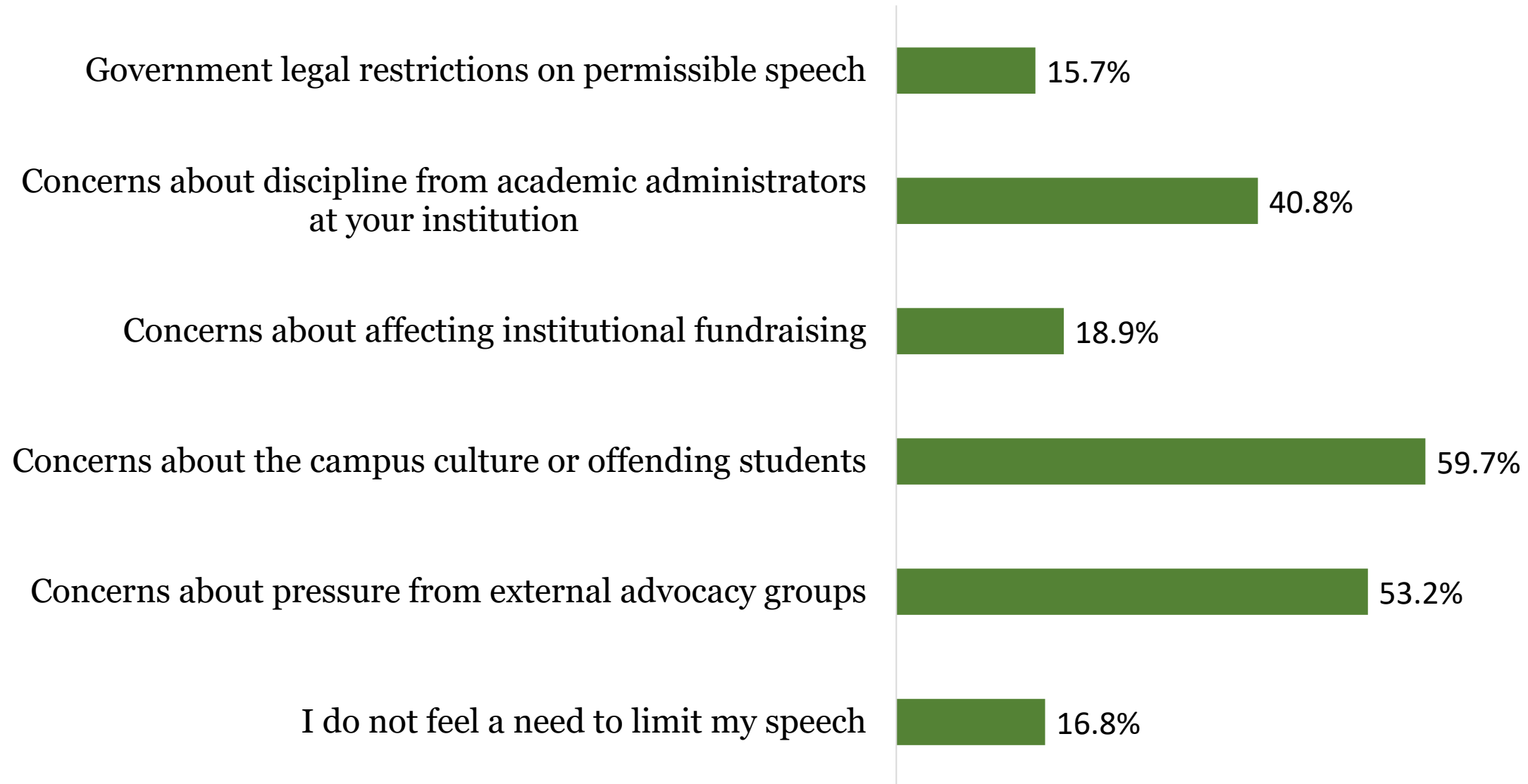
Q. To what extent are the following sentiments prevalent at your institution? [Only among respondents inside the US]

■ Antisemitism ■ Anti-Muslim ■ Anti-Israeli ■ Anti-Palestinian



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Q. What are the primary reasons for limiting your speech about the Palestinian-Israeli issue in an academic or professional capacity? (Select all that apply)
[Only among respondents inside the US]



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