

A Scoping Review of Sociological Literature on Sex Dolls and Sex Robots (2000–2024; cut-off 01 Jan 2025)

Lisa D'Errico-University of Naples, Federico II- lisa.derrico@unina.com

INTRODUCTION & AIM

• Socio-cultural research on **sex dolls/love dolls** and **sex robots** is expanding but remains fragmented across STS/posthumanism, sociology of emotions, and sexuality studies.

• Non-standardized labels and definitions limit comparability and cumulative knowledge.

• A **scoping review** maps concepts, empirical bases, and evaluative stances, highlighting patterns and gaps.

Aim: To map socio-cultural literature on sex dolls and sex robots (2000–2024; cut-off 01 Jan 2025).

Outcomes: (i) artefact focus; (ii) empirical basis; (iii) stance toward technology.

Research questions:

1. How are the artefacts labeled and conceptualized?
2. Which stances/theoretical framings dominate?
3. Which empirical materials and methods are used?

METHOD

• **Design:** scoping review (Arksey & O'Malley), reported using **PRISMA-ScR**.

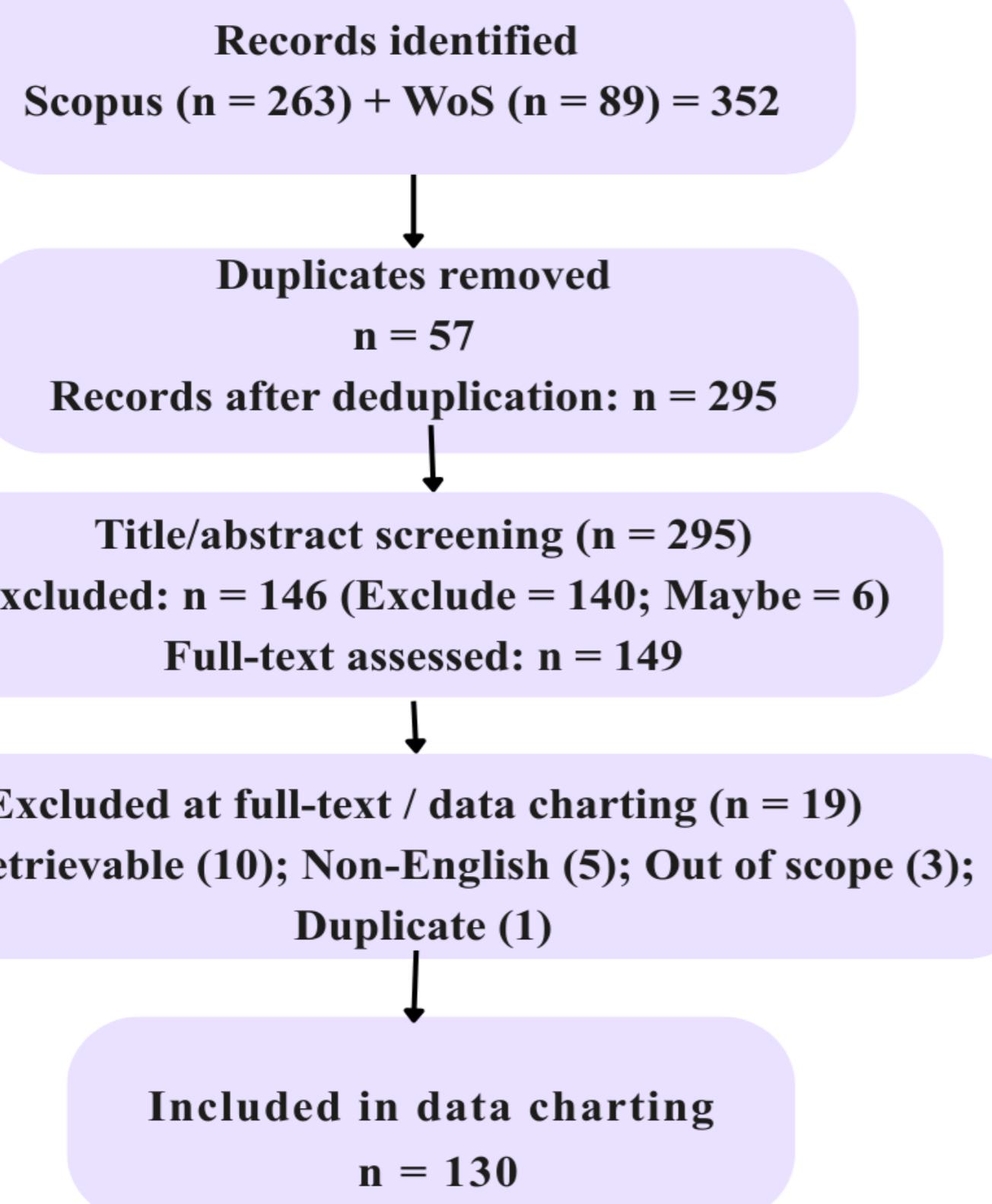
• **Sources:** Scopus + Web of Science (export: 25 Nov 2025).

• **Time window:** 01 Jan 2000–31 Dec 2024 (**cut-off:** 01 Jan 2025).

• **Search/export date:** 25 Nov 2025 (filtered to cut-off).

• **Workflow:** merge + deduplication → title/abstract screening → full-text assessment → full-text **data charting**.

• **Denominators:** bibliometrics N=149; charted full-texts N=130.

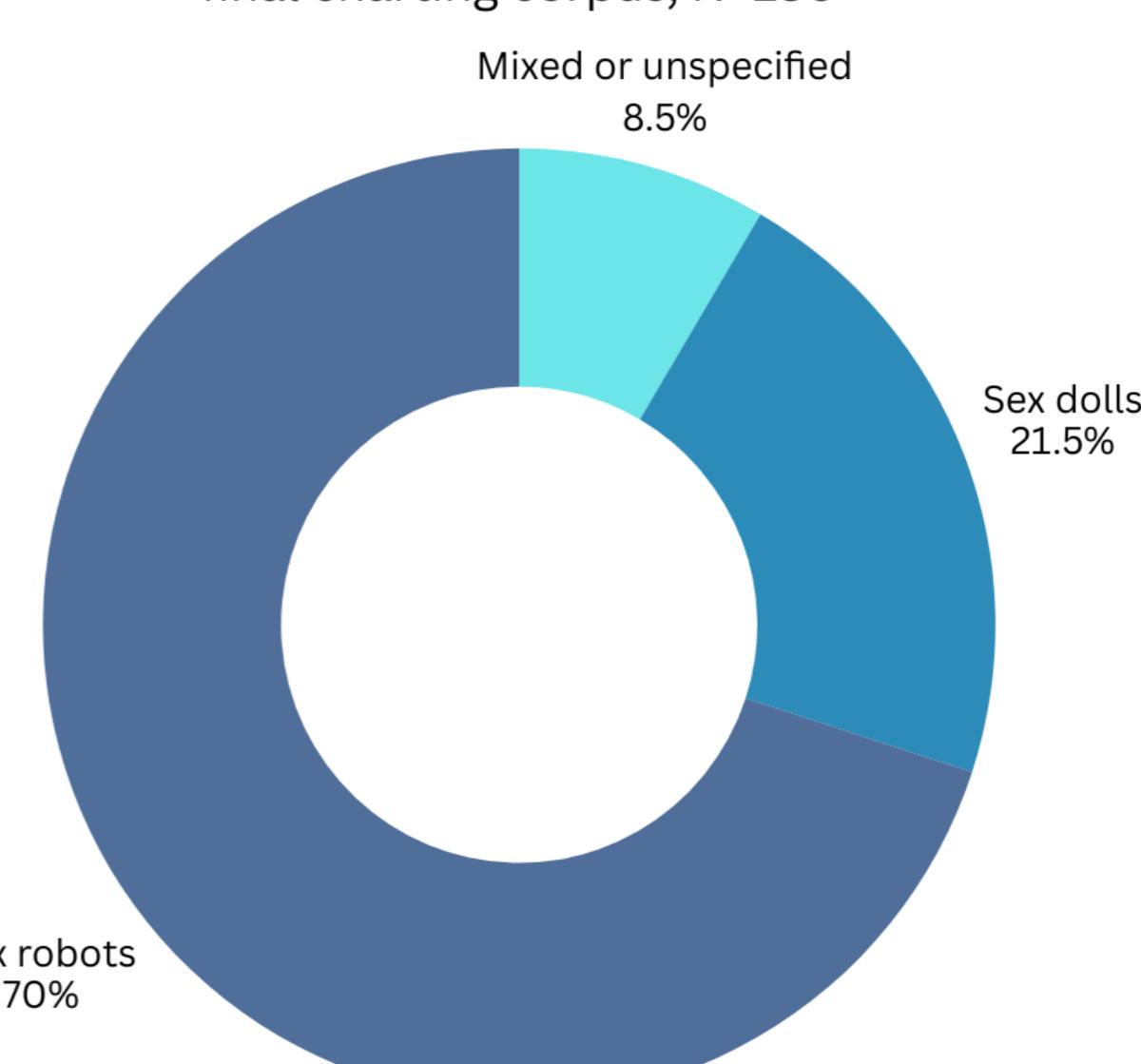


CONCLUSION

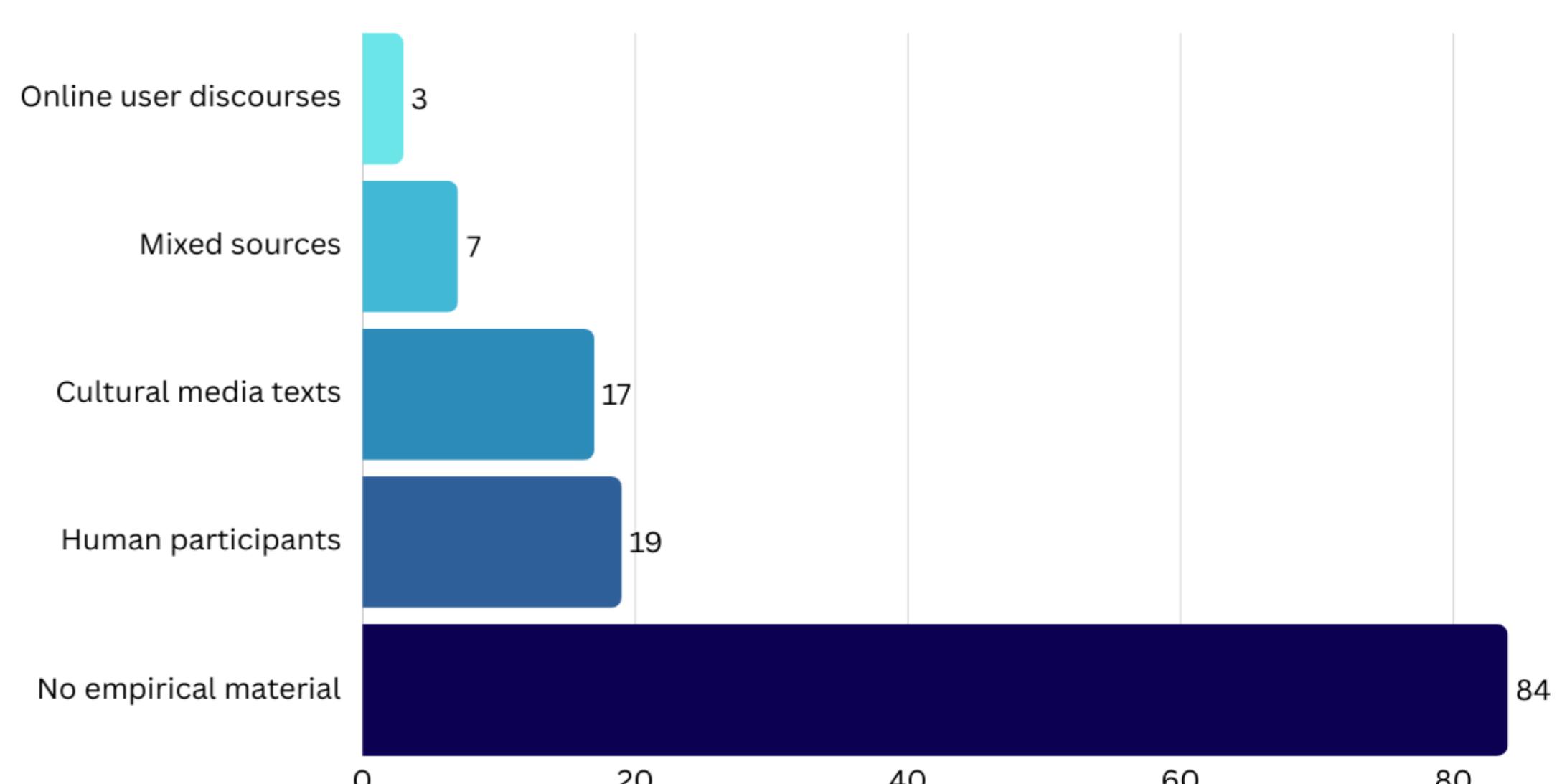
- The corpus is **robot-dominant** (70.0%), while dolls account for 21.5% (N=130).
- Most contributions are **non-empirical** (64.6%), indicating a field still shaped by conceptual and normative debate.
- Stance is mainly **descriptive/analytic** (36.2%) alongside substantial **critical** (29.2%) and **ambivalent** (20.8%) positions.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Artefact focus
final charting corpus, N=130



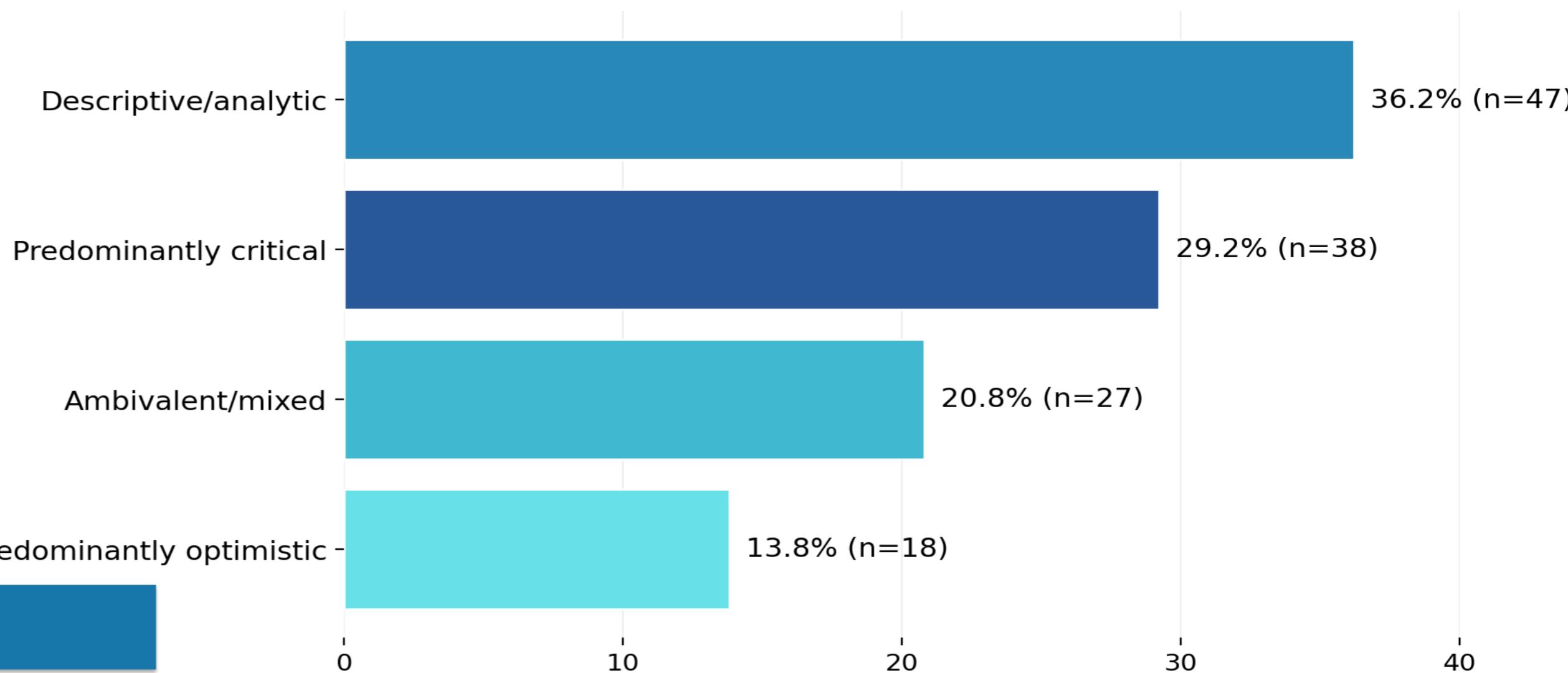
Empirical basis of contributions
Counts (N = 130)



• **Sex dolls:** mostly framed as *descriptive/analytic* (18/28 = 64.3%).

• **Sex robots:** more polarised stances (critical 31.9%, ambivalent 25.3%, descriptive 26.4%).

Stance toward technology
final charting corpus, N = 130



FUTURE WORK / REFERENCES

Future work: Empirical study of how *relational credibility* is constructed in online marketplaces and user forums (credibility clues, relational scripts, community validation, platform affordances).

References: Arksey & O'Malley (2005); Tricco et al. (2018, PRISMA-ScR).