

The Tenure Inflection Point: How Research Trajectories Shift

The Pre-Promotion Peak:

Publication rates rise steeply during the tenure track, reaching their absolute maximum immediately before the promotion decision.

The "Up-or-Out" Filter

The high-stakes probationary period (typically 6-7 years) functions as a rigorous screening mechanism for intrinsic motivation.

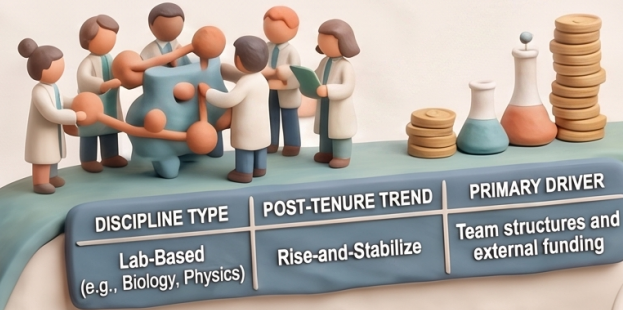
Context Summary:

Tenure serves as a sharp institutional inflection point rather than a smooth career curve, leading to major divergence in output and a shift toward higher-risk creative exploration.

TENURE INFLECTION POINT

The Post-Tenure Divergence

Lab-Based Fields



Lab vs. Non-Lab Trajectories

Key Finding: Novelty Over Impact

Tenured faculty pursue riskier, more novel research that often results in lower immediate citation impact.

Non-Lab Fields:

Non-lab fields often see a "rise-and-fall" pattern.

Primary Driver:
Solo effort and individual drive.

DISCIPLINE TYPE	POST-TENURE TREND
Non-Lab (e.g., Business, Muth)	Rise-and-Fall
PRIMARY DRIVER	Solo effort and individual drive

Non-Lab Fields