



**HAL**  
open science

## Comparative metadata for popular theater in Alsatian, German and French

Pablo Ruiz Fabo, Fanny Boissard, Alexia Schneider

► **To cite this version:**

Pablo Ruiz Fabo, Fanny Boissard, Alexia Schneider. Comparative metadata for popular theater in Alsatian, German and French. Digital Humanities 2024, Aug 2024, Washington DC, United States. , 10.5281/zenodo.11306739 . hal-04520875

**HAL Id: hal-04520875**

**<https://hal.science/hal-04520875v1>**

Submitted on 23 Jul 2024

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

## What are we doing?

### Alsatian theater?

- **Alsatian:** Germanic varieties from Alsace, Eastern France
- Rich dramatic tradition, since early 19th century
- No large-scale quantitative analyses before our projects (Ruiz et al., 2024)

### Trilingual corpus

- **Alsatian:** Comedic subgenres (*Schwank*, *Lustspiel*) (Gall, 1974; Huck, 2005; von Hülsen, 2003)
- **German:** *Schwank*, *Posse* (Klotz, 2007; Wilms, 1969)
- **French:** vaudeville and its subgenres (Matthes, 1983; Gidel, 1986)

### Transcription and annotation

- Bibliographic metadata; number of acts/scenes
- Plays' **subgenre** (based on subtitle or secondary literature)
- **Dramatis personæ**, annotating characters' "social variables" (see below) and relations
- **Setting:** time and place, coordinates (OSM API)
- **Wikidata** ID retrieved or created for plays, authors and publishers

## Why and what for?

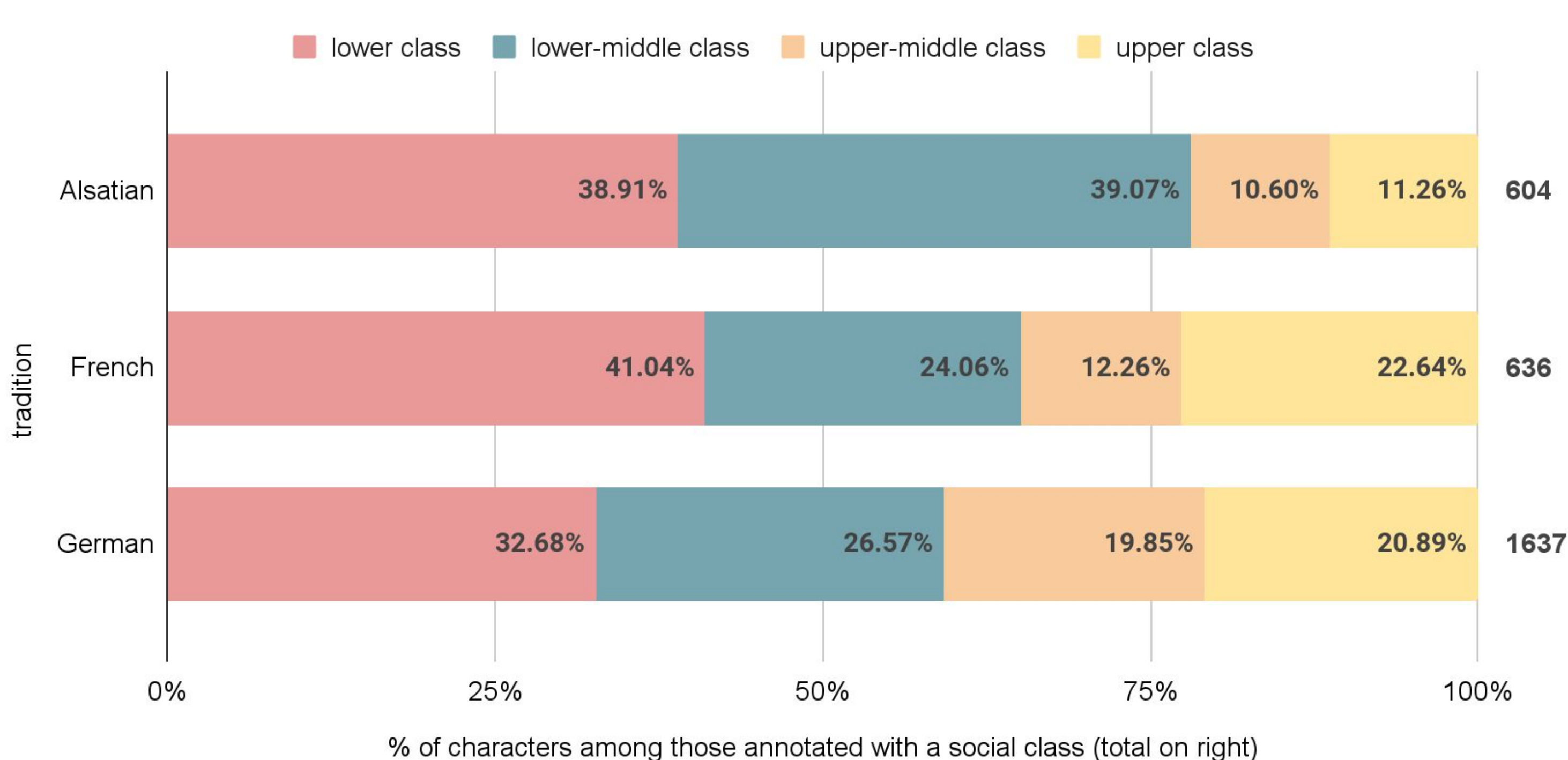
- Exploring **subgenre evolution** across traditions
- Exploring interactions between **peripheral** traditions (Alsatian) and **core** ones (German, French), inspired by a **polysystems** approach (Even-Zohar, 1990)
- Promoting work with popular, lesser-studied historical subgenres, including **non-canonical authors**; cf. large-scale studies by Jannidis et al. (2019) on "dime-novels"
- **Adding variety** to Computational Literary Studies

## Some trends

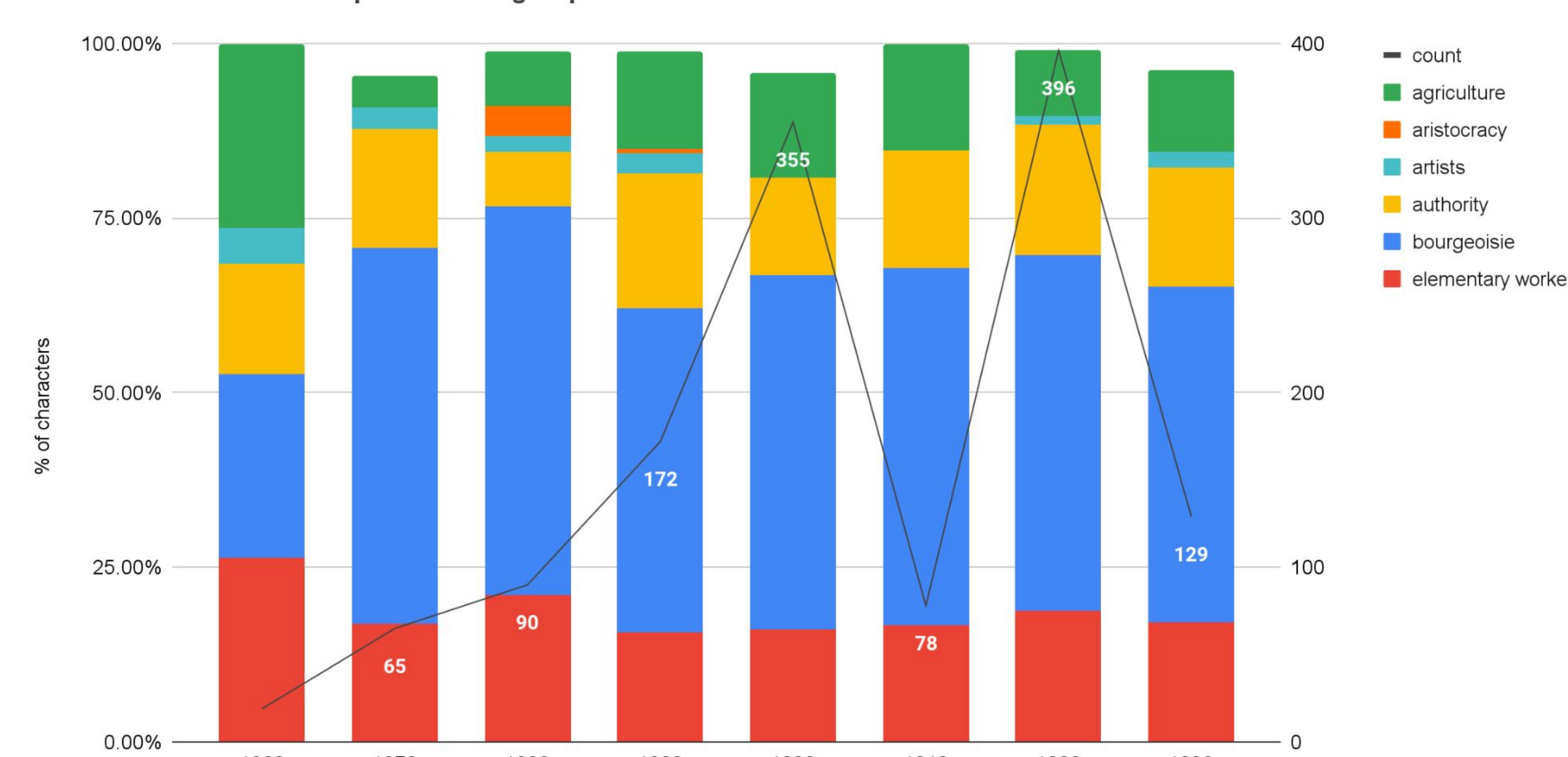
### Socioprofessional groups annotated

fine-grained classification			coarse classification
1. agriculture	7. government officials	13. police & security	1. agriculture
2. aristocrats	8. hobbies	14. professionals, scientific, technical	2. aristocracy
3. artists	9. industry & transportation	15. rentiers	3. artists
4. clergy	10. intermediate professions	16. service & sales	4. authority figures
5. crafts	11. military	17. unknown	5. bourgeoisie
6. elementary professions	12. outlawed	18. volunteer positions	6. elementary professions
			7. other

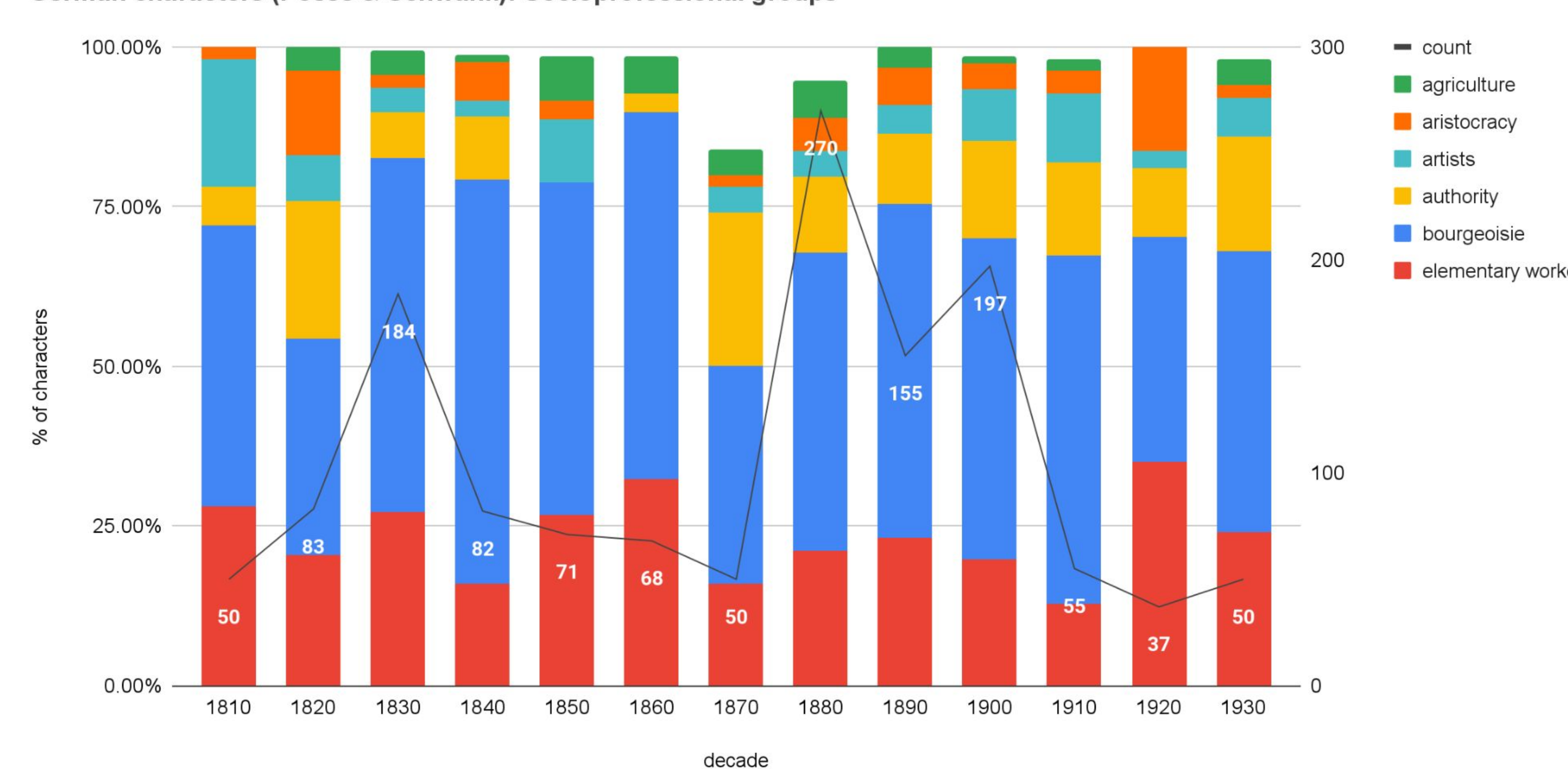
### Character social class



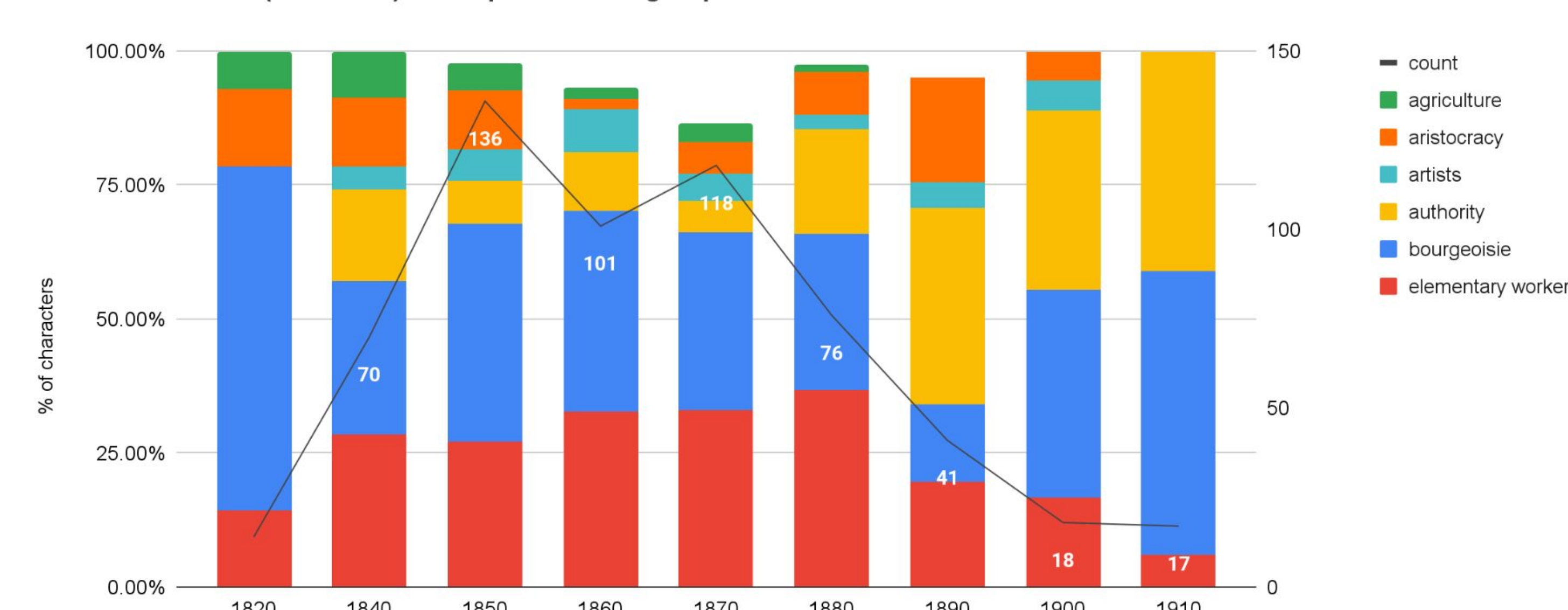
Alsatian characters: Socioprofessional groups



German characters (Posse & Schwank): Socioprofessional groups



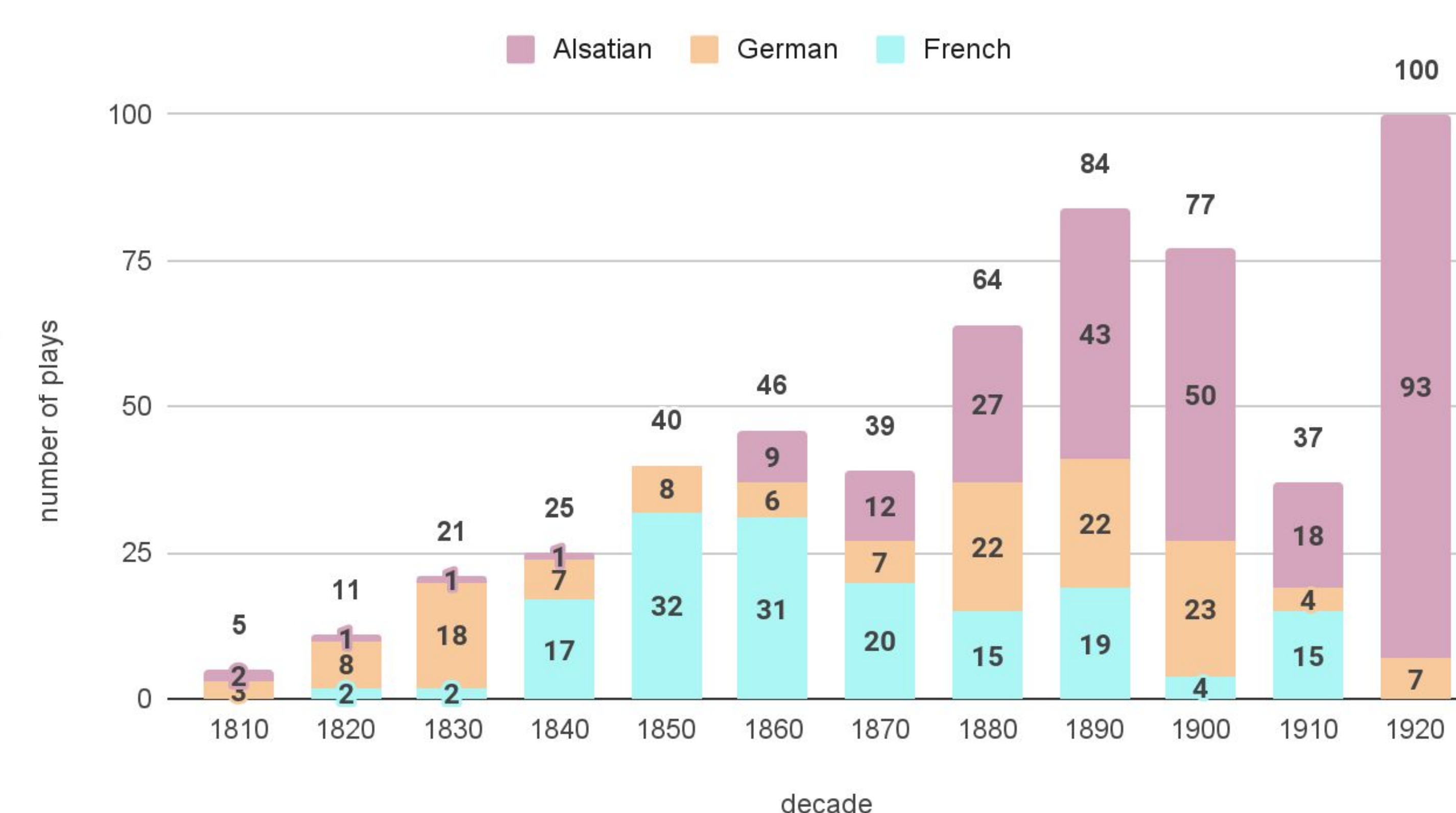
French characters (vaudeville): Socioprofessional groups



### Corpus distribution

	plays	authors	f, m, u	characters	f, m, u (%)	characters per play
als	302	78	4, 69, 5	2,959	26, 68, 6	9.8
ger	143	50	1, 48, 1	2,329	34, 59, 7	16.27
fre	144	72	9, 62, 1	1,546	37, 59, 4	10.74

### Plays per decade and tradition



### Outlook

- Target period is 1800 to 1929 (300 plays per tradition)
- Annotations presented here correspond to 60% of the target volume. Released at [DOI 10.5281/zenodo.10520031](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10520031)
- Distribution will be made more homogeneous as additional annotations are released
- Data for the complete corpus will be analyzed in 2024

### References

Galleron, I. (2017). Conceptualisation of Theatrical Characters in the Digital Paradigm [...]. *HSS*, 6(1), 88-108  
 Gall (1974). *Le théâtre populaire alsacien au XIXe siècle*.  
 Gidel, H. (1986). *Le Vaudeville*.  
 Huck, D. (2005). *Le Théâtre Alsacien de Strasbourg et la production dramatique de ses fondateurs (1898-1914)*.  
 Jannidis et al. (2019). *Makroanalytische Untersuchungen von Hefromanen. Digital Humanities im Deutschsprachigen Raum*, 167-173.  
 Klotz, V. ([1980] 2007). *Bürgerliches Lachtheater*.  
 Matthes, L. (1983). *Vaudeville*.  
 Ruiz, P. & Bermúdez, H. (2022). Feature structures for character social variable annotation. *TEI 2022*.  
 Ruiz et al. (2024). *Computational Drama Analysis from almost zero electronic text: The case of Alsatian Theater*. In Andresen & Reiter. *Computational Drama Analysis*.  
 Von Hülsen (2003). *Szenenwechsel im Elsass: Theater und Gesellschaft in Strassburg [...] 1890-1944*.  
 Wiedmer et al. (2020). *Romeo, Freund des Merkurio: Semi-Automatische Extraktion von Beziehungen zwischen dramatischen Figuren. DHd 2020*.  
 Wilms, B. (1969). *Der Schwank*.