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Comparative metadata for popular theater in Alsatian, German and French

Pablo Ruiz Fabo, Fanny Boissard, Alexia Schneider

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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?

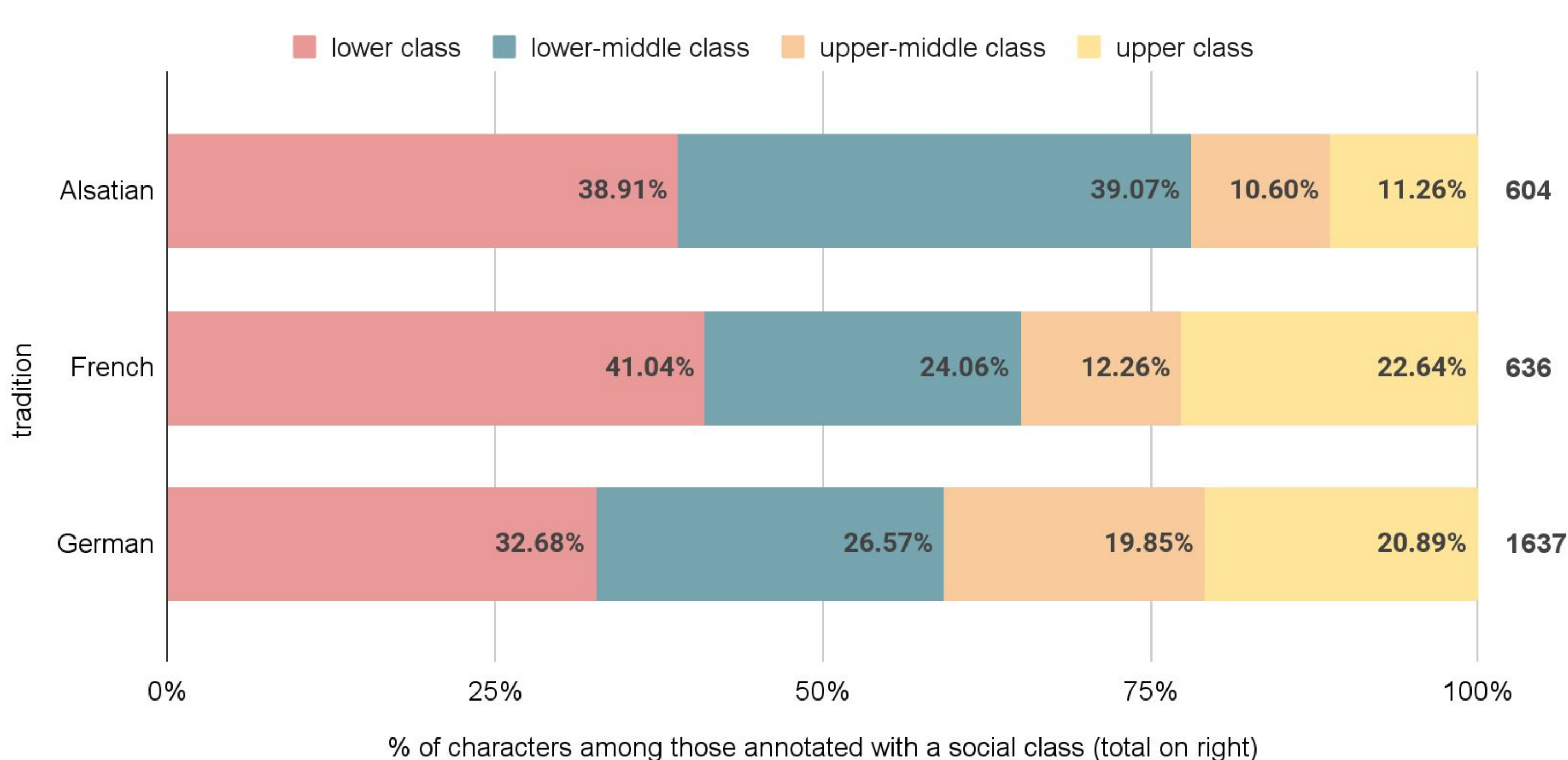
- Exploring **subgenre evolution** across traditions
- Exploring interactions between **peripheral** traditions (Alsatian) and **core** ones (German, French), inspired by a **polysystems** approach (Even-Zohar, 1990)
- Promoting work with popular, lesser-studied historical subgenres, including **non-canonical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

Some trends

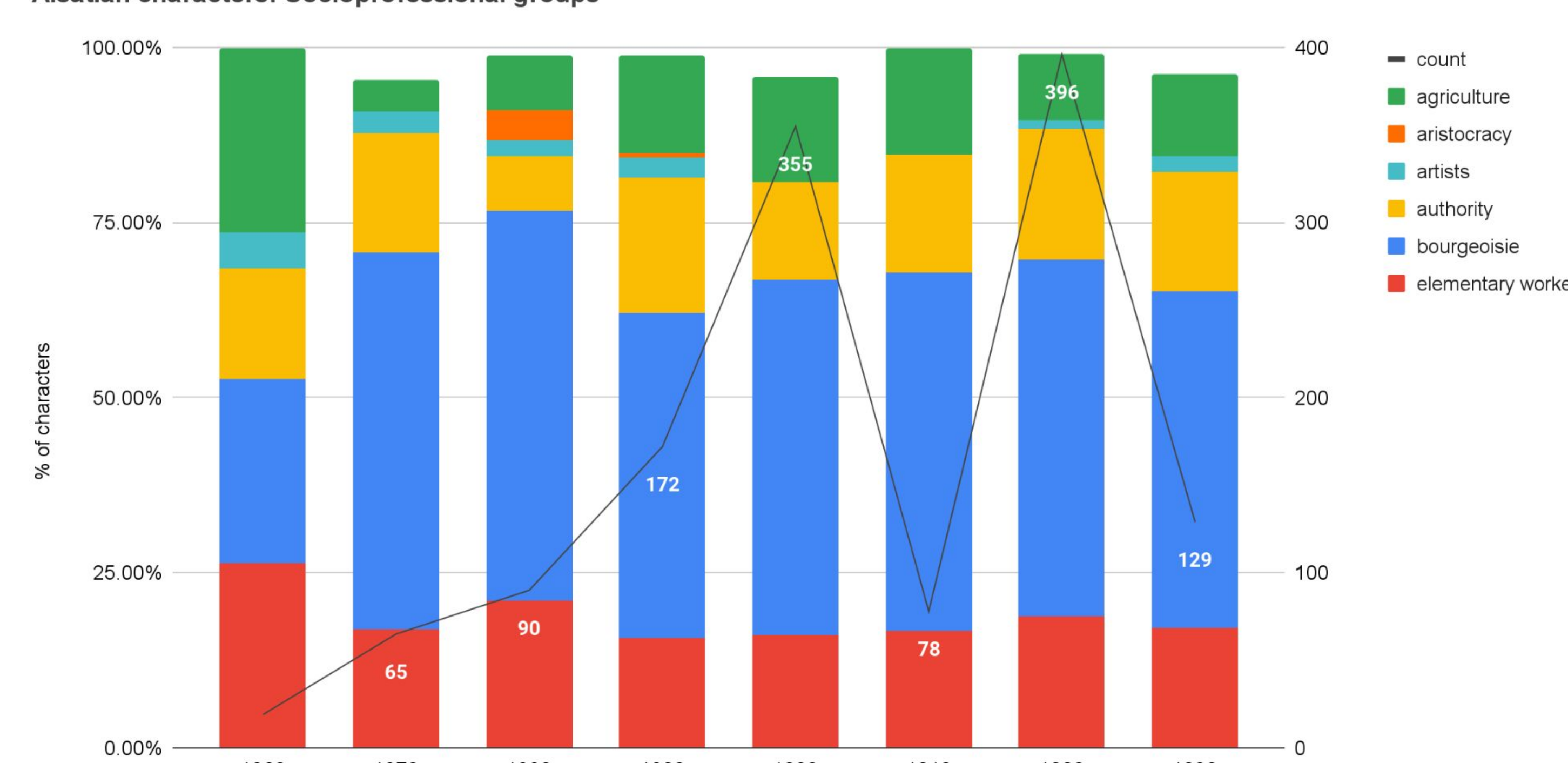
Socioprofessional groups annotated

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

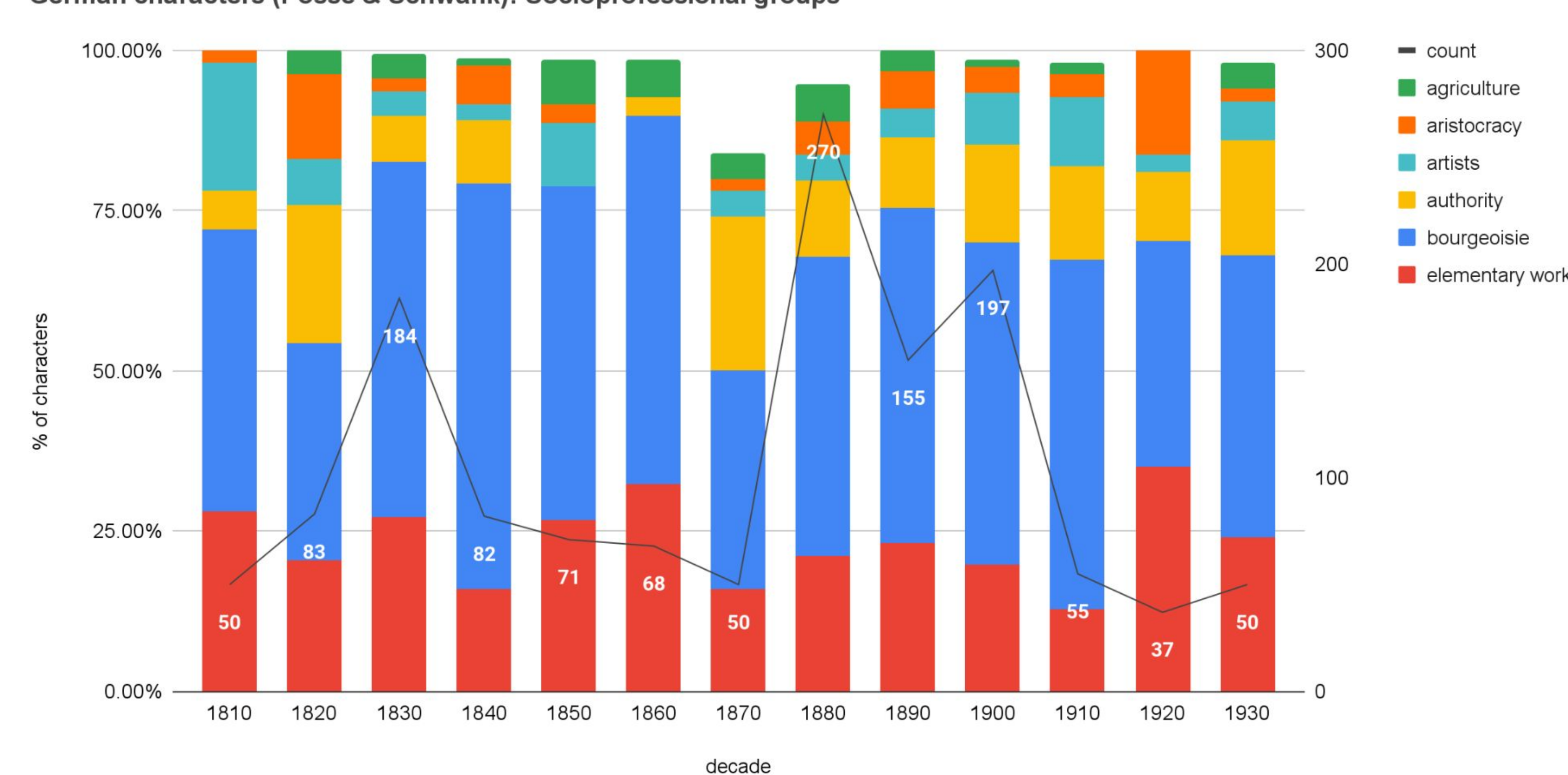
Character social class



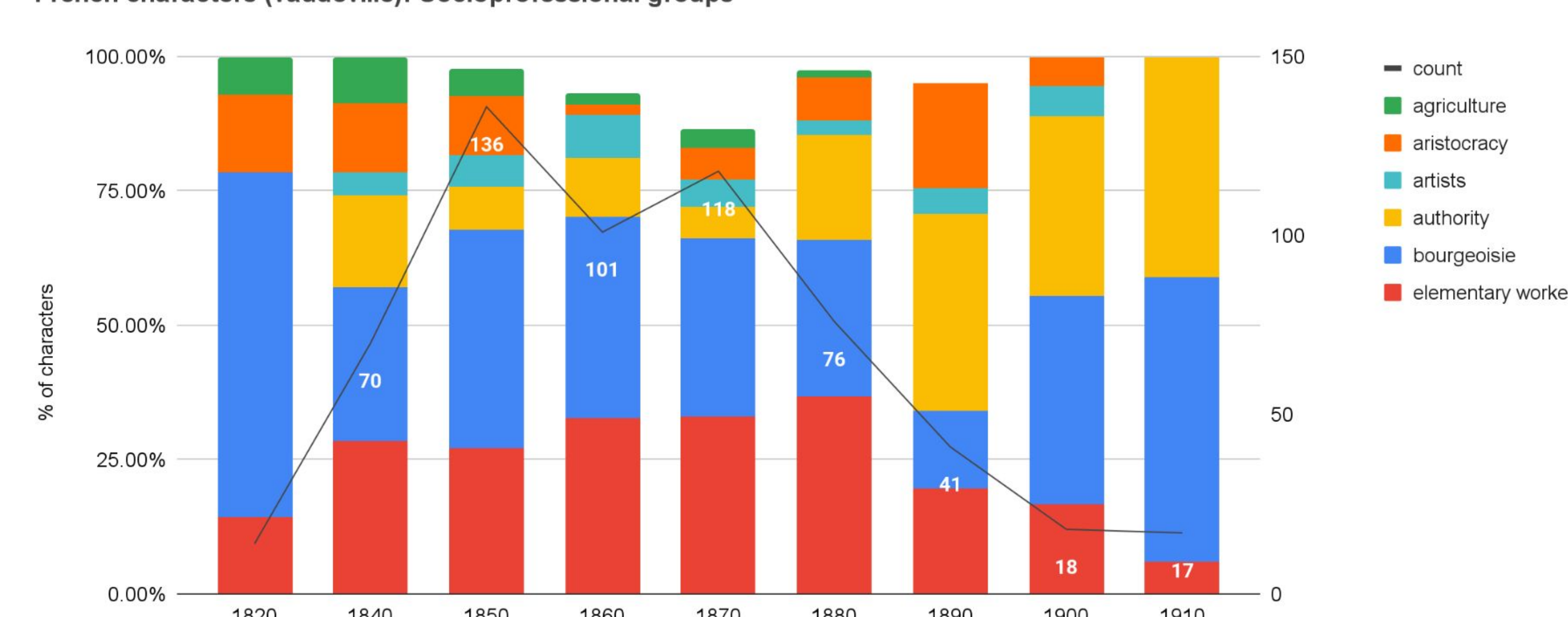
Alsatian characters: Socioprofessional groups



German characters (Posse & Schwank): Socioprofessional groups



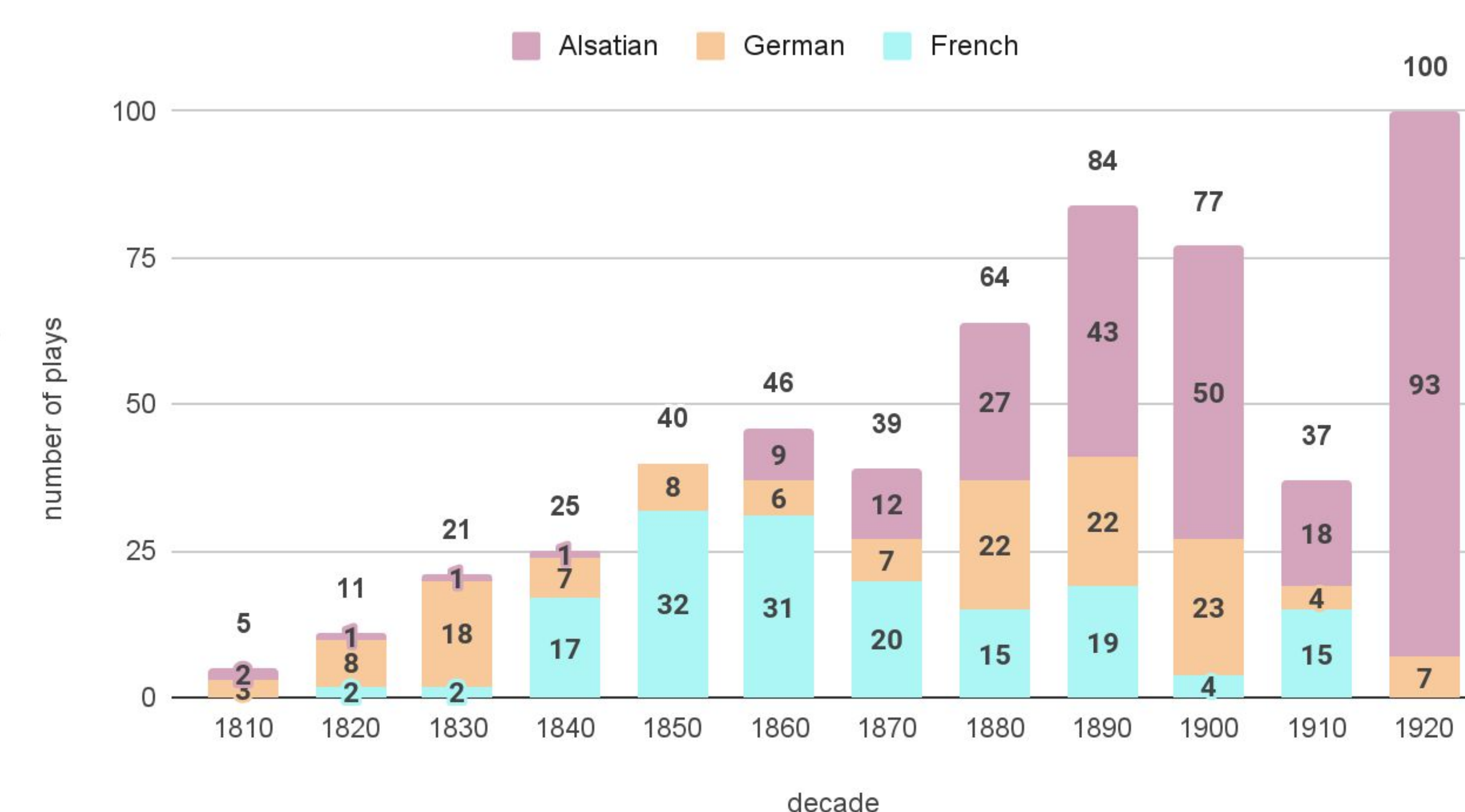
French characters (vaudeville): Socioprofessional groups



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

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