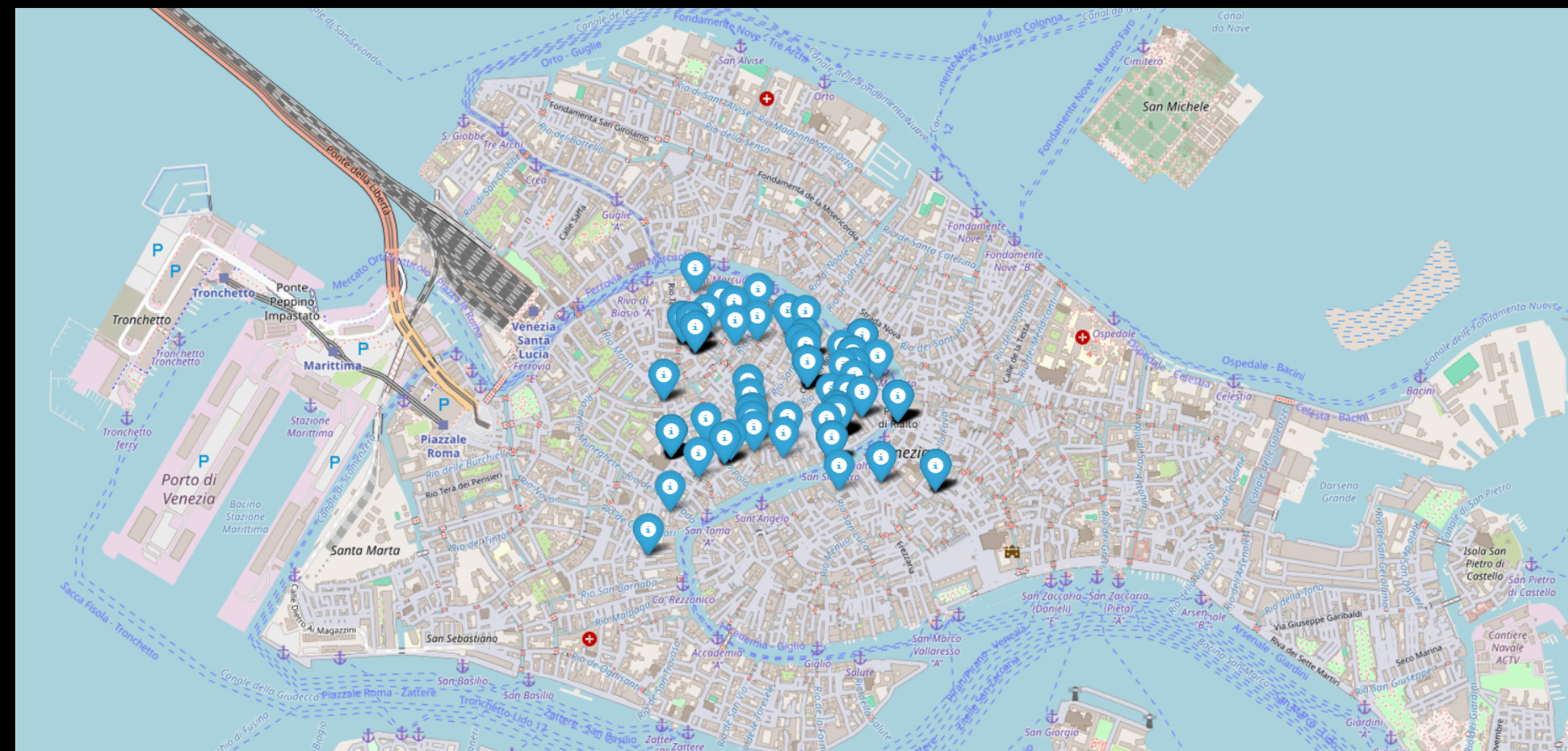


REPOPULATING 1661 and 1864's

VENICE

Introduction

Venice, once a thriving maritime republic, faced substantial population and economic decline following the mid-17th century. After Napoleon's defeat and the subsequent Austrian rule, Venice has undergone a significant transformation. This poster explores and analyses the socio-economical and demographic aspect of Venice during those years, paying particular attention to the year of 1864. In this study, we analysed two historical documents: a population Census from 1661, providing detailed demographic information, and a Commercial Guide of Venice from 1864, which explores more the social and economical aspects of the city.



Proof of Concept: Result of Geocoding for the parishes of S. Polo, S. Maria ai frari, S. Cassiano, S. Silvestro, S. Giacomo dall'Orto

Methodology

Due to the historical context of the time and the scope of the document, the Census of 1661 was handwritten with a cursive style typical of the era, making the use of OCR (optical character recognition) impractical. Therefore, a manual job was necessary, through the use of annotation tools such as CVAT.



QR code for the interactive map of the 5 parishes



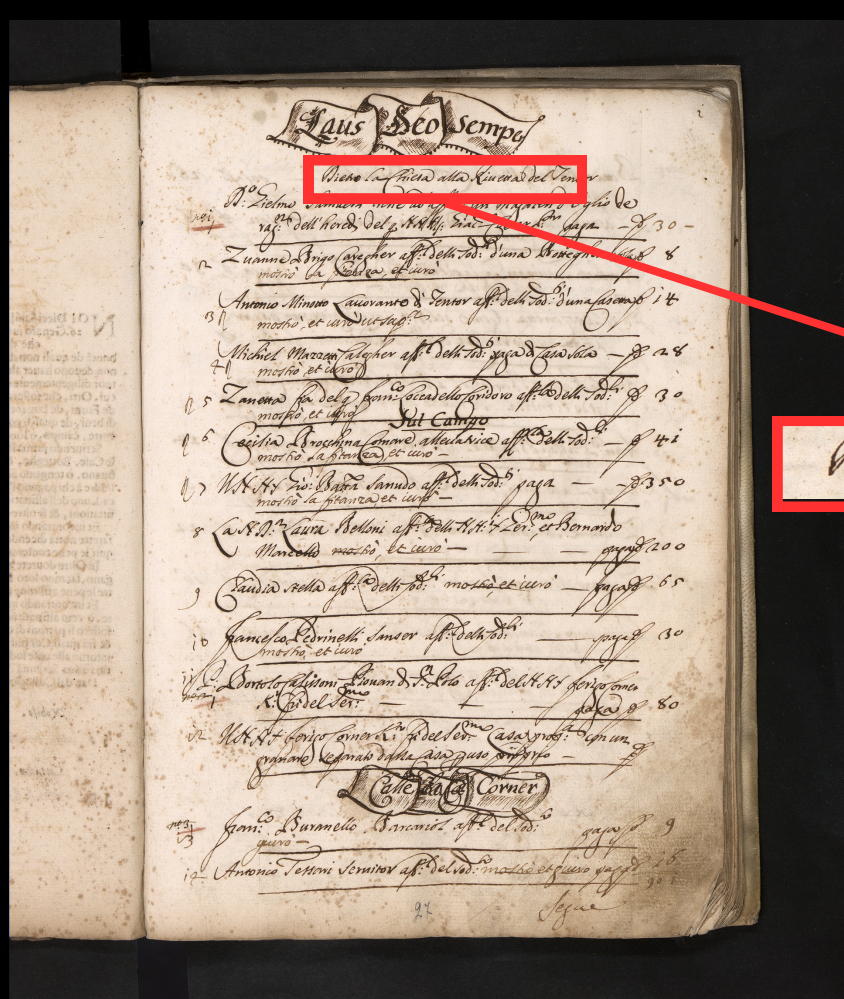
QR code for the interactive map of all parishes



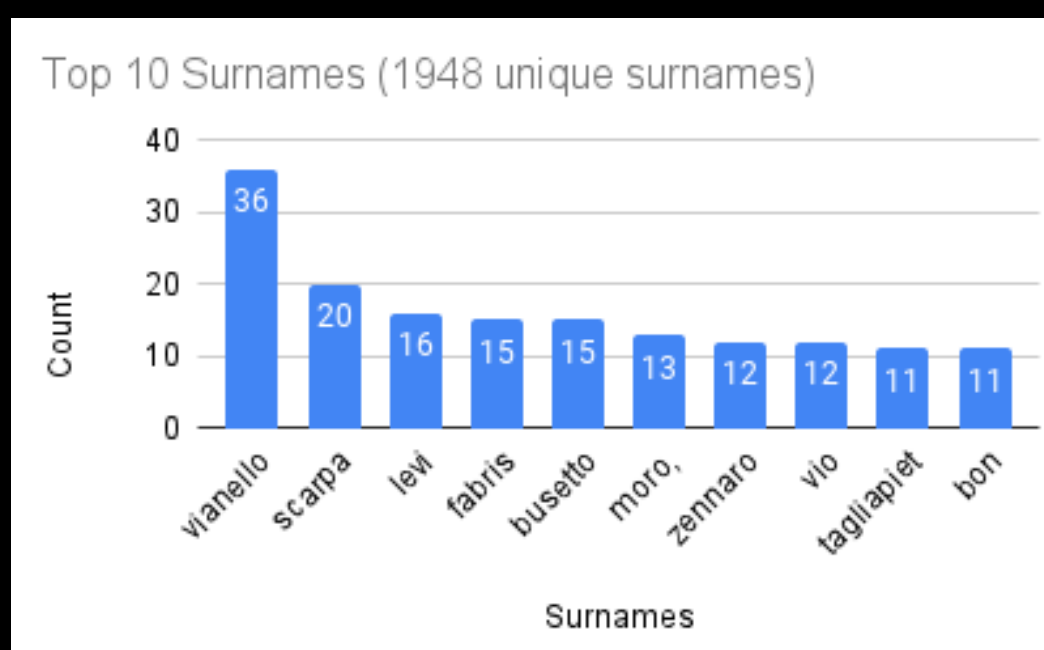
QR code for the interactive map of businesses of the Jewish community

Analysis

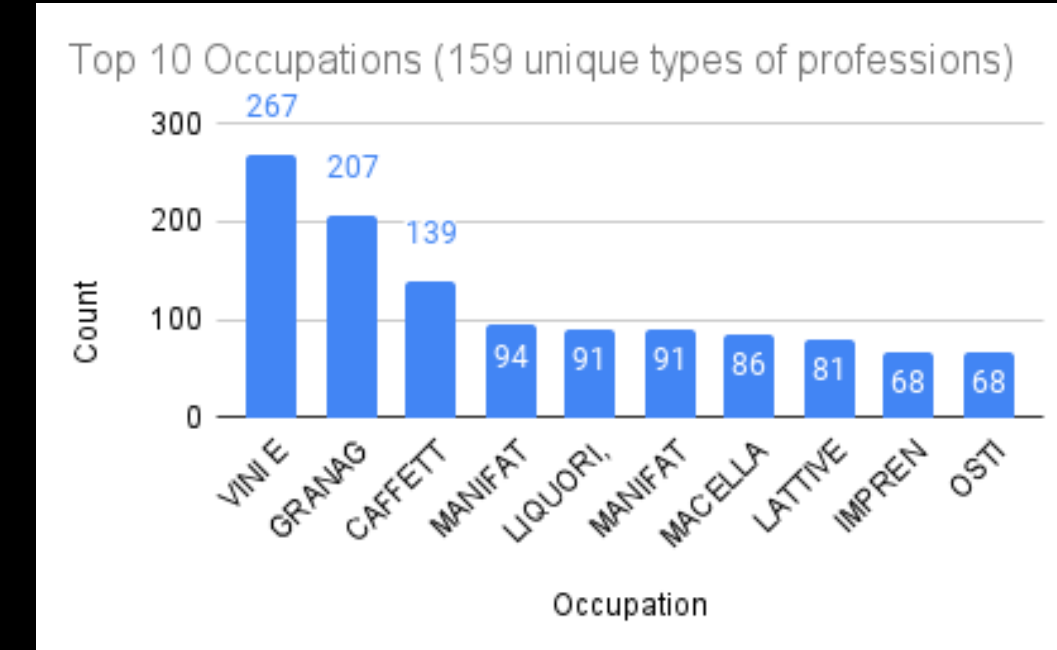
After extracting data, we could elaborate both simple graphs, such as the top 10 most common job types and other data:



Historical document annotation with CVAT, DOCUMENT 1



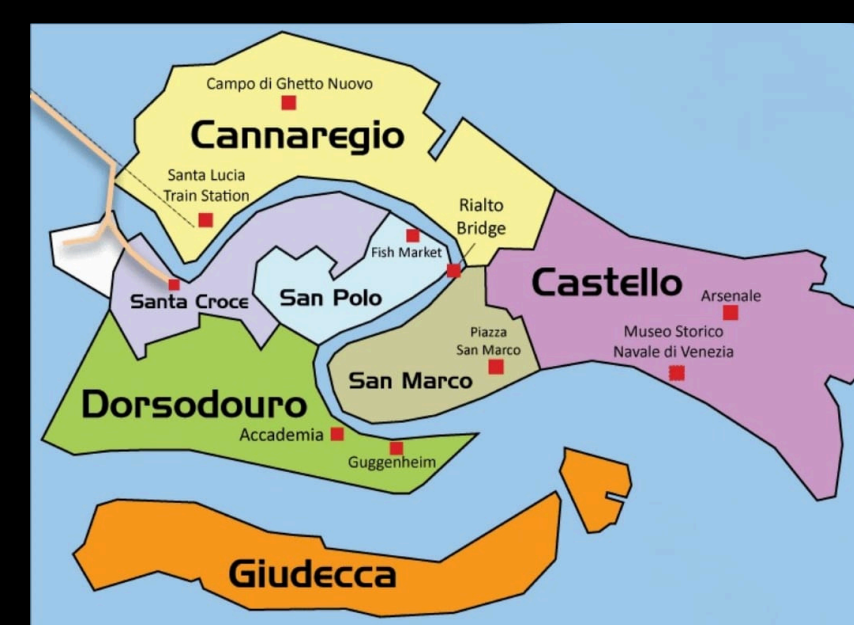
Top 10 most common surnames



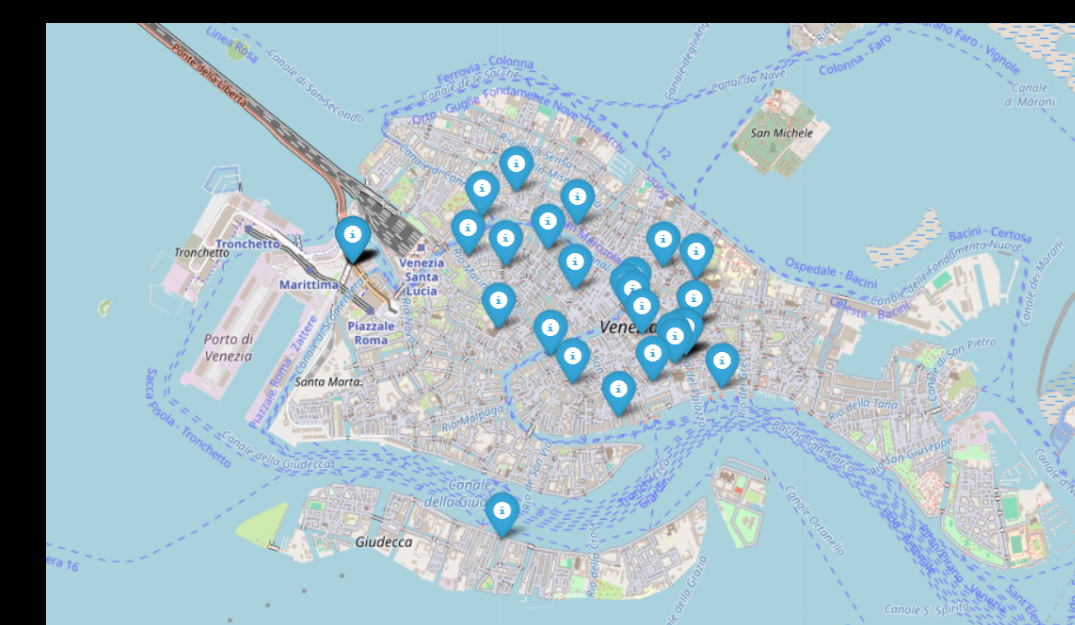
Top 10 most common professions

For the second document (1864), on the other hand, we employed both OCR (in Python) and multi-token-based active learning tools, such as "INCEption" in order to categorise each word. Thanks to that, we could easily extract the basic information (such as name, street of the business, the field of the business, ...), elements essential for our next analysis: construction of our digital map, and geocoding of the city. After extracting objects of interest in "INCEption", analysing data with the "pandas" library in Python, and normalising the names with a modified Levenshtein distance algorithm, we mapped for each street its corresponding modern version (provided it still exists) through Google Maps and OpenStreetMaps libraries in Python.

But also more complex results, such as the distribution of Jewish businesses: since Mediaeval times, the Jewish minorities were hindered by socio-economic restrictions, such as curfews, limitations on professions and etc... but with the arrival of Napoleon, Venice had 2 major changes: its 1100-years-old Republic fell, becoming part of the Austrian Empire, and the restrictions imposed to the Jews became more relaxed.



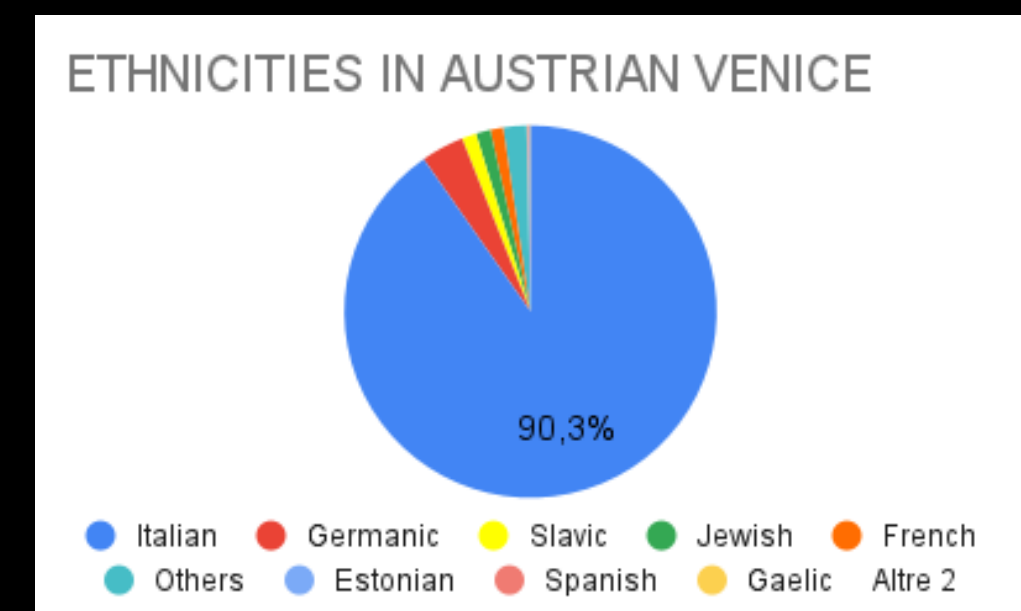
The Jewish community was restricted only to the "Cannaregio sestiere" (YELLOW) before Napoleon



Businesses with owner of Jewish origin 1864

Conclusion

In conclusion, we explored the social, demographic, and economic conditions of the island of approximately 150 years ago, and how the minorities were affected with the arrival of Napoleon. We can observe how even the most boring historical document can bring to life such interesting data, results and maps; every doodle of ink on these paper represent a person who also walked on the history-rich island of Venice, and it is up to us and the future generations to carry on such a vivacious legacy.



Estimated Ethnic composition of Austrian Venice, 1864. (2 years before 3rd Italian War of Independence)

GRAPHS



REFERENCES

