

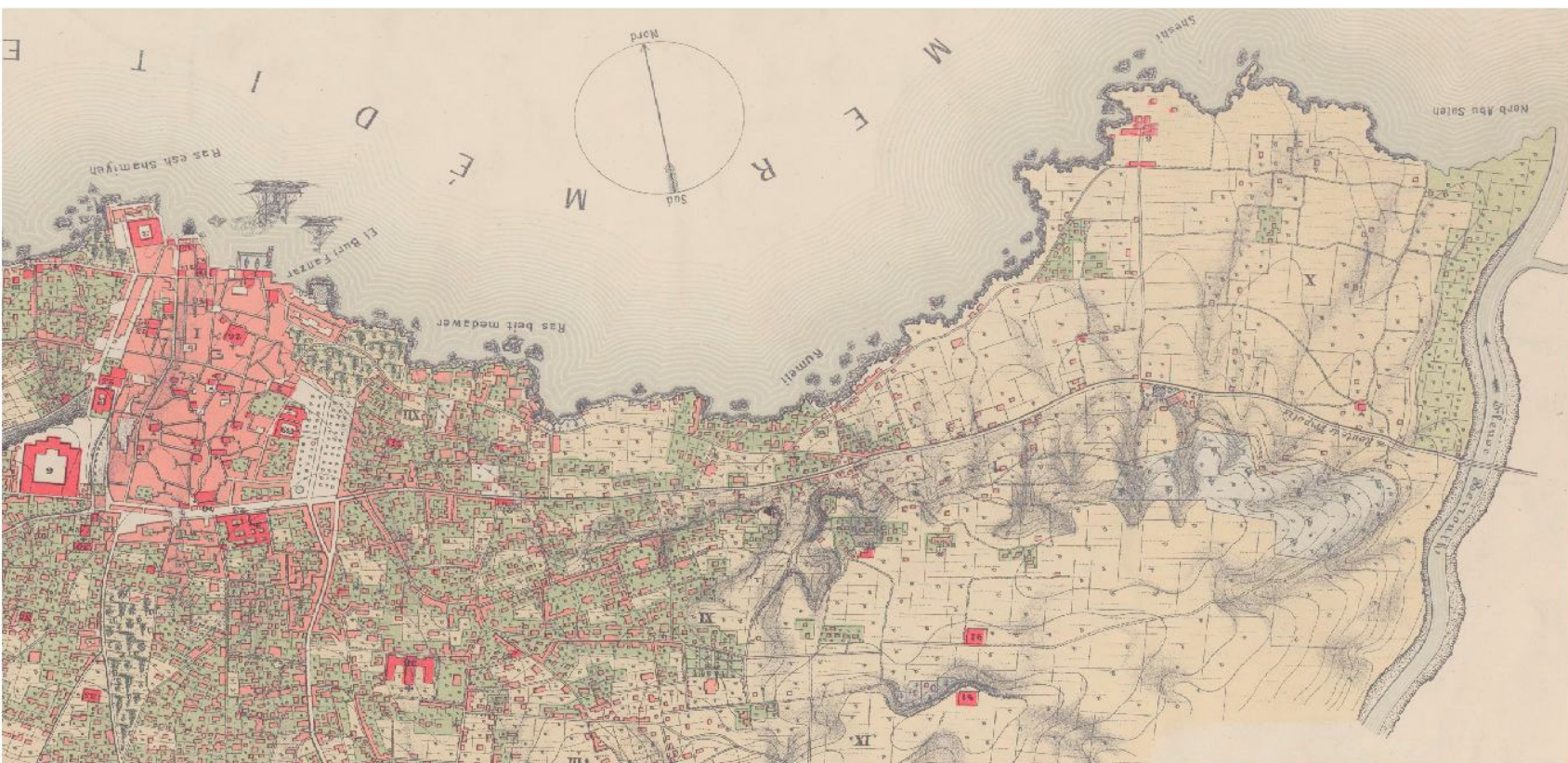
Living Heritage

Beirut Urban Analysis

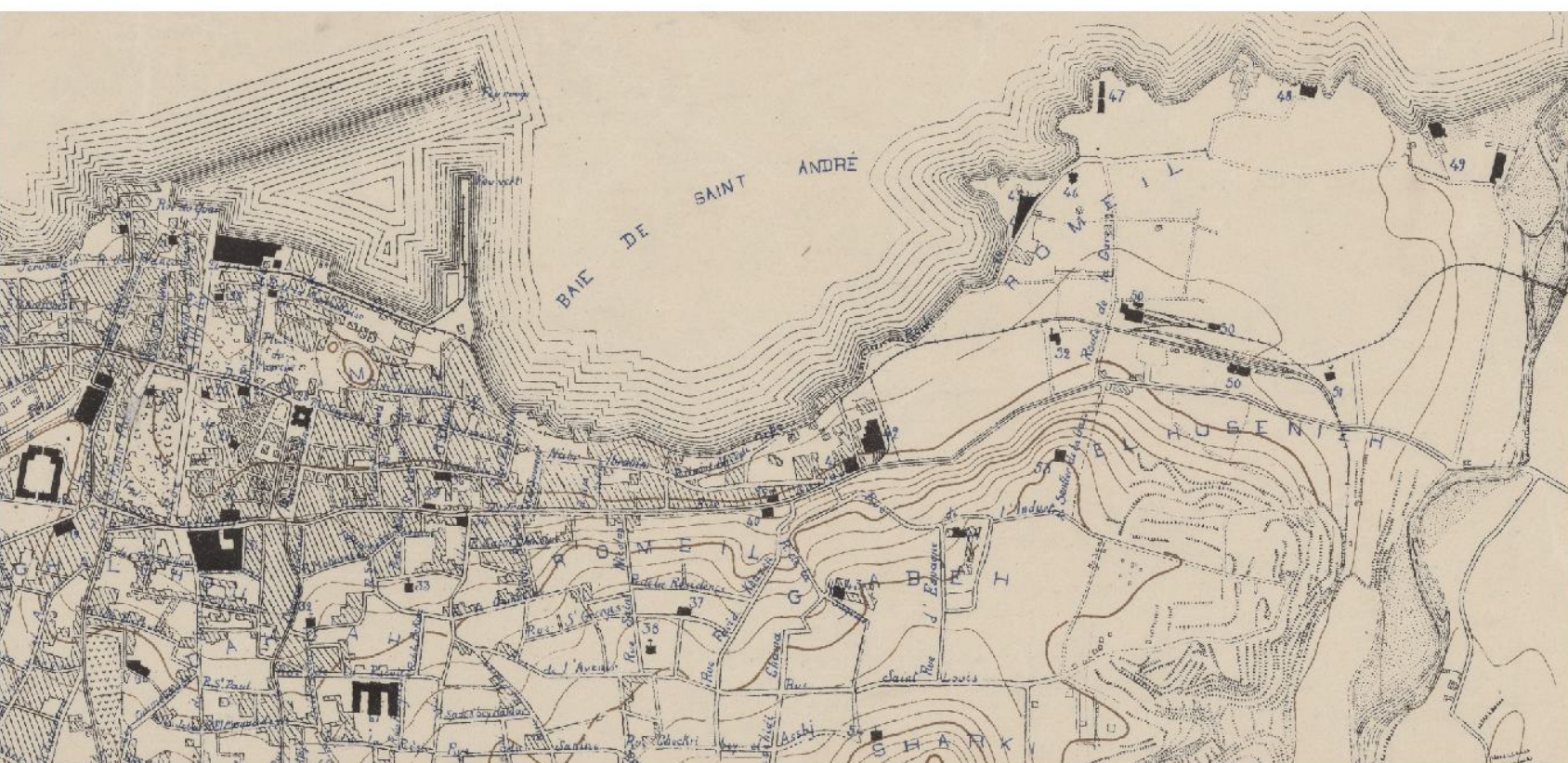
Small Businesses, Street Commerce & City Form Transformation

Living Heritage - Beirut Urban Analysis - Small Businesses, Street Commerce & City Form Transformation

1876



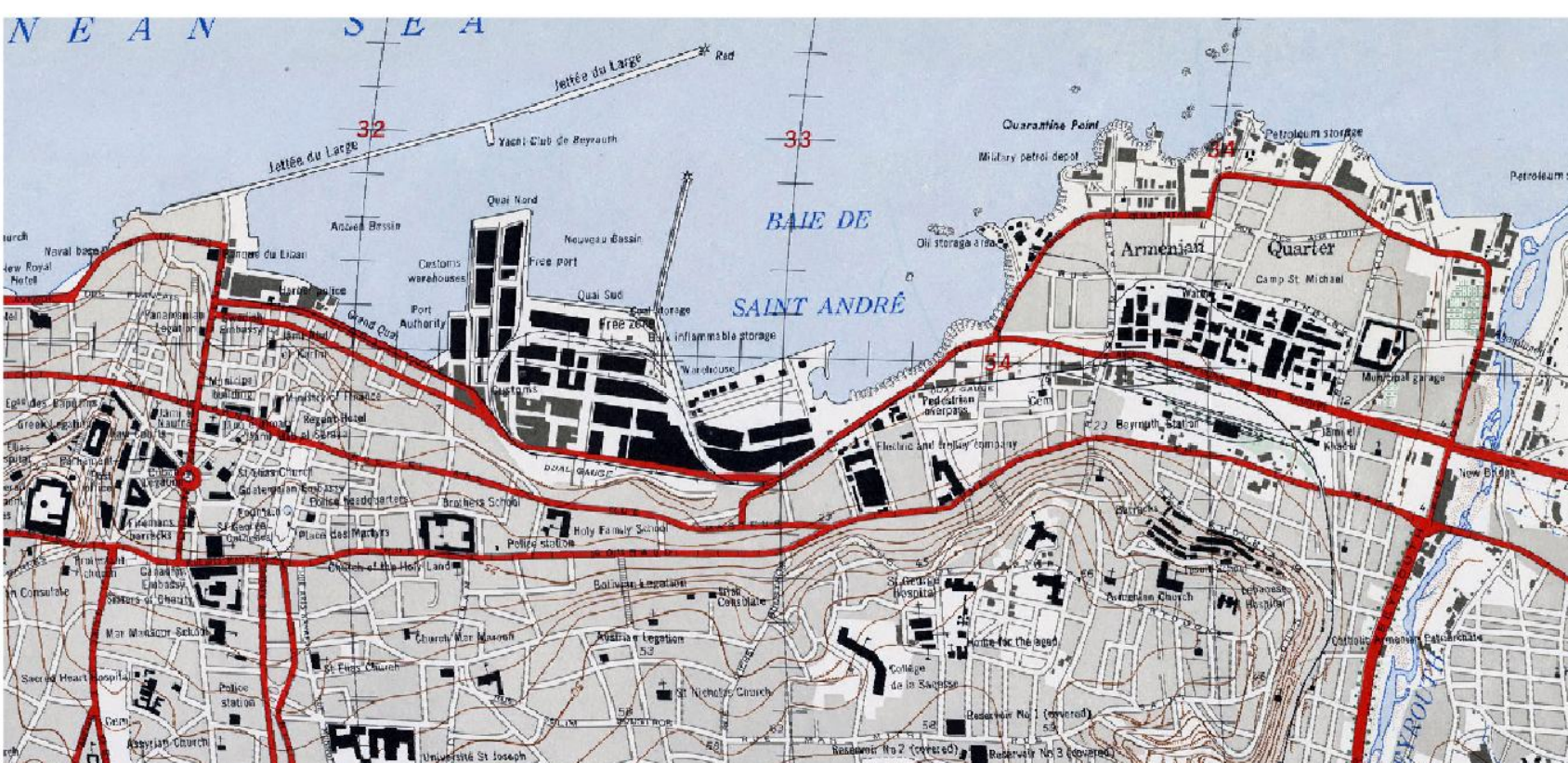
1920



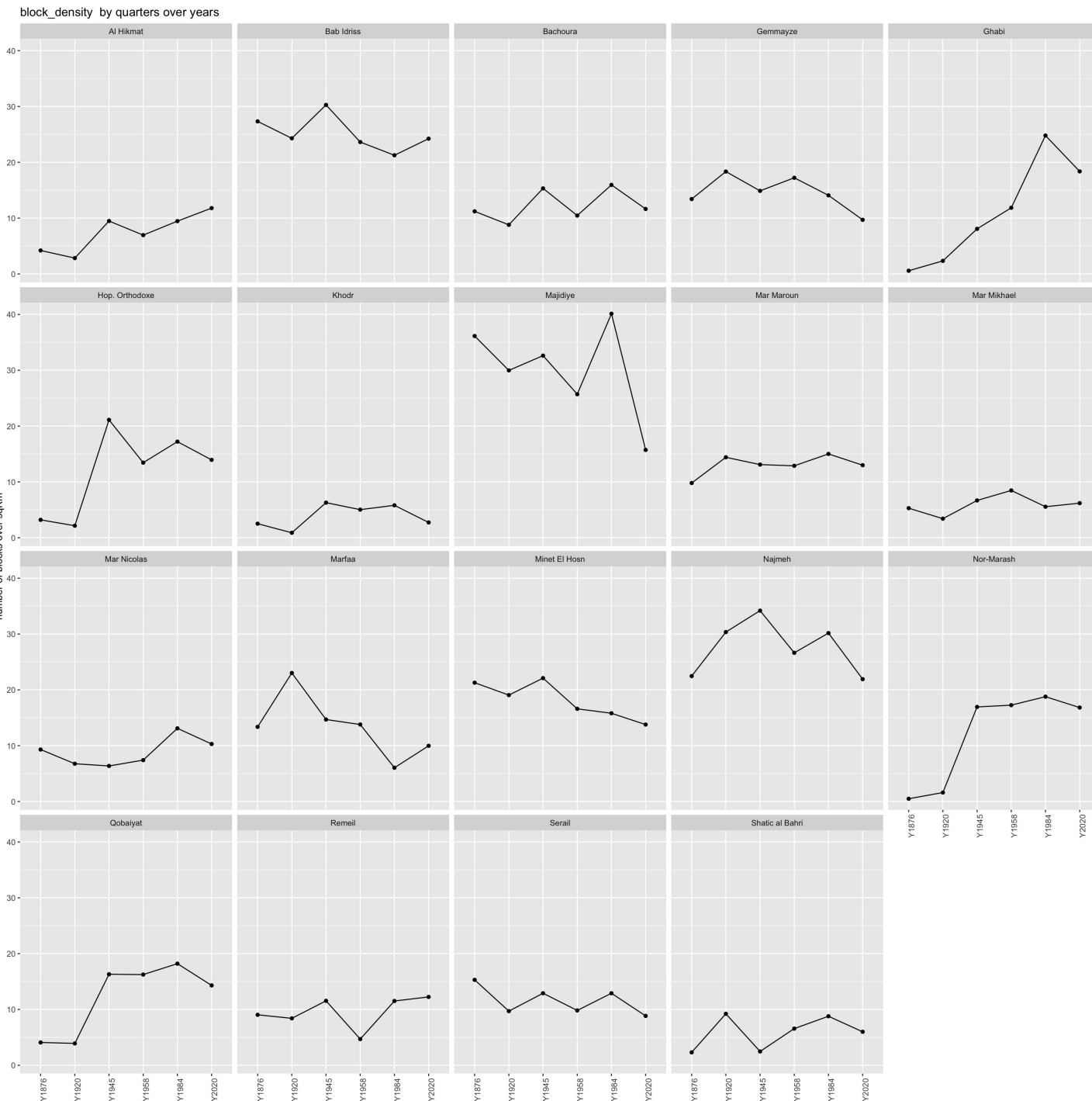
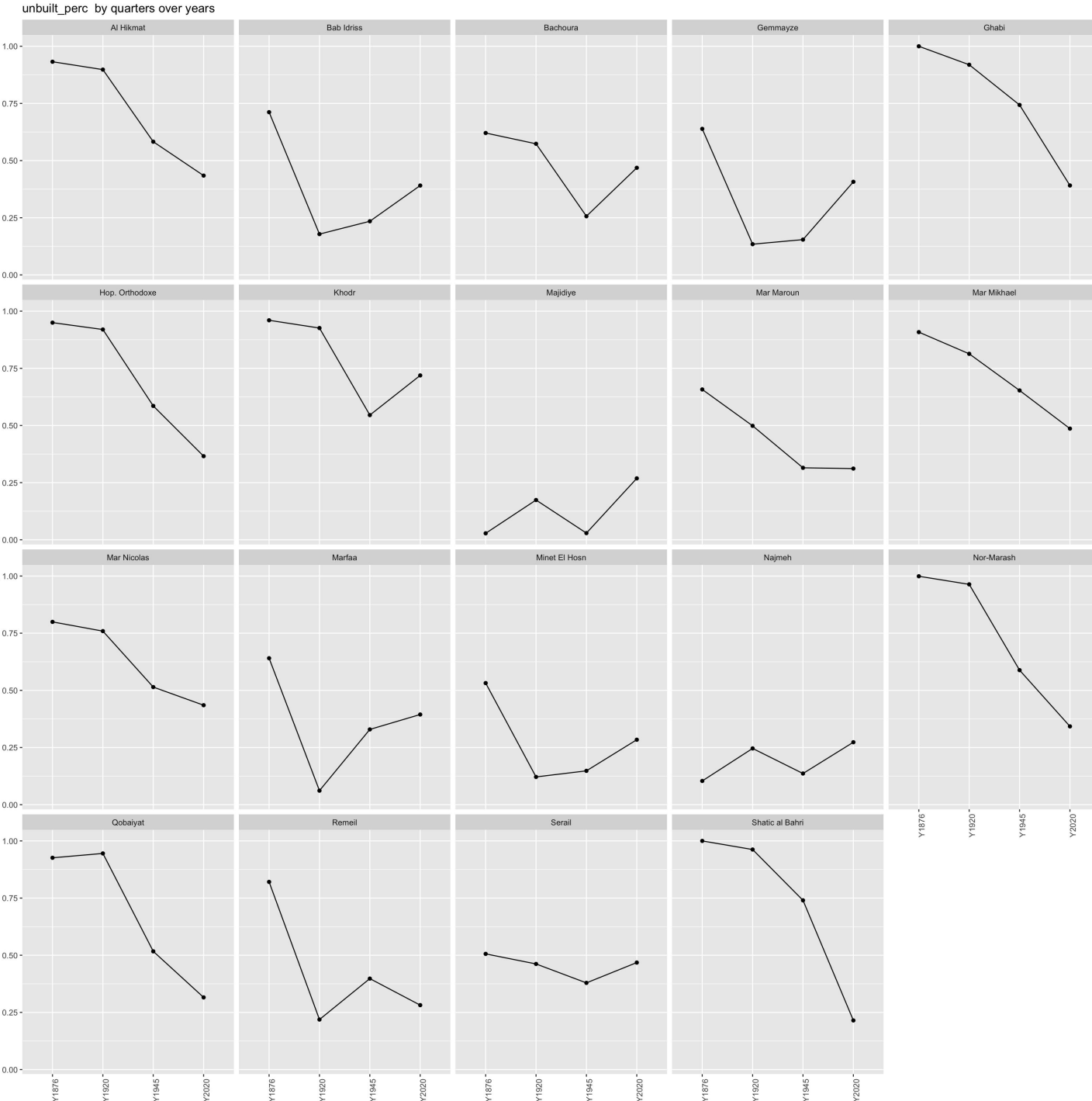
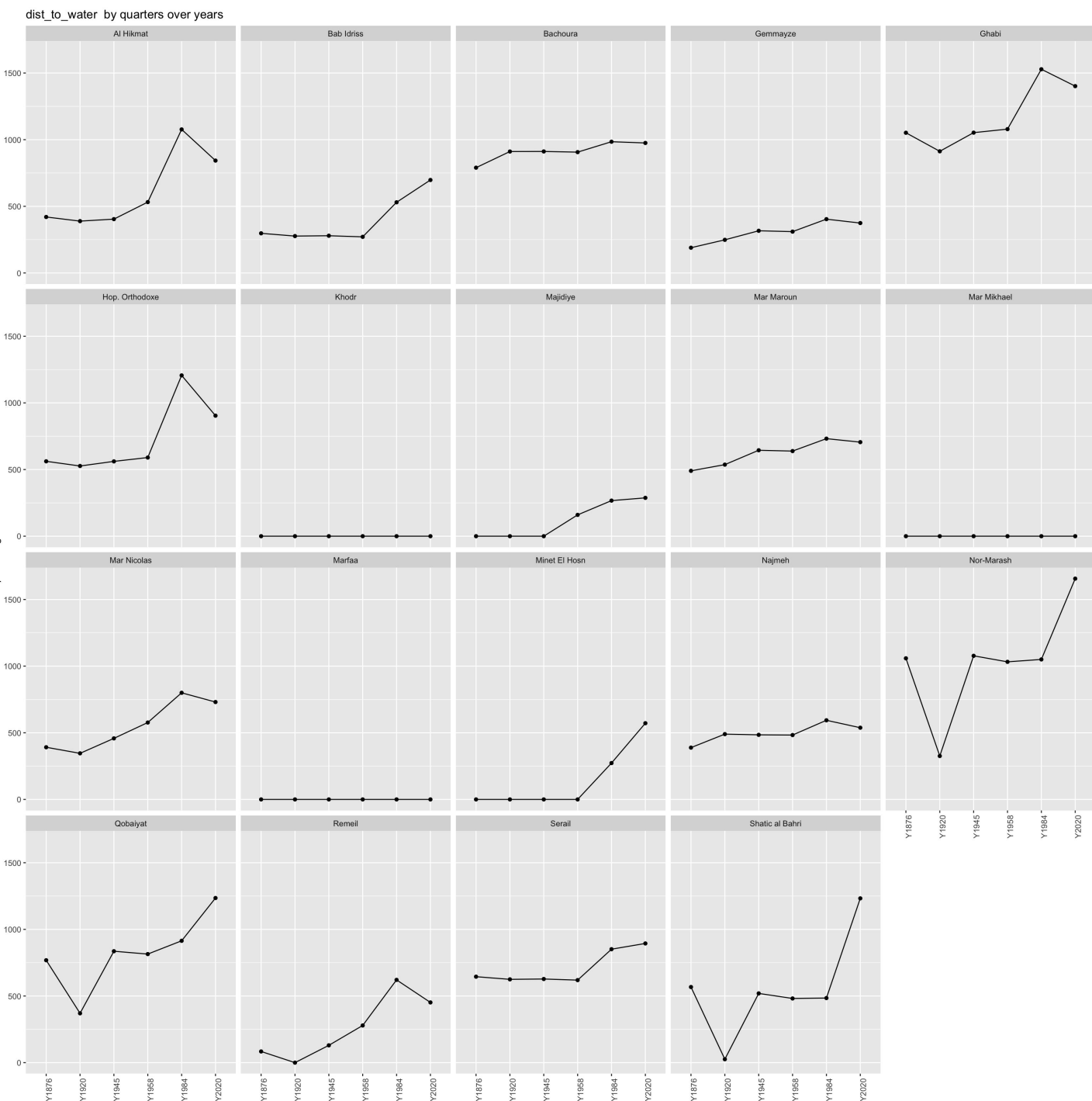
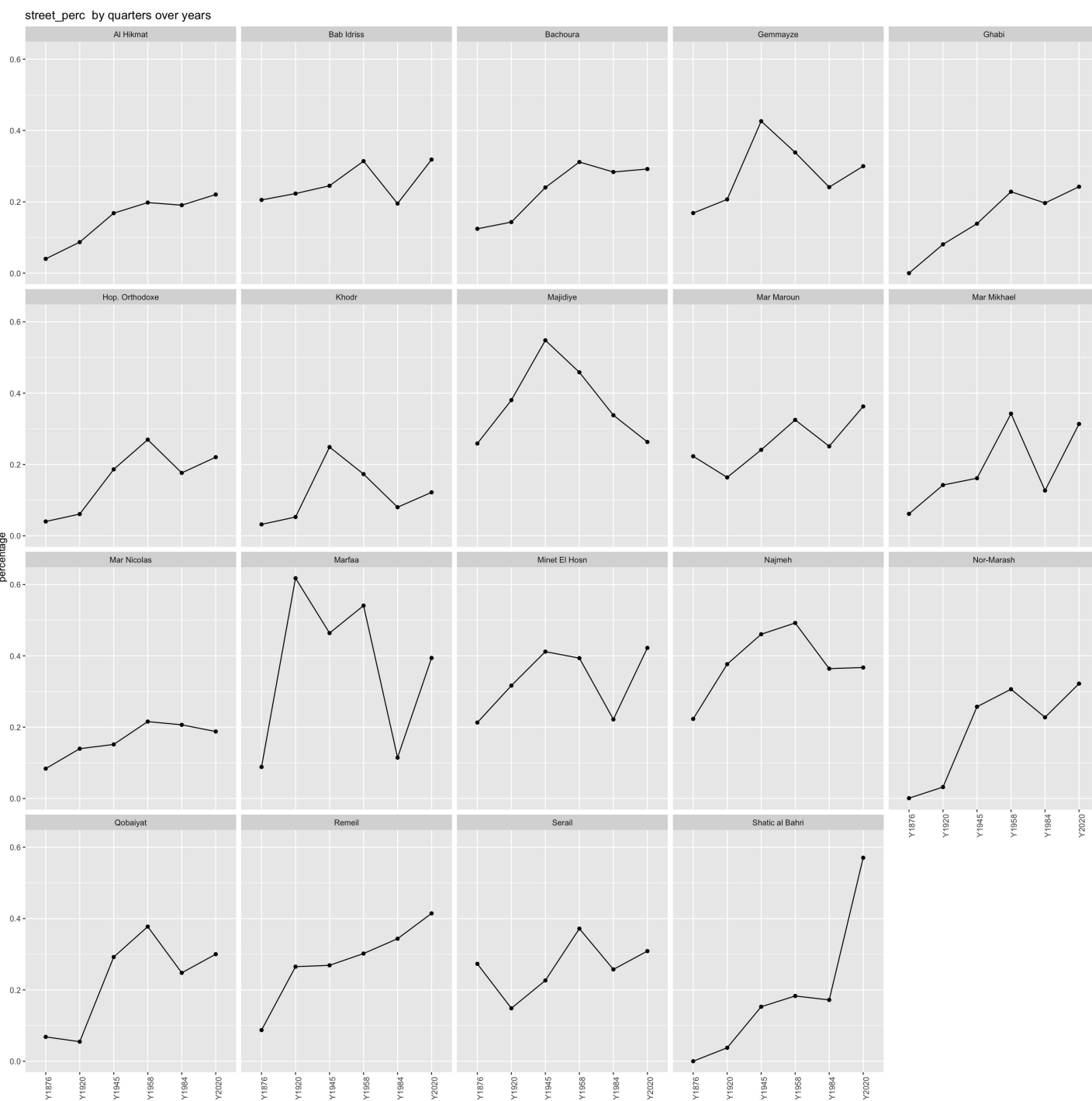
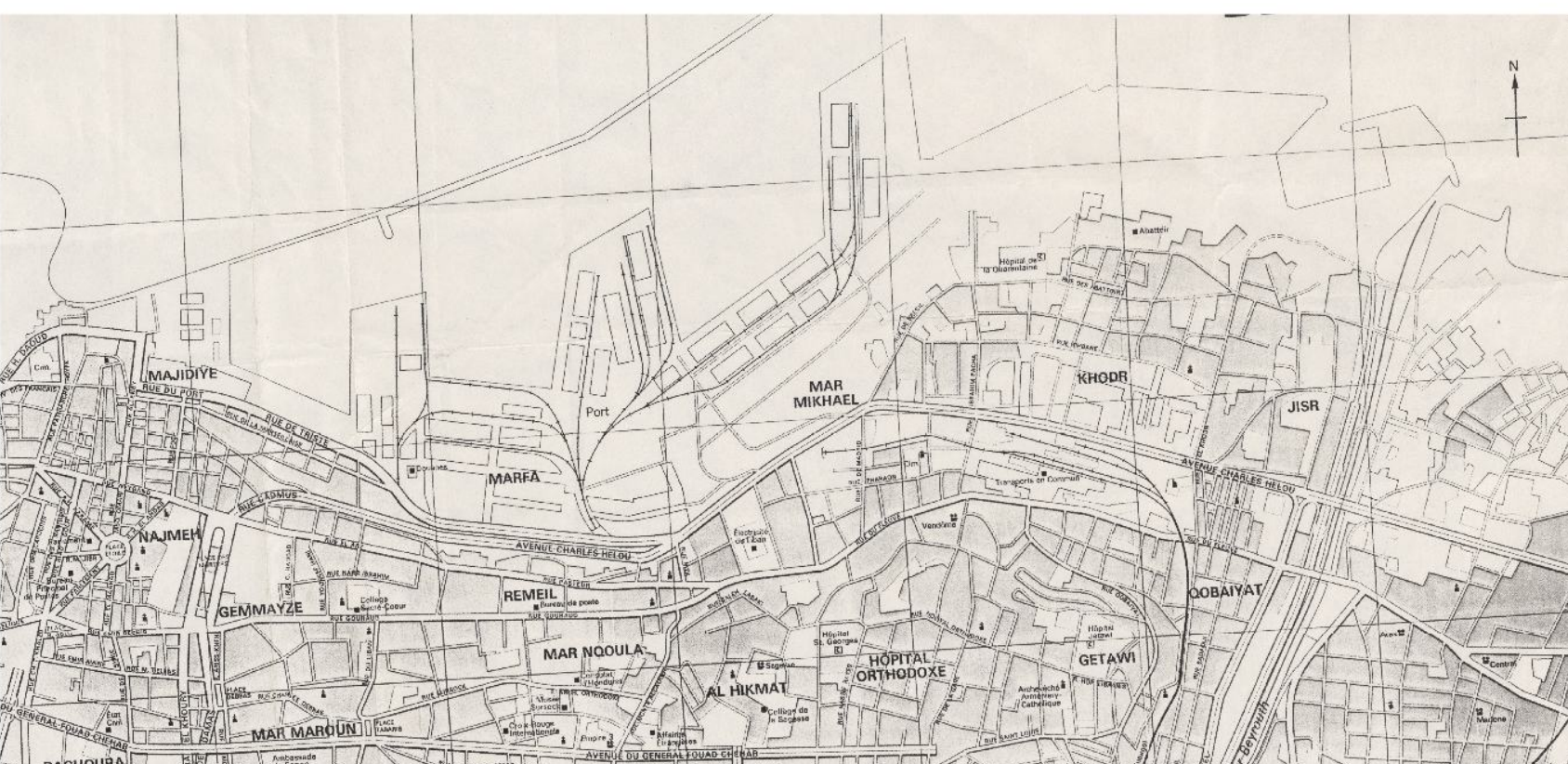
1945



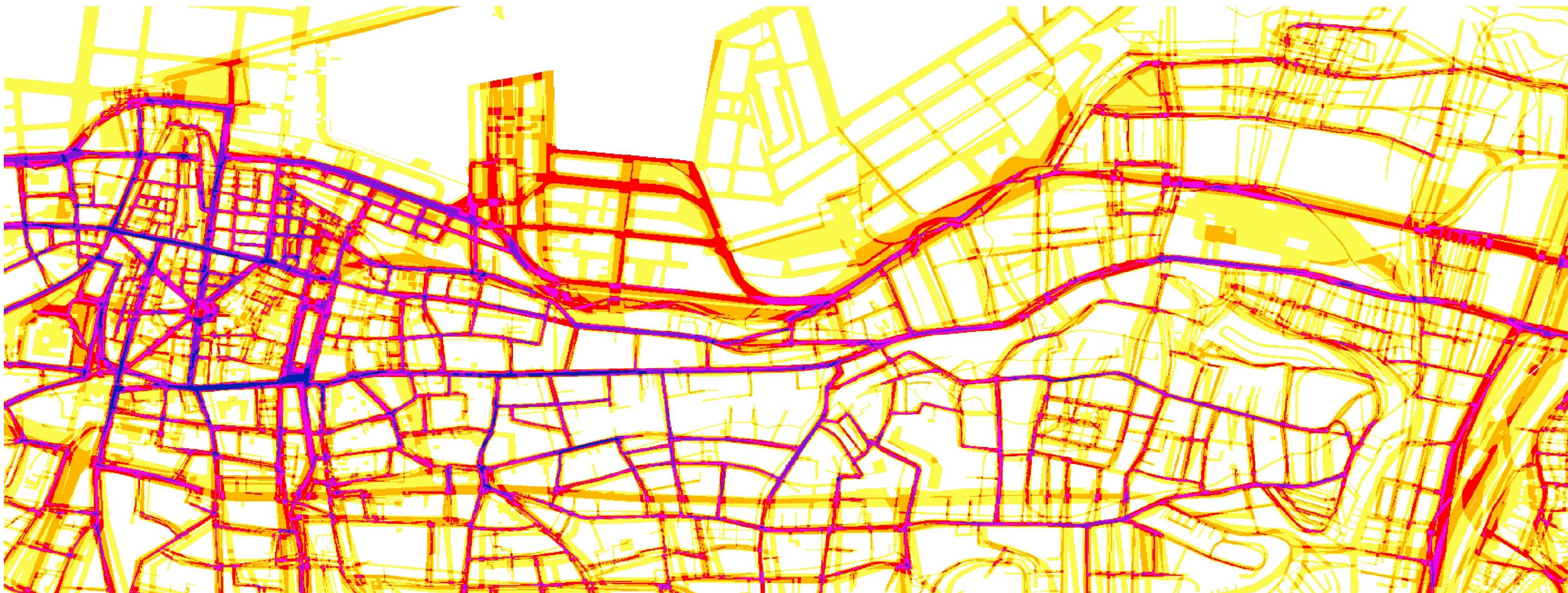
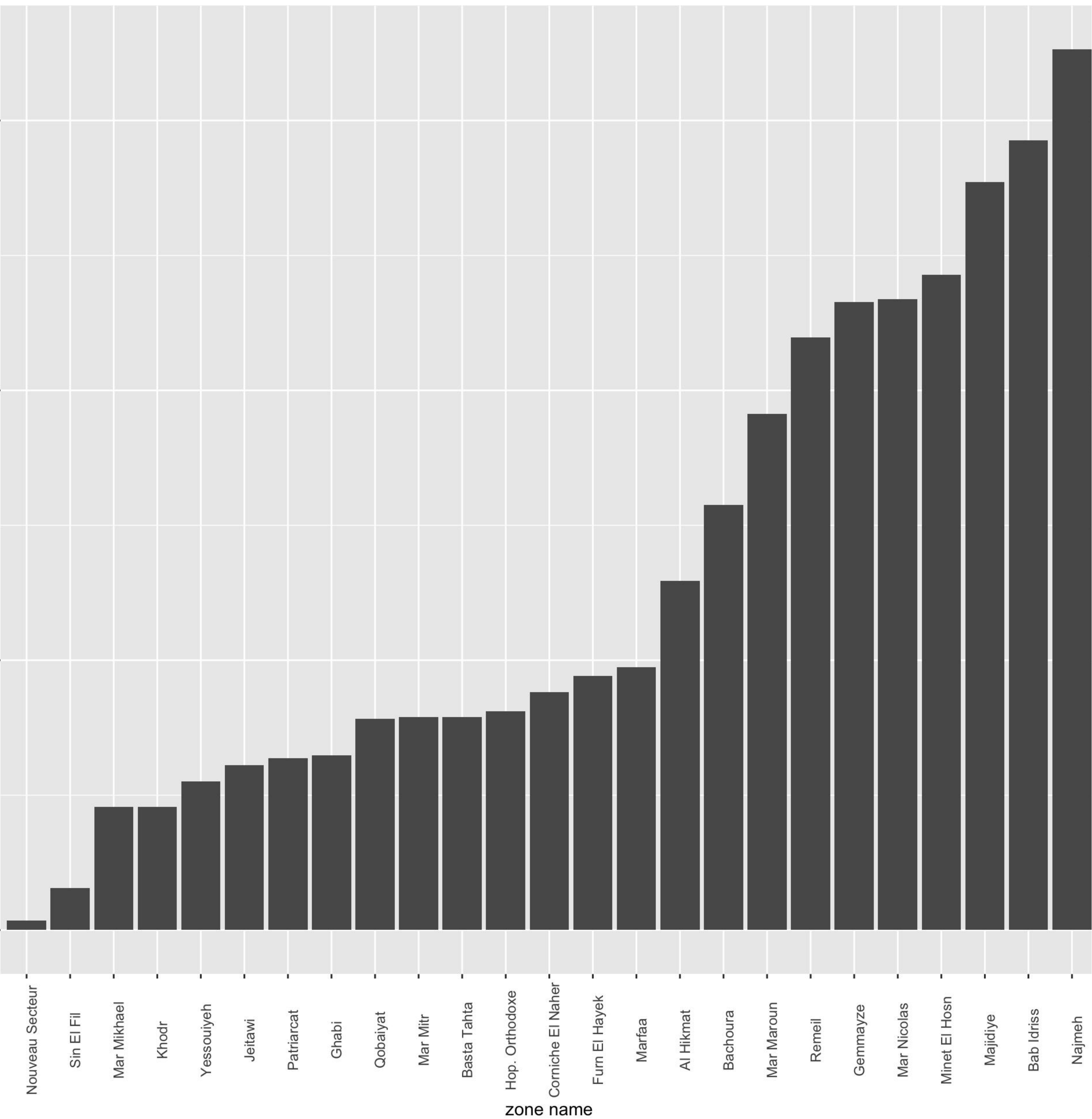
1958



1984



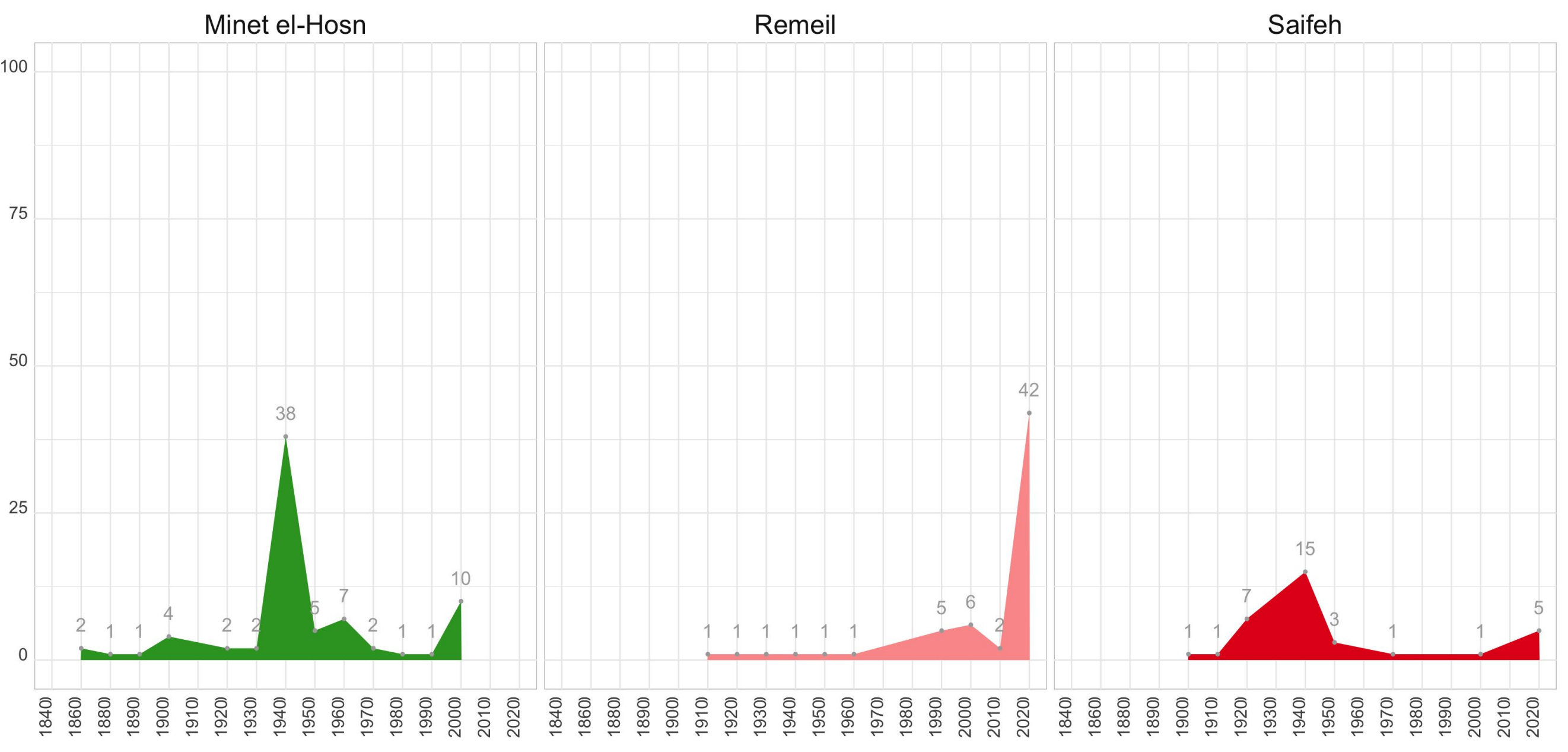
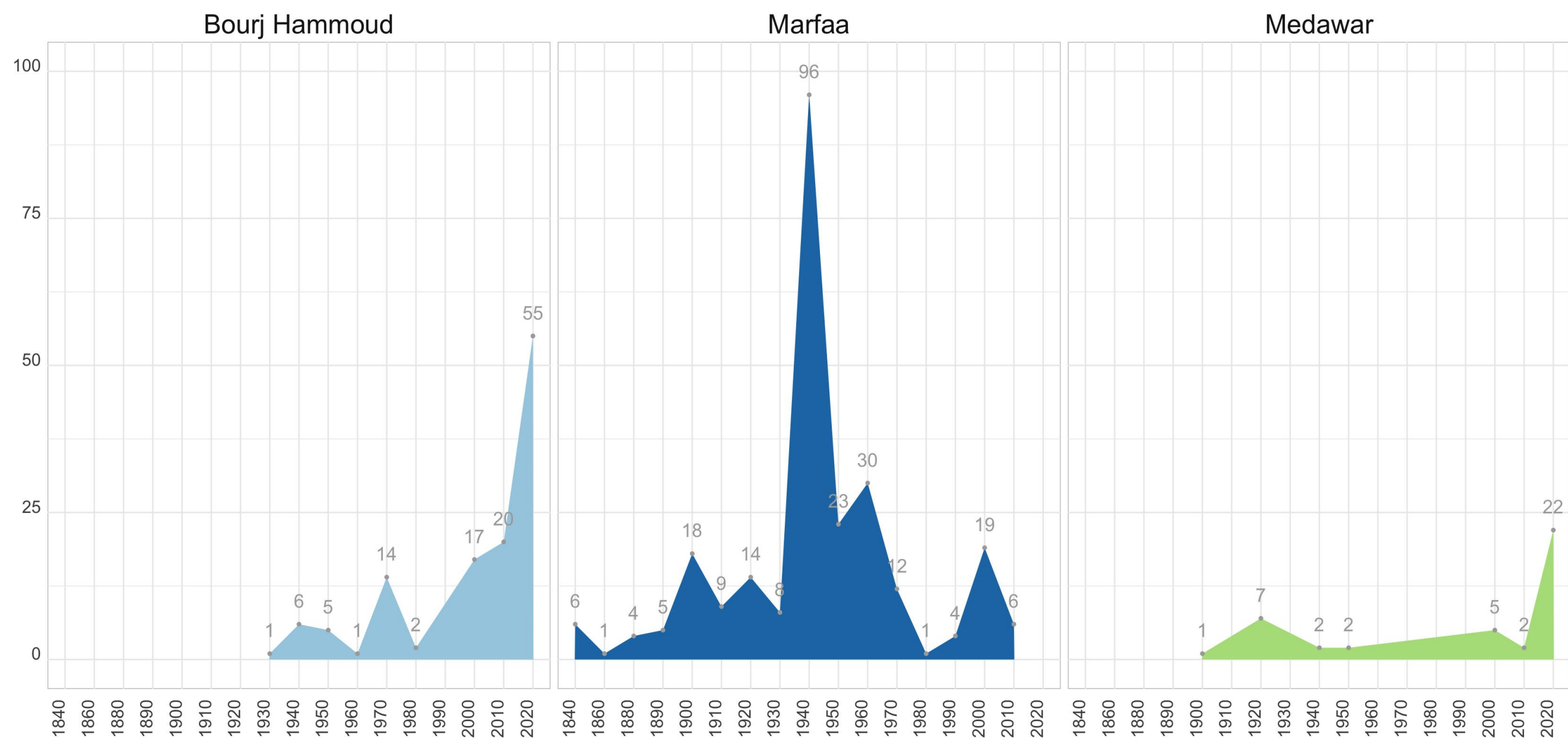
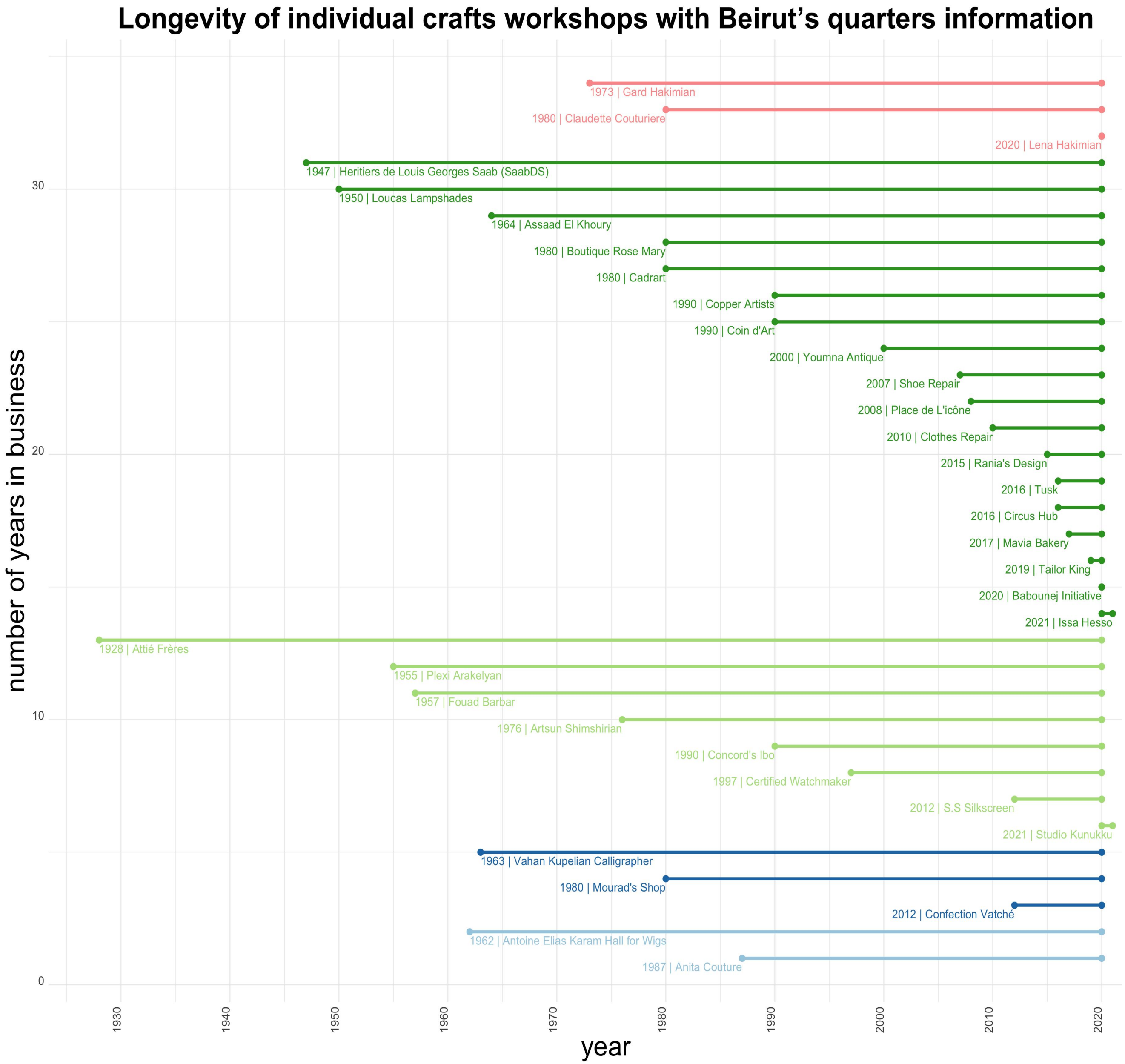
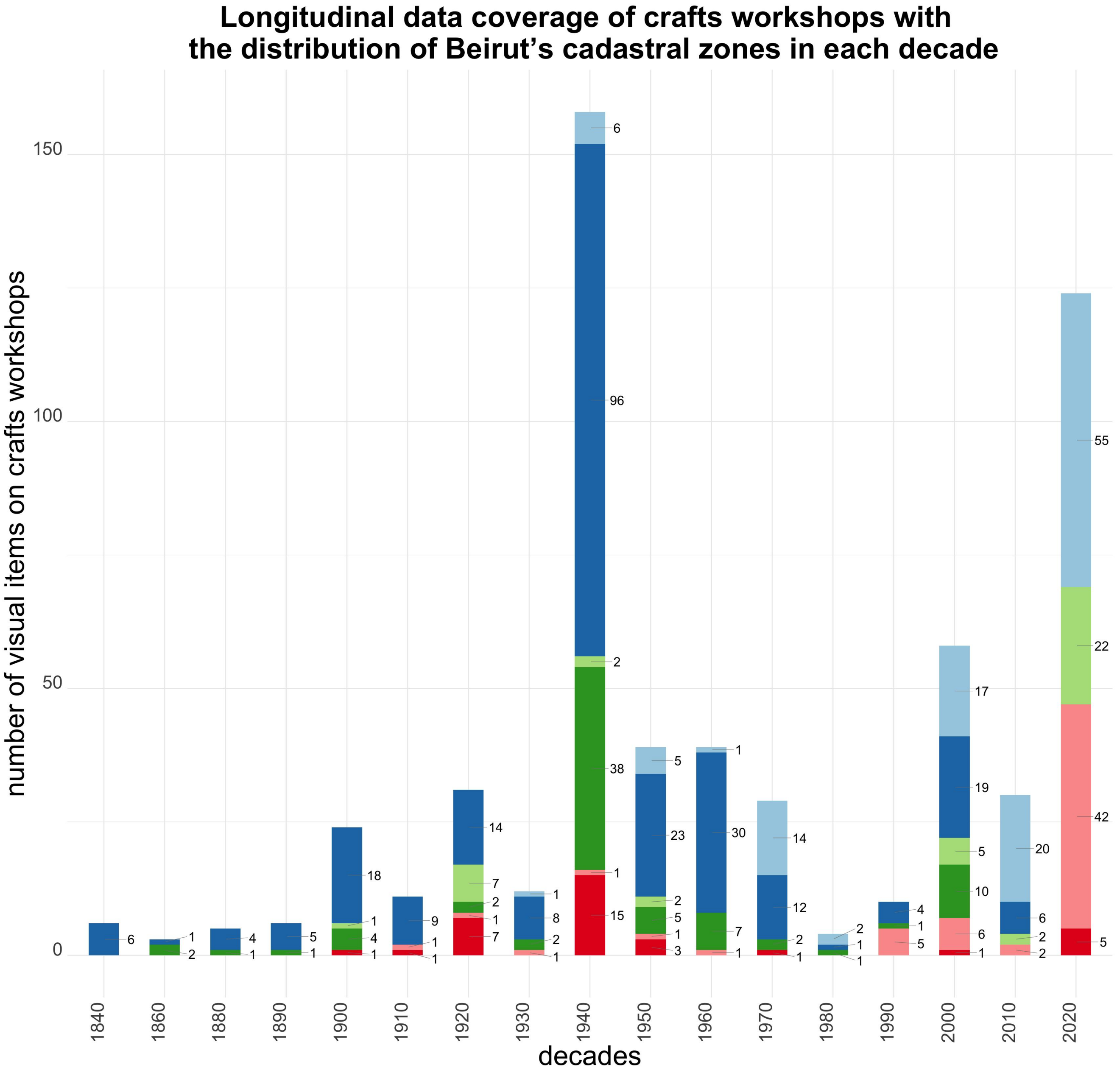
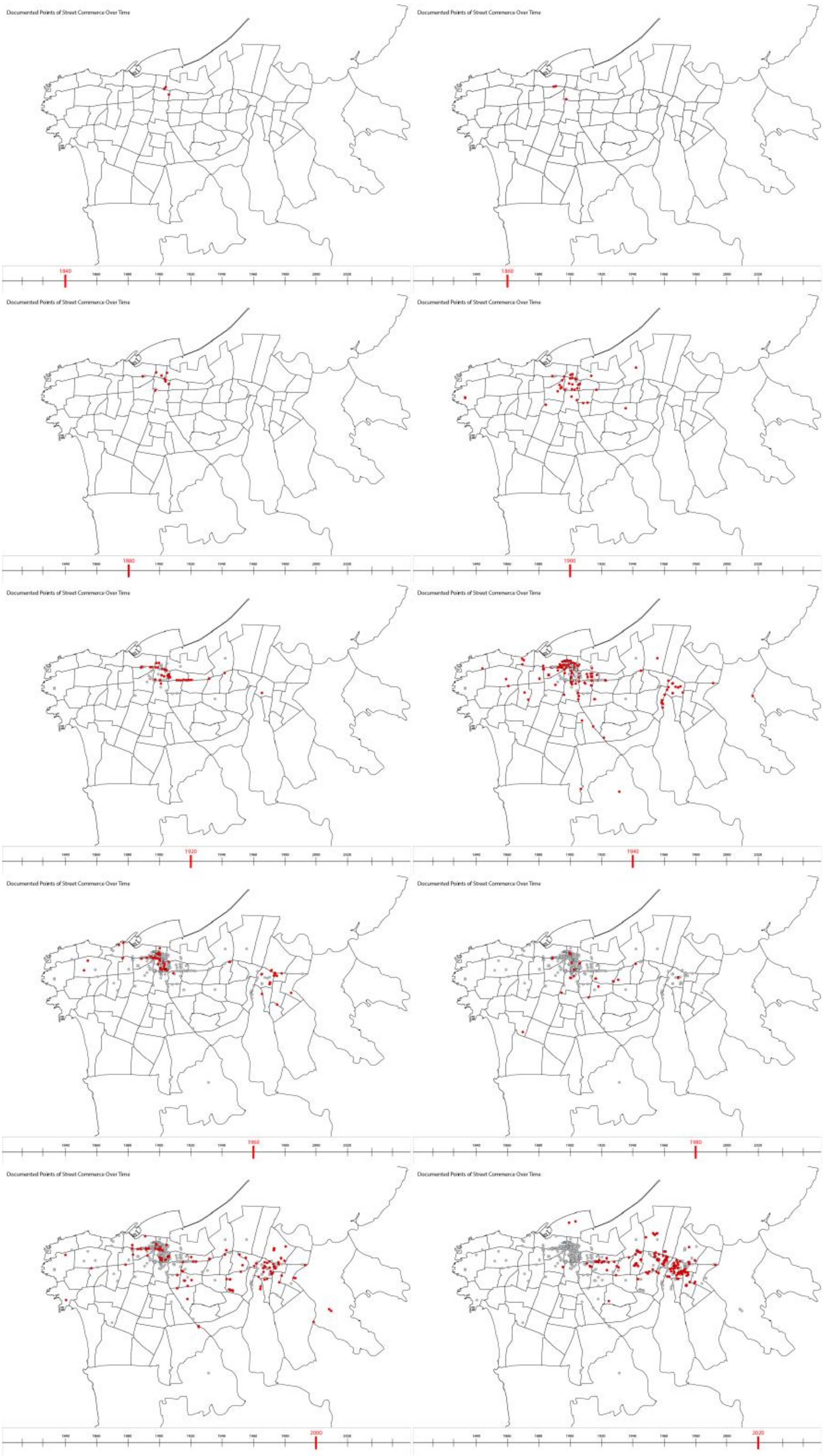
Permanence



Historic cartography and archival documentations are instrumental to the construction of spatially-grounded social histories about neighborhood change in cities. However, this endeavor becomes a particularly arduous task when the built environment has been shattered by radical, traumatic transformations. Moreover, community groups contributing to the city's economic vitality and cultural identity, such as craftspeople and small business owners, are often underrepresented in cartographic representations and official archives. For instance, in Beirut, Lebanon, the city's physical and social fabric has undergone significant, century-long transformations that have profoundly impacted the spaces in which craftspeople run their businesses, with these impacts remaining largely unrepresented on official maps.

This is the case of the city of Beirut (Lebanon), where century-long extreme transformations have affected the city's port-facing districts, whose public spaces have been either encroached or erased by Haussmannian development (colonial planning), large-scale infrastructures (urban highways) and extreme real estate-driven development pressure (privatization). By taking an on-the-ground archival investigative lens, these data analysis assist a paper that examines how spaces of street commerce—in particular, craftsmanship—have coped with changes in Beirut's city form.

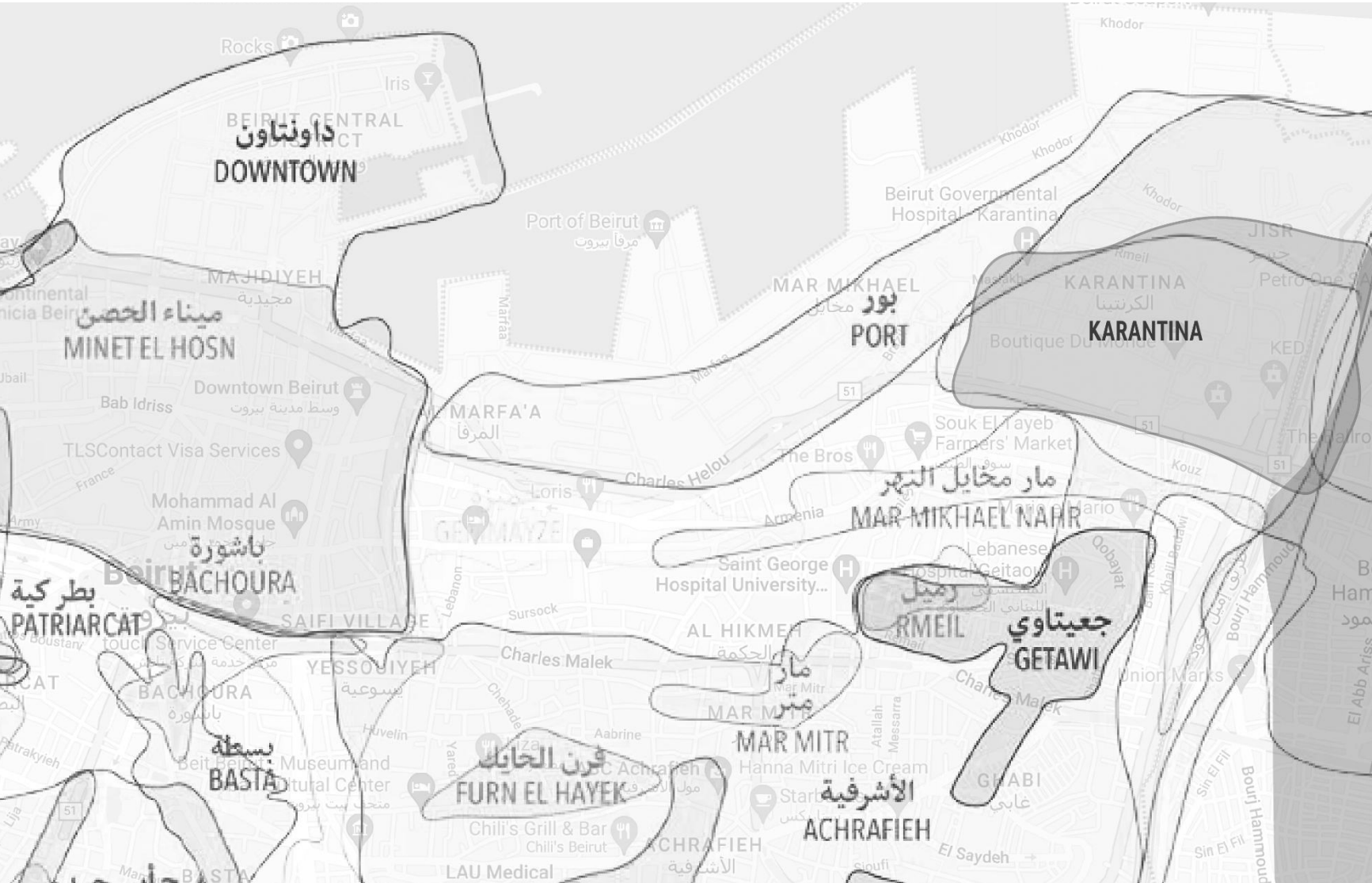
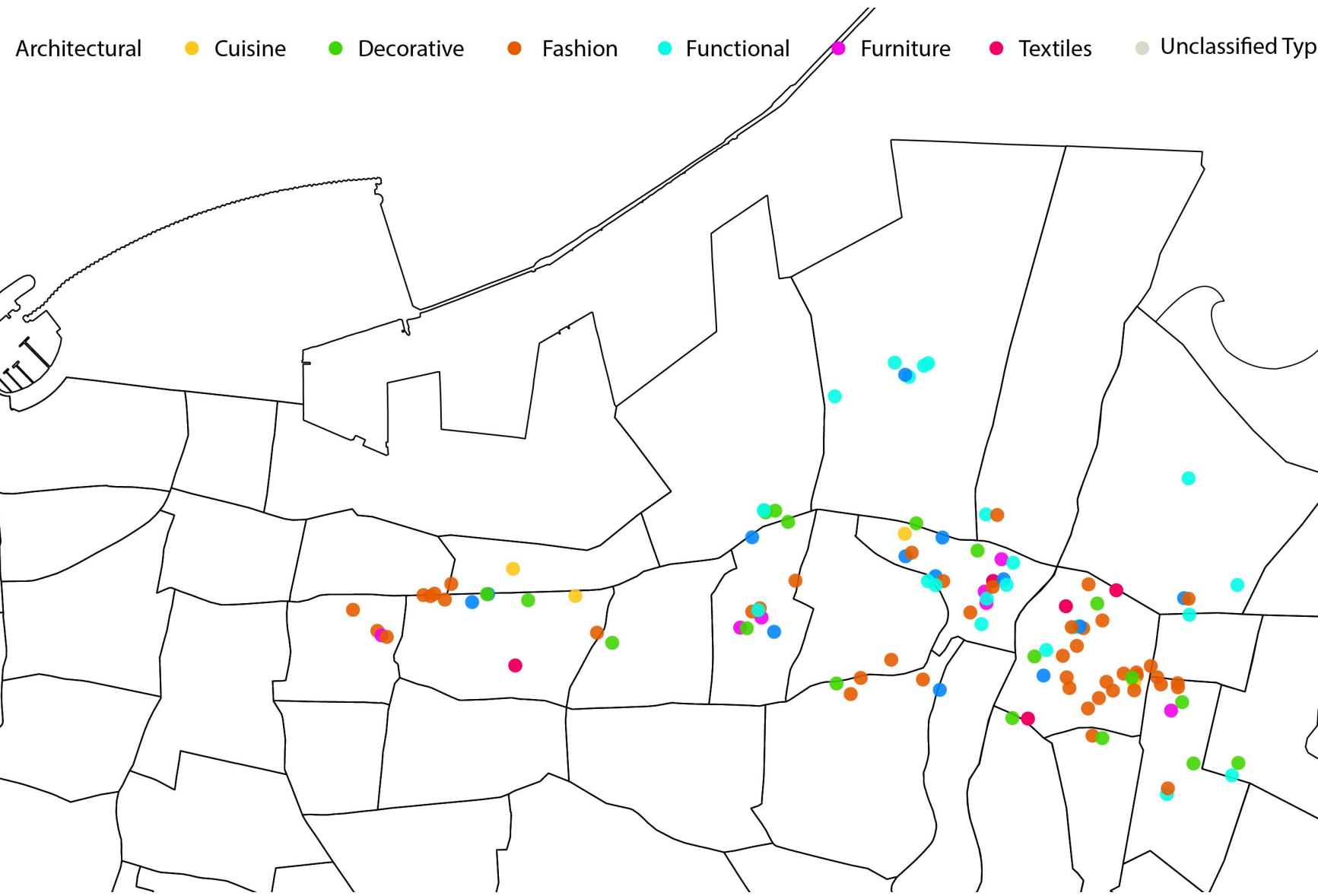
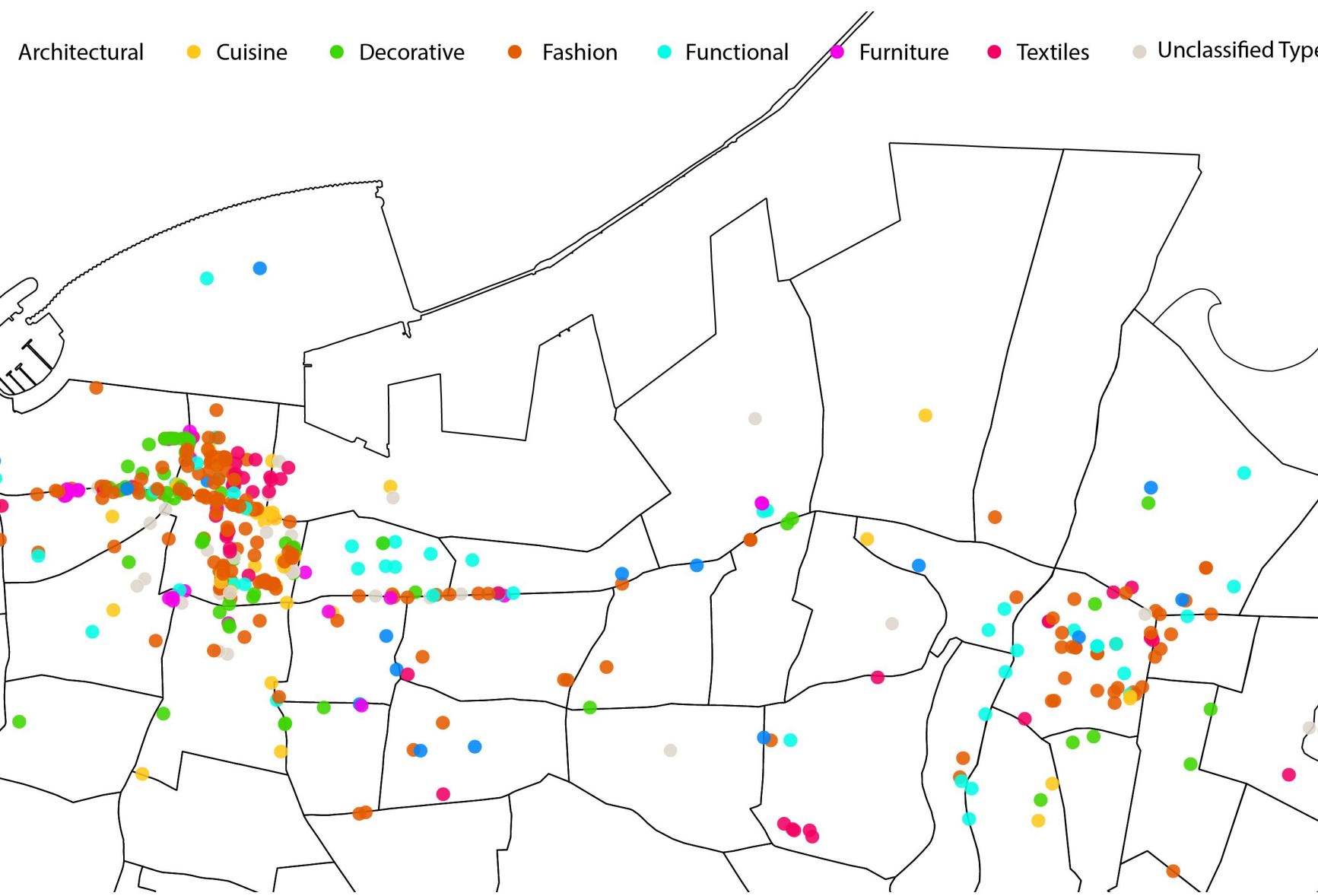
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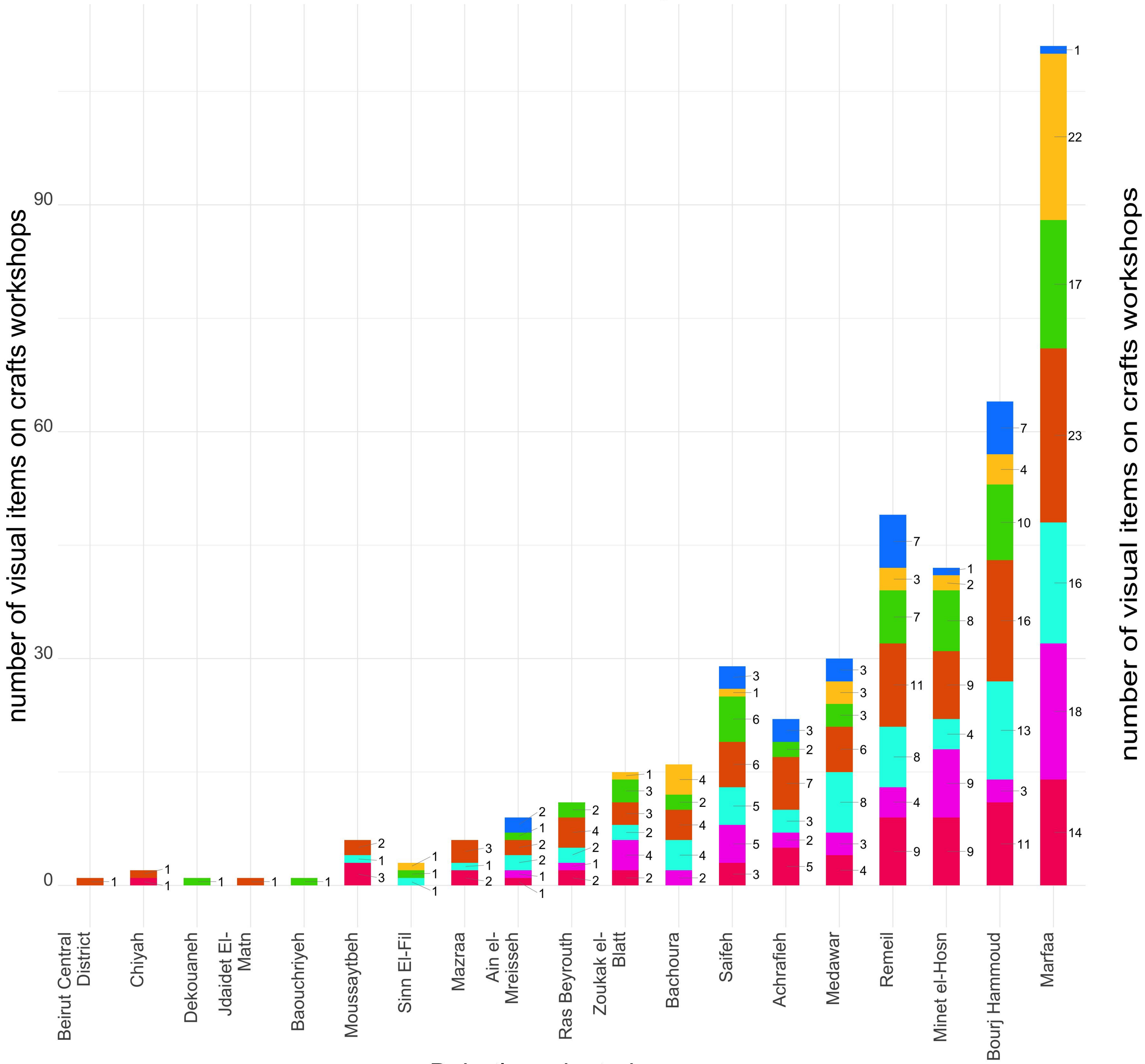
Quarters

- Bourj Hammoud
- Marfaa
- Medawar
- Minet el-Hosn
- Remeil
- Saifeh

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Spatial data coverage of crafts workshops by Beirut’s cadastral zones with the distribution of crafts categories in each decade

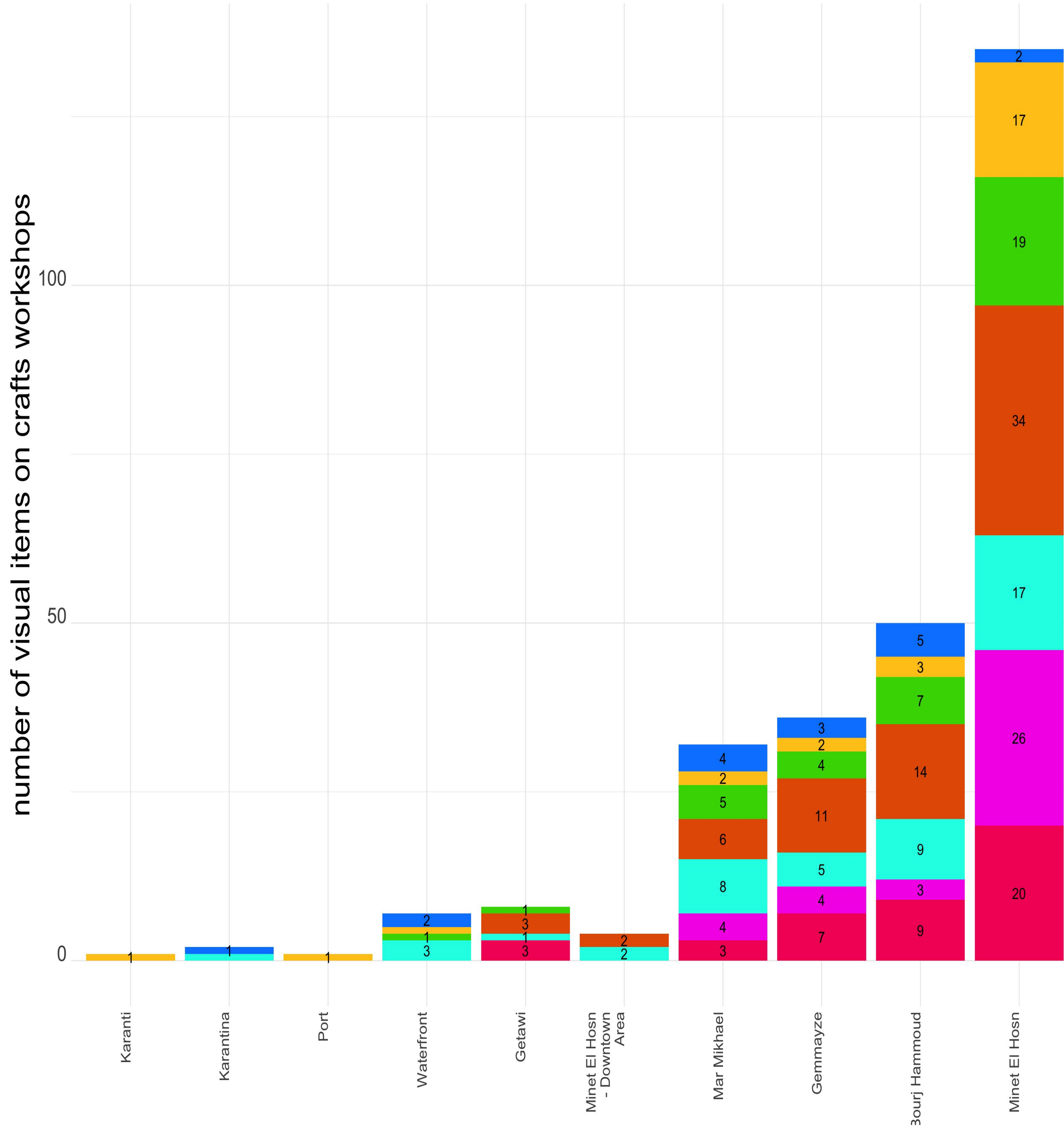


Beirut’s cadastral zones

Through mapping the relocation of Beirut’s craftspeople across the 20th century, this research spatializes a history of displacement due to radical changes in city form enacted by different actors and often fueled by different ideals of modernization. By geolocating and classifying more than 600 images of crafts workshops over the 20th century, this research traces displacement through the lens of craftspeople, and it sheds light on the evolving dynamics of street commerce and the persistence or disappearance of certain types of workshops over time. More specifically, it extracts urban form parameters from historic maps (e.g., density, street network configuration, number of intersections, etc.) and links them to the spatial distribution of crafts workshops. Finally, it relies on 10 semi-structured interviews with some long-established crafts workshops in Beirut to trace their spatial history in the city in relation to traumatic urban form shifts.

This research leverages morphological analyses of cartographic documents and archival research to provide evidence of how the alteration of the water-facing built environment has sedimented forms of spatial inequity and excluded craftspeople from the city's redevelopment.

Longitudinal data coverage of crafts workshops with the distribution of Beirut’s cognitive neighborhoods based on crafts category



cognitive neighborhoods

