

plotting all the occurrences of a single pillar during one period of time on one map, is demonstrated through Figure 1, showing German schools for the deaf established between 1778 and 1882.

German schools for the deaf established between 1778 and 1882 appear to be generally well-distributed throughout the whole country. The highest concentrations of schools appear to be within today's Baden-Württemberg (southwest Germany) and Nordrhein-Westfalen (central-western Germany) states. The states of Brandenburg and Sachsen (central and southern parts of the former German Democratic Republic (GDR)), Hessen, Thüringen, and the southern part of Niedersachsen (all in central Germany), and particularly Saarland (just southeast of Luxembourg) appear to have the lowest concentrations of schools.

Schools that were established in then-Prussian territory are also shown in present-day Poland and Russia. Similarly, schools that were established in towns now part of France are also included in Figure 1. These schools were in lands under German control at the time of their report in data sources.

The second form of analysis presented in this paper is a chronological analysis, demonstrated by an analysis of the founding patterns of German Deaf clubs over time. The data set compiled on German Deaf clubs was divided into five time periods, which were automatically calculated by Arc-

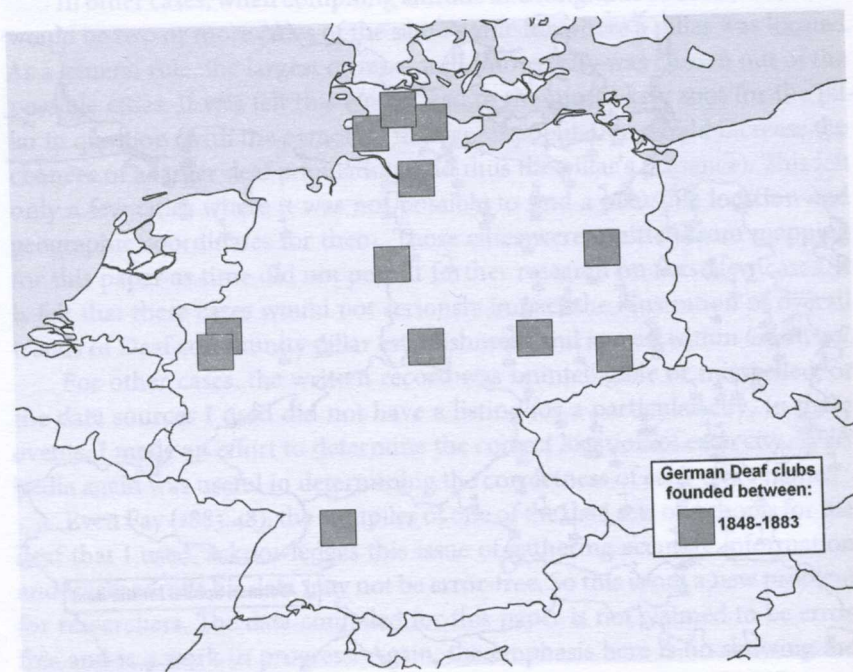


Figure 2: German Deaf clubs founded between 1848 and 1883

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GIS: 1848 to 1883, 1884 to 1910, 1911 to 1928, 1929 to 1942, and 1943 to 1994. Figure 2 shows where Deaf clubs were founded during the first period. Figures 3-6 then map clubs founded during the subsequent period atop clubs founded in the previous period(s), so patterns in the emergence of Deaf clubs can be seen for each time period. For each figure, darker-colored icons indicate more recent clubs, while white or lighter-colored icons indicate older clubs.

Too much cannot be read from the maps where there seem to be gaps in certain parts of Germany where no Deaf clubs appear to exist there because of the limitations of the German Deaf club data set. This particularly refers to the number of Deaf clubs that unfortunately had to be excluded from this form of mapping and analysis because their year of founding is not known. Also affecting the maps is the uncertainty of whether each club after its founding, has remained continuously active to the present day. Both limitations are another avenues of future investigation needed to strengthen the validity of the existing German Deaf club data set.

However, the benefit of seeing the patterns of where and when Deaf clubs did emerge is demonstrated through this series of maps. They serve as pointers for which cities and clubs to investigate for historical records of high levels of Deaf community activity.

The earliest German Deaf clubs appear to be concentrated in the north, central, and central-east part of present-day Germany. There are also clubs within Nordrhein-Westfalen (the central-west) and Baden-Württemberg (the southwest).

The period 1884 to 1910 appears to see a flurry of 'catch-up' activity in the central and southern parts of present-day Germany, particularly in Rheinland-Pfalz (in the southwest, just east of Luxembourg) and Baden-Württemberg (the southwest) states and in Thüringen (in the central/central-eastern). Other parts of Germany, such as Schleswig-Holstein (the north central) and the area just south of it, continue to see development of Deaf clubs.

The next time period, 1911 to 1928, appears to see continued Deaf club proliferation within Baden-Württemberg (the southwest) and limited expansion elsewhere with the exception of some development within Bayern (the southeast). Again, growth in southwestern Germany (Baden-Württemberg) appears to dominate the period from 1929 to 1942, along with some Deaf club development in southern Hessen (the central-west) and northern Bayern (the southeast).

The final map in this series, covering 1943 to 1994, shows some growth in the southwest, again in Baden-Württemberg, and in central Germany. However, the most striking feature is the emergence of Deaf clubs in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (the extreme northeast). Some of those clubs may simply be a continuation of earlier clubs in the same city, interrupted by Nazism and

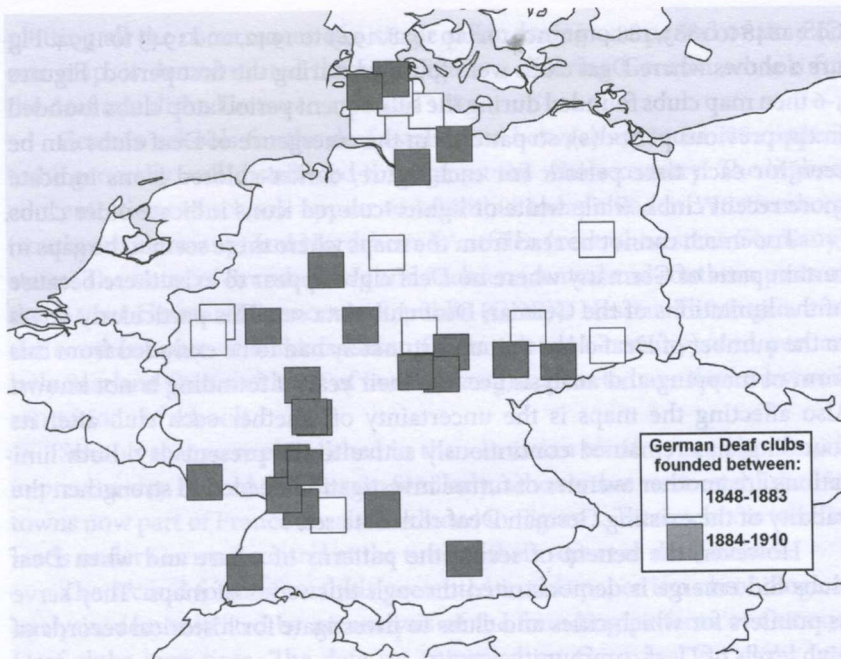


Figure 3: German Deaf clubs founded between 1884 and 1910

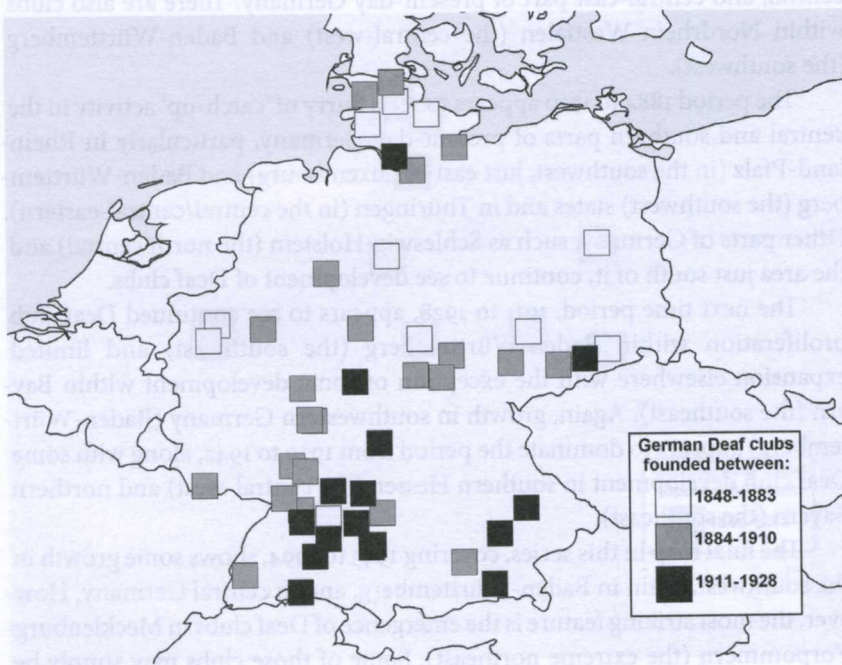


Figure 4: German Deaf clubs founded between 1911 and 1928

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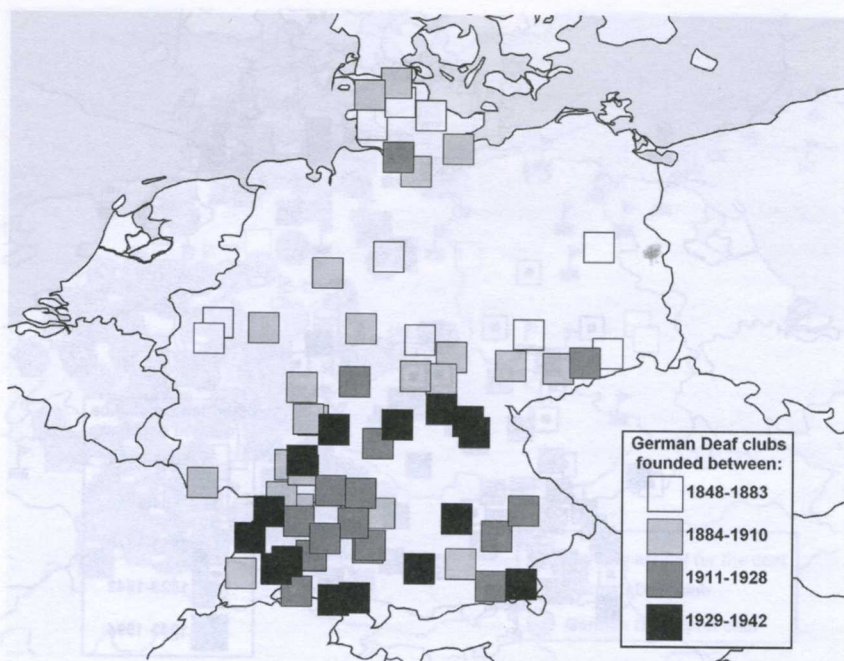


Figure 5: German Deaf clubs founded between 1929 and 1942

the fall of communism such as in Ludwigslust (Weidner & Weidner n.d.), or by Nazism in Lauterbach (Ortsbund der Gehörlosen Lauterbach e.V. n.d.). An interesting account about the Saxon Deaf Alliance's history that also discusses the influence of the GDR is found at Die Historie des Landesverbandes n.d. The above three sources suggest that how these clubs have been affected by being within the GDR needs to be investigated further.

The third method of analysis is multiple-dimensional, multiple-pillar analysis, or plotting each pillar's (schools for the deaf, Deaf clubs and Deaf sport clubs) data set onto a single map. This allows overall analysis of each pillar over time and a comparison of each pillar's emergence with the other two pillars. This method of analysis aims to identify hot spots of Deaf community activity. Figure 7 demonstrates the power of ArcGIS to display all this information at the same time on a single map. However, this map is not actually representative of each pillar's development within each era, due to ArcGIS automatically calculating different time divisions for each pillar's data set, so that they do not align with each other. It is anticipated that as the data sets are upgraded, this technical issue will be resolved. Thus, the current benefit in Figure 7 identifies how widespread each pillar is within Germany and to identify locations where all three pillars have been established.

It is clear there has been a great deal of Deaf community activity through-

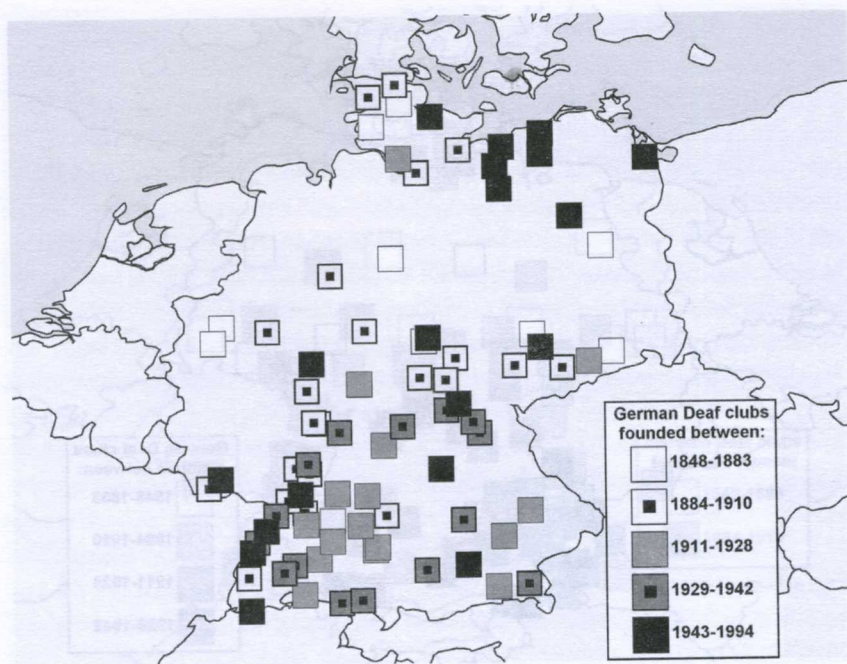


Figure 6: German Deaf clubs founded between 1943 and 1994

out virtually all of Germany. To more clearly analyze this data, the three data sets were combined into one, and a manual count of cities having at least one of each type of local pillar was made. Figure 8 shows the results of this analysis. Each German city plotted in Figure 8 has had at least one of each local pillar. The schools located outside present-day German territory are hold-overs from when these locations were part of Germany. They are shown here only to show the extent of the current data set and research on Deaf clubs and Deaf sport clubs in these locations was not pursued for this paper.

It appears that German cities having 'higher' degrees of Deaf community activity, defined as the presence of at least one each of a school for the deaf, a Deaf club and a Deaf sport club within the same city, are fairly evenly spread out throughout Germany. However, further work has to be undertaken to determine the temporal concurrence of each pillar with the other two in each city. It appears that Deaf community activity in southern Germany is more concentrated than in the north, although this may be simply due to the narrower size of southern Germany compared to northern Germany. However, the Rhine-Ruhr area (within Nordrhein-Westfalen in central-western Germany), is surprisingly devoid of cities with all three pillars, despite it being within the most populous state and being reputed for possessing a large, connected urban area consisting of quite a few cities (Wikipedia contributors

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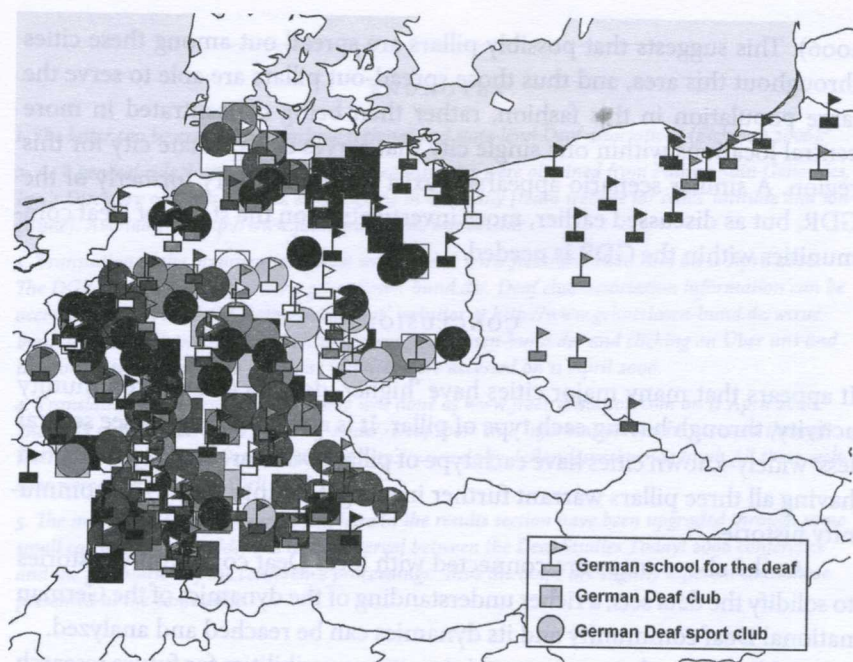


Figure 7: All local German Deaf pillars by founding year

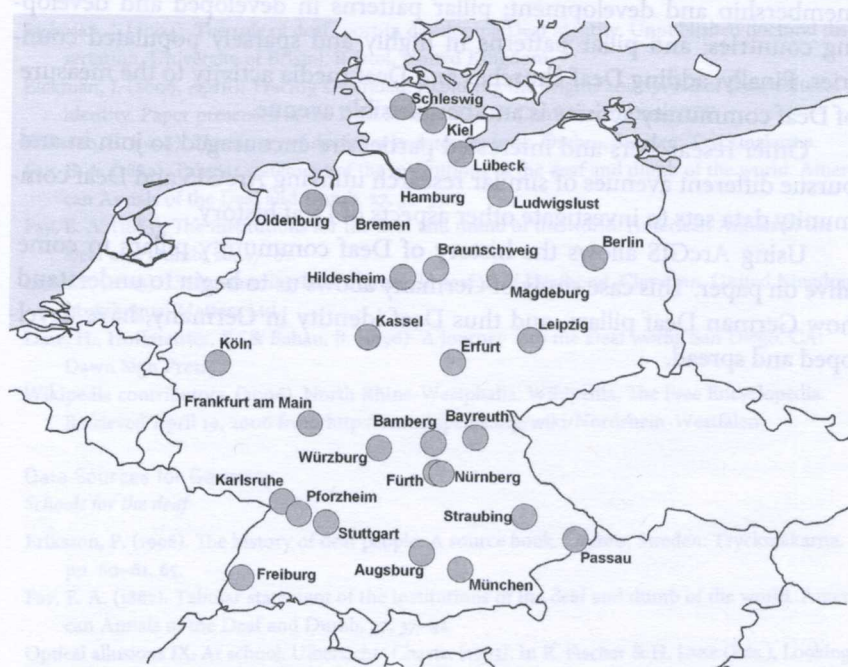


Figure 8: German cities having at least one of all three Deaf local pillars

2006). This suggests that possibly pillars are spread out among these cities throughout this area, and thus those spread-out pillars are able to serve the large population in this fashion, rather than being concentrated in more central locations within one single city that serves as a primate city for this region. A similar scenario appears to exist for the territory formerly of the GDR, but as discussed earlier, more investigation on the status of Deaf communities within the GDR is needed.

CONCLUSION

It appears that many major cities have 'higher' degrees of Deaf community activity, through having each type of pillar. It is also surprising to see several less-widely-known cities have each type of pillar. Other areas of Germany not having all three pillars warrant further investigation into their Deaf community histories.

As the above maps are connected with local Deaf community histories to solidify the data sets, a richer understanding of the dynamics of the German national Deaf community and its dynamics can be reached and analyzed.

Additionally, there are several interesting possibilities for future research such as comparing the impact of Deaf and hearing heads of pillars on pillars' membership and development; pillar patterns in developed and developing countries; and pillar patterns in highly and sparsely populated countries. Finally, adding Deaf churches and Deaf media activity to the measure of Deaf community activity is another possible avenue.

Other researchers and interested parties are encouraged to join in and pursue different avenues of similar research utilizing ArcGIS and Deaf community data sets to investigate other aspects of Deaf history.

Using ArcGIS allows the history of Deaf community pillars to come alive on paper. This case study of Germany allows us to begin to understand how German Deaf pillars, and thus Deaf identity in Germany, have developed and spread.

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ENDNOTES

1. The latter can be expanded to include regional and state-level Deaf associations (Eickman 2006).
2. As a general rule, latitude and longitude coordinates were obtained from Falling Rain Genomics, Inc.'s Directory of Cities, Towns, and Regions in Germany [Data website for cities' latitude and longitude]. Available at <http://www.fallingrain.com/world/GM/>
3. Translation of the organization name was done at www.freetranslation.com on 11 April 2006. The DGB website is at <http://www.gehoerlosen-bund.de/>. Deaf club/association information can be accessed through the DGB state associations' websites at <http://www.gehoerlosen-bund.de/wirueberuns/landesverband.htm> or via <http://www.gehoerlosen-bund.de/> and clicking on Über uns and then on Mitgliedsverbände. All these websites were accessed on 11 April 2006.
4. Translation of the organization name was done at www.freetranslation.com on 11 April 2006. The DGS website is at <http://www.dg-sv.de/>. Deaf sport club information can be accessed through the club listing for each German state at <http://www.dg-sv.de/landesverbaende.html>. All these websites were accessed on 11 April 2006.
5. The maps and data sets represented here in the results section have been upgraded through some small corrections and additions in the interval between the Deaf Studies Today! 2006 conference and the publication of the conference proceedings. Thus the maps are slightly different than those presented at the conference.

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