

The development of *-body/-one* indefinites



in eighteenth-century British publishing networks

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Introduction

- English indefinites come in many forms
 - Compounds: *-body*, *-one*, *-man*
 - Independent forms: e.g. *some (other)*, *any (other)*, *every*, *each*
- In Early and Late Modern English, *-man* and independent forms are outgoing, *-body* and *-one* are incoming
 - (Nevalainen & Raumolin-Brunberg 2003, Laitinen 2018)
- By C18, *-one* emerges as the more standard variant
 - *-body* more vernacular
 - (D'Arcy et al. 2013)
- Analyzing C18 usage and change in large textual datasets
 - The role of individuals in publishing networks? (cf. Milroy 1987)

Material: *Eighteenth Century Collections Online* (ECCO)

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- The 200,000 volumes of ECCO cover half of the surviving printed record of 18th-century Britain
- Challenges:
 - Texts are not clean (OCR noise)
 - Biases in the composition of the collection
- Metadata from the *English Short Title Catalogue* (ESTC)
 - Augmented by the Helsinki Computational History Group (COMHIS)
 - Dataset restricted to 1st editions of book-length works
- Works associated with Andrew Millar, a prominent publisher of the period, as a point of reference (cf. Tolonen & Ryan 2024)
 - Responsible for publishing main Scottish Enlightenment authors

Research questions

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- How are the indefinites used in ECCO over time?
- Was the Millar network innovative compared to ECCO as a whole?
- Can we recognize innovative and/or conservative individuals in the Millar network compared to the period distribution?
- What is the position of the innovative/conservative individuals in the network?
 - Innovative individuals expected to be well-connected but not central (weak ties; Milroy 1987)

Methods

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- Automated searches of indefinites
 - Variant spellings from the OED increased noise
 - Forms used:
 - [sf]ome, every, any, no
 - one, body, bodie
 - spelled separately, together, with a hyphen
- Comparing observed frequencies
- Bootstrapping to find innovative individuals
 - (see Nevalainen et al. 2011)

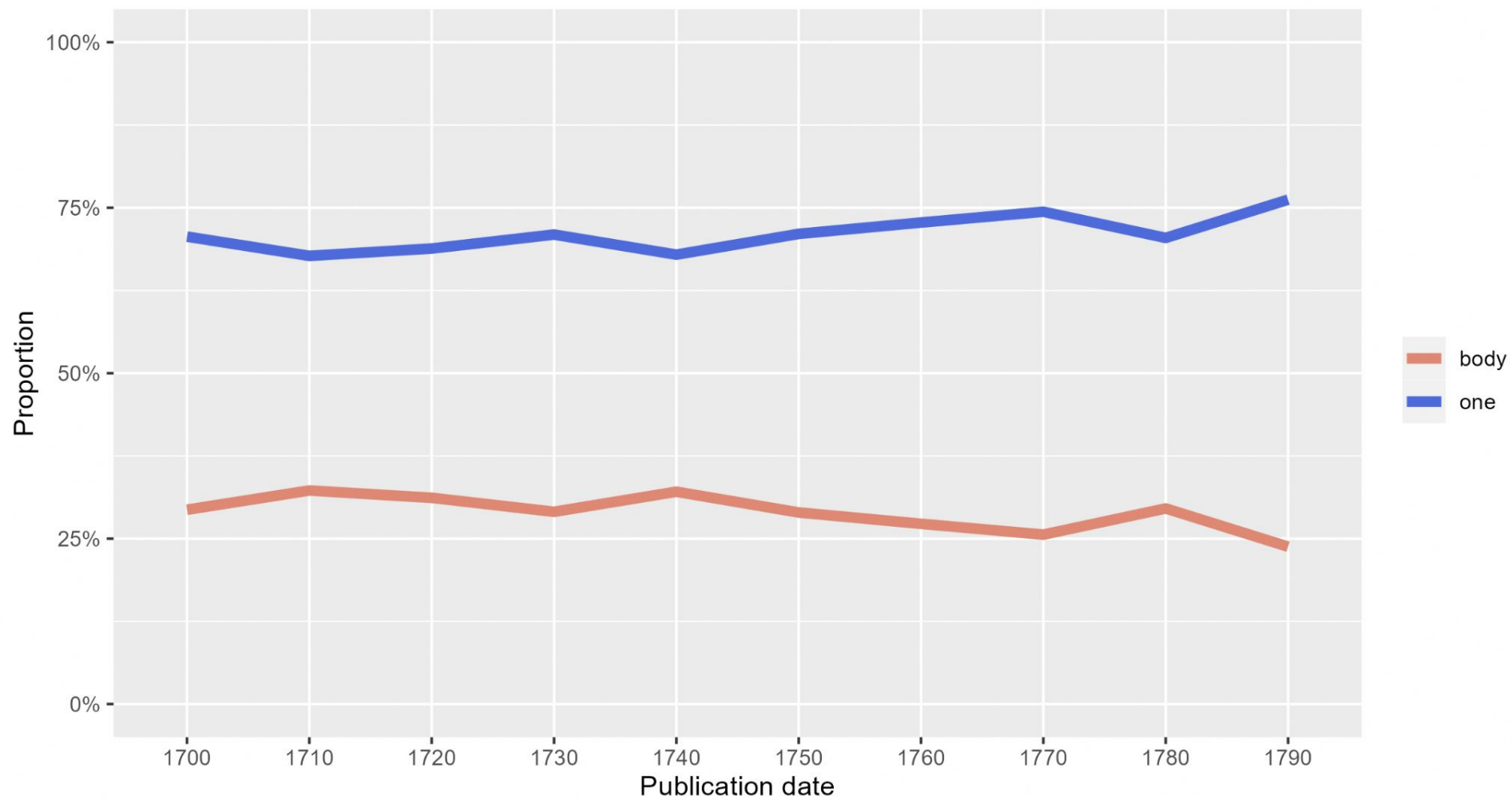
Dealing with OCR'd data

“One Night, a drunken Fellow 'oftled against a Polf, but the Fellow thought **some-body** had foRled him, and-fell a beating-the Poll tl his Fingers were broken.” (*Aristotle's last legacy*, Author unknown, 1711)

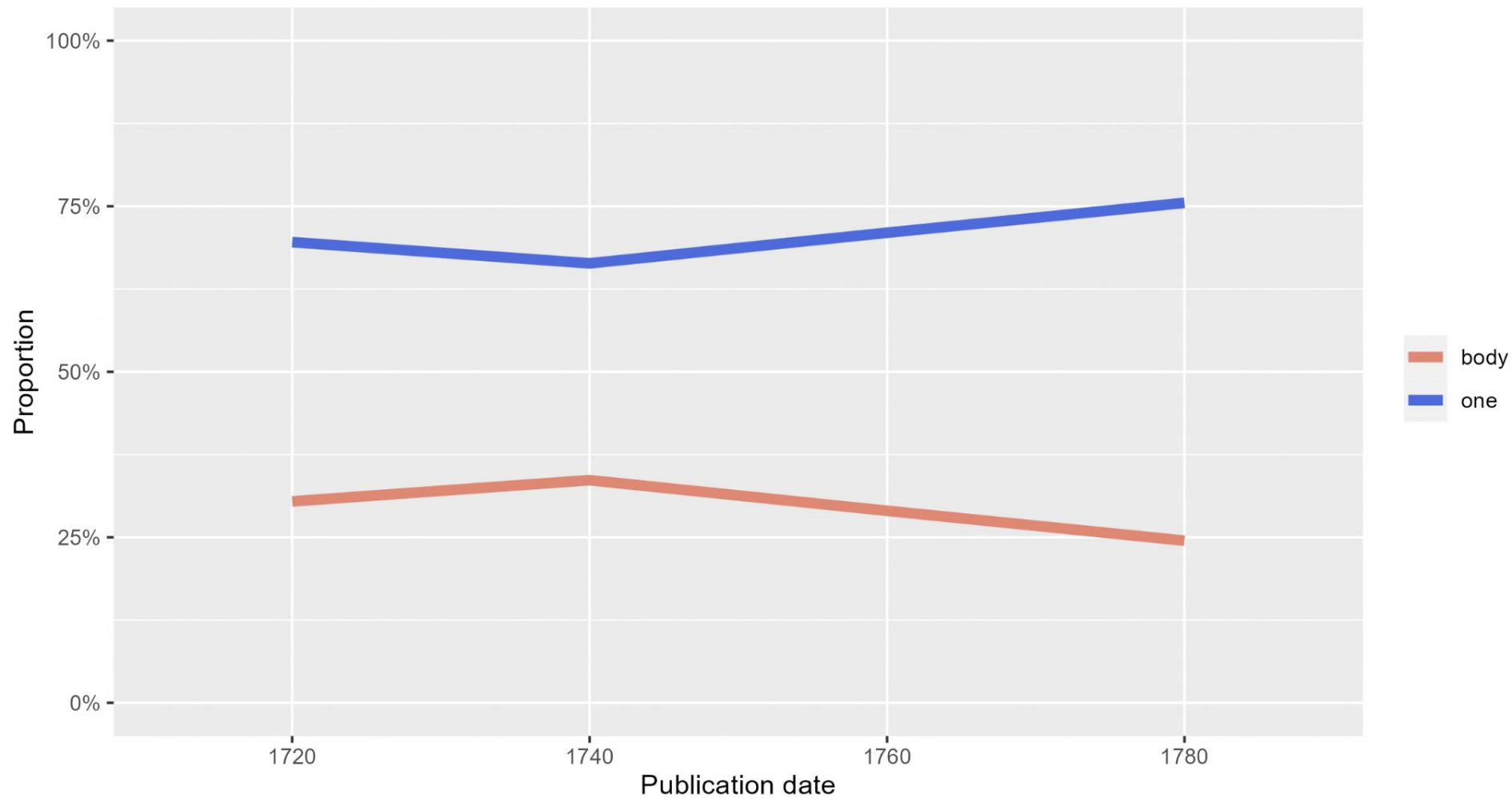
“It is much to be lamented that the means of recovering the charaderiftics of past ages are to few, as **every one** muff find who undertakes to delineate them.” (*A general history of science and practice of music by Sir John Hawkins*, Sir John Hawkins, 1776)

- We found that a quantifier-based analysis offers more granularity enabling us to deal with OCR noise.
- For detecting innovative individuals, a median OCR quality threshold of 90% was applied to the documents.

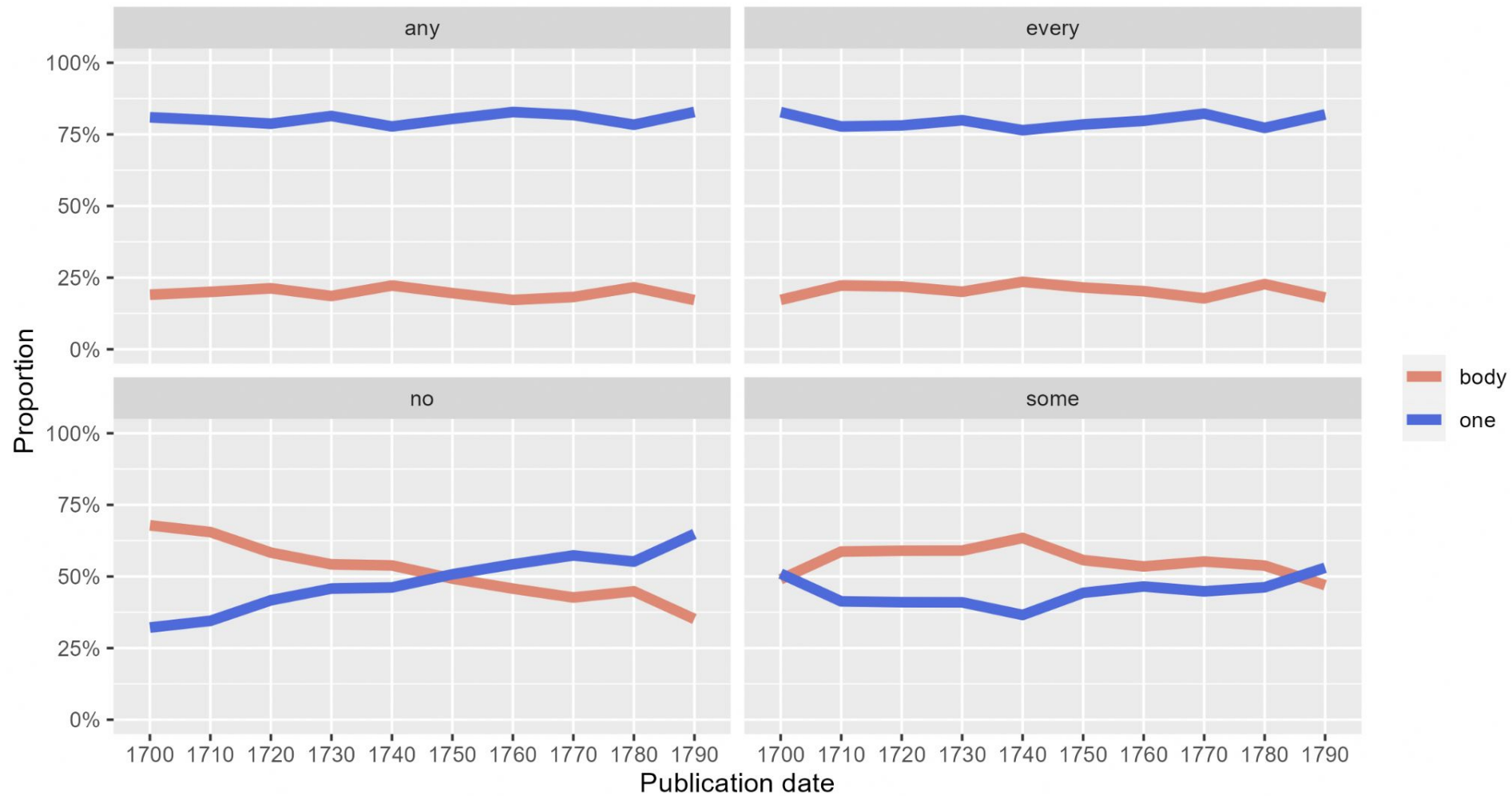
Proportion of -body and -one in books in ECCO



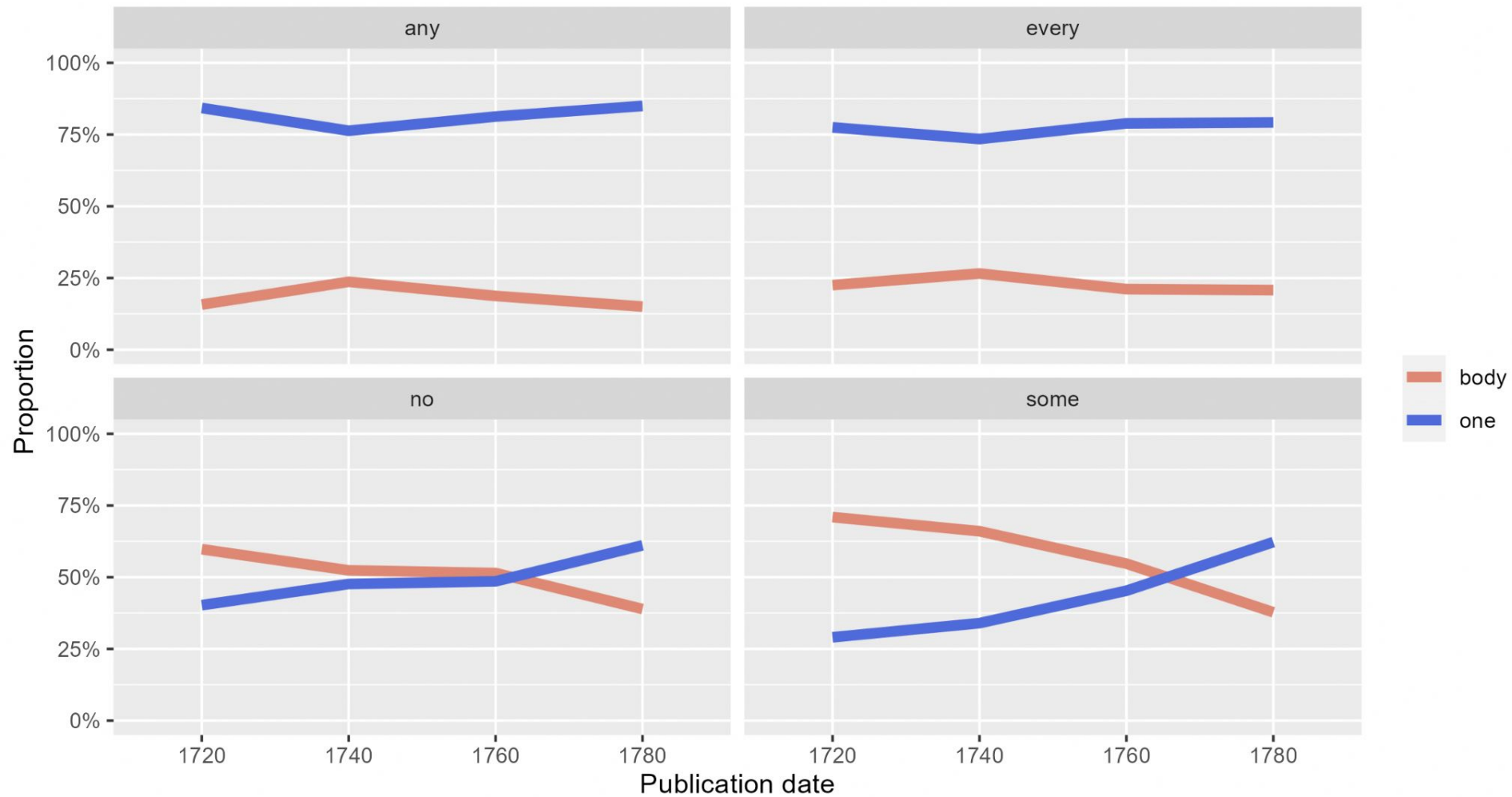
Proportion of -body and -one in books published by Millar



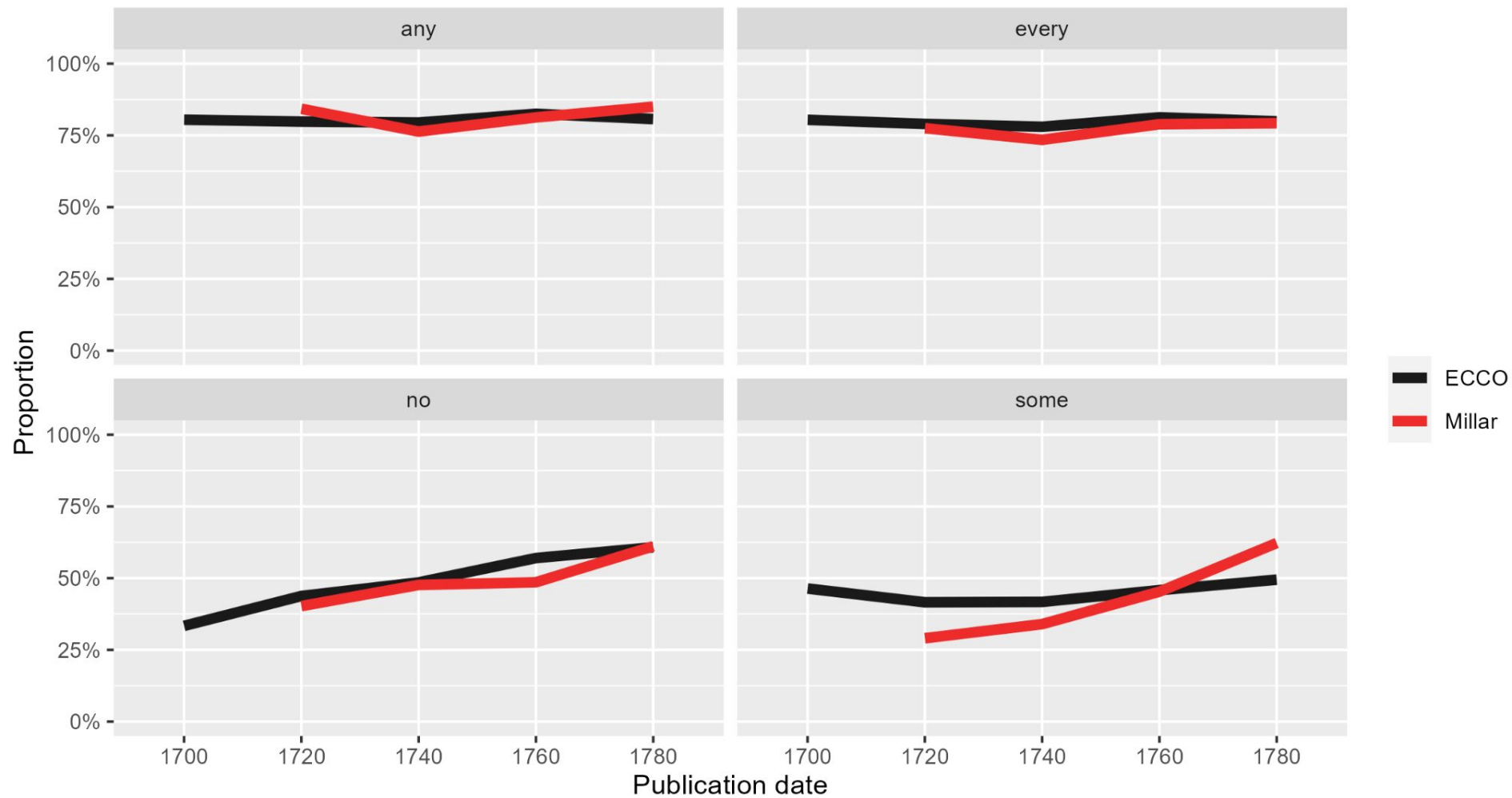
Proportion of -body and -one in books in ECCO



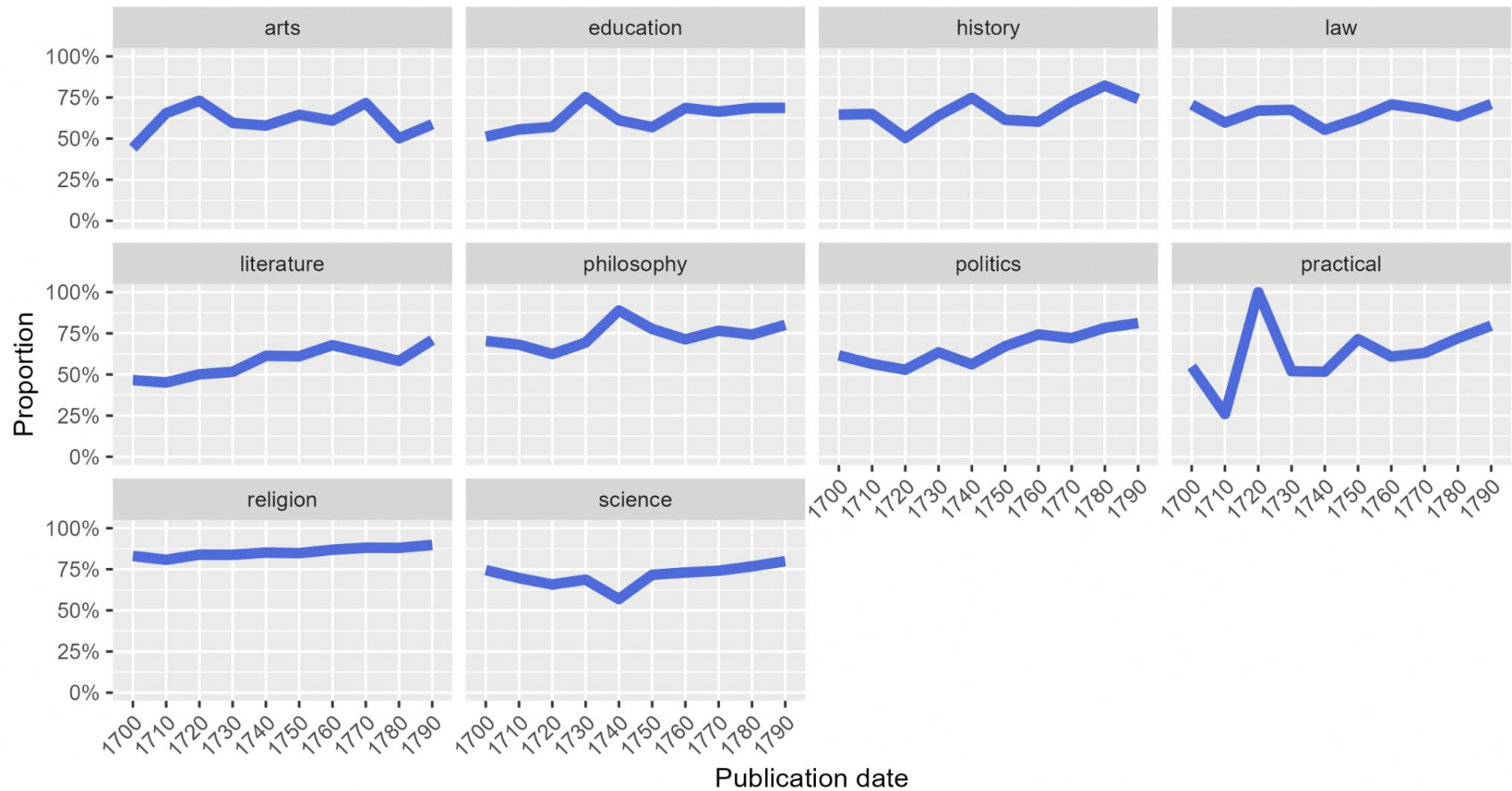
Proportion of -body and -one in books published by Millar



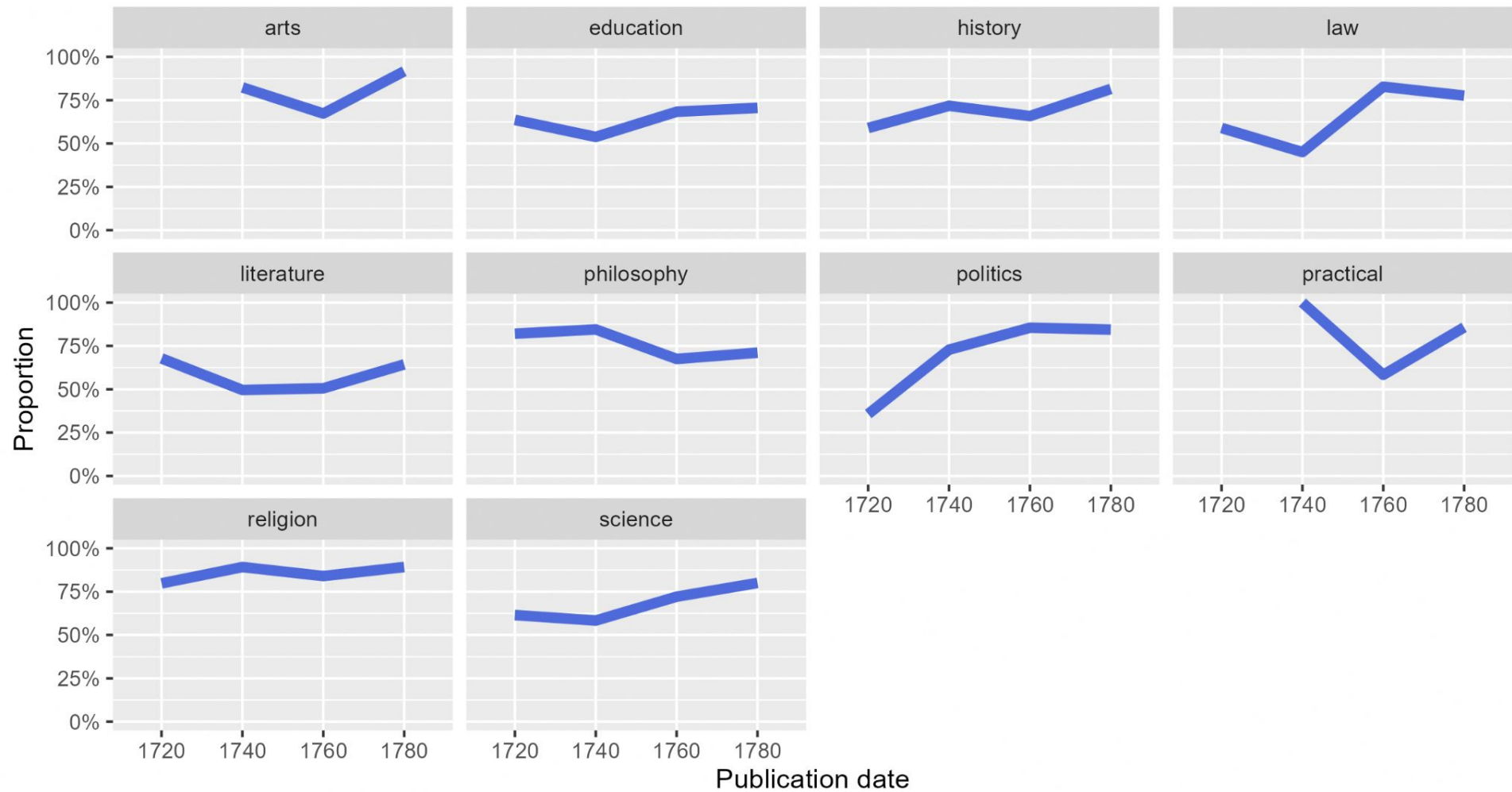
Proportion of -one in books published by Millar and in the rest of ECCO



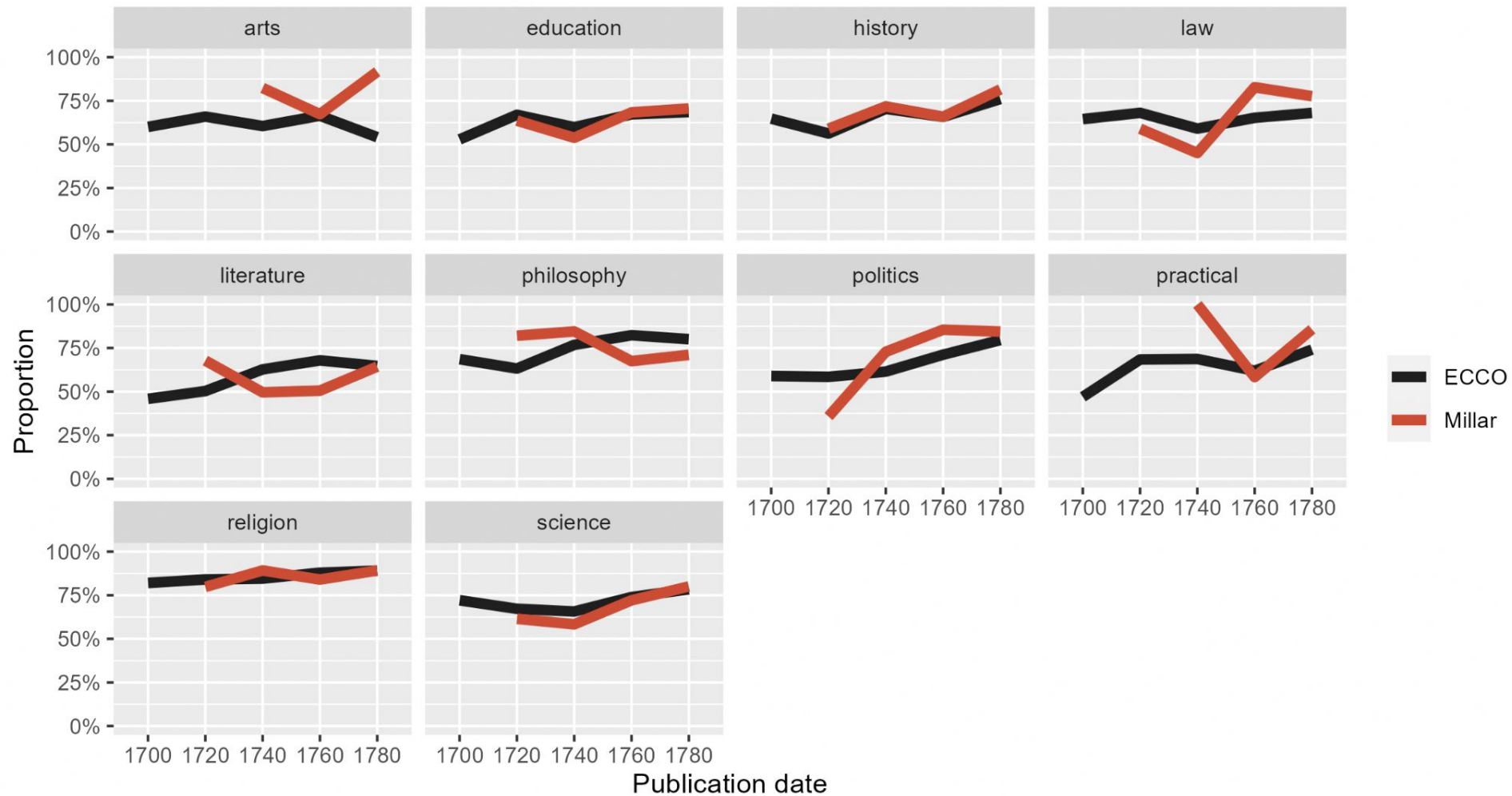
Proportion of -one in books in ECCO by genre



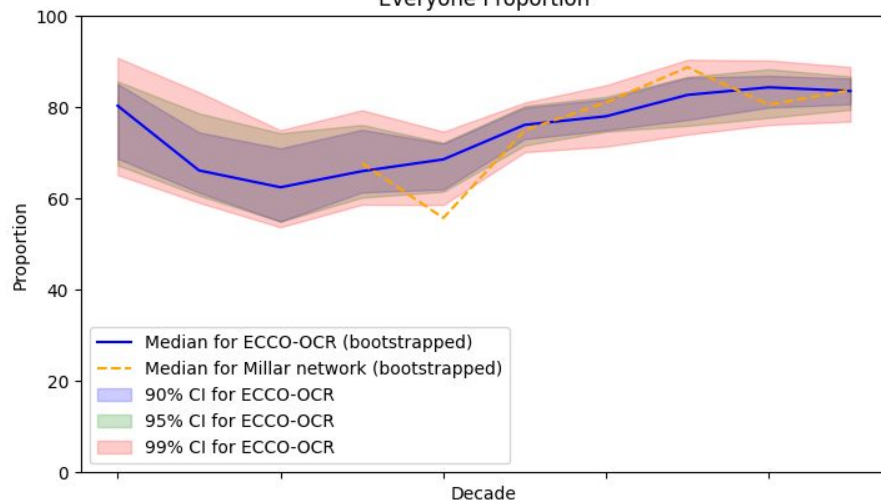
Proportion of -one in books published by Millar by genre



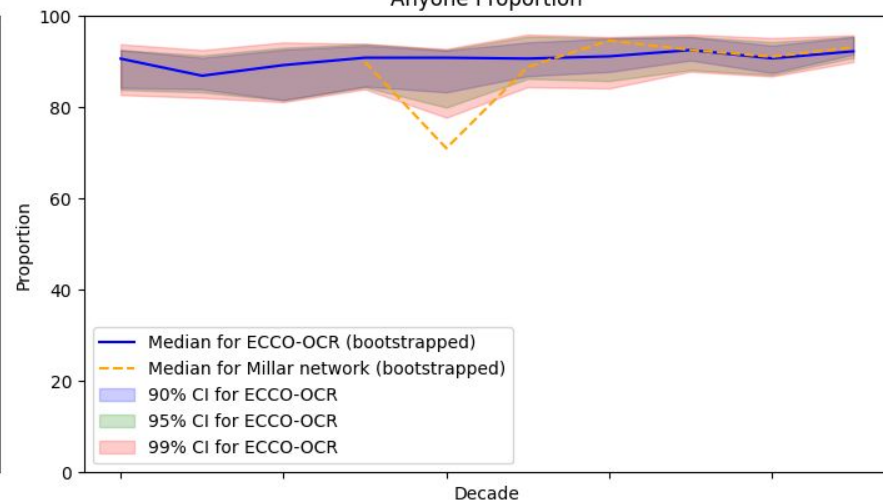
Proportion of -one in books published by Millar and in the rest of ECCO



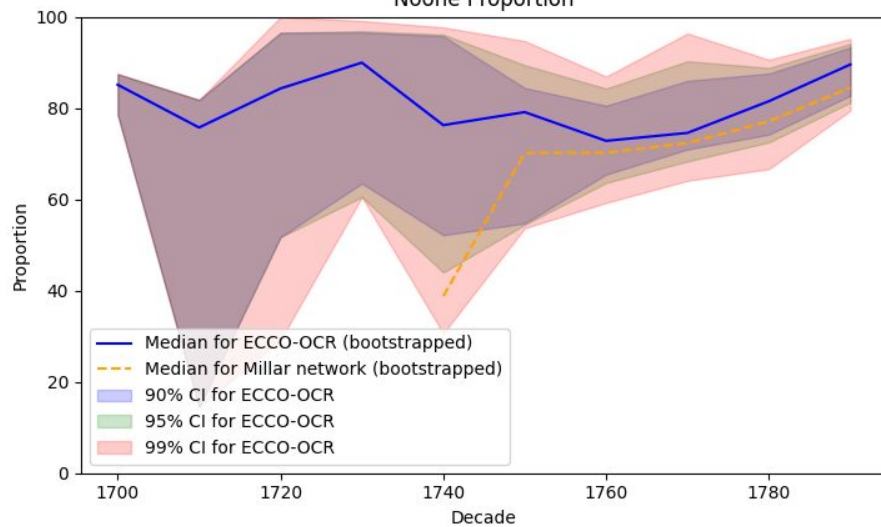
Everyone Proportion



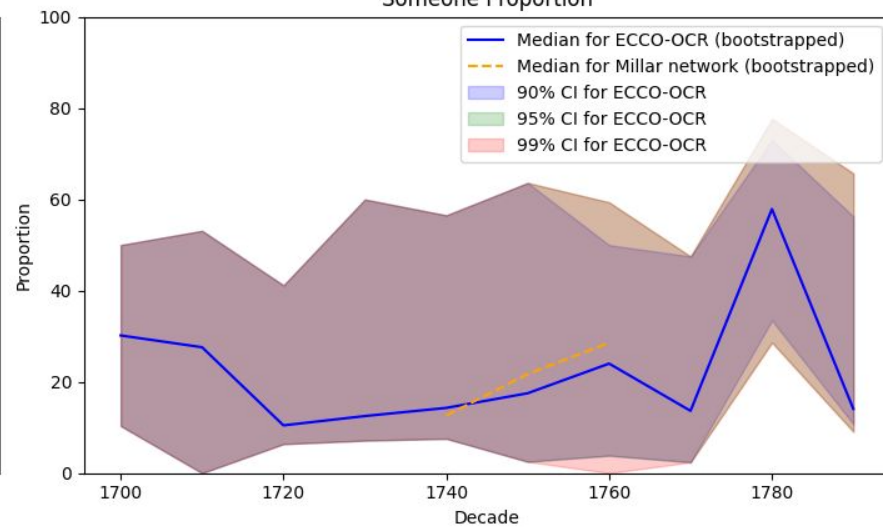
Anyone Proportion



Noone Proportion

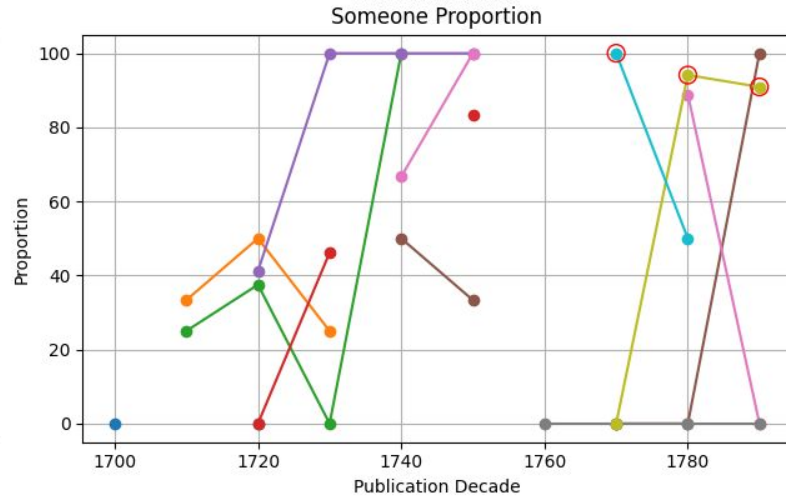
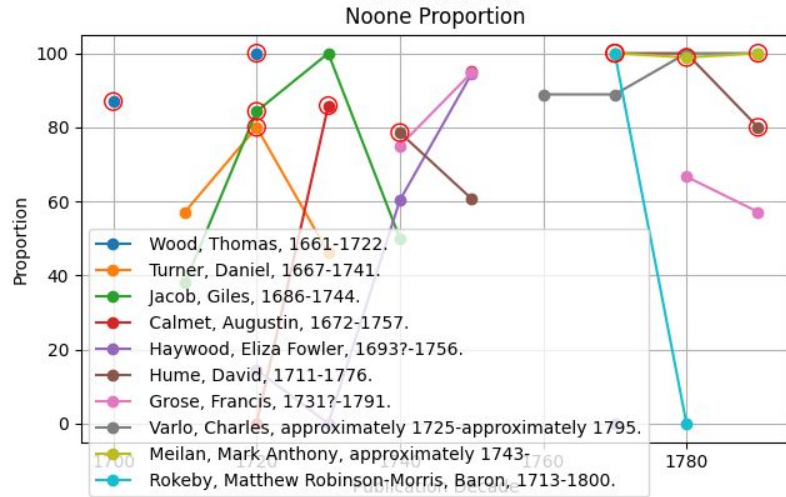
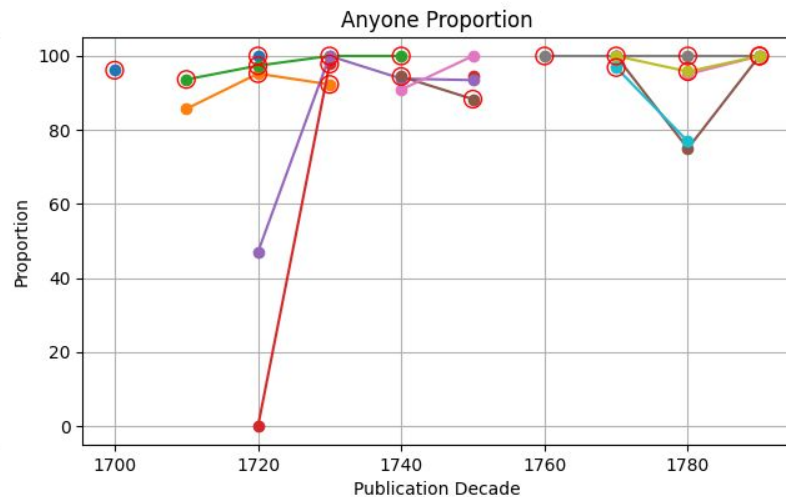
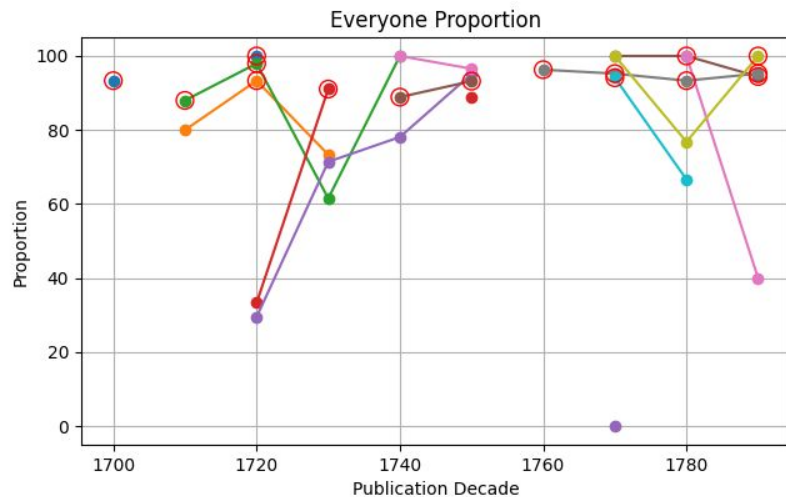


Someone Proportion

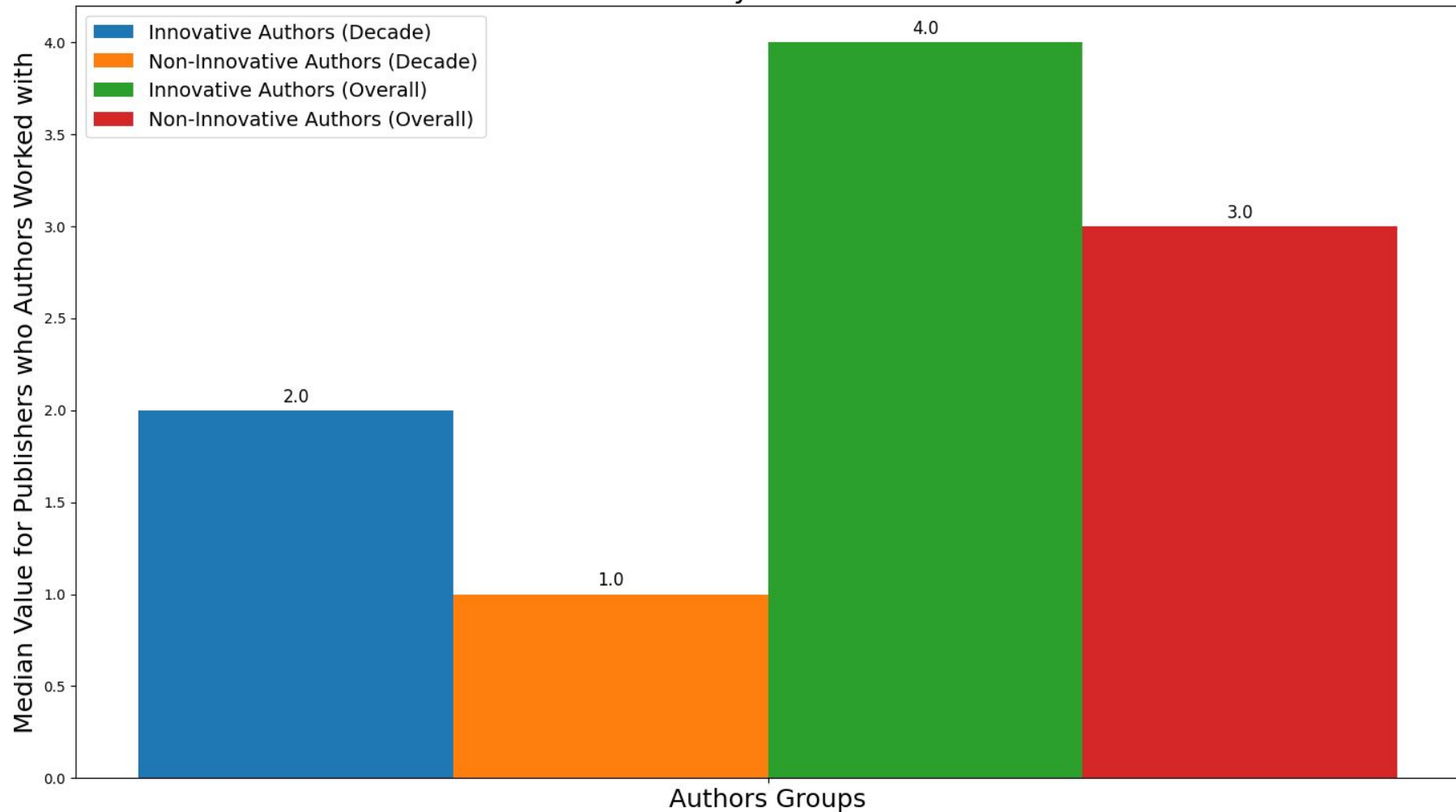


Individual	Decade	Genres	Innovativeness (out of 4)
Wood, Thomas (1661-1722)	1700	Law	3
Jacob, Giles (1686-1744)	1710	Literature, Law, and Science	2
Turner, Daniel (1667-1741)	1720	Science	3
Calmet, Augustin (1672-1757)	1730	Education	3
Hume, David (1711-1776)	1740	Philosophy	3
Haywood, Eliza Fowler (1693?-1756)	1750	Education	3
Grose, Francis (1731?-1791)	1750	Practical	3
Rokeby, Matthew Robinson Morris, Baron (1713-1800)	1770	Politics	4
Meilan, Mark Anthony	1790	Religion	3
Varlo, Charles (1725~-1795~)	1790	Science	1

Usage Proportions Over Time for Selected Authors



Median Value for Publishers by Innovativeness in Millar Network



Discussion

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- Overall, *-one* is used more than *-body* in ECCO
- Differences between quantifiers
 - *Anyone* and *everyone* have already won
 - *No one*: crossover in C18
 - *Someone* lagging behind
- Differences between genres
 - Proportion of *-one* lower in literature, higher in religious texts
- Millar behaves similarly to the full ECCO
- Differences between individuals

Conclusion

- Results support and refine findings from earlier research
 - *-one* is more frequent in ECCO than *-body*, and its proportion is still increasing
 - Results are similar in terms of quantifiers
 - Increased resolution for genres and time periods
- Progressive individuals tend to publish with more publishers than non-progressive individuals
→ supports weak-tie hypothesis?
- Going forward:
 - Statistical modeling (e.g. regression analysis)
 - Network analysis

References

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