

# Mobility Restrictions during Covid-19

During the Covid-19 pandemic, governments have imposed substantial restrictions on people's mobility. We examine how actors in the **European multi-level governance** system use **social media** to create networks of information over decisions to **limit mobility** during the crisis.

IP36  
Borders

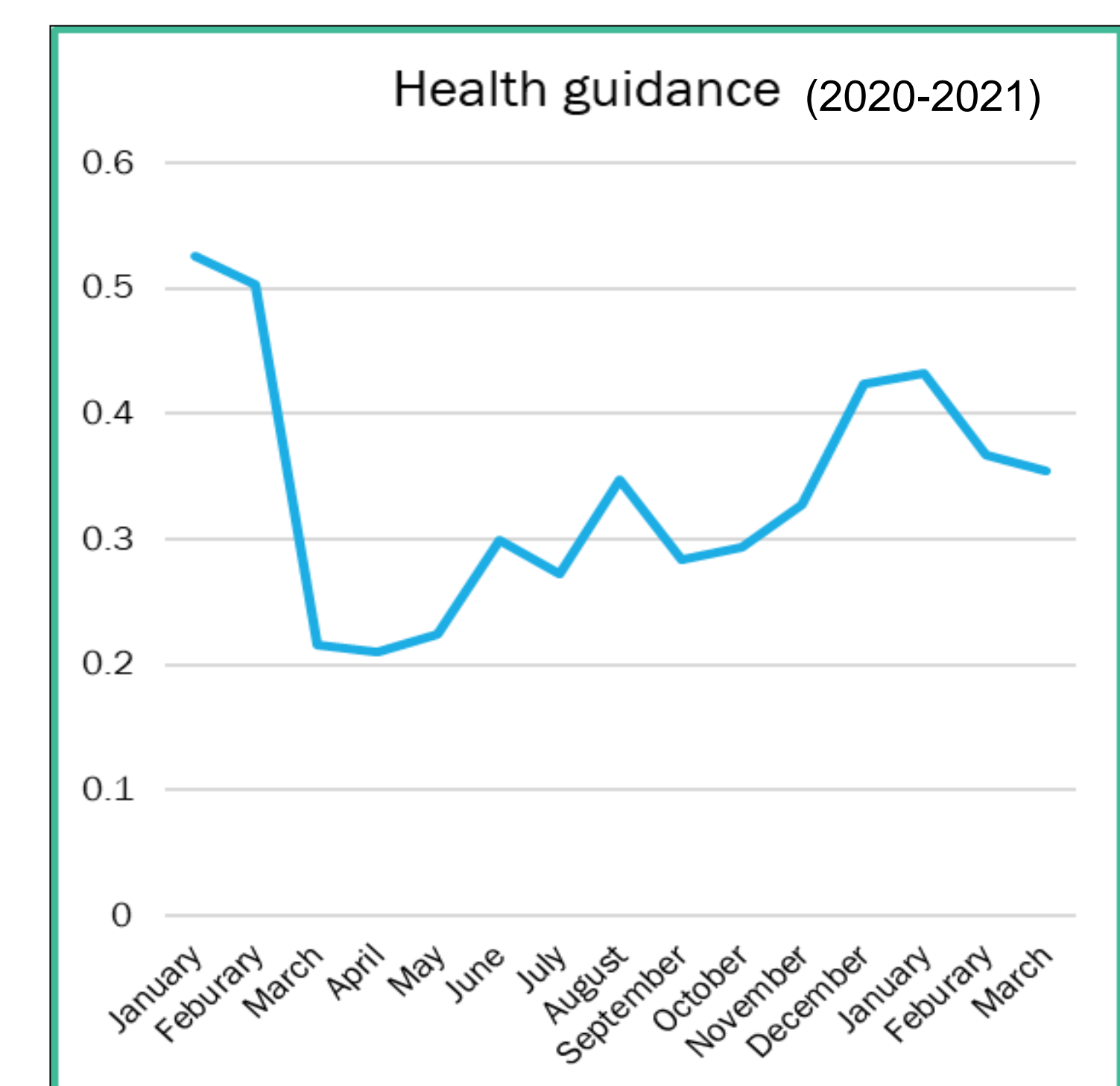
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## 1 Research Questions

- How do actors in the European multi-level governance system **align around positions and framing** of the migration/mobility policy responses to the Covid-19 crisis?
- Do we observe a change in **legitimation discourses** surrounding immigration and mobility policies?

## Main findings

Strong consistency in the content of the message, but...



## 2 Methods and Data

This project uses **core-sentence analysis** to collect positions and arguments about mobility restrictions from Tweets about Covid-19 by institutional actors.

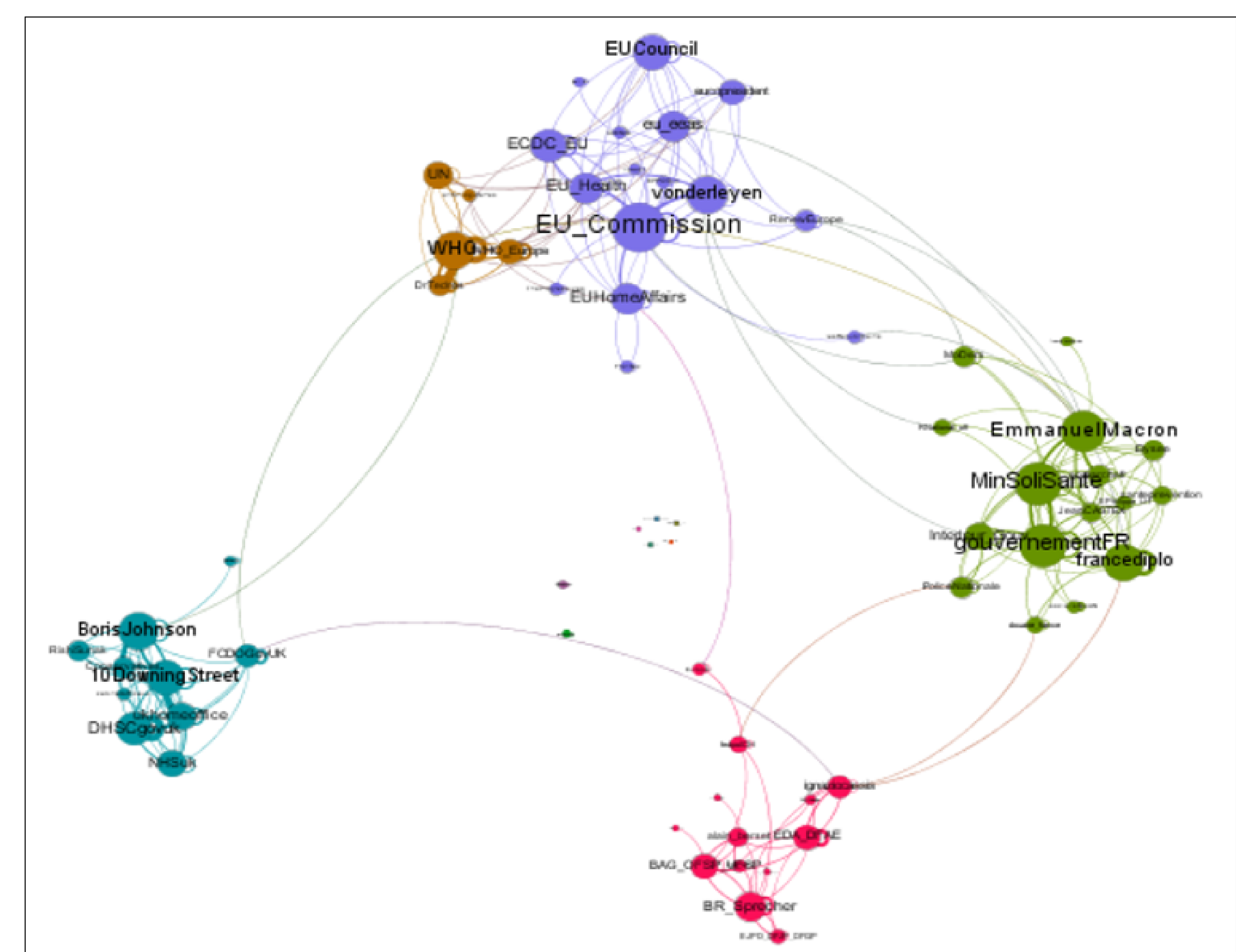


We analyse the data using **discourse and social network analysis**

### Twitter Data

- Over 80 000 Tweets (03/2020 to 03/2021)
- 50 actors, 3 levels: FR, UK, CH + EU + UN
- Over **10 000 data points** cover 3 types of mobility: Social distancing, international travel and domestic mobility

...low inter-level connectivity



**Content and discourse network analysis show that after an initial phase of high consistency and connectivity between actors, the discourse around mobility restrictions gradually becomes more politicized. Despite a strong consistency in the message, low inter-level connectivity suggests a lack of coordination across governance levels. This pattern of communication could exacerbate the rising infodemic issue.**

## 4 Output and dissemination

- Bélanger, M.-E., & Lavenex, S. (2020). Les restrictions sur la mobilité: un défi pour la communication politique, *Terra Cognita*, 37, 16-19.
- Bélanger, M.-E., & Lavenex, S. (2020). Crisis Communication on Twitter: The Case of Switzerland. *NCCR Covid-19+Mobility Blog Series*
- Bélanger, M.-E., & Lavenex, S. (2021). Communicating Mobility Restrictions During the COVID-19 Crisis on Twitter: The Legitimacy Challenge. *Swiss Political Science Review*, 27, 822– 839.
- Bélanger, M.-E., & Lavenex, S. (Under review). Justifying Mobility Restrictions during the Covid-19 Pandemic: A test in Multilevel governance.