

The Legacies of COVID-19

How crises shape the governance of human movement

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What legacies did the special COVID-19 rules have on how we control, manage, and experience mobilities after the pandemic?

Key Ideas & Approach

- **Bordering & Boundary-Making:** How lines are drawn - physically, legally, and socially - to control who moves where.
- **Securitization:** How movement is framed as a security issue, especially in relation with “crises”.

What's New?

- The pandemic showed how “crises” can change the way we think about and manage Human movement.
- The project looks at how some of these changes stick around, shaping who gets to move and who doesn't, long after the crisis is over.
- The label “crisis” is used increasingly for more protracted, less temporary contexts.



Eloise
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Categorising Key Workers in the United Kingdom

The UK's pandemic response can be understood as a mobility regime - a specific arrangement of policies which shaped everyday movements.

The “key worker” category became a way to sort people, and often made existing structural inequalities - based on class, race, and gender - more visible. This category continues to shape how we value and organize work today.

How was the category of “key workers” understood and used to control movement during COVID-19, and what does this reveal about how so-called “essential work” is valued and organized?

Campaign officer: *There was the time of everyone standing on their doorsteps on a Thursday banging pots and pans. I remember a bizarre scenario in our street when the bin men first came back round...*

Interviewer: *[Oh, yeah, I remember]*

Campaign Officer: *It was really sort of bizarre [...] no one ever said 'key worker' before the pandemic. Just the term that existed, public service workers, public sector workers, sort of separating language. [...] Yeah, what was the key worker thing?*

Interview with an officer of a trade union

Sélim
Clerc

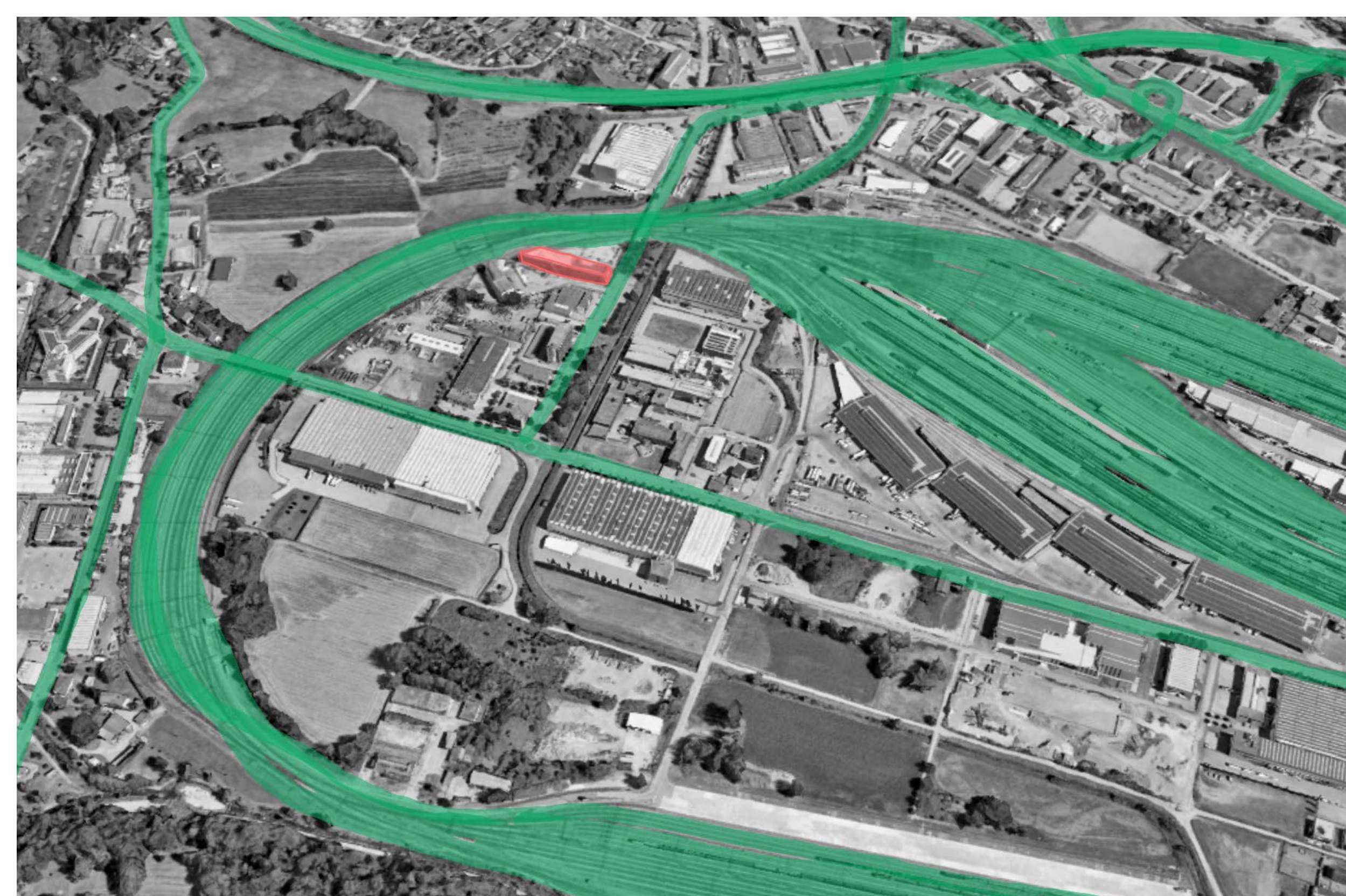
Swiss Asylum System & Crises

The permanentification of crisis: the asylum system seems to be constantly in crisis. Defining something as a crisis lets actors make changes which stay even after the “crisis” is over.

Federal Asylum centers function with a mix of care and control, as did historically other institutions in charge of “undesirable” groups.

The asylum system is governed through a *rationale of logistics*. It focuses increasingly on moving people “efficiently” in the asylum system. New centers are often built in industrial zones, making it easy to move asylum seekers while keeping them separate from the rest of society.

What do COVID-19, other “crises”, and their legacies tell us about the asylum system in Switzerland?



The Industrial zone as paradigm: Federal asylum centre Balerna, TI (in red), and the main transportation infrastructure (in green).