

Uneven Recovery: Did Origin Country COVID-19 Policies Shaped Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Immigration in Switzerland?

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Main Hypothesis

1. COVID-19 **reduced immigration** (González-Leonardo et al., 2023, 2024; McAuliffe et al., 2022)
2. Literature shows one of the main factors is the **immigration policy** (González-Leonardo et al., 2023; Malakhov & Motin, 2022; OECD, 2020; Piccoli et al., 2023).
3. These policies are seen as **immigration policy**, but they are also **emigration policy**.
4. Therefore, immigration policy from the country of origin should also be accounted for (González-Leonardo et al., 2024)

Main Hypothesis: The immigration policy of the origin country has an impact on the willingness to join another country.

Context of International Migration during COVID-19

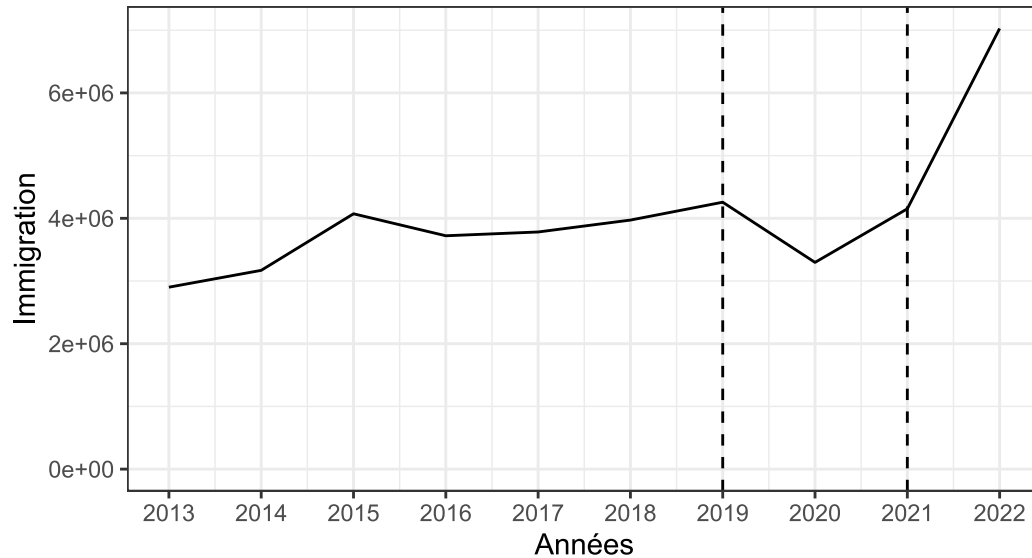
Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on international migration patterns worldwide. Global labor migration patterns were significantly disrupted due to **travel restrictions**, **border closures**, and **economic crises**.

- The pandemic led to a **sharp decline** in immigration flows across most high-income countries.
 - **Non-labor market migration categories**, such as family reunification and humanitarian migration, were **disproportionately affected** (Malakhov & Motin, 2022).
 - **Labor market migration** experienced a significant **resurgence**, with many countries gradually lifting draconian measures aimed at reducing migration flows (Malakhov & Motin, 2022).
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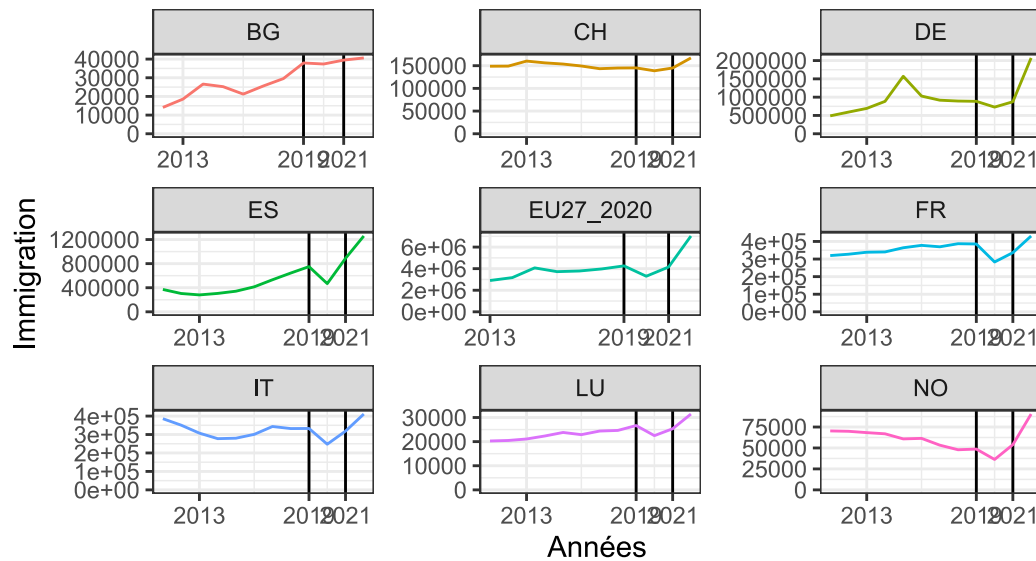
Covid-19 impact (1)

Immigration in the EU27
2013-2022



Covid-19 impact (2)

Immigration in the EU27 - country selection
2013-2022



International Migration during COVID-19

Factors Influencing Immigration Flows (González-Leonardo et al., 2024)

- **Economic conditions** Change in GDP at the destination reduces the decrease in immigration.
 - Destination country
- **Schengen area** Reduces declines in immigration
- **Distance:** Longer distances between origin and destination countries lead to a smaller decrease.
- **Stringency Measures:** Greater declines in immigration
 - Destination country

But the stringency measures in the country of origin were not significant.

Limitation of the study

- **Only seven EU countries:** Spain, Norway, Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria and Finland.
- **Time constrained:** The study only goes until 2021.
- **Weak measure of immigration policy of the country of origin**
 - **Measure:** Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker
 - **Unprecise:** Mix of internal and border restrictions
 - **Mean by year:** Hide complexity and evolution
 - **Overall:** Lack a theory in the mechanism in place

Theory of Planned Behavior and Migration During COVID-19

Factor	Consideration
Attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health risks of travel vs. staying put- Economic prospects in current location vs. home country- Quality of healthcare systems
Subjective Norms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family expectations to return or stay abroad- Societal pressure to avoid international travel- Cultural values regarding crisis management
Perceived Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of current travel restrictions- Confidence in navigating complex immigration rules- Financial ability to undertake travel
External Variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Severity of COVID-19 in current and home locations- Likelihood of future travel bans- Job security in current position

Key Insight: Individuals weigh these factors to form migration intentions, ultimately influencing their decision to move or stay.

Hypothesis

In a nutshell:

While **immigration restriction** during the pandemic affected migration flows in the hosting country, these policies are also **emigration policies**.

Therefore, we need to account for the **immigration policy of the country** of origin of a given immigration flow in Switzerland.

We need to account for it in its whole temporal and specific complexity. **Better data** (complex longitudinal restriction) and **better method** (sequence analysis).

Research Questions

Did Origin Country COVID-19 Policies Shaped Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Immigration in Switzerland?

Methodology (1)

Data

The **COVID-19 travel restriction dataset** captures the dynamics of international travel restrictions triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic from January 24, 2020, to May 24, 2021. It showcases the evolution of restrictive measures and exceptions, providing a comprehensive snapshot of global responses to the crisis.

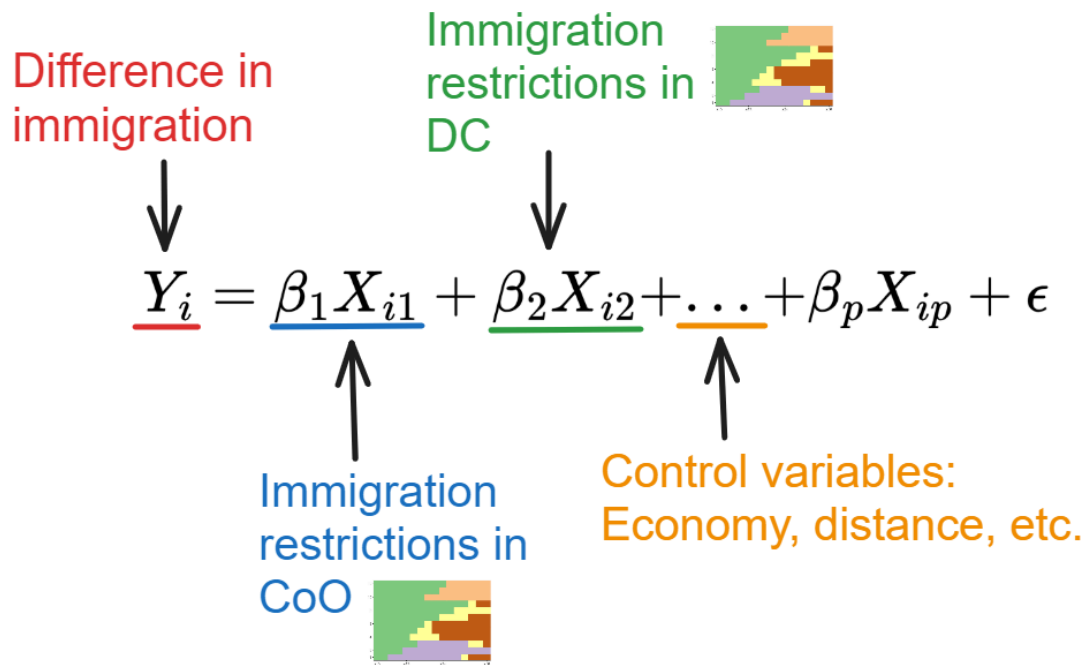
Focus: Switzerland

Methodology (2)

Since we have **temporal data on immigration restriction policies** during the COVID-19 pandemic, not only for many countries but also for specific rules in the country of origin, we can perform a **sequence analysis** for two cases:

1. The evolution of restrictions **in Switzerland** with regard to the **country of origin**.
2. The evolution of restrictions **in the country** of origin regarding the **nationality of migrants**.

Methodology (3)



Next steps

1. Select countries of origin and do background analysis.
2. Clean the COVID-19 travel restriction dataset
3. Perform first descriptive analysis.

This work is still in an early stage, so any comment is welcome.

Thank you!

Questions?

Suggestions?