



Covid policies and cultural scripts

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Covid – a transcultural, transborder virus

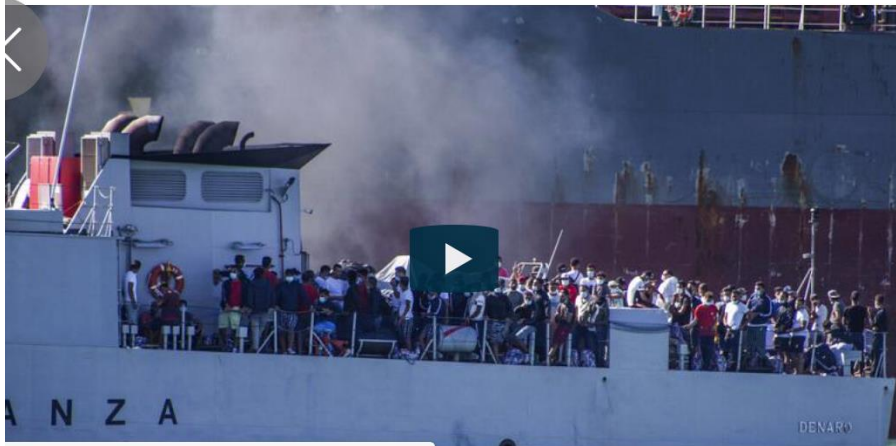
- Due to globalisation, communication and transport networks, viruses spread quickly. Virus does not care about the borders, people do.
- Transmission of the virus is based on the communication/interaction

Problems of intercultural encounters during Covid

WELT

Allianz der Angst: Covid-19 schürt Furcht vor Migranten

Von euronews • Zuletzt aktualisiert: 08/08/2020



Eine mysteriöse Krankheit erschüttert Nordkorea: Pjöngjang im totalen Lockdown

Artikel von Zeleb.es • Dienstag

👍 87 🗨️ 71 💬 14 Kommentare



Ethnocentrism

Definition: The belief that one's own culture is superior to all others. View world from their own cultural viewpoint.

Does the pandemic promote ethnocentrism?

And if yes, in which manner?

Singapore contained Coronavirus. Could other countries learn from its approach?



Singapore has done well to contain the virus, with only 96 cases reported.

Image: REUTERS/Feline Lim

Changing culture due to the virus

- Language (verbal and non-verbal)
- Knowledge (everyday knowledge and social representations)
- Values
- Symbols and rituals

How do you greet persons
you don't know?

Neues Coronavirus aktualisiert am 13.03.2020

SO SCHÜTZEN WIR UNS.

✓ **NEU**

Abstand halten.
Zum Beispiel:

- Ährne Händchen durch genügend Abstand verdrücken.
- Beim Anstehen Abstand halten.
- Bei Übungen Abstand halten.

WEITERHIN WICHTIG:

- ✓ Gründlich Hände waschen.
- ✓ Hände schütteln vermeiden.
- ✓ In Trichterform oder Ärmelbogen husten und niesen.
- ✓ Bei Fieber und Husten zu Hause bleiben.
- ✓ Nur nach telefonischer Anmeldung in Arztpraxis oder Notaufnahme.

www.bag-coronavirus.ch

Cultural scripts - can shift



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HANDSHAKING IS NOT ENCOURAGED AT THIS TIME

For the well-being of our customers and employees, please do not take offence, there is **NO HANDSHAKING** in this office.

Please be considerate of others and be sure to wash your hands regularly.



Question for discussion

- **What consequences of the pandemic are long-term and have longer effects on our behavior and ways of being?**

For example: Encounters - Using masks in public, travel –
work/home office - Online-Study – perception of risk groups

Different attitudes and compliance towards Covid-measures



Different attitudes and compliance towards Covid-measures

German-speaking Covid denialists seek to build paradise in Paraguay



📷 The entrance to El Paraíso Verde, 12km from the town of Caazapá. Photograph: William Costa

A group of German, Austrian and Swiss immigrants has implanted an ideologically driven settlement in one of the country's poorest regions

A 1,600-hectare (4,000-acre) gated community, dubbed El Paraíso Verde, or the Green Paradise, is being carved out of the fertile red earth of Caazapá, one of Paraguay's poorest regions.

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How do different countries handle the Covid crisis?

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Resource | [Published: 23 June 2020](#)

COVID-19 Government Response Event Dataset (CoronaNet v.1.0)

[Cindy Cheng](#) , [Joan Barceló](#), [Allison Spencer Hartnett](#), [Robert Kubinec](#) & [Luca Messerschmidt](#)

[Nature Human Behaviour](#) **4**, 756–768 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

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Abstract

Governments worldwide have implemented countless policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We present an initial public release of a large hand-coded dataset of over 13,000 such policy announcements across more than 195 countries. The dataset is updated daily, with a 5-day lag for validity checking. We document policies across numerous dimensions, including the type of policy, national versus subnational enforcement, the specific human group and geographical region targeted by the policy, and the time frame within which each policy is implemented. We further analyse the dataset using a Bayesian measurement model, which shows the quick acceleration of the adoption of costly policies across countries beginning in mid-March 2020 through 24 May 2020. We believe that these data will be

Policies to combat the pandemic

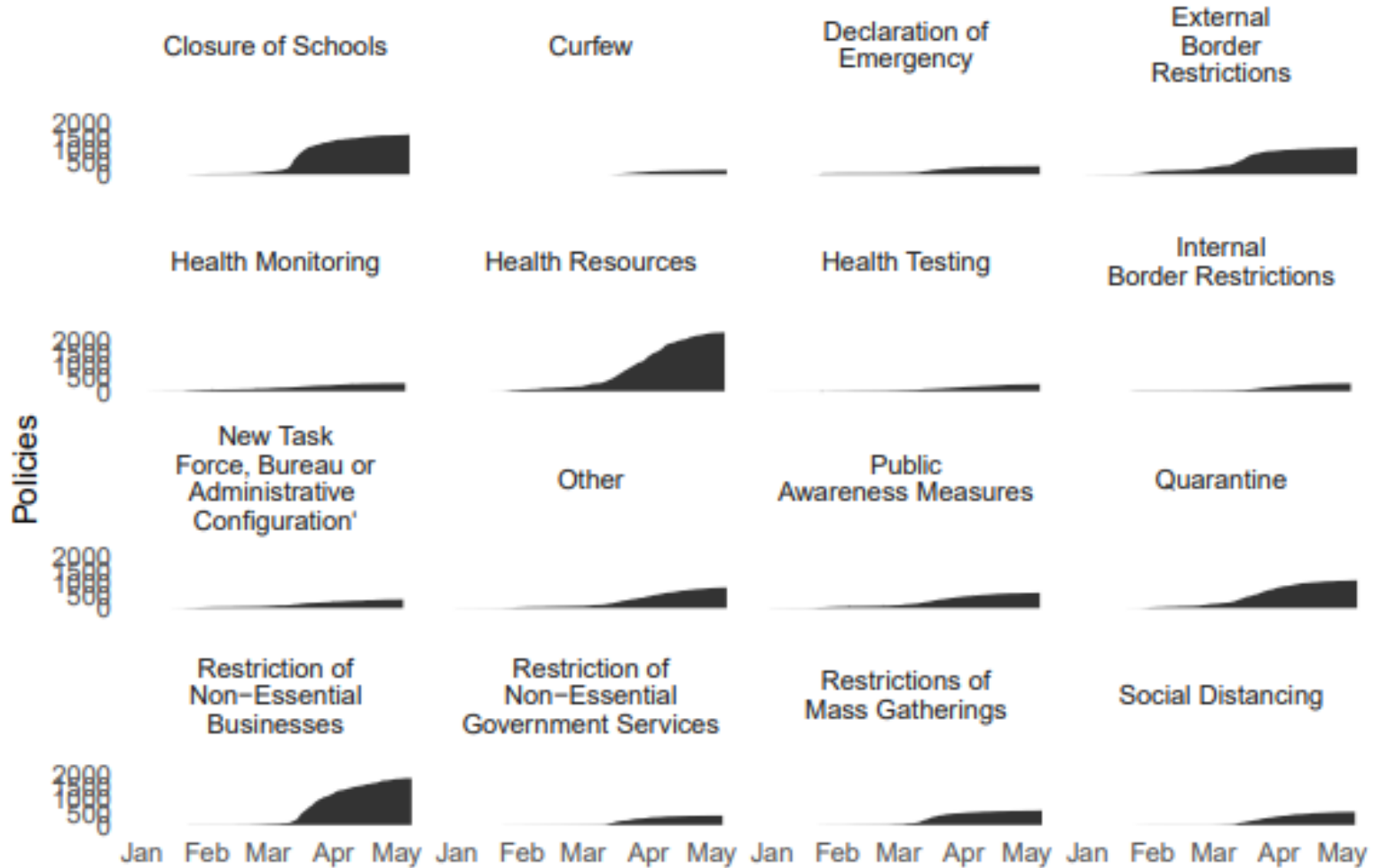


Figure 1: Cumulative Incidence of Policy Event Types Over Time

The risk of culturalisation when analyzing pandemic responses

- Culturalization is the practice of understanding "culture" as an essential, central and determinant explanation for (individual) actions, attitudes, behaviors, conflicts or expressions.
- Cultural concepts are based on nations, ethnic origin, homogeneity coherences and static → **risk of essentialism**
- Differences in mentality are used as an explanation of behavior. → **risk of determinism and reductionism**