Ethnographies in Times of Corona Virus

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"Parc des Evaux" and the Covid-19 crisis

« Parc des Evaux » and the Covid-19 crisis (By G.P.)

I am interested in the situation of the « Parc des Evaux » in Geneva (Switzerland) during the Covid-19 crisis. I know this park very well : I used to live next to it during my whole childhood. For this reason, it was interesting to see how that's evolved during the crisis.

The park remained open to the public, but some parts were condemned to prevent the gathering of too many people. I took pictures of places closed with plastic ribbons, to bear witness to a strange and extraordinary time. I was interested in the relationship users had with the park during the crisis: Did they rediscover their park? The activities of the park (football fields, athletic field, etc.), which usually give life to the place, were closed. Did this force people to change their habits, to return to a simpler relationship with nature or with other users? These are the questions I asked myself when I took the photos for this piece.

Switzerland took partial containment measures during the global Covid-19 crisis. It was still possible to leave the house freely, but a distance had to be kept between each individual, and groups of more than 5 people were forbidden. While it was possible to wander freely in public places, many non-essential services and ameneties for life were closed. This is the case in this park.

 As soon as I enter the park I realize that part of it has been closed to the public.

The first place I meet is the skatepark. Usually very lively and used, it is condemned with ribbons attached to the ramps and barriers.

Then I run into a football field. This time, the ribbons have been attached to the barriers, making it impossible to use the field.

The athletic field is too big for the ribbons to be attached like on the football field. They are attached to the trees and create a barrier that prevents access.

For the recurring objects of the park : barbecue, tables, etc. I made a serie of photos. The ribbons give a unique character to these objects.