

IC - (21056) - YOUTH CLIMATE MOVEMENT IN PORTUGAL: NARRATIVES OF TRANSFORMATION IN YOUTH-LED GROUPS

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Background and objectives

In recent years, the youth climate movement has visibly expanded and gained more prominence in the streets, the media, and other public spaces. Following this trend, several studies have started to examine motives for young people increased engagement with climate change and the potential impacts of the movement. However, little is still known about how young people envision transformations towards sustainability and their roles in shaping those changes. Focusing on the youth climate movement in Portugal, this paper aims to map youth-led groups engaging with climate change-related issues and their narratives of change and transformations.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

In this study, we will consider youth groups focusing on climate change as well groups intersecting climate change with other issues (e.g., feminism). We identified these groups (n=205) via an analysis of websites and social media, as well as through a survey (n=68) completed by groups and organisations.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

We will first provide a detailed characterisation of the Portuguese youth climate movement (e.g., memberships, demands, etc.). Then, we will examine the main narratives of change and transformation of the groups with more public visibility, including how they describe climate change and desired futures and how they see their role and agency in shaping and building climate futures.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

By focusing on the voices of young people, this study will contribute to further understand the processes leading to just transformations toward sustainability.

Palavras-chave : youth, climate movement, narratives, transformations