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Faculty of Psychology

Guest lecture by Sander Thomaes, PhD

18.11. 2024, 16.45 - 18.15, Seminar room NIG 6th floor, Universitätsstrasse 7, 1010 Wien

CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Today's children and adolescents are the first generation to grow up in a world where they are faced with impacts of climate change, such as heatwaves, floods, storms, and droughts. Not surprisingly, growing numbers of youth see their futures as uncertain or frightening. At the same time, while they are not responsible for climate change, many young people are motivated to be part of the solution. They work actively to make a difference, such as by engaging in protests, social media activities, or civic engagement initiatives. How can we understand the impacts of climate change on the development of young people? How can we promote youth's resilience in the face of an uncertain future? And how can we support youth's potential to engage in individual and collective action? I will present an overview of the budding, global field of research on climate change and youth development. I will outline emerging theory and research evidence along with the rudiments for a research agenda that, I hope, will contribute to the field's development in the upcoming years.

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