

Abstract

Young people are important to include in the efforts to combat climate change and other environmental problems since they are the future leaders of society, as well as being citizens of today. This group will be the ones handling the future negative consequences of different sustainability problems and they are also potential important influencers regarding pro-environmental behavior in a family context. At the same time, children and adolescents are said to be particularly vulnerable to psychological stress associated with sustainability problems such as climate change. In this symposium three studies with adolescents from different parts of Europe and how they relate to climate change and other environmental problems are presented. Study 1 focuses on ambivalence about climate friendly food choices and coping among late adolescents in Sweden. Study 2 investigates associations between climate change-related efficacy beliefs, social norms, and climate anxiety among young people in Germany. Study 3 takes a person-oriented approach and aims to identify different climate change groups based on climate change related emotions, cognition and behavior among late adolescents in Finland. Finally, the three presentations will be discussed in the context of developmental science and sustainable youth development.