

Abstract

This paper examines youth climate leaders navigating activism. Youth view the climate crisis as a collective issue needing global solidarity but often face marginalization due to age. EU activists engage more with policymakers, while non-EU activists focus on community mobilization, highlighting how institutional contexts shape climate activism challenges.

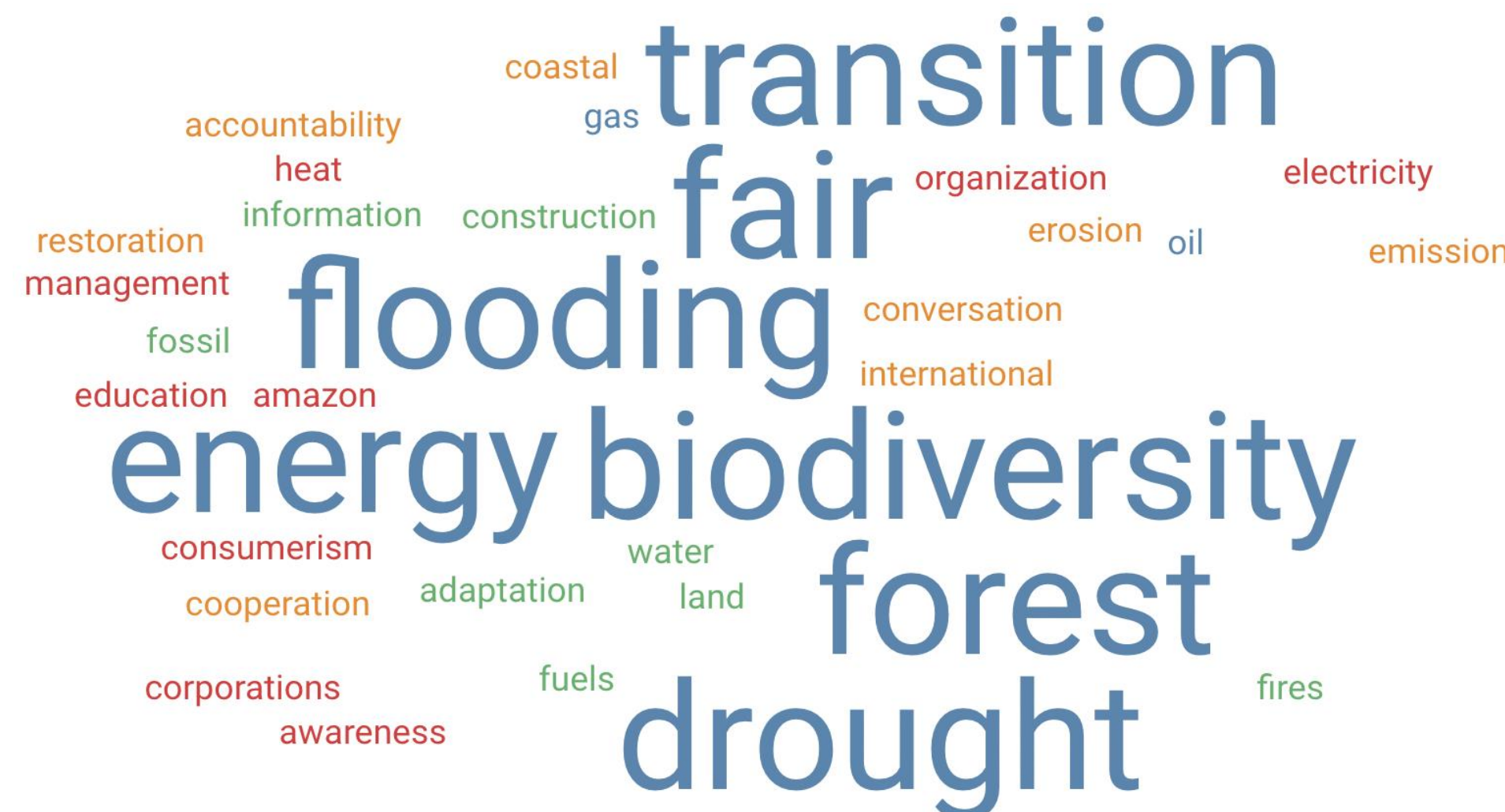
Introduction

- Climate change has sparked a surge in youth-led activism such as Fridays for Future (della Porta & Portos, 2023)
- Our study examines the experiences of youth climate leaders through 13 interviews
- We analyzing the impact of youth activism on individual, community, and systemic levels

Research Methodology

<u>Procedures:</u>	Conducted 13 semi-structured interviews with youth activists. Recruited via networks and social media (e.g. Instagram, LinkedIn).
<u>Tools:</u>	Interview guide, Zoom, transcription software, recording equipment
<u>Techniques:</u>	Inductive thematic analysis with line-by-line coding. Ensured ethical considerations with consent and pseudonyms.

Top Environmental Issues From Our Sample



Key Findings

Motivations: Climate activism are driven by a deep concern for nature and human rights, with varying focuses on justice or environmental issues influenced by regional and cultural contexts.

Intersectional Identity: Youth climate activists' experiences, self-perceptions and activist strategies are shaped by their age, gender, race, and class, showing the diverse and complex nature of activism.

Stakeholder Engagement: EU youth activists lobby officials directly, while non-EU activists, holding some distrust against national authorities, use independent organizations and critique international climate bodies, reflecting varied regional experiences.

Structural Challenges: Capitalism's focus on economic growth over sustainability creates systemic inequalities (Hickel, 2020). Young climate leaders advocate for more inclusive and equitable climate action.

Climate Education: Often emphasizes technical details while neglecting social justice aspects, it leads youth activists to advocate for a more comprehensive and equitable educational approach (Stapleton, 2019)

"The climate crisis affects me deeply - I see it in my dreams, with forest fires and crises." - Interviewee L

"In COP, we're not letting people from less advantaged countries talk" - Interviewee N

"Climate activism is a form of hope." - Interviewee H

Conclusion

- This research examines youth climate activists' global experiences
- While EU activists often engage directly with political institutions, non-EU activists face significant challenges from their governments.
- Age is a common barrier
- Future studies should include diverse forms of activism for a fuller understanding.

Bibliography