

## **Youth mobilization for the climate: Institutional inertia and the possibilities for a radical change**

Children and young people have a special place in environmental and climate policy. We already live in a climate-changed world, but as research has repeatedly shown, the living conditions of the current young generation will greatly deteriorate. Despite the global climate and environmental mobilization among children and young people, the more radical societal transformations that young activists hope for seem difficult to realize. In this presentation, we begin by giving an overview of the conditions for different forms of activism and the strategies and arenas that young people choose to use, based on results we achieved in previous projects about young climate activists, their political aesthetics and mobilization at global climate negotiations. In the main part of the presentation, we focus in particular on the blockages and barriers that we see hindering the democratic participation and influence of young activists. Although groups of children and young people have for decades engaged in putting pressure on political and legal institutions, the reluctance to share decision-making power, prevailing organizational cultures and the dismissal of young people's competence have made participation and political influence difficult. By shining a light on "institutional inertia", we want to highlight how adult norms, resources and the historicity of institutions affect young activists' agency and opportunities to influence the transition work.