

Shine Brighter 2de

Flashfile 8 Growing green together

Texte p. 78 – Amelia Hill, *The Guardian*

Generational conflict over climate conflict is a myth The idea that young people are ecowarriors, battling against selfish older generations is a common trope¹ in representations of the environment movement. It has been stoked² by instances including *Time* magazine naming Greta Thunberg their person of the year in 2019, for being a “standard bearer³ in a generational battle”.

The stereotypes were further strengthened when generation Z, US singer Billie Eilish said: “Hopefully the adults and the old people start listening to us [about the climate crisis]. Old people are gonna die and don’t really care if we die, but we don’t wanna die yet.”

But a new [...] study, *Who Cares About Climate Change: Attitudes Across The Generations*, has found that the generational divide over climate action is a myth. [...] Prof Bobby Duffy [...] said the fake conflict between generations over the climate crisis is “dangerous and destructive”. It had, he said, “crept⁴ into so many discussions about climate concern that it’s become an accepted truth that the young are at war with older generations who are not only utterly unfussed⁵ about the future of the planet, but are culpable for the current crisis.

“Parents and grandparents care deeply about the legacy they’re leaving for their children and grandchildren—not just their house or jewelry, but the state of the planet. If we want a greener future, we need to act together, uniting the generations, rather than trying to drive an imagined wedge between them,” he added.

Amelia Hill, *The Guardian*, 15 September 2021

1. stereotype 2. revive 3. *porte-parole* 4. invade 5. unworried