Christian Student Groups and Environmentalism: A Case Study of Christian Clubs at NYU
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Abstract

Research on the impact of Christian beliefs on environmental values finds a diversity of environmental beliefs among the faithful. Yet the common public perception of Christians is of a conservative, anti-environmentalist. Here I examine this public perception with respect to Christian college students. I look to Christian students as a snapshot of the younger, religious generation and as future influential voices within their respective Christian communities. This research attempts to understand the extent at which students involved in Christian clubs on a university campus also engage in environmental activism and hold a pro-environmental ethic. I investigate to what students attribute their environmental values as well as the influence of the campus environment on their religious and environmental beliefs. Through in depth interviewing and construction of an ethnographic narrative, I explore the mindsets of Christian students at New York University in regards to environmentalism and activism. Finally, I discuss how these students attitudes might affect the future of Christianity and its role within the political environmental sphere.