



Journal of Youth Studies >

Volume 17, 2014 - Issue 8

811 | 54 | 0  
Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

Original Articles

# Another 'Missing Middle'? The marginalised majority of tertiary-educated youth in Portugal during the economic crisis

David Cairns , Katarzyna Growiec & Nuno de Almeida Alves

Pages 1046-1060 | Received 22 Nov 2012, Accepted 25 Nov 2013, Published online: 22 Jan 2014

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2013.878789>

Check for updates



Full Article

Figures & data

References

Citations

Metrics

Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

## Abstract

This article explores the present and imagined future impact of the Portuguese economic crisis among tertiary-educated youth in Lisbon. The results of a quantitative survey and follow-up interviews illustrate that this impact is widespread and multifaceted, ranging from a perceived devaluation of educational credentials and a loss of faith in the local job market to feeling unable to contemplate having a family of one's own. This evidence suggests that diminished future expectations are prevalent among tertiary-educated Portuguese youth, a situation that has to date attracted surprisingly little attention in terms of research or policy responses. This finding leads us to conclude that we may be witnessing a Portuguese 'missing middle' phenomenon, demonstrating a form of youth disadvantage different to that traditionally experienced in countries such as the UK.

Keywords:

Portugal

Lisbon

missing middle

tertiary-educated youth

economic crisis

austerity

## Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by  
54

## Information for

Authors

R&D professionals

Editors

Librarians

Societies

## Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

## Open access

Overview

Open journals

Open Select

Dove Medical Press

F1000Research

## Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

## Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources  
by email

 Sign me up

  

  

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions

Accessibility



Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954  
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG