

### short bio

Rebekka has been a researcher, activist and community organiser in the migrant justice sector for many years. She has worked in a range of campaigning, community engagement and community art projects in London and Athens, especially with migrant women. She is currently doing a PhD in psychosocial studies at Birkbeck, University of London, creatively exploring the everyday resistance practices of migrant women with precarious immigration status. In her work she is applying feminist and decolonial theories alongside participatory methodologies to re-imagine beyond Europe's contemporary necropolitical border regimes.

### my research and work

I am currently doing a PhD in psychosocial studies at Birkbeck University London (2020-2027), exploring the everyday resistance practices of migrant women with precarious immigration status. In my work I am applying feminist, decolonial theories alongside participatory, creative, music and arts-based methodologies to collectively re-imagine beyond Europe's contemporary deadly border regimes. My research is deeply inspired by my experiences organising alongside diverse migrant, refugee communities in London and Athens. Most recently I worked as community engagement manager at the South London Refugee Association (2019-2023) who became project partner for my phd research. In the past years, I have centred both my work and research around the issue of state-enforced destitution through '*No Recourse to Public Funds*' (NRPF) in the UK, meaning the exclusion from any form of state benefits based on a person's immigration status. The slow and often invisible violence of NRPF is only one example of deep-seated classed, gendered and racialised hierarchies of who Europe welcomes as 'good refugee' versus 'economic migrant'. My work seeks to challenge such harmful legal and moral narratives of deservedness within the context of immigration and welfare states and apply a critical anti-racist and border-abolitionist lens. In my phd I am experimenting with collaborative approaches and combining a range of creative and trans-disciplinary practices. I am borrowing from feminist, decolonial, and indigenous methodologies and feminist care ethics to think about how we can counter the harmful, extractivist legacy of Western academia. I have a background in community organising and have tried to realise my phd research in ways that are less hierarchical, foster community leadership and meaningful collaboration. In my academic thinking and writing, I am applying Black feminist epistemology, which values lived experience, dialogue, process, and embodied ways of knowing within knowledge-production. In my work as facilitator with groups, I am using arts-based and co-creative methods as means of collective storytelling, such as working with sound, natural material, visual practices, and zine-making.