



The Roma Feminist Academy: A Decolonial Knowledge Space for Collective Power, Healing, and Resistance

We exist because the systems that govern our lives—racial capitalism, colonialism, and heteropatriarchy—are designed to silence us, extract from us, and make us invisible. Mainstream feminism ignores our specific struggles; anti-racist movements erase our gendered realities; academic institutions study us without us; and policy spaces speak for us without us.

The Academy is our response: a borderless community rooted in Spain, Romania, Hungary, Bosnia, and beyond, where we reclaim the right to name our own oppression and imagine our own futures. Our webinars and trainings are not abstract intellectual exercises, they are acts of epistemic rebellion that challenge centuries of erasure and distortion, centering Romani lived experience as the primary source of knowledge for understanding and dismantling the violence designed to contain us.



Why these topics? Why now?

Because the violence we face is intentional, interconnected, and structural. Our webinar on decolonizing knowledge confronts the academic and cultural institutions that have built careers on studying us while excluding us, asserting that we are the experts of our own lives. Our session on the living history of racialized women's activism reclaims our erased legacy of resistance, honoring both visible Romnja leaders and the everyday acts of survival that form the backbone of our movement. Our exploration of racial capitalism names the economic engine driving our dispossession—from segregated housing and land theft to precarious labor and welfare policing—revealing how our poverty is profitable for systems built on our exploitation.

Our webinar on borders and migration exposes how European migration regimes function as racialized technologies designed to police, detain, and expel racialized bodies, with Roma women facing gendered violence at border zones. And our session on digital justice confronts the new technocratic order and its frontiers of control—algorithmic discrimination, surveillance, online hate speech—that automate and accelerate the violence we have always faced.

Each topic is a thread in the same web of oppression, and together they form a comprehensive analysis that equips activists, funders, policy and law-makers, and institutions' servants with the tools to understand what decolonial Roma feminism means, and embrace it to fight back strategically, collectively, and unapologetically against racial and gendered injustices.



Our national training in Spain, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Hungary, Serbia, and Romania translate this transnational analysis into locally rooted action. In Spain, we train activists to confront racial capitalism in their specific context—evictions, labor exploitation, welfare surveillance. In Bosnia & Herzegovina, we create brave containers for collective healing from the trauma of gender-based and institutional violence, recognizing that sustainable resistance requires caring for our wounds together. In Hungary and Romania we are training activists on how to translate research findings into national advocacy and campaigns.

In Jasenica, Serbia, we have created a community space bringing together women aged 16 to 60 to openly discuss postpartum experiences across generations. For many, it was the first time speaking about pain, fear, loneliness, and the silence surrounding motherhood after birth. The postpartum experiences of Roma women cannot be understood only as private or individual struggles. They must also be recognised as forms of state and institutional violence: when women give birth without information, without adequate care, while facing neglect, discrimination, pressure to recover in silence, and the expectation to immediately resume unpaid care work. Yet even in the face of this, women created something powerful together: solidarity, truth-telling, and collective healing.

We respond to the priorities that Roma women themselves identify through our community consultations, ensuring that our work remains accountable to lived reality, not external agendas. The Academy is designed as a feedback loop: community knowledge shapes our content, and the skills gained through our sessions strengthen community capacity to document, analyze, and challenge the systems that harm us.