

Subjects of Care and Self-Care: Refugees in Greece at the Beginning of the 21st Century.

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The present research focuses on refugee reception and care mechanisms as organized and developed in Greece in the first two decades of the 21st century. It traces processes of housing, medical care, psychosocial support and legal aid, as ordered systems of repeated practices organized by institutional bodies (governmental, non-governmental, national or supranational) and seeks to answer the question: What kind of subjects does care construct when it is carried out by institutional mechanisms? The concept of care, as it has been enriched through feminist studies, disability studies and more recently refugee studies, is a dense concept to approach the relationship with otherness, as manifested in Greece in the two decades to which the research refers. Alongside institutional manifestations of care, the research maps manifestations of “self-curation,” mechanisms and practices that refugees use to repair ruptured intimate worlds. For this purpose, the problematic of everyday life is used, as proposed by Lefebvre (2008) and de Certeau (1988), who in a different way tried to highlight the liberating and creative possibilities of everyday life. Through the observation of refugees in the multi-layered worlds of their everyday life, the forms of self-care are sought, but also the way in which the refugees’ own practices dialectically interact with care practices that come from governmental and non-governmental mechanisms.