

**Pearls, politics and pistachios:
essays in anthropology and memories on the
occasion of Susan Pollock's 65th birthday**

edited by an Editorial Collective

2021, 731 pages (full colour), 240 illustrations, paperback – € 125.-

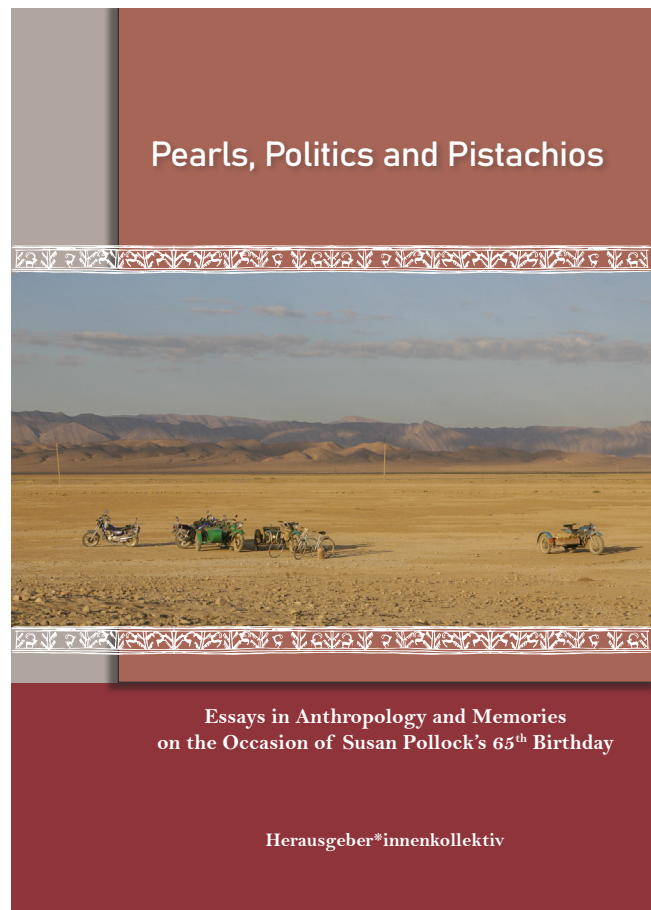
[ISBN 978-3-944178-18-9, e-ISBN 978-3-9629036-1
by Propylaeum]

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The present volume is a multivocal and heartfelt “Thank you!” to Susan Pollock for her 65th birthday. With each of the 46 contributions, the breadth of which corresponds to the scientific oeuvre of the jubilee, 63 authors from West and Central Asia, the USA and Europe celebrate her as a multifaceted and brilliant researcher and colleague, as an outstanding teacher and empathetic mentor. The articles span from the first appearance of *Homo sapiens* on the Iranian Highland to the connections between violence and epidemics in North America and to research on the underrepresentation of women in a publication landscape that is still dominated by men, and the political dimensions of archaeological practice. Together they create an alternative draft to an archeology limited by temporal, spatial and methodological conventions, and point to the possible disciplinary diversity.

The first part, “Taking a Closer Look...” deals with issues related to detailed studies of prehistoric communities and analyses of clearly defined groups of objects. A variety of different approaches to the past is presented in the articles. The second part “... While Keeping the Big Picture” opens the field for synoptic contributions that shed light on longer periods of time and larger contexts, dealing not only with migration and prehistoric economies but also with community and social conflicts and violence between groups. The contributions in the last section, “Questioning the Discipline”, deal with methodological questions. They challenge current discourses in archaeology, deal very specifically with the diverse questions and problems of decolonization and the role of women in archaeological disciplines. Surrounding these sections, a number of



authors recount experiences shared with Susan Pollock at different points in her career in insightful and deeply personal essays.

Together the authors present the diversity of archaeological practice neither limited by time and space, nor by methodical conventions.

On behalf of the Editorial Collective

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