

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF FOOD

*The Archaeology of Food* explains how archaeologists reconstruct what people ate, and how such reconstructions reveal ancient political struggles, religious practices, ethnic identities, gender norms, and more. Balancing deep research with accessible writing, Katheryn C. Twiss familiarizes readers with archaeological data, methods, and intellectual approaches as they explore topics ranging from urban commerce to military provisioning to ritual feasting. Along the way, Twiss examines a range of primary evidence, including Roman bars, Aztec statues, Philistine pig remains, Nubian cooking pots, Mississippian squash seeds, and the bones of a medieval king. Her book introduces both archaeologists and non-archaeologists to the study of prehistoric and historic foodways and illuminates how those foodways shaped and were shaped by past cultures.

Katheryn C. Twiss is an archaeologist who studies ancient foodways in order to learn about social structures in the prehistoric and early historic past. Her primary areas of expertise are southwest Asian prehistory, zooarchaeology, animal management and symbolism, and life in early farming communities. She co-headed the team studying animal remains at the well-known Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük in Turkey, and she is currently in charge of analyzing animal bones from the famed Mesopotamian site of Ur. She edited *The Archaeology of Food and Identity* (2007). She has published on topics ranging from feasting in early farming villages to Mesopotamian ceremonialism.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-47429-0 — The Archaeology of Food  
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# The Archaeology of Food

Identity, Politics, and Ideology in the Prehistoric  
and Historic Past

**KATHERYN C. TWISS**

Stony Brook University



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-108-47429-0 — The Archaeology of Food  
 Katheryn C. Twiss  
 Frontmatter  
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## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
 79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108474290](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108474290)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108670159

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First published 2019

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

### *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Twiss, Katheryn C., author.

TITLE: The archaeology of food : identity, politics, and ideology in the prehistoric and historic past / Katheryn Twiss.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2019. | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: "The Archaeology of Food explains how archaeologists reconstruct what people ate, and how such reconstructions reveal ancient political struggles, religious practices, ethnic identities, gender norms, and more. Balancing deep research with accessible writing, Katheryn Twiss familiarizes readers with archaeological data, methods, and intellectual approaches as they explore topics ranging from urban commerce to military provisioning to ritual feasting. Along the way, Twiss examines a range of primary evidence, including Roman bars, Aztec statues, Philistine pig remains, Nubian cooking pots, Mississippian squash seeds, and the bones of a medieval king"— Provided by publisher.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2019017863 | ISBN 9781108474290 (hardback : alk. paper) | ISBN 9781108464062 (pbk. : alk. paper)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Food habits—History. | Food consumption—History. | Food—Social aspects—History. | Social archaeology.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC GN407 .T85 2019 | DDC 394.1/209—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019017863>

ISBN 978-1-108-47429-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-46406-2 Paperback

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## Acknowledgments

This book has been immense fun to write. I am indebted to everyone who has helped make it so, from my colleagues at Stony Brook University to my editors at Cambridge University Press to my wonderful friends and family. I have loved spending two years immersed in the writings of my fellow food archaeologists (note to readers: there is far more terrific work out there than I could fit into this book!), and I extend to them my appreciation and admiration.

Several people donated images to the book: Jessica Pearson, Bonnie Clark, Elizabeth Stone, Katherine Kling, and Elvis Rakotomalala, thank you very much! Many more people donated time and energy. Barbara Voss, Amy Bogaard, Stuart Tyson Smith, Naomi Sykes, Kate Grillo, John Shea, Fred Grine, Carrie Wright, Cortni Borgerson, Melina Seabrook, and Jason Ur, your comments enabled me to make meaningful improvements to the text. I am sincerely grateful. Asya Graf and Beatrice Rehl, I appreciate your editorial time and talents. Kate Thompson and Sarah Mincer, your art consistently impresses me. Greta Charles and Eleanor Twiss, thank you for modeling and it was an absolute joy watching you in action. A mega-thank you to Sharon Pochron and Elizabeth T. Newman, for two years of comments and edits on I have no idea how many of my chapter drafts and revisions. It is a luxury to have you as my writing group partners. And thank you very much, Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, Nerissa Russell, and especially Christine Hastorf, for introducing me to the archaeology of food and mentoring me as I learned to love it. I have been and am extraordinarily fortunate in my teachers, my colleagues, my students, and my friends.

Mom, you taught me how to write. Dad, you taught me to make terrible jokes while doing so. Nora, you brighten my world. I love you more than I know how to say. This is for you.

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