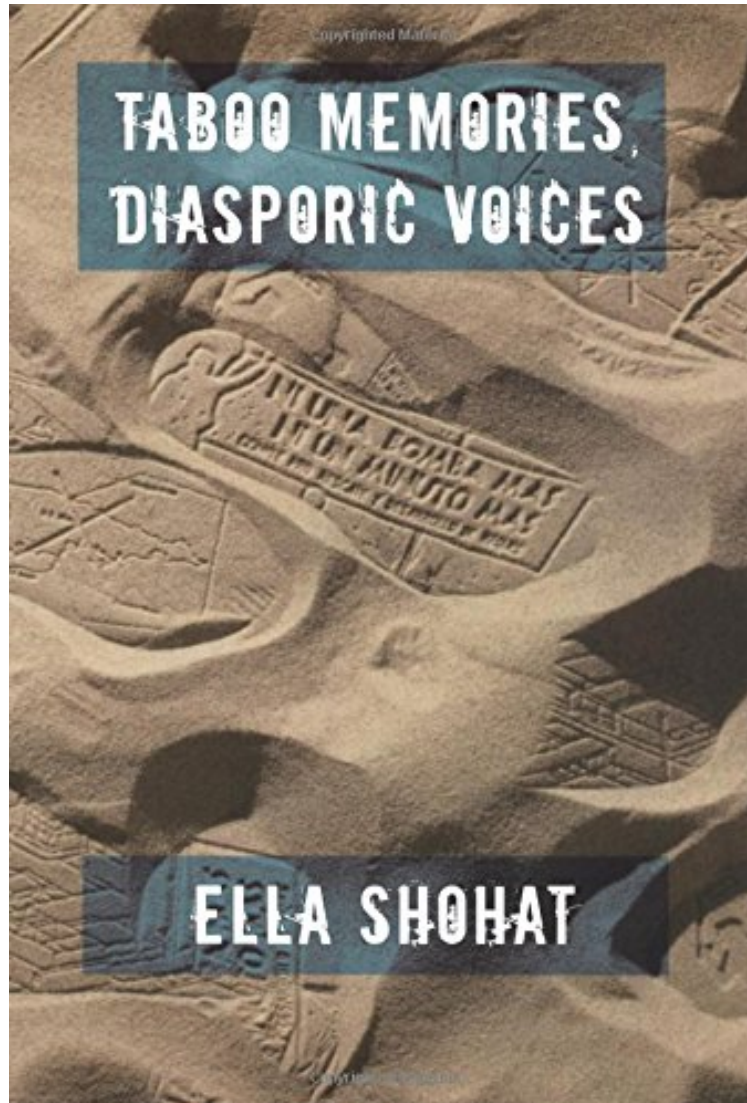


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Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices

Ella Shohat

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Ella Shohat : Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must Read for Diasporic/Postcolonial/Transnational Feminist Studies--By Rashida Qureshi Taboo Memories, Diasporic Visions was a revelation. I especially loved the essays, "Gender and the Culture of Empire" and "Disorienting Cleopatra." Shohat examines the representations of Cleopatra in literature, paintings, and cinema throughout different periods and places--sometimes Cleopatra is seen as Greek, sometimes Egyptian; sometimes as White, sometimes Black. Each time Cleopatra is imagined in contradictory ways.

Shohat shows how the image of Cleopatra serves as allegory for different ideologies, including for European Orientalism and also for the opposite, for anti-colonial struggle in Egypt. Or for Macedonian nationalism; and for both Eurocentric and Afrocentric discourses about ancient Egypt. But the essay shows how the Mediterranean has been a mixed place racially and places--sometimes culturally for millennia. And, therefore, we have to assume cultural syncretism to develop a nuanced understanding of the way modern era imagines the ancient past. Excellent and fascinating book!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Key Text in Cultural and Middle East Studies
By A Reader from New Jersey
Ella Shohat's seminal collection of essays has become a key text in cultural, and Middle East, Studies. The other shrill reviewer who termed "Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices" a screed couldn't be more misinformed and misguided. A far-ranging anthology that encompasses everything from the representation of Cleopatra to the gender biases of medical technology, the book is especially important for illuminating and conceptualizing the rubric of "Arab-Jew." A superb synthesis of theory, history and cultural analysis, Shohat's book is must reading.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. transnational perspectives
By Reader
Shohat's "Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices" opens multiple perspectives for thinking. Her collection of essays puts these perspectives into a conversation. One reads in these conversations the intermingled complexities of identities and representations beyond such straight-jackets as a "nation". A must read for the intellectual community.

Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices brings together for the first time a selection of trailblazing essays by Ella Shohat, an internationally renowned theorist of postcolonial and cultural studies of Iraqi-Jewish background. Written over the past two decades, these twelve essays some classic, some less known, some new trace a powerful intellectual trajectory as Shohat rigorously teases out the consequences of a deep critique of Eurocentric epistemology, whether to rethink feminism through race, nationalism through ethnicity, or colonialism through sexuality. Shohat's critical method boldly transcends disciplinary and geographical boundaries. She explores such issues as the relations between ethnic studies and area studies, the paradoxical repercussions for audio-visual media of the graven images taboo, the allegorization of race through the refiguring of Cleopatra, the allure of imperial popular culture, and the gender politics of medical technologies. She also examines the resistant poetics of exile and displacement; the staging of historical memory through the commemorations of the two 1492s, the anomalies of the national in Zionist discourse, the implications of the hyphen in the concept Arab-Jew, and the translation of the debates on orientalism and postcolonialism across geographies. Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices not only illuminates many of the concerns that have animated the study of cultural politics over the past two decades; it also points toward new scholarly possibilities.

Amplitude, in both scope and wavelength, is the operative word for these essays. Each essay breaks out a cascade of examples the sheer wealth of citation alone makes this volume exceptional. Its vibrant combination of skepticism and generosity is Ella Shohat's trademark. Mary Louise Pratt, author of *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*