

## EINSTEIN CENTER CHRONOI

### Time and Awareness of Time in Antiquity

Workshop “Kairos, Krisis, Rhythmos:  
Time and Time Awareness in Ancient Medicine”

### The Theory of Pulse in the Arabic Canon Commentaries

Nayhan Fancy (DePauw University)

Although Galen’s account of pulse was accepted by classical Islamic physicians, post-1200 Arabic commentators on Ibn Sīnā’s *Canon of Medicine* began to assess the validity of this account as part of their larger commitment to verification. Ibn al-Nafīs’s *Commentary on the Canon* marks a watershed moment in the history of pulse discussions in the Islamic world since he completely overturned the Galenic/Avicennan account. This presentation will cover the details of both Ibn al-Nafīs’s account and how it was picked up and debated by subsequent commentators on the *Canon* and its abridgment, *The Epitome*.