

EINSTEIN CENTER CHRONOI

Time and Awareness of Time in Antiquity

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

Lost (and Found) in Translation: Features and Implications of the Arabic Translations of Galen’s Treatises on Crises and Critical Days

Glen Cooper (Einstein Center Chronoi)

My presentation will consider the Arabic reception of Greek concepts that were central to Galen’s crisis theory, especially concepts that were important for Galen’s creation of a theory from empirical data. These concepts include, for example: *logos*, *empeiria*, *stochasmos*, *plemmeles*, *akribela*, *episteme*, *pistis*, *bebaios*, and *physis*. These terms are important also for examining the relationships of patient, doctor, data, and nature to medical theory. The role of each term within the theory will be summarized, and then the Arabic translation of each will be considered. There is never a perfect one to one translation, and so senses lost in translation, and others introduced by translation will be considered, as well as their implications for the history of Galenic medicine, and science generally, in Arabic. Examples are drawn from Galen’s two treatises, *De diebus decretoriis* and *De crisibus*, and from selected Arabic authors.