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## *Ancient Medicine and Method* in Maja Hudoletnjak Grgić (1964–2010)

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Maja Hudoletnjak Grgić's main philosophical focus is the concept of method in Ancient Greek philosophy and medicine as a distinctive mark of forming medicine as an art in distinction to philosophy. Hudoletnjak Grgić's main thesis was that the Hippocratic treatise *On Ancient Medicine* tried to differentiate between philosophy –broadly speaking– and medicine as a separate craft. Behind her interpretation is an analysis of the disputes between empiricists and rationalists about the origin of medical knowledge that led to the separation of medicine from philosophy (Hudoletnjak Grgić 2007: IX). She *shows that the focus of this treatise from the Hippocratic corpus is put on the concept of method, rather than on empirical issues. In Hudoletnjak Grgić's interpretation, the Hippocratic treatise establishes outlines of medical theory, in distinction to philosophy, by rejecting the methods which are more proper to philosophy.*

Hudoletnjak Grgić identifies three important topics of inquiry in the treatise: 1. How ought medical theories be formulated? (What are their starting points, what should they be based on, and what conditions must some theory satisfy to be able to function as an explanation in medicine?) 2. Which conditions must medicine meet in order to be considered an art (craft, skill)? 3. The formulation and contrast of two models of scientific research: one that starts from pre-accepted fundamental concepts on which theory is built, and the second which starts from observation and research (Hudoletnjak Grgić 2007: 6). In a posthumously-published essay, "Hippocratic Strategies for Accounting for Failure in Medicine", Hudoletnjak Grgić stresses the Hippocratic strategies to defend medicine as a complete art by explaining that "a good physician differs from an incompetent one in that he makes only small errors, those that are inescapable and usually not fatal" (Hudoletnjak Grgić 2010: 156).

**Primary Sources:**

Hudoletnjak Grgić, Maja 2007. *Medicina i metoda. Hipokratski spis O staroj medicini*. Zagreb: KruZak.

Hodletnjak Grgić, Maja 2010. Hippocratic Strategies for Accounting for Failure in Medicine, in Grgić, Filip (ed.): *Ogledi o antičkoj filozofiji I medicini*. Zagreb: KruZak, 129-156.

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