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Healthcare As A Power Structure

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Abstract

We apply Polyscopic Modeling, the methodology recently developed in the University of Oslo Information Design Group, to historical development of healthcare, aiming at both a methodological and a thematic contribution.

Our methodology allows us to create scientific-like results and theories in non-standard areas. The idea is to create *scopes* or new ways of looking and conceptualizing in a certain domain. The goal is the so-called *high-level views* which, like the view from the top of a mountain, allow us to see and understand the broad features of a domain. In the article we show how this approach may be applied to research in history of medicine.

We develop a view of the healthcare as a *power structure* (a custom-defined concept), i.e. as evolving in a way which suits power interests rather than the health of the people. We show that our theory explains certain well-documented trends and events. Our intention is not to claim that healthcare 'really is' a *power structure*, but to present an angle of looking which can help us see and understand problems, and discuss solution strategies.

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