Accepted to  
EAHMH Conference, Paris, September 24-26, 2005

Healthcare As  
A Power Structure

Dino Karabeg\textsuperscript{1}, Gunnar Tellnes\textsuperscript{2}, Almira Karabeg\textsuperscript{3}

dino.karabeg@ifi.uio.no

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 main 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 the 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.

\textsuperscript{1,3} Information Design Group  
Department of Informatics, University of Oslo  
P. O. Box 1080 Blindern, 0316 Oslo, Norway

\textsuperscript{2} Institute of General Practice and Community Medicine, University of Oslo.  
P.O.Box 1130 Blindern  
NO-0318 Oslo, Norway