

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE

INSTITUTIO SANTORIANA
FONDAZIONE COMEL



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Graduate School of Arts and Sciences



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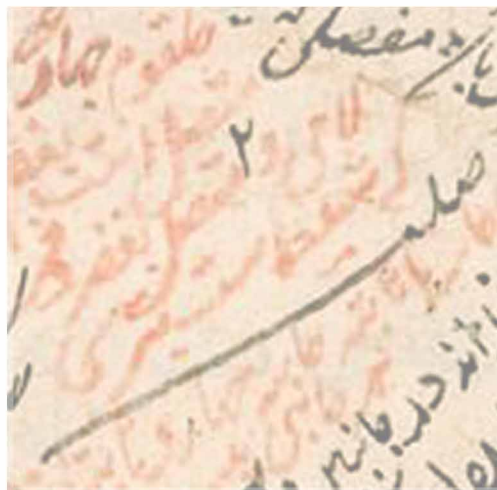


UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA



STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA

CSMBR
ONLINE
EVENTS



THE HUMAN BODY ACCORDING TO AL-FARABI

22
OCTOBER
2024
5.00 pm CET

AN IMAGE OF THE COSMOS AND A MODEL FOR THE VIRTUOUS CITY

CECILIA MARTINI BONADEO • University of Padua

Abū Nasr al-Fārābī, *al-mu'allim al-tānī* (“the second master”) of the Arab-Muslim philosophical tradition after Aristotle, presents the physiology of the human body in his *Epistle on the Refutation of Galen Concerning that in which He Disagrees with Aristotle regarding the Parts of the Human Body*. This treatise, which is edited in Arabic but not yet translated into a Western language, presents the physiology of the human body in the context of a discussion of the

relationship between physics and medicine and the position of both disciplines in relation to Farabi's epistemology. In addition, al-Fārābī devotes in chapters 11 and 12 of Section IV of the *Principles of the Opinions of the Inhabitants of the Perfect City* to the discussion of bodily functions. In this treatise, man is presented as a microcosm, and the study of the parts of his body – his limbs, his organs, with special attention to his reproductive

organs – and the body-related functions of his soul are fundamental to the understanding of the macrocosm and its intelligible principles. Like the cosmos, the healthy human body displays a hierarchical organization, a model for the political order of the virtuous city. The lecture will introduce al-Fārābī's physiology and idea of medicine through commented readings from these works.