IMPAIRED CONSCIOUSNESS IN ANCIENT MEDICAL TEXTS

Impaired consciousness is a topic lying at the intersection of science and philosophy. It encourages reflection on questions concerning human nature, the body, the soul, the mind and their relation, as well as the blurry limits between health, disease, life and death. This is the first study of impaired consciousness in the works of some highly influential Greek and Roman medical writers who lived in periods ranging from classical Greece to the Roman Empire in the second century CE. Andrés Pelavski explores the notion and contrasts ancient and contemporary theoretical frameworks in order to challenge some established ideas about mental illness in antiquity. All the ancient texts are translated and the theoretical concepts clearly explained.

ANDRÉS D. PELAVSKI holds a postdoctoral position at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is a consultant anaesthetist as well as a classicist and the book originated in his doctoral thesis at the University of Cambridge, which was awarded the Hare Prize in 2022.

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009616591

DOI: 10.1017/9781009616577

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009616577

First published 2026

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
NAMES: Pelavski Atlas, Andrés Diego author
TITLE: Impaired consciousness in ancient medical texts / Andrés D. Pelavski.
DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2026. | Series:
Cambridge classical studies | Includes bibliographical references and index.
IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2025015037 | ISBN 9781009616591 hardback | ISBN 9781009616577 ebook |
ISBN 9781009616607 paperback
SUBJECTS: LCSH: Loss of consciousness | Altered states of consciousness | Medicine, Ancient
CLASSIFICATION: LCC RB150.L67 P45 2026
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2025015037

ISBN 978-1-009-61659-1 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-61660-7 Paperback

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