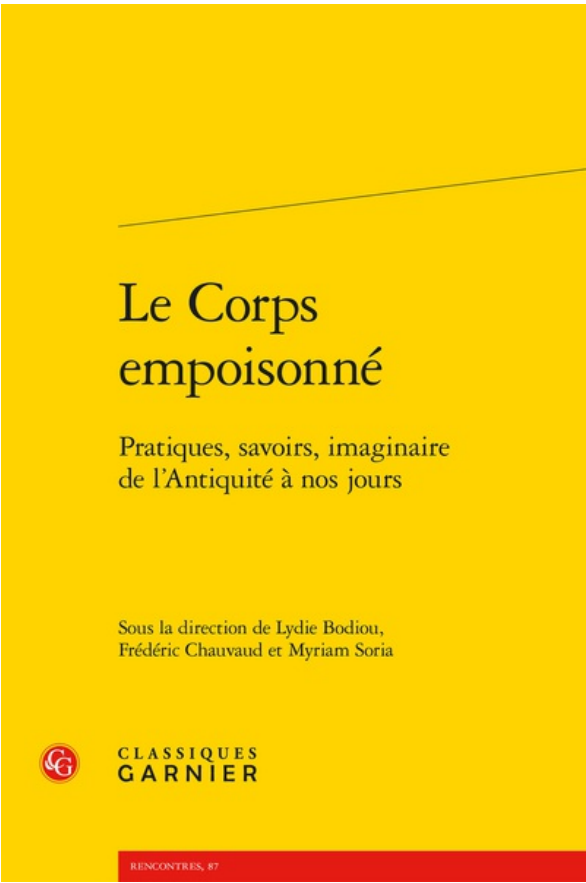


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Venenum, virus et putredo L'image du corps empoisonné dans la construction du concept de maladie infectieuse à la Renaissance

- **Publication type:** Article from a collective work
- **Collective work:**
[Le Corps empoisonné](#)
[. Pratiques, savoirs, imaginaire de l'Antiquité à nos jours](#)
- **Author:** Monfort (Marie-Laure)
- **Abstract:** A « subtle poison » was the cause of plagues, according to Diderot's *Encyclopédie*. In 1555, Janus Cornarius' *De peste* appeared, employing venenum over virus to explain poisoning leading to pestilent fevers, caused by little arrows (*spicula*). This image broke with the official medical theory which judged pestilent fever to be caused by an internal *putredo*. The *De peste*, preferring venenum to virus and putredo conferred on poison the force of an epistemological model.
- **Pages:** 309 to 323
- **Collection:** [Encounters](#), n° 87
- **CLIL theme:** 3378 -- HISTOIRE -- Histoire générale et thématique
- **EAN:** 9782812430077
- **ISBN:** 978-2-8124-3007-7
- **ISSN:** 2261-1851
- **DOI:** [10.15122/isbn.978-2-8124-3007-7.p.0309](https://doi.org/10.15122/isbn.978-2-8124-3007-7.p.0309)
- **Publisher:** Classiques Garnier
- **Online publication:** 08-13-2014
- **Language:** French
- [Display online](#)