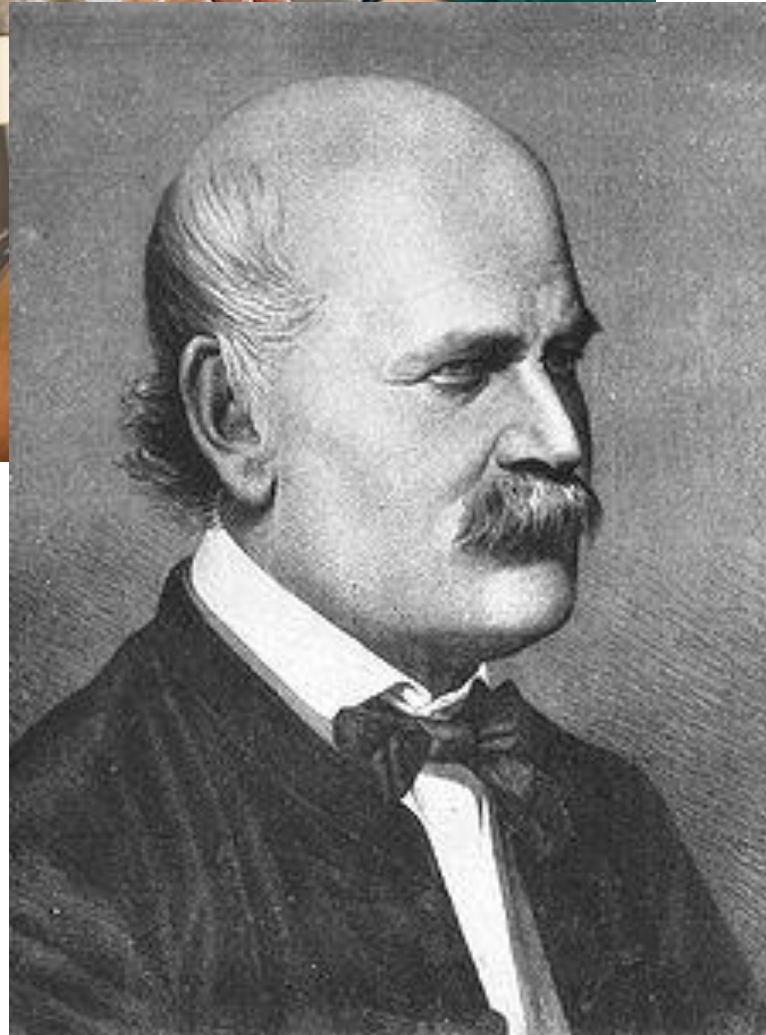


Negotiating Truth:

Semmelweis, Discourse on Handhygiene and Politics of Emotion.

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[...] I declare
before God that
you are a
murderer and the
history of
'childbed fever'
would not be too
unfair if it
remembers you
as a medical Nero

...to born a child is as dangerous as the Lung infection of the first degree..

A chlorine solution before each delivery
particles coming from autopsies and
other medical interventions

Against the then-current miasmatic
theory of epidemic influences

Only in 1865 Joseph Lister has banished
the miasmatic theory



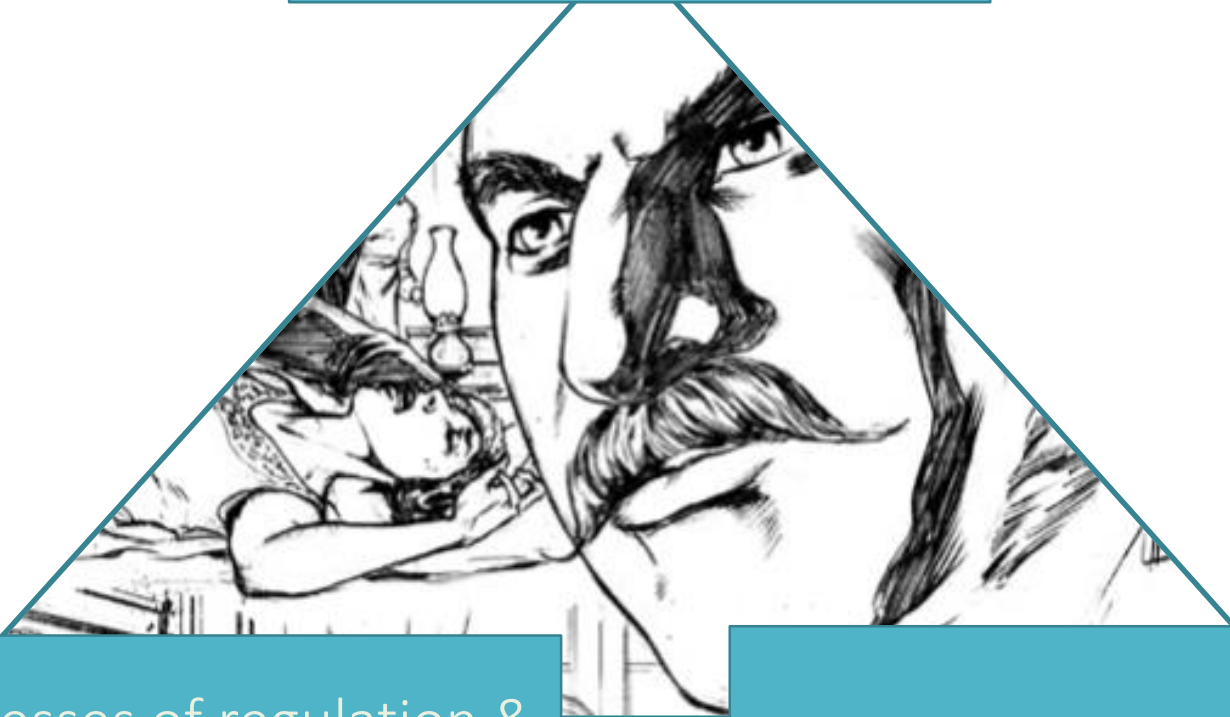
Semmelweis as an icon

- Medical History - pioneer of handwashing , saviour of women
- Theory of Science – Semmelweis' reflex
- History of Science – image of a mad scientist

Political Science

- implementation of scientific discoveries
- site of truth production

Possibilities &
imaginaries



Processes of regulation &
governing

(Power) Structures

Semmelweis as a case for Political Science

Zone of negotiation

- Observation
- Comparison
- Search for causality
- Argumentation

“uncomfortable” & “time consuming”

Discourse:

- knowledge that shapes our view on the world but is also shaped by it

- values
- beliefs



Emotions:

- neither feelings nor affects
- how people judge certain values and belief
- how they classify it as „good“ or „bad“

Negotiating Truth:

Hand hygiene is the single most important intervention for reducing healthcare associated infections and preventing the spread of antimicrobial resistance. [...] But why - as we mark 150 years since the publication of Ignaz Semmelweis' landmark monograph on the subject - do we continue to repeat it?"

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