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 handwasing, 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
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"
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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