Semmelweis’ Lesson for the Current Innovations in Health Care

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The fight for hand disinfection

*Wiener Medizinische Wochenzeitschrift 1856*

The editorial remark on the report of the success of Semmelweis's method in Budapest

„We think that this theory of chlorine washing is outdated. The experiences and the statistical evidences of most of European birth clinics contradict it. The time has come to stop this theory from deviating us from our success.“
Medicine - pioneer of handwasing, saviour of women

Theory of Science – Semmelweis’ reflex

Political Science:
- implementation of innovation
- role of emotions in these implementations
Struggle over values

Struggle over beliefs

The role of emotions in that

Possibilities & responsibilities

Imaginaries & path dependencies

The power of the everyday
We believe in the supreme position of the scientific evidence.

But this does not always work.

Fight for truth: what are the rules of this fight?
‘evidence-based’ knowledge, which supplies policies with legitimacy (Frickel & Moore; Fuller; Fischer; Dryzek; Stone)

- vexatious knowledge
- partisan knowledge

Factual knowledge

'The (emotional) struggle over values, beliefs patterns of behavior

‘emotions’
Semmelweis as a pioneer of health care activism?

Implementing innovation:
- how people judge certain values and beliefs
- how they classify them as „good“ or „bad“
- who takes profit
- Whose interests will be affected
- who will take profit
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