

# Semmelweis' Lesson for the Current Innovations in Health Care



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# The fight for hand disinfection

*Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift*  
1856

The editorial remark on the report of the success of Semmelweis 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„We think that this theory of chlorine washing is outdated.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.**“



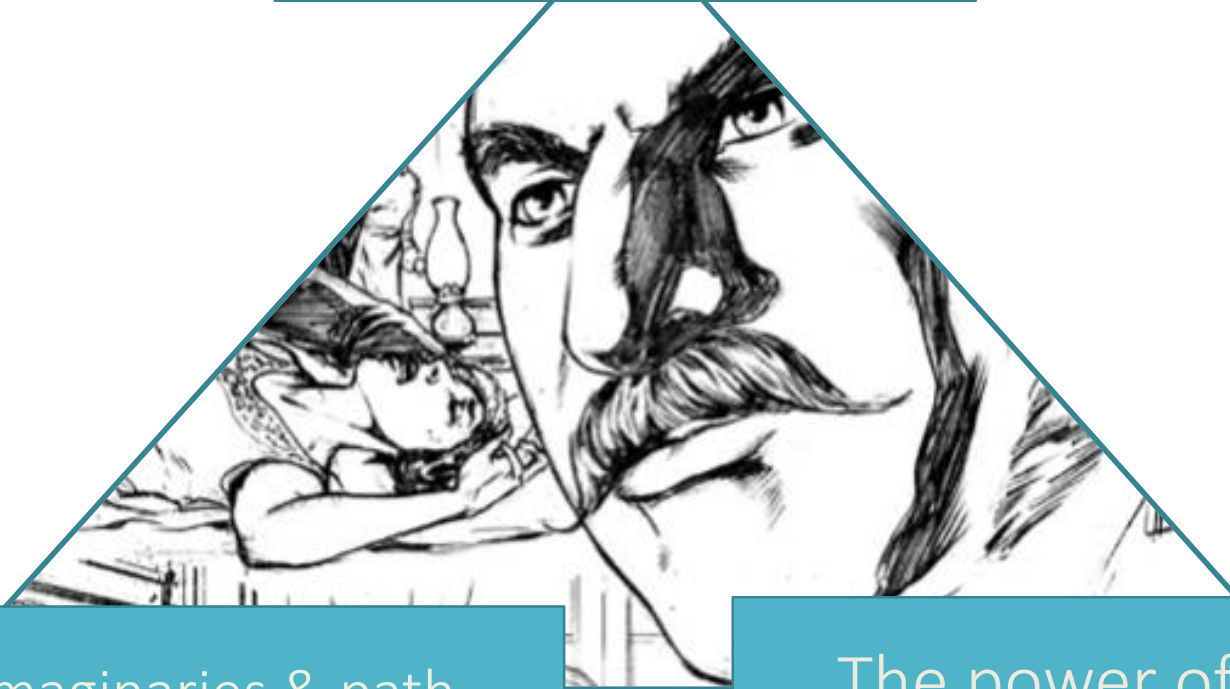


Medicine - pioneer of handwashing, saviour of women

Theory of Science – Semmelweis' reflex

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

Possibilities & responsibilities



Imaginariness & path dependencies

The power of the everyday

Struggle over values

Struggle over beliefs

The role of emotions in that

We believe in the supreme position  
of the scientific evidence

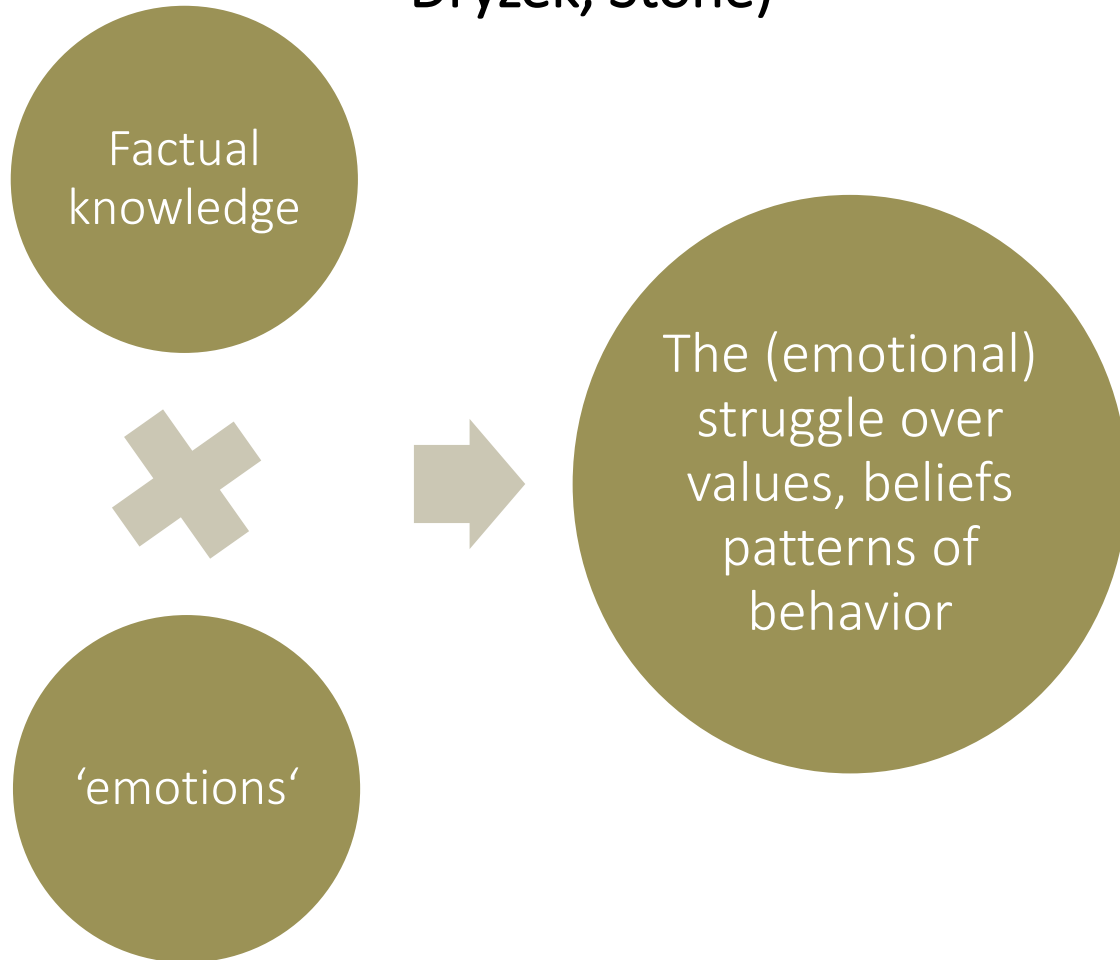


Fight for truth:  
what are the  
rules of this  
fight?

But this does not always work



'evidence-based' knowledge, which  
supplies policies with legitimacy  
(Frickel & Moore; Fuller; Fischer;  
Dryzek; Stone)



- vexatious  
knowledge

- partisan  
knowledge



## 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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**IN DEN**  
**Ignaz Semmelweis**  
**HÄNDEN**  
**Pionier der Hygiene**  
**DER ÄRZTE**

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