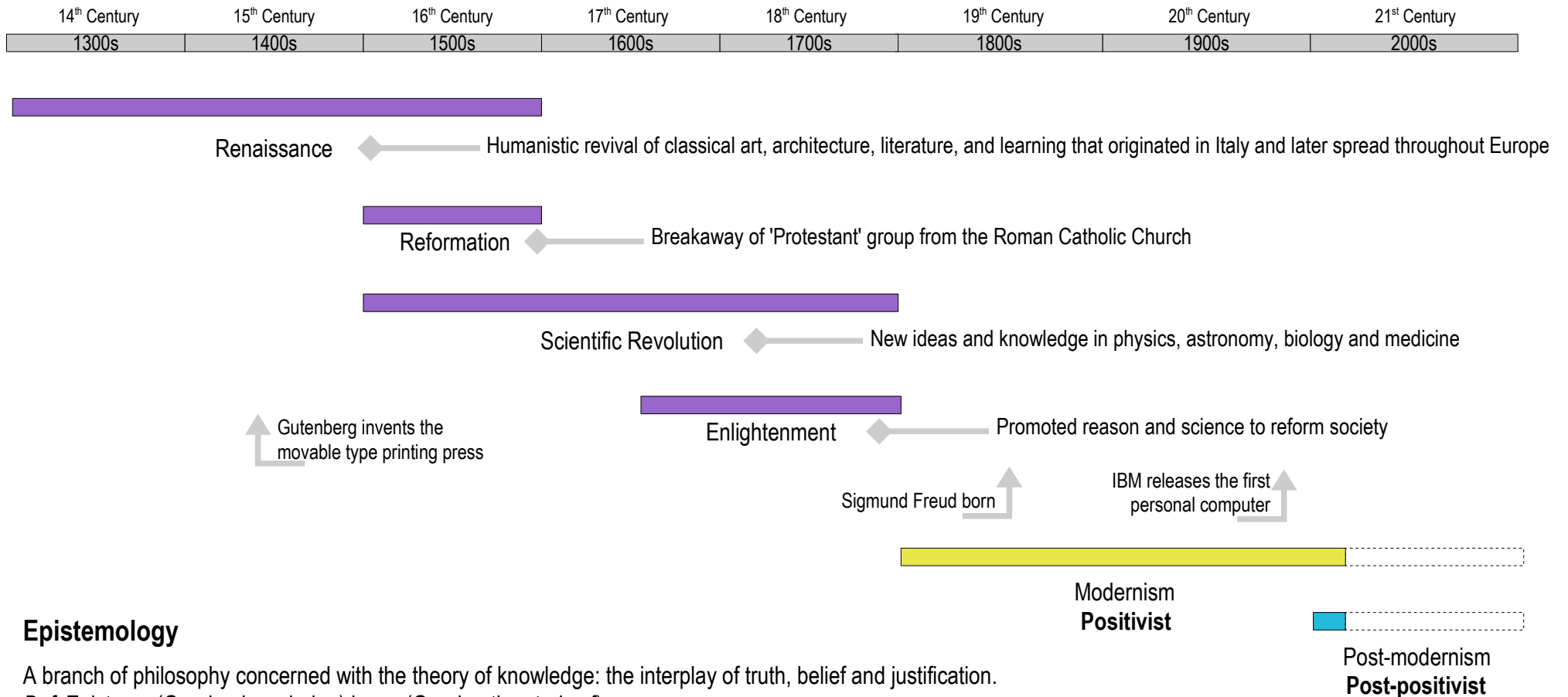


Post-positivist Approach to Research: in context



Epistemology

A branch of philosophy concerned with the theory of knowledge: the interplay of truth, belief and justification.

Def: Episteme (Greek = knowledge) logos (Greek = the study of)

- What is knowledge?
- How is knowledge acquired?
- How do we know what we know?
- Who can create knowledge?

Steup, M, 2011, Epistemology, *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2011 Edition)
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/epistemology/>
 (Last accessed Jan 2012)

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Q What does Post-positivism mean for us as Psychotherapy Researchers?

- Knowledge becomes**
- more than we can language
 - embraces paradox, "this and that"
 - contextual, ecology
 - inclusive, collaborative, shared meanings (aka Social Constructivism)
 - Acknowledge our 'bias', our filters

Process of Research

- Ethics as a set of principles
- Multiple perspectives, truths and languages
- System is open & complex
- Depathologises, recognition of "in-process"
- Access to information
- Borrow rigour from positivist
- Comfortable "not knowing"
- Cannot "not influence"
- Requires flexibility
- Reflexivity