Formal Ontology, Patterns and Anti-Patterns for Next-Generation Conceptual Modeling

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"Conceptual Modeling is the activity of describing aspects of the physical and social world for the purpose of understanding and communication... the adequacy of a conceptual modeling notation rests in its ability to promote understanding about a shared reality among its human users"

(John Mylopoulos, Conceptual Modeling and Telos, 1992)

The **Taxonomy** of Animals in *The Celestial Emporium of Benevolent Knowledge (Borges)*

- Those that belong to the emperor
- Those that resemble flies from a distance
- Those that have just broken a flower vase
- Embalmed ones
- Fabulous ones

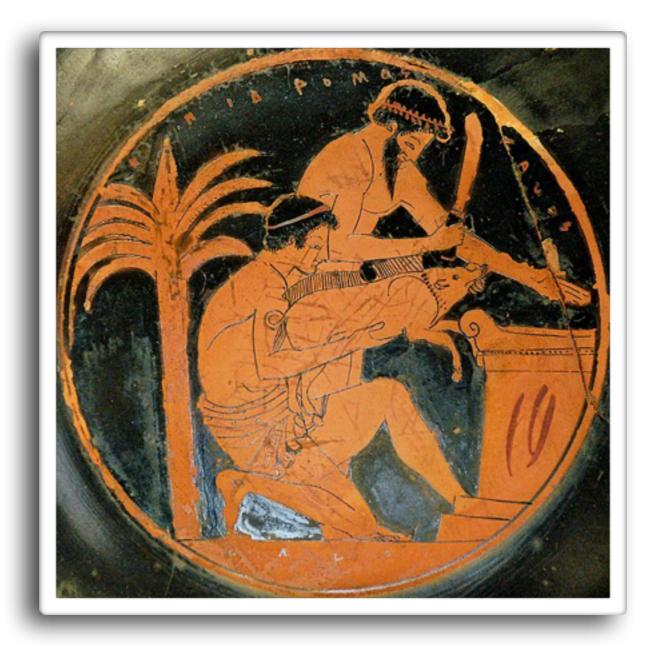
"Those that resemble flies from a distance" is a logically possible way to group objects, but it's not how we naturally make sense of the world. No real language would have a noun for such a category...Real nouns capture something deep; they refer to **kinds** of things that are thought to share deep properties..."

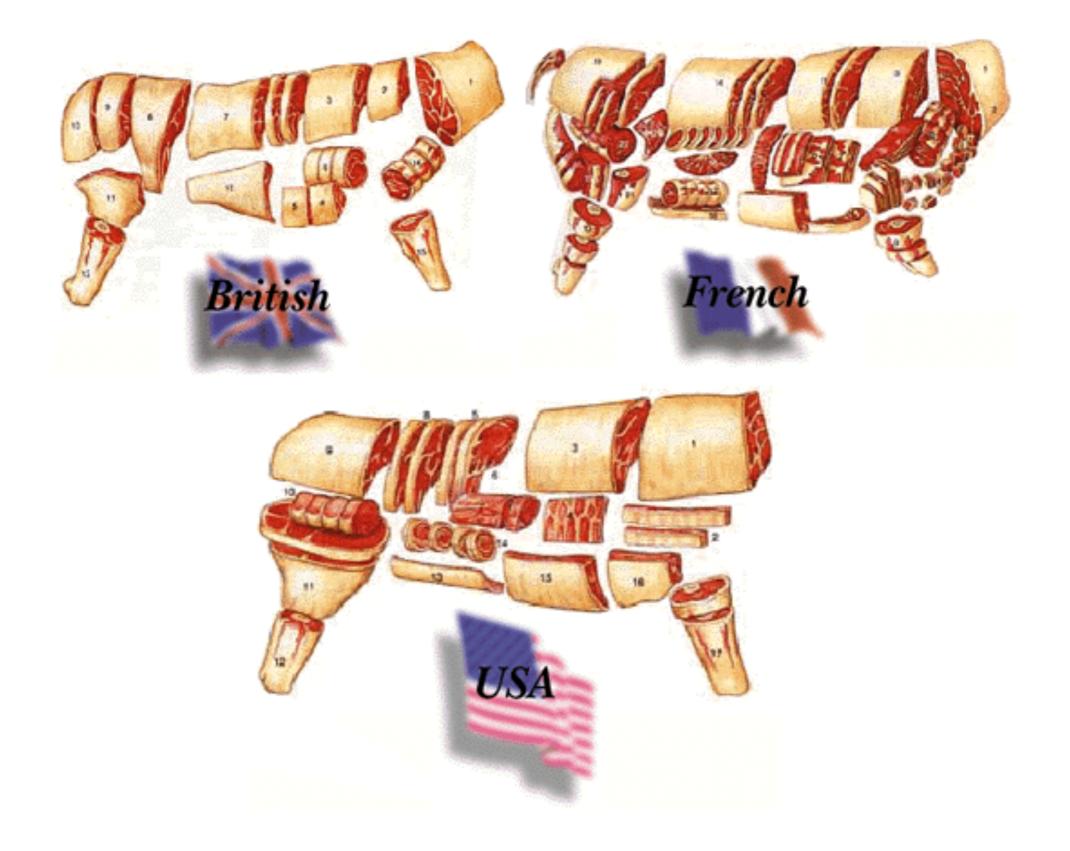
(Paul Bloom, How Pleasure Works, 2010)

"...As the evolutionary theorist Stephen Jay Gould put it, our classifications don't just exist to avoid chaos, they are "theories about the basis of natural order."

(Paul Bloom, How Pleasure Works, 2010)

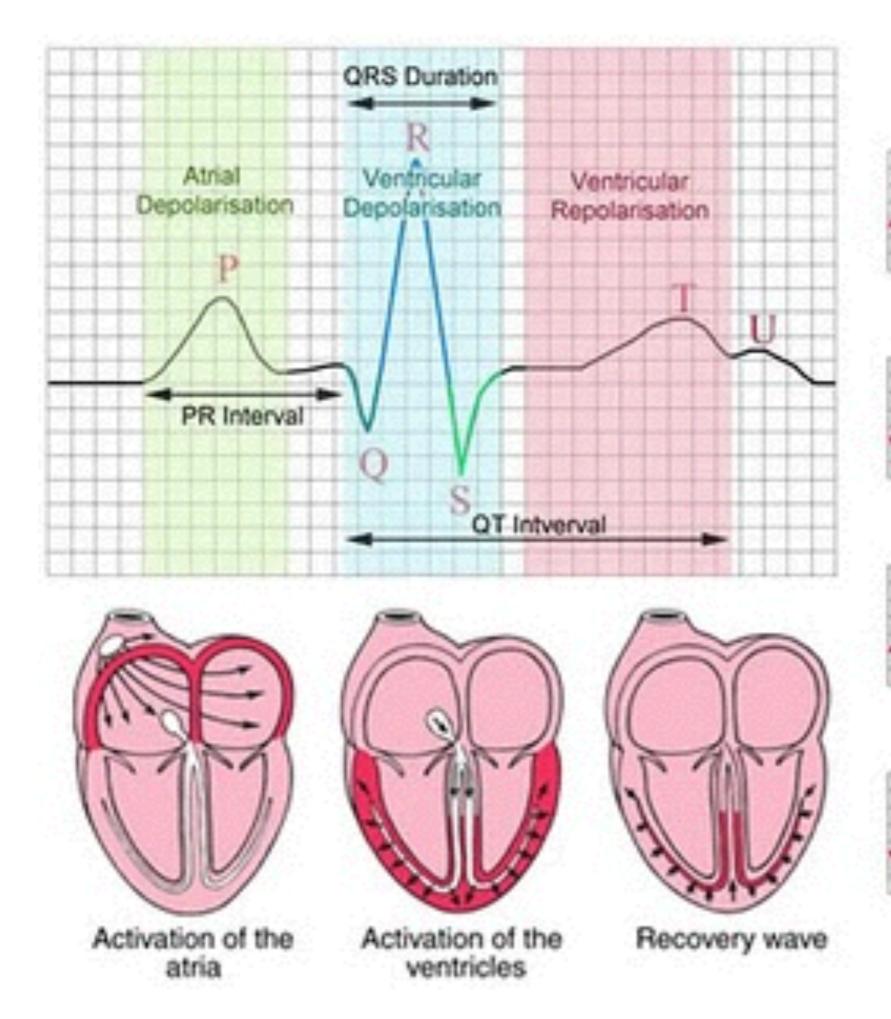
Carving reality at its joints [Plato]:

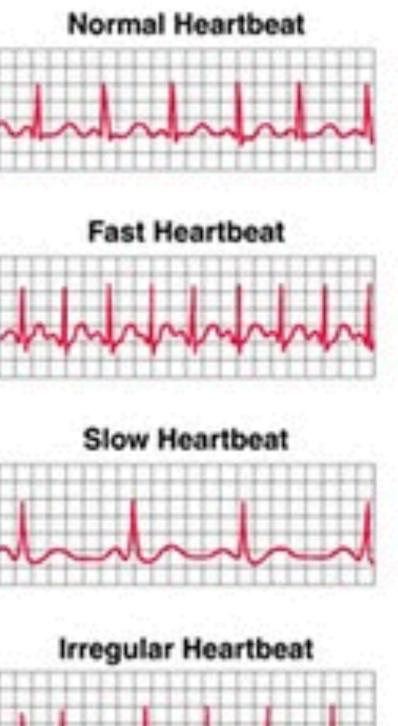






blood glucose. Talking to other scientists about data





"Carving up Reality"

We need to guarantee

Intra-worldview Consistency

and

Inter-worldview Interoperability

Ontology

- For that we need a *a prioristic* system of categories and their ties addressing issues of Identity, Unity (Parts and Wholes), Individuation, Change, Classification and Taxonomic Structures, Dependence (Existential, Historical, Relational, Notional), Causality, Essential and Accidental Characterization
- We need Formal Ontology and Ontological Analysis

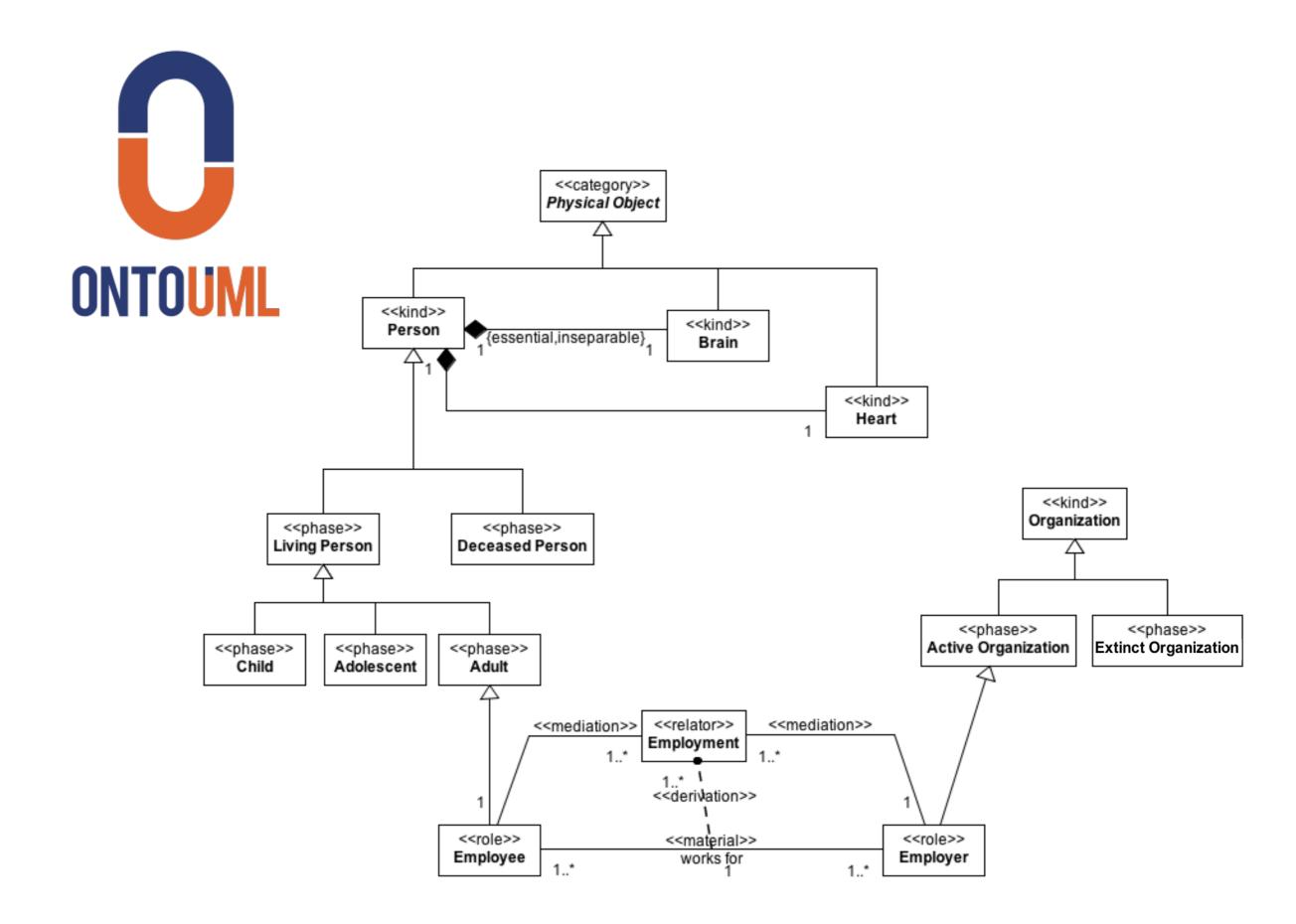
Ontology-Driven Conceptual Modeling

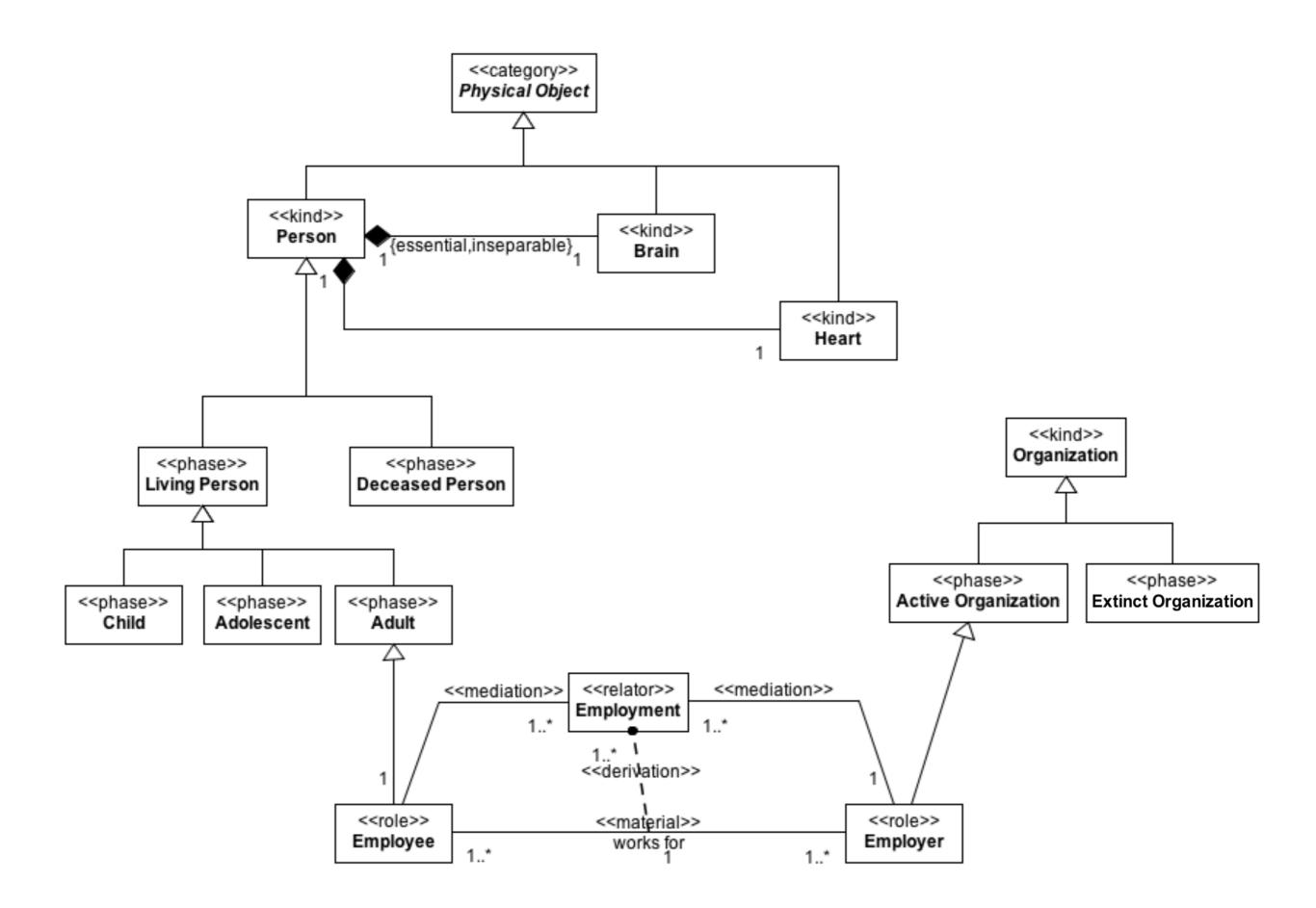
A discipline aiming at developing ontology-based methodologies, computational tools and **modeling languages** for the area of Conceptual Modeling

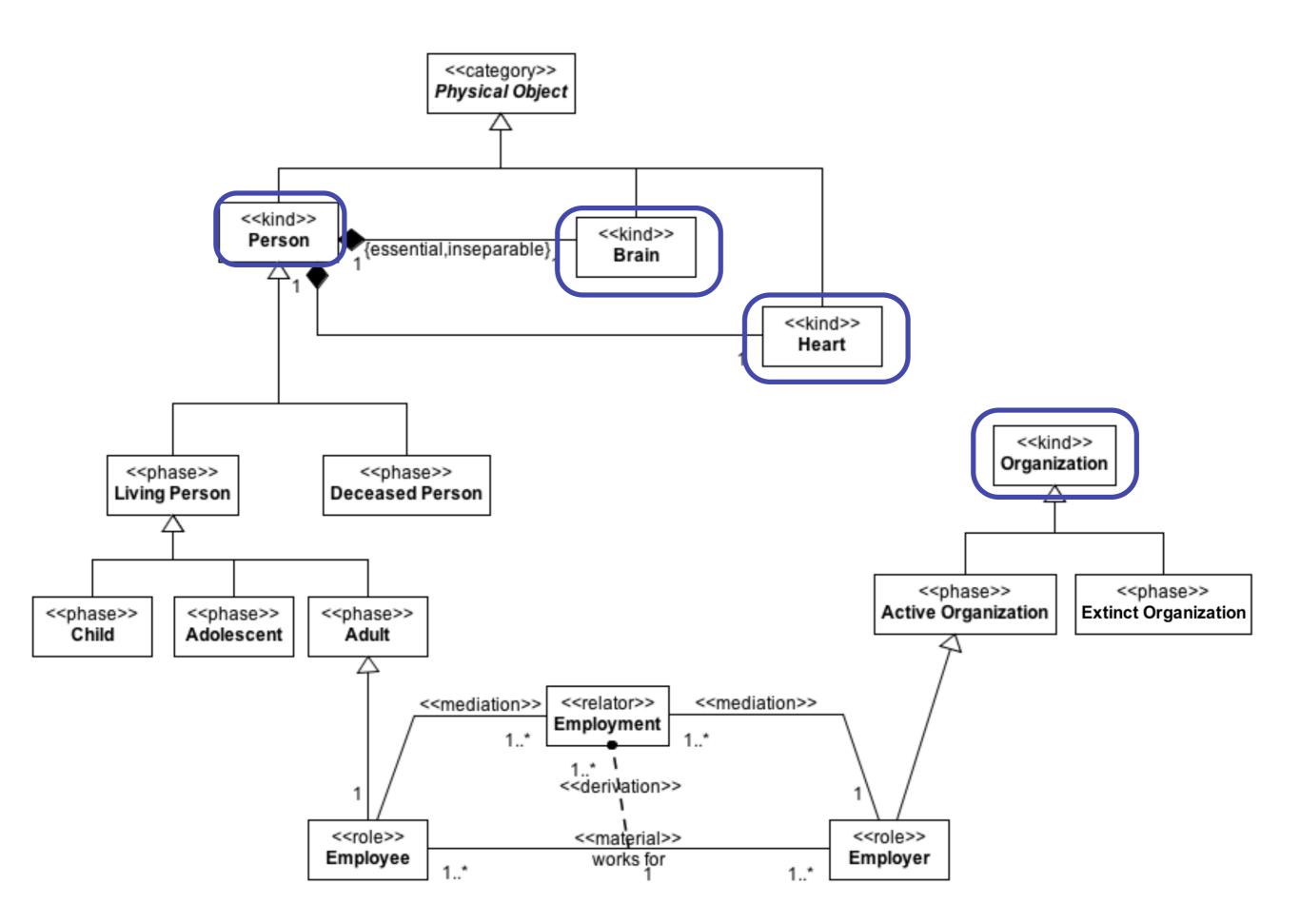
UFO

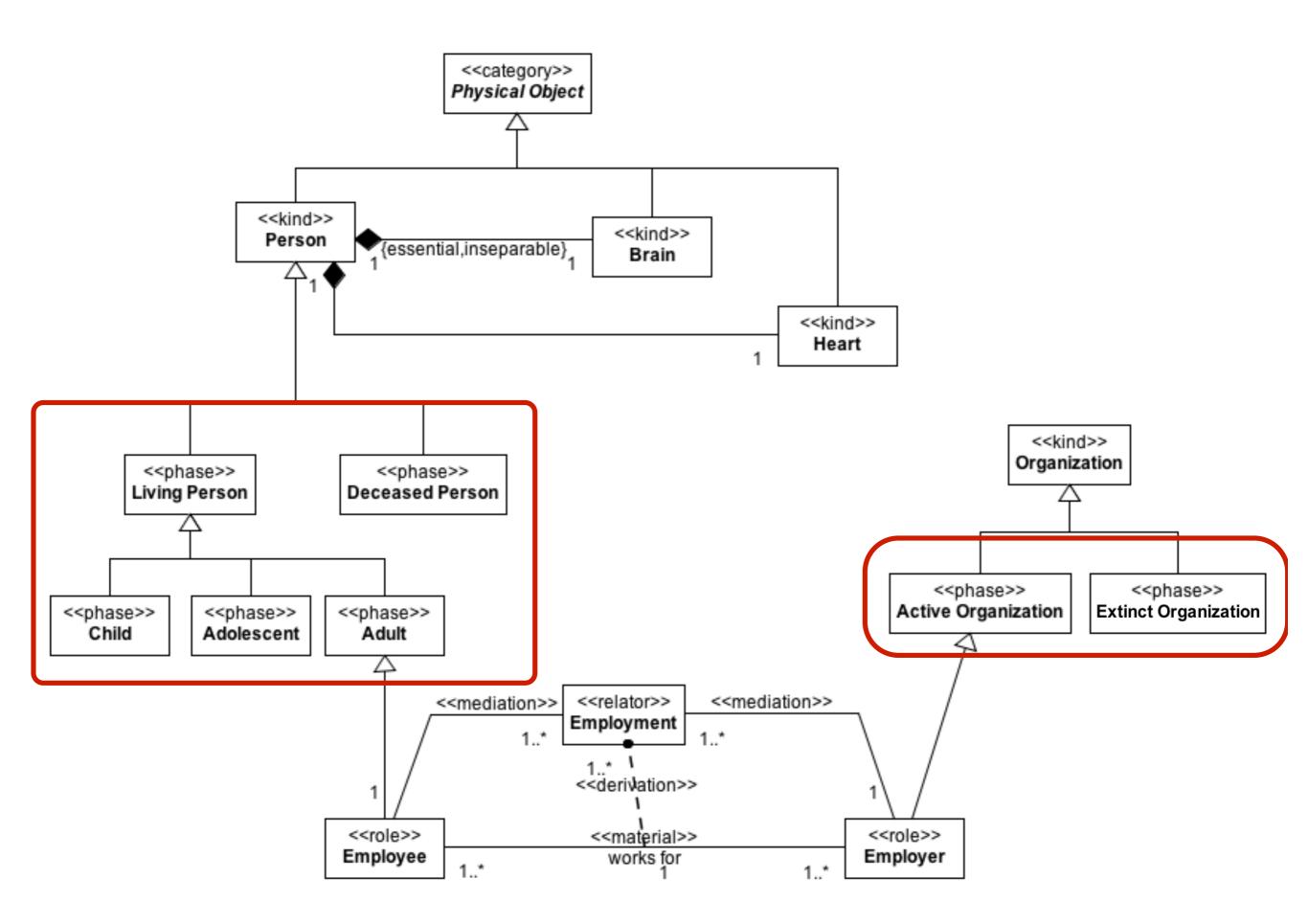
(Unified Foundational Ontology)

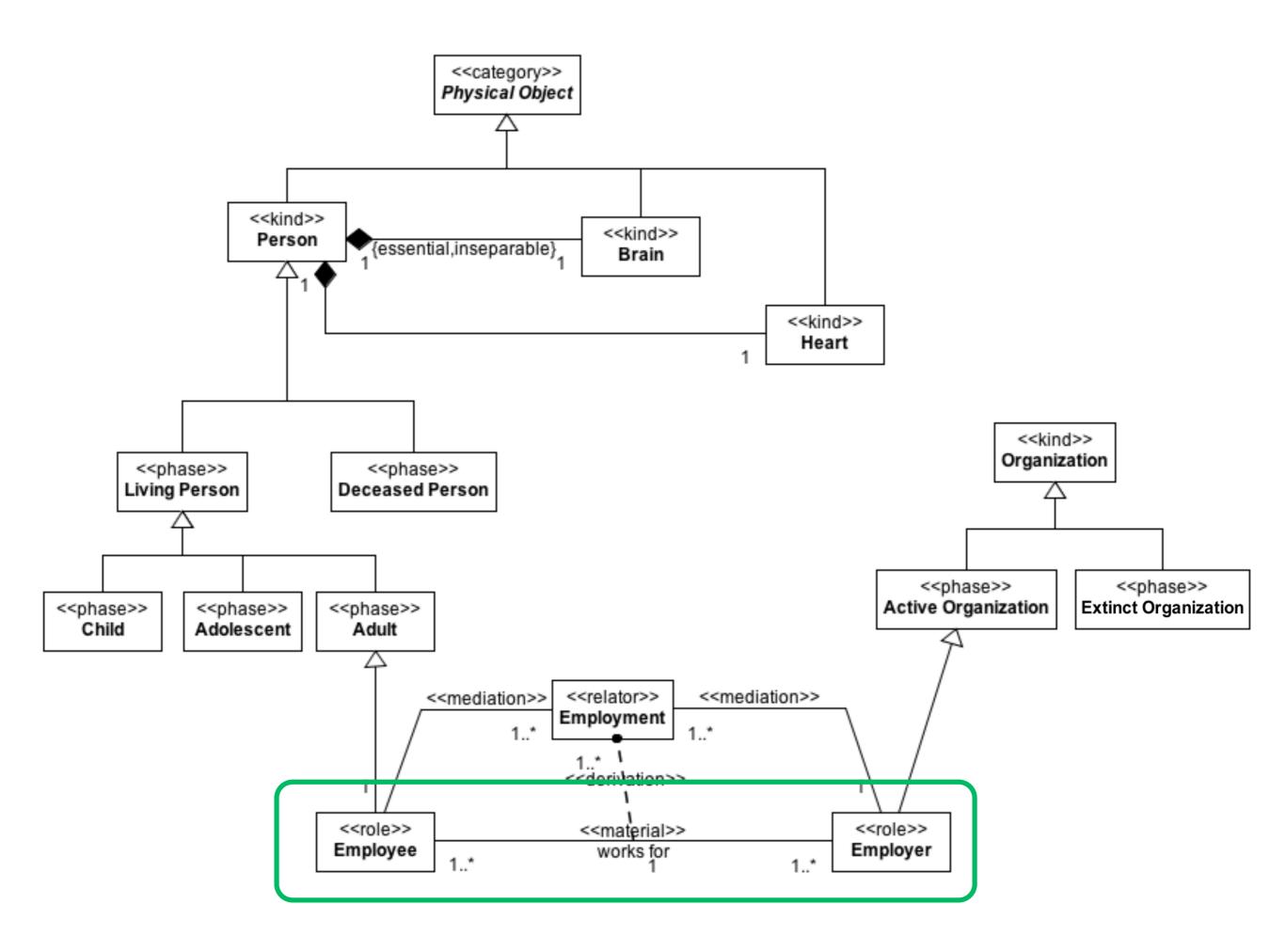
- Over the years, we have built a Philosophically and Cognitively well-founded Ontology to contribute to the general goal of serving as a Foundation for Conceptual Modeling
- This Ontology has been used to as a theory for addressing may classical conceptual modeling constructs such as Object Types and Taxonomic Structures (CAISE 2004, CAISE 2007, CAISE 2012), Part-Whole Relations (CAISE 2007, CAISE 2009, FOIS2010, CAISE 2011), Intrinsic and Relational Properties (ER 2006, ER 2008, ER 2011, CAISE 2015), Weak Entities, Attributes and Datatypes (ER 2006), Events (ER 2013), Services (EDOC 2013), Capabilities (EDOC 2013), Goals, Communities, Organizational Structures, etc....

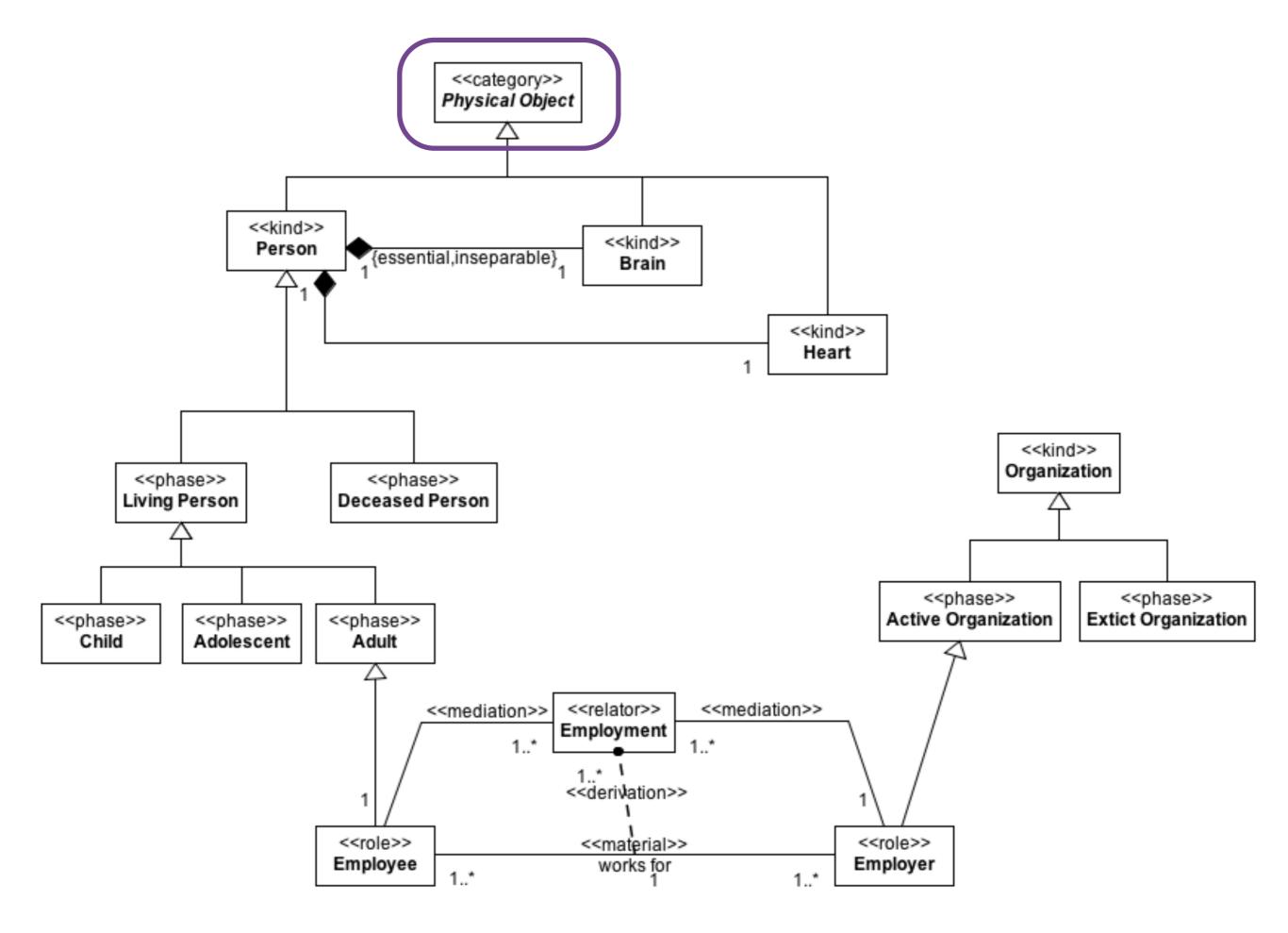


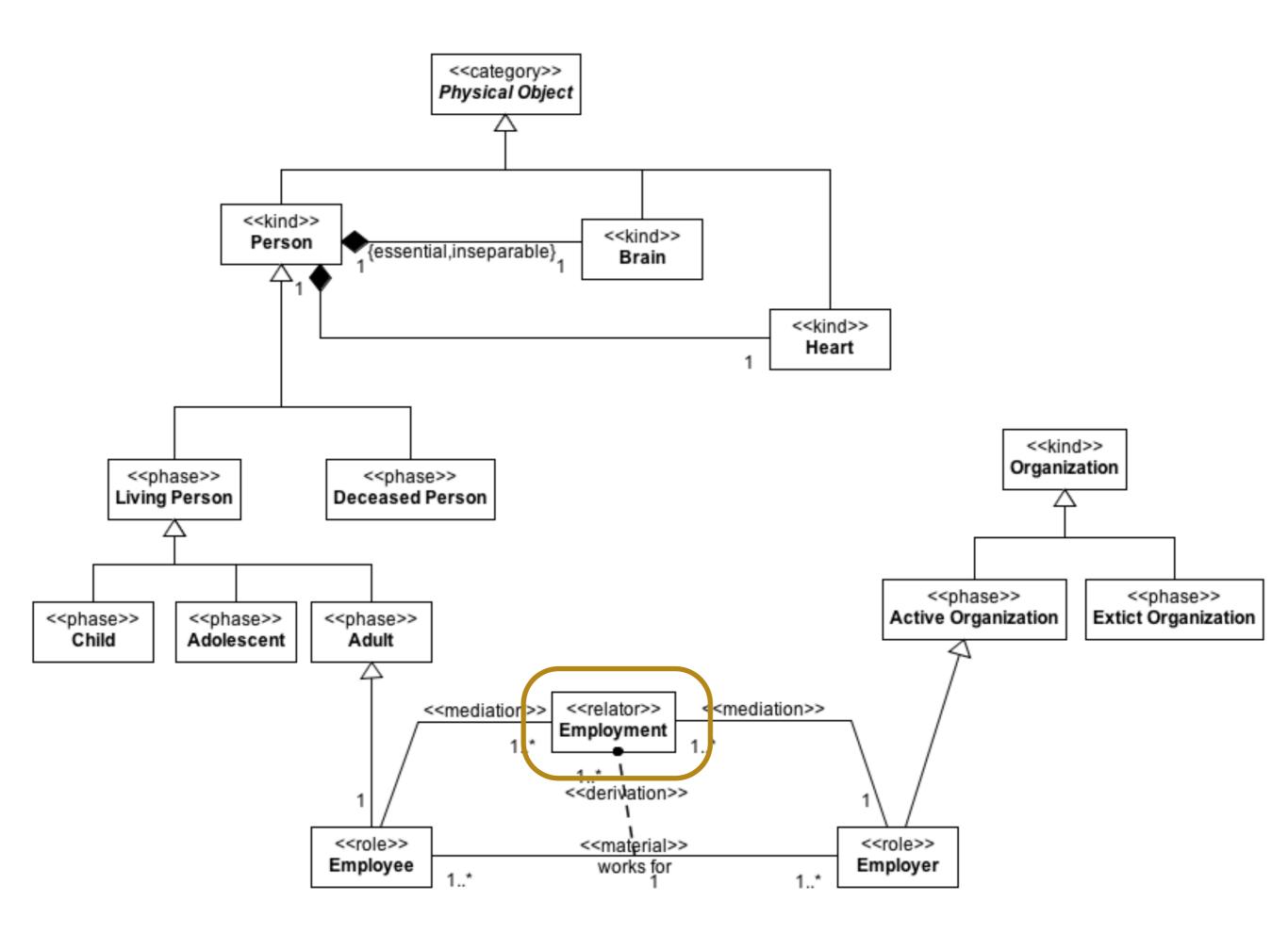


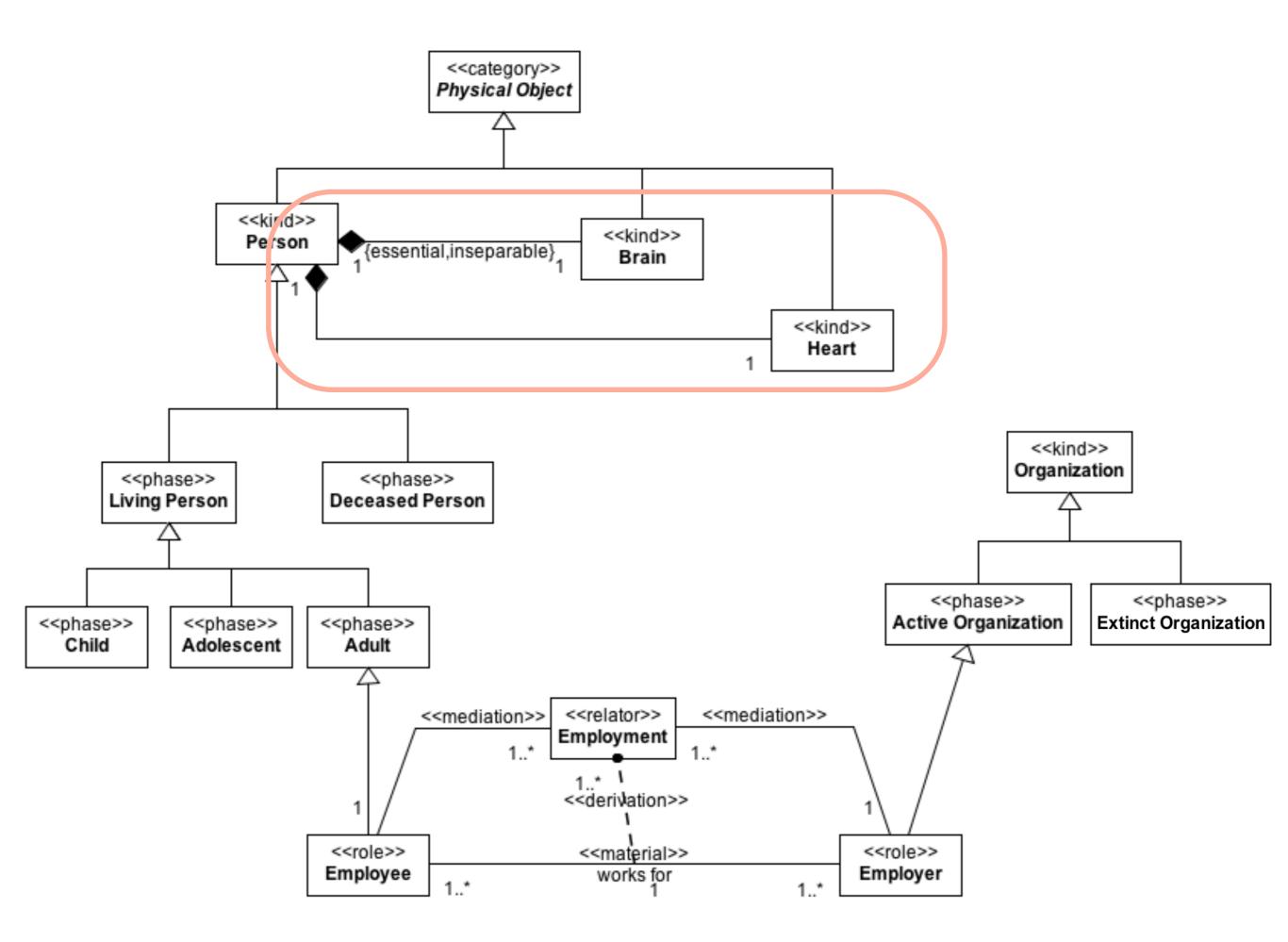




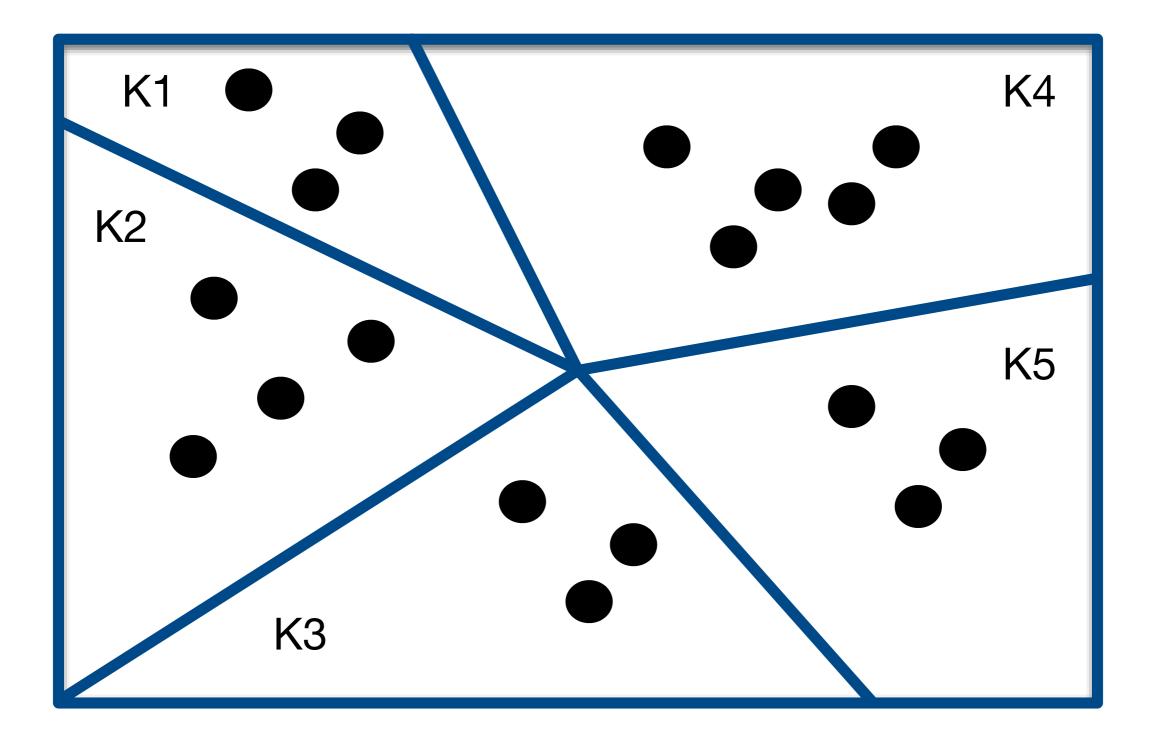




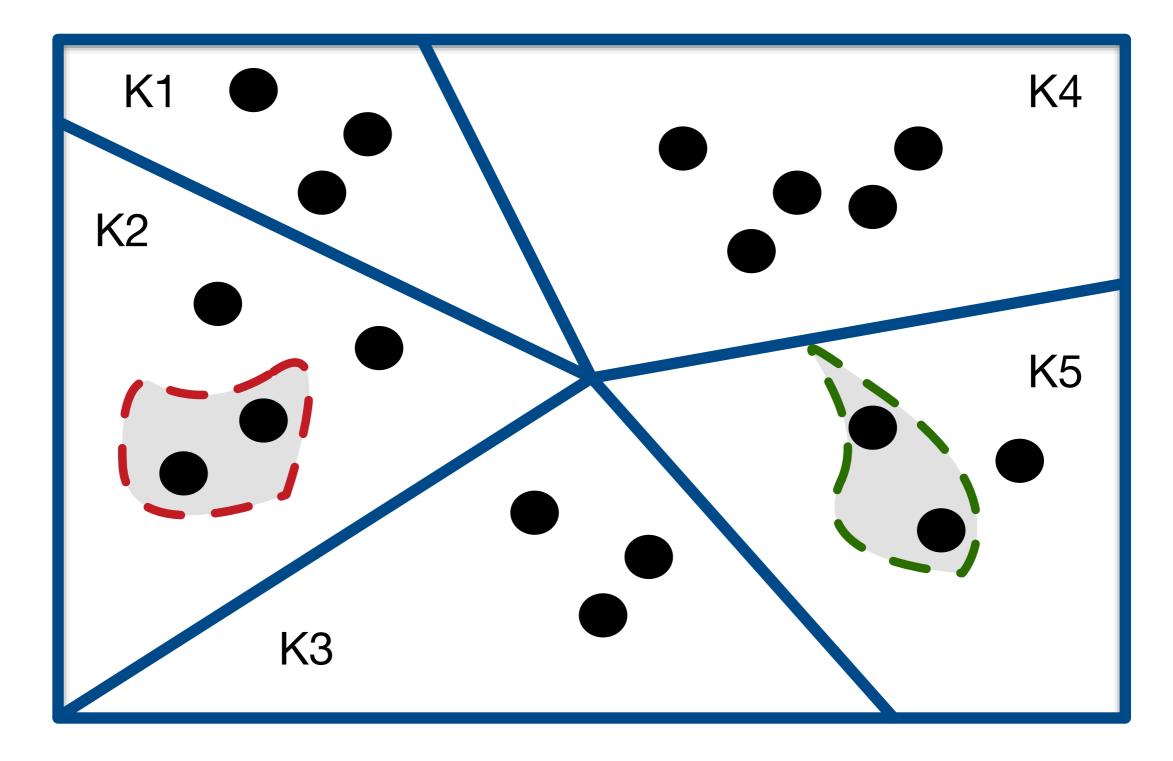




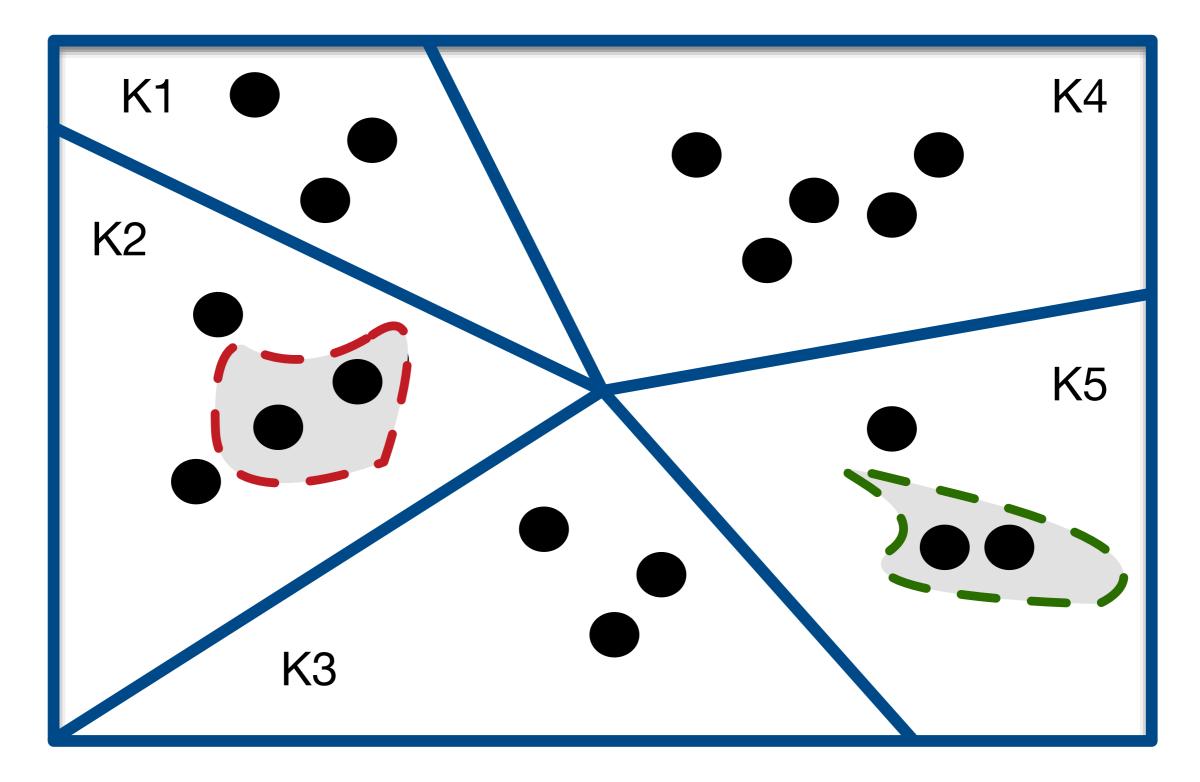
Kinds



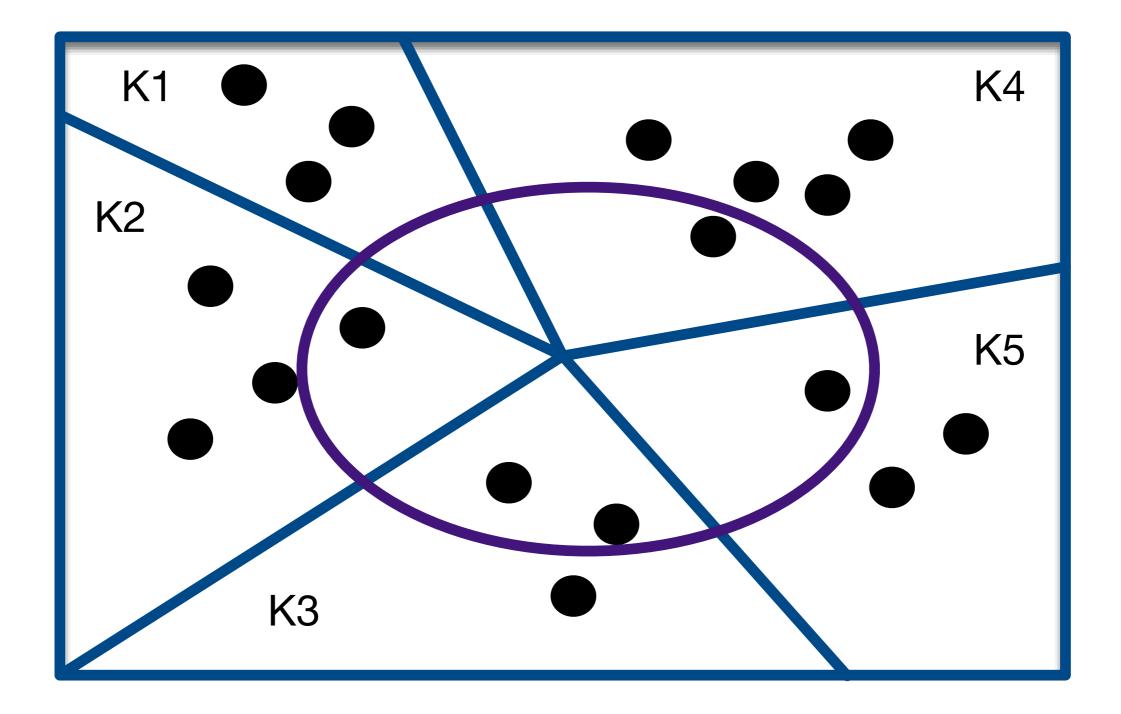
Anti-Rigid Sortals (**Roles** and **Phases**)



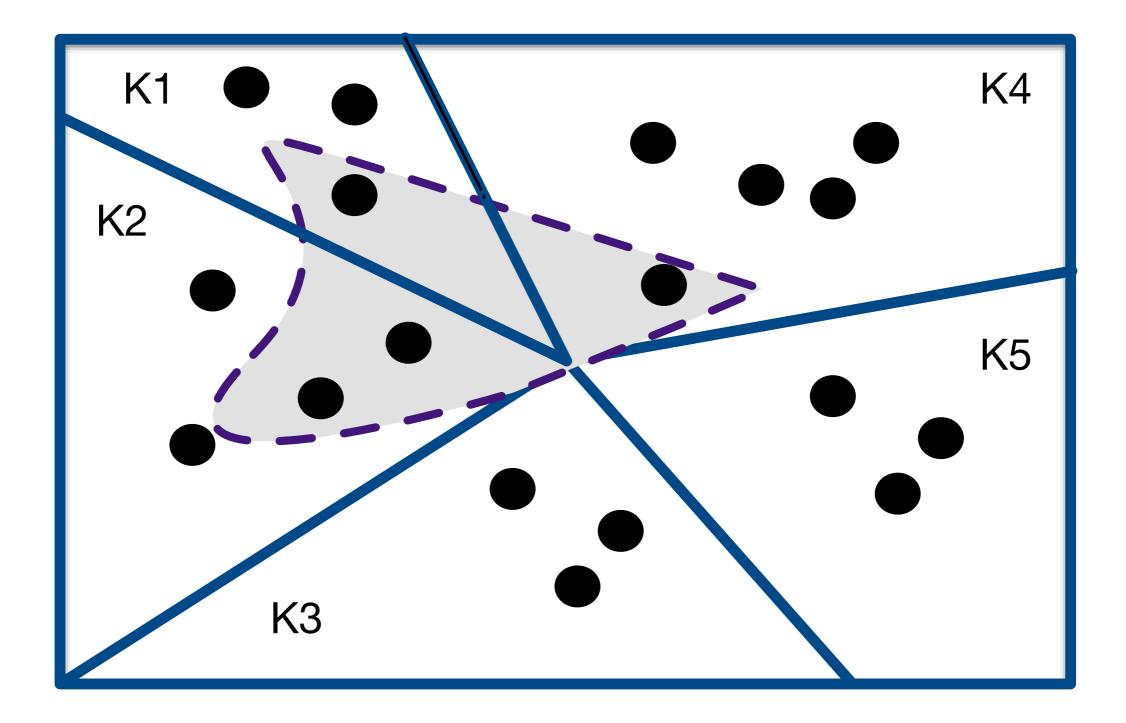
Anti-Rigid Sortals (**Roles** and **Phases**)



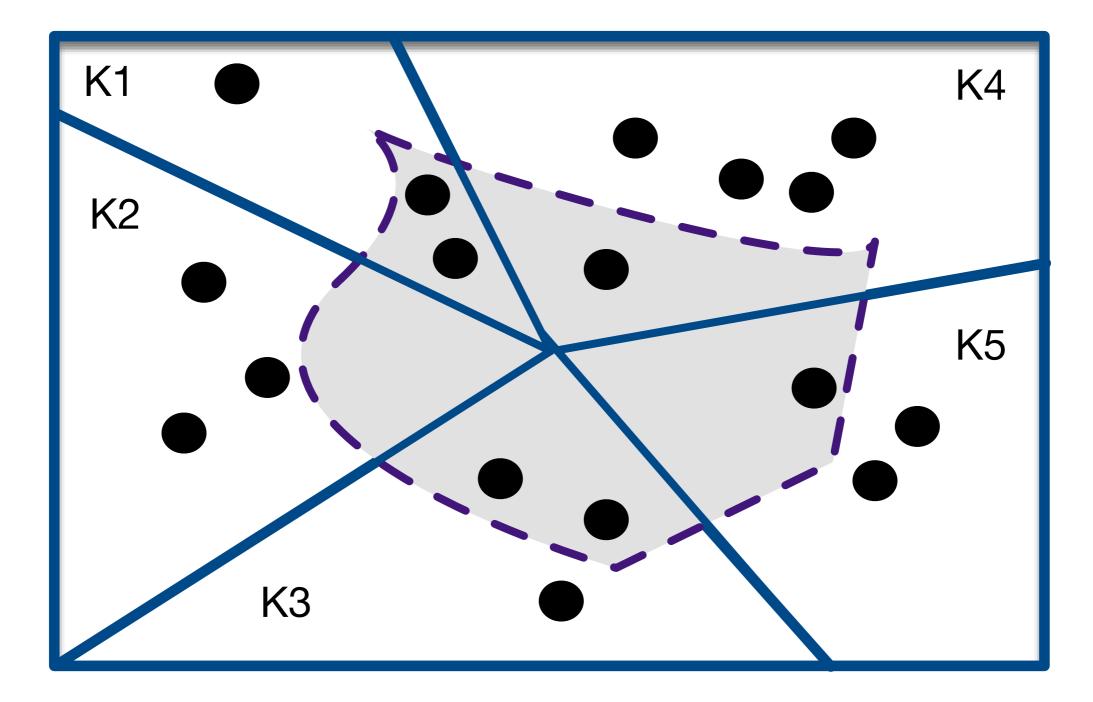
Rigid Mixins

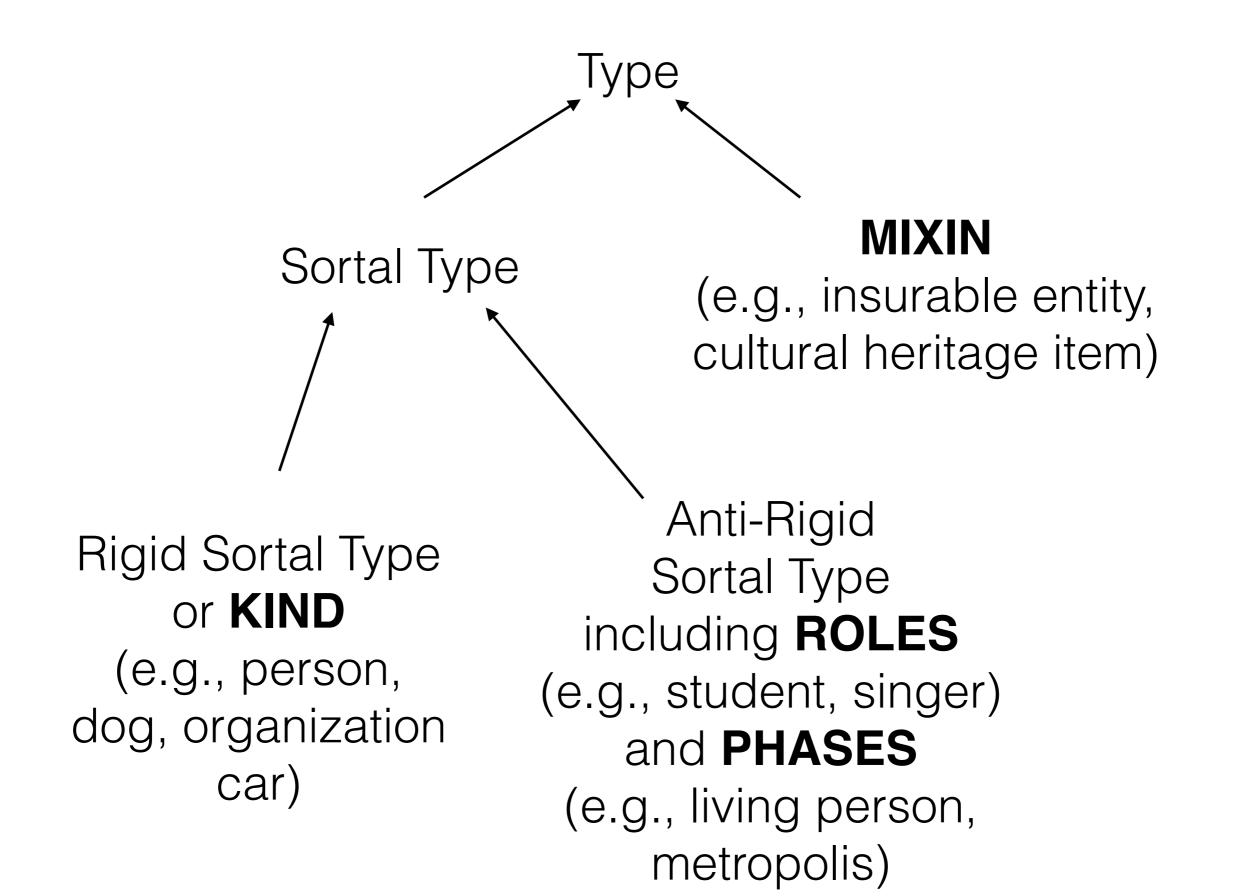


Anti-Rigid Mixins



Anti-Rigid Mixins





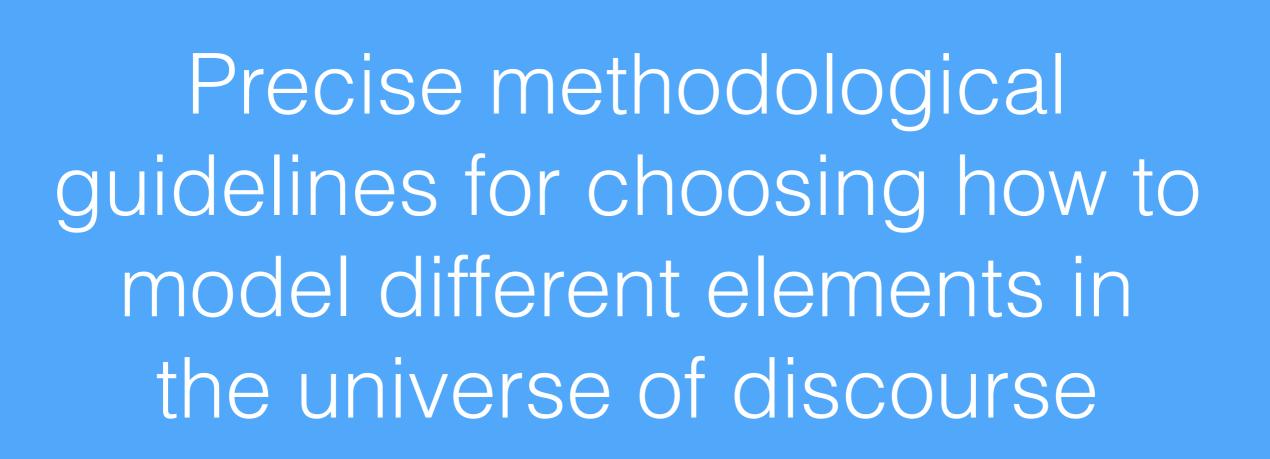
Why is this important?



Ontologically well-defined, formally characterized and cognitively sound systems of types

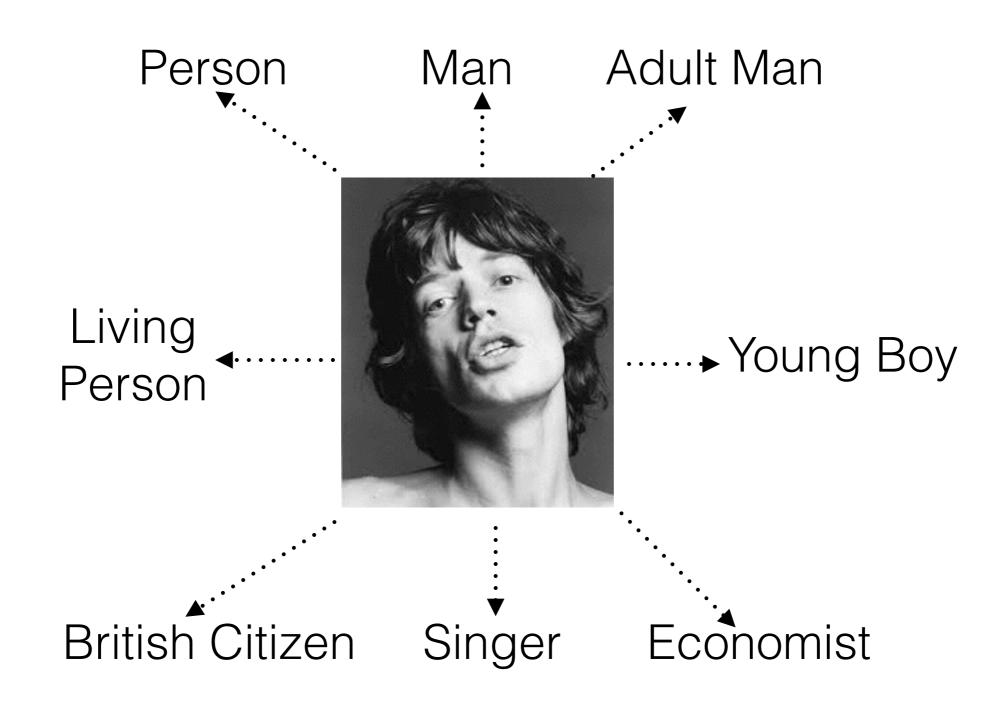
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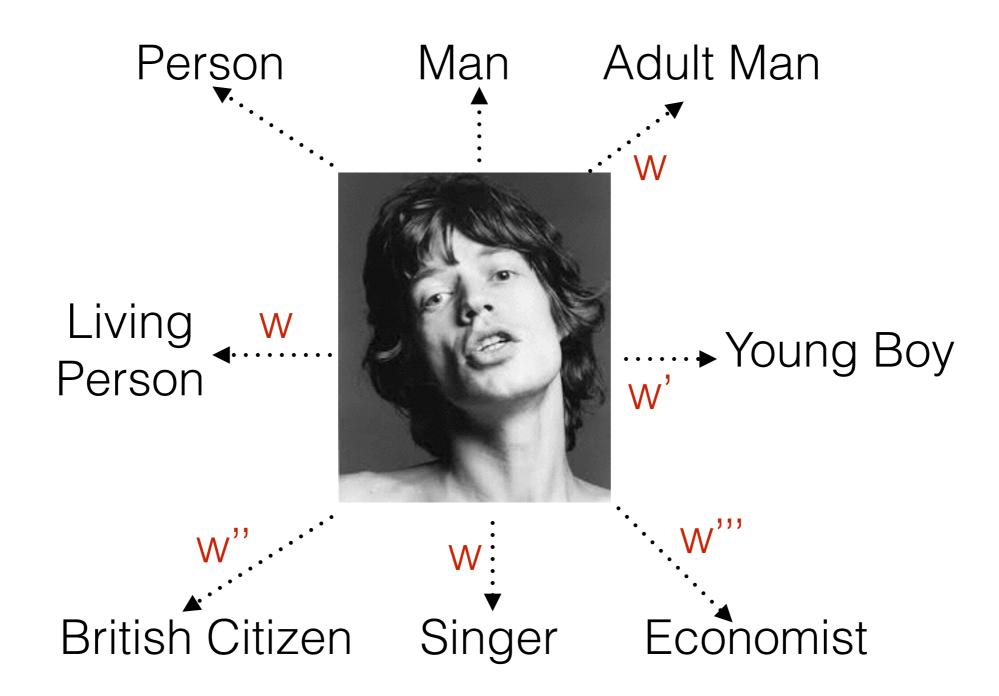
2



Problem (1)

- 1. Characterize the difference between the following types:
 - Person, Apple, Car, Dog, Organization
 - Student, Singer, President, Employee
 - Adult, Puppy, Metropolis
 - Crime Weapon, Insurable Item, Sharp Object, Rational Agent, Cultural Heritage Item





Solution

- 1. Characterizing the difference between:
 - NATURAL TYPE/KIND (e.g., Person, Apple, Car) = RIGID
 SORTAL
 - ROLE (e.g., Student, President, Employee) = ANTI-RIGID
 + RELATIONALLY DEPENDENT SORTAL
 - PHASE (e.g., Living Person, President, Employee) = ANTI-RIGID + RELATIONALLY INDEPENDENT SORTAL
 - MIXIN (e.g., Crime Weapon, Insurable Item, Sharp Object, Rational Agent, Cultural Heritage Item)? = MIXIN

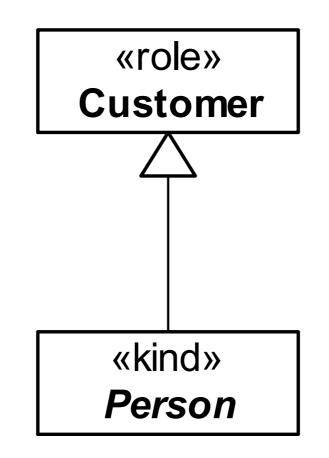
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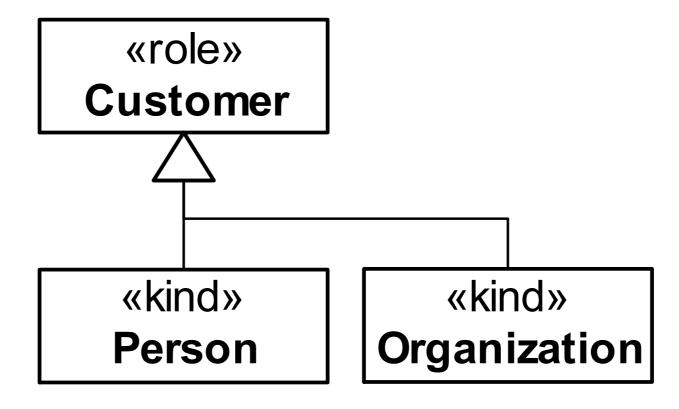


Incorporation of ontological constraints in the language metamodel to guarantee *ontological consistency by design*

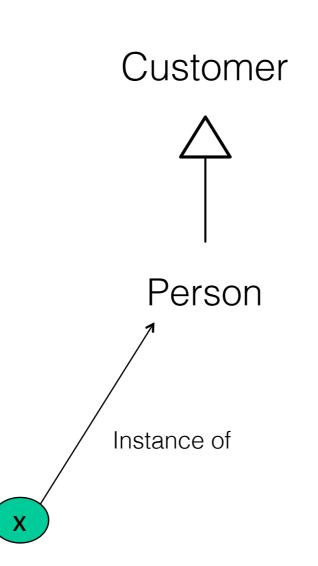
Role

- All instances of a given ROLE are of the same KIND (e.g., all Students are Person)
- All instances of a ROLE instantiate that type only contingently (e.g., no Student is necessarily a Student)
- Instances of a KIND instantiate that ROLE when participating in a certain RELATIONAL CONTEXT (e.g., instances of Person instantiate the Role Student when enrolled in na Educational Institution)
- A ROLE cannot be a supertype of a Rigid Type

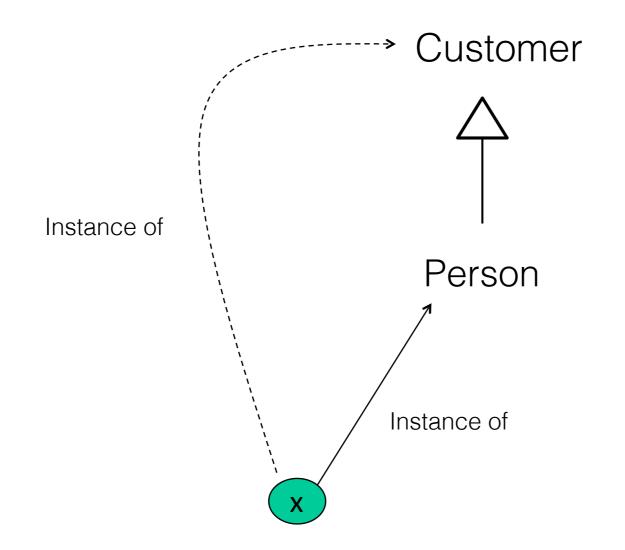




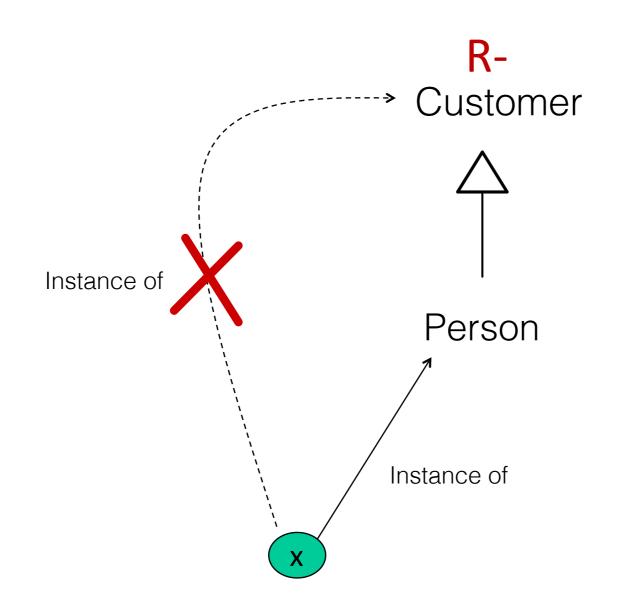
WORLD W



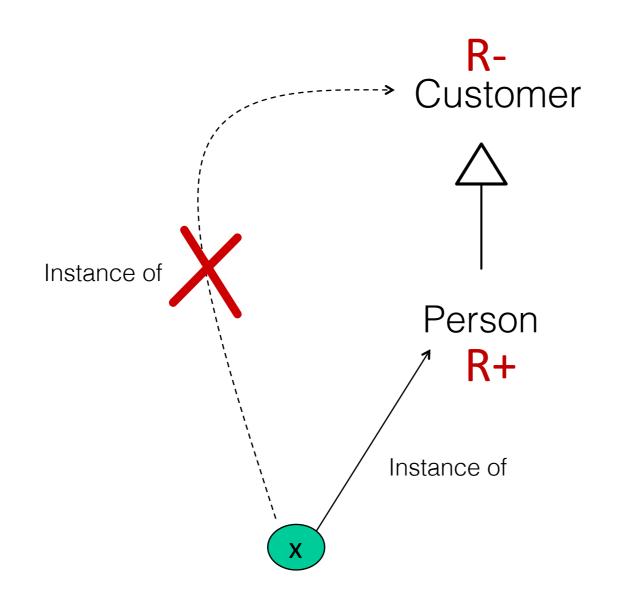
WORLD W

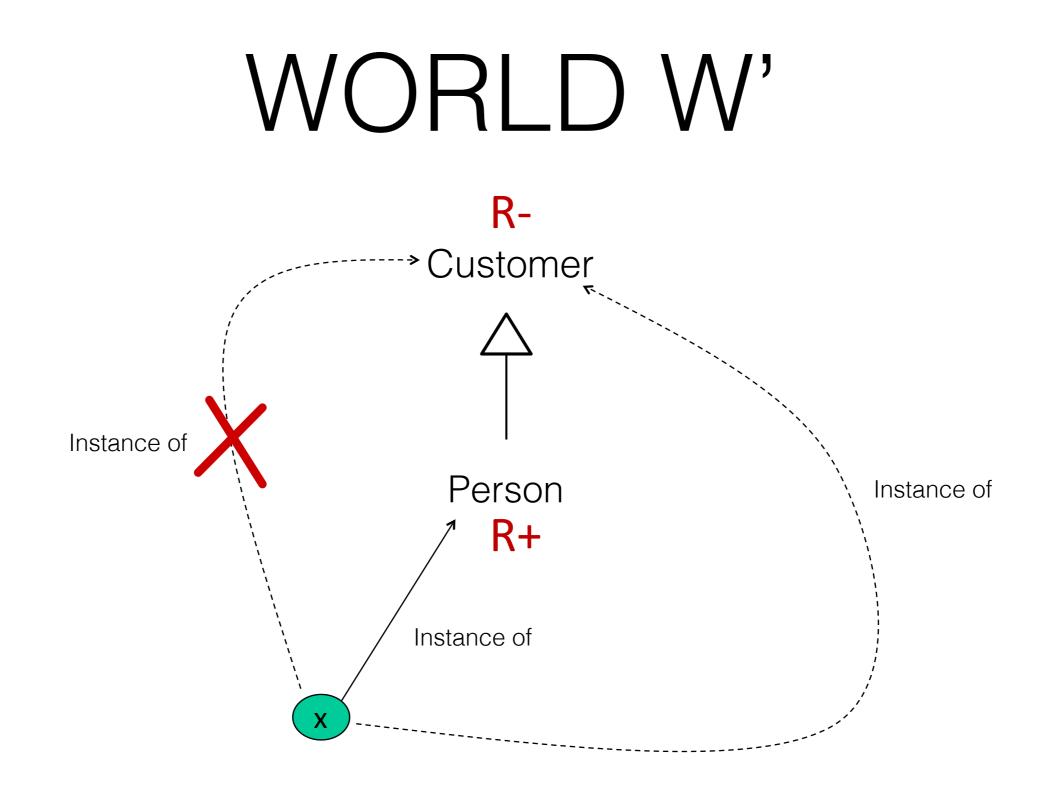


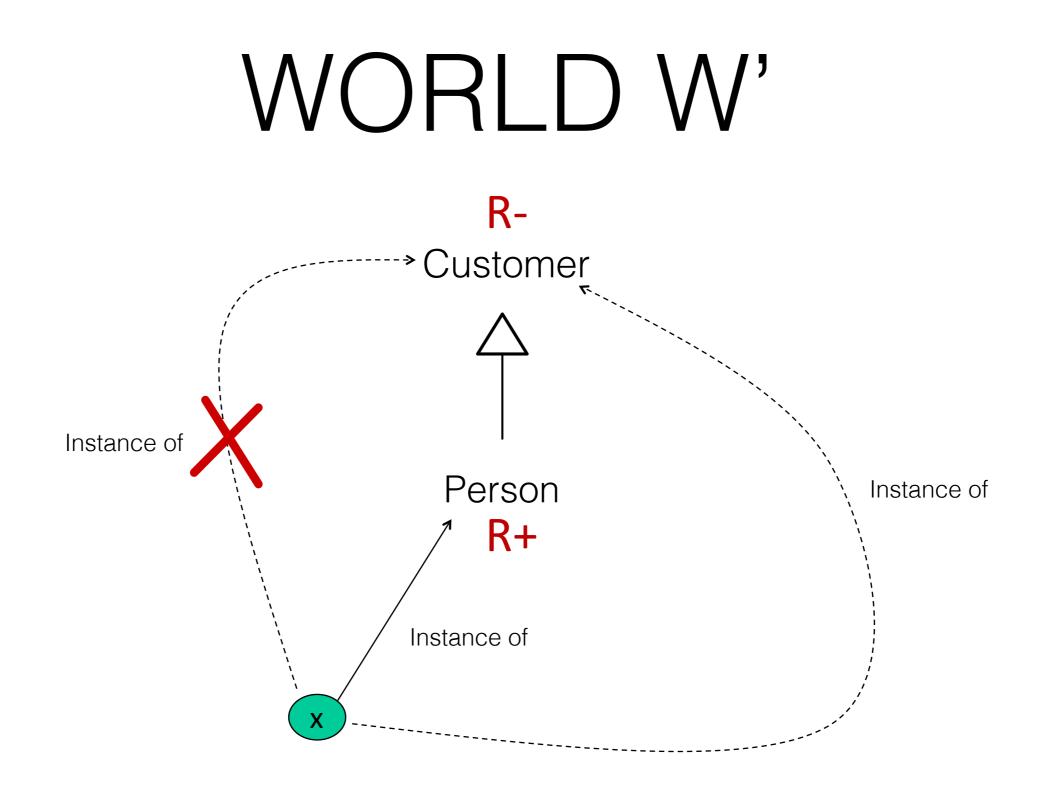
WORLD W'



WORLD W'



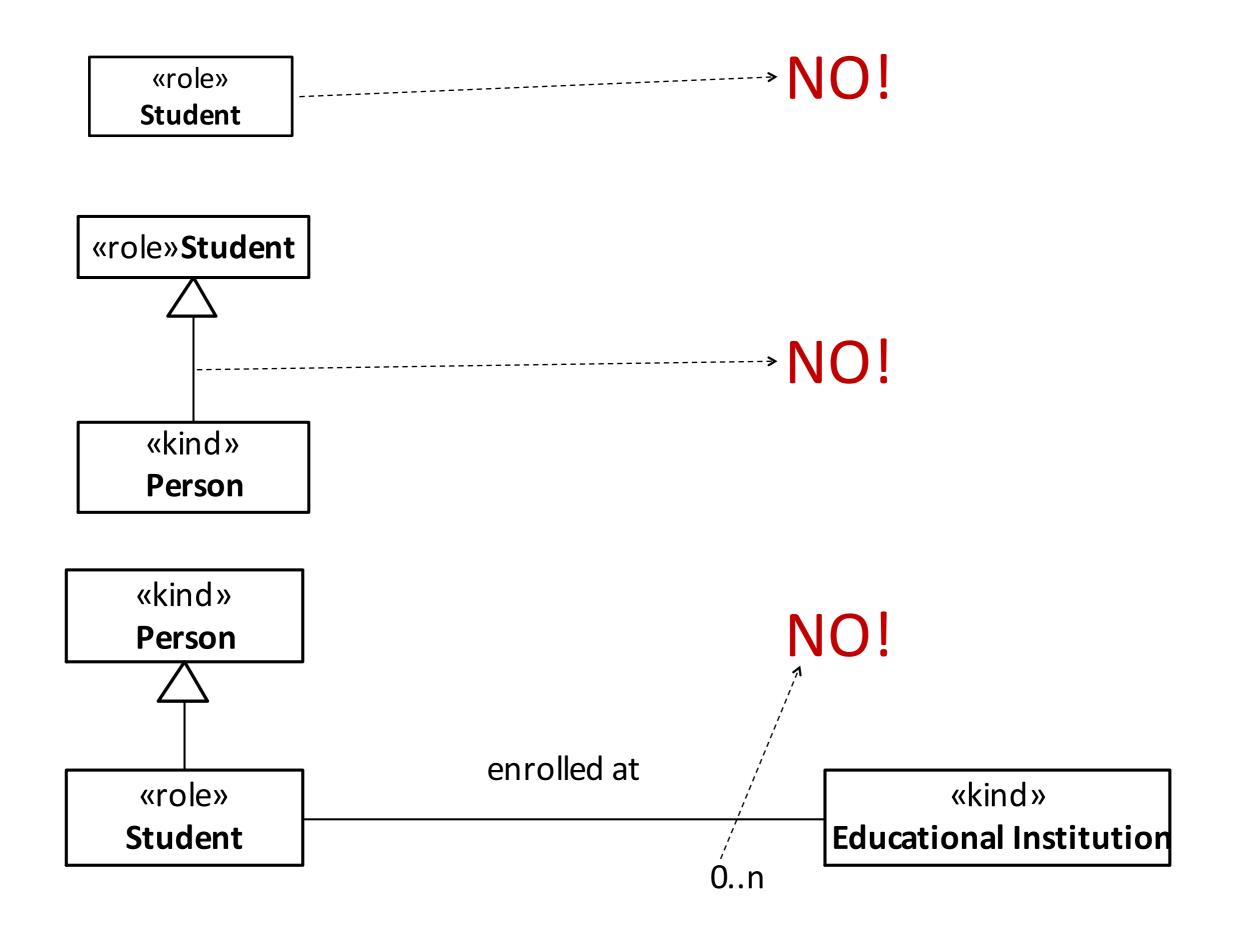


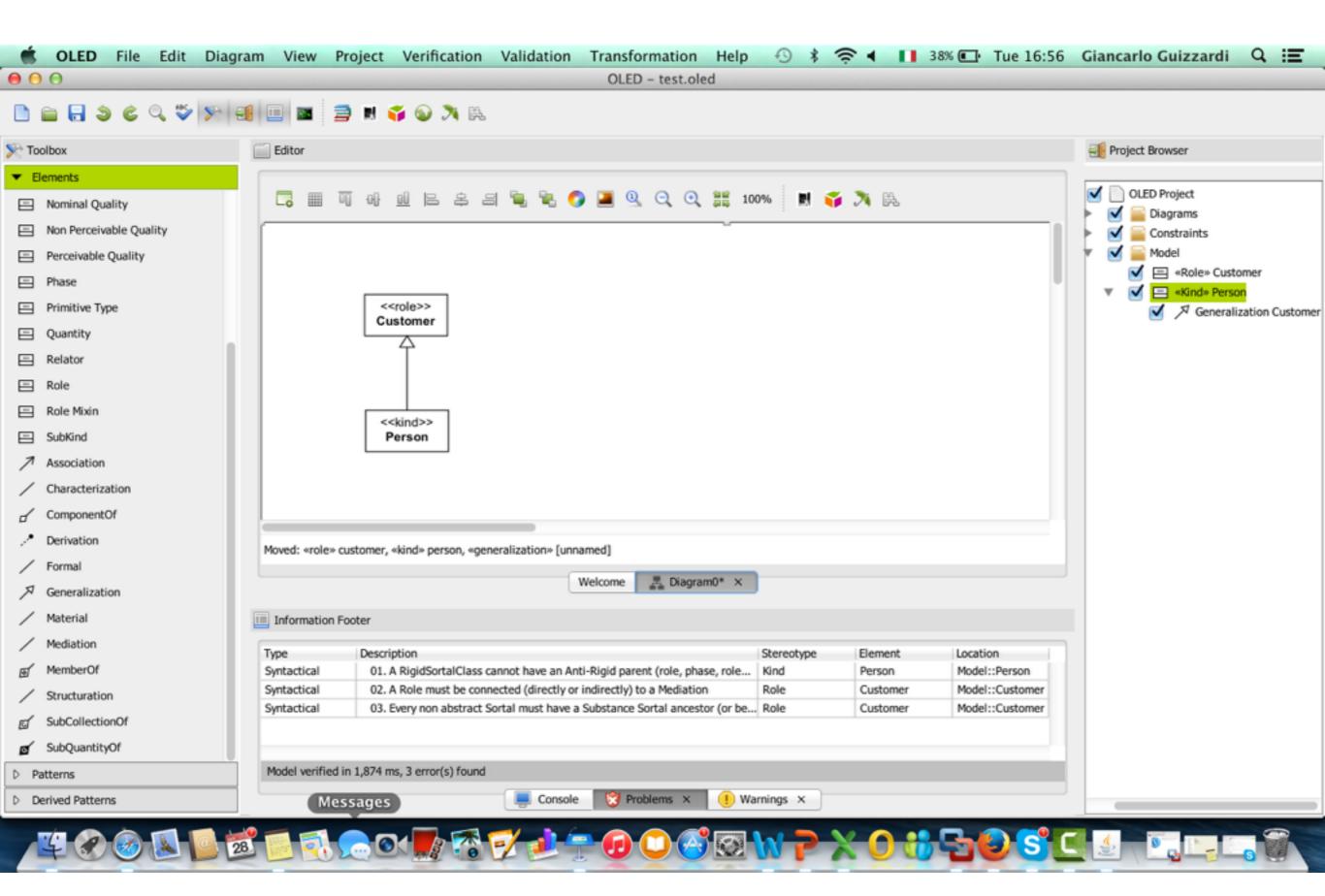


We run into a logical contradiction!

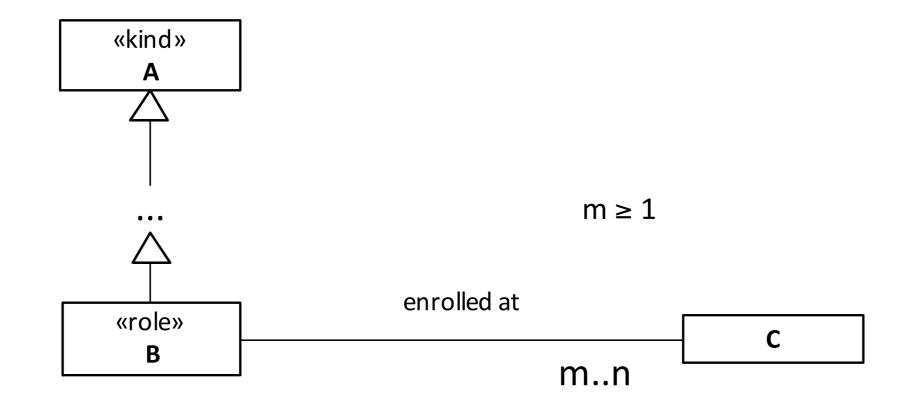
Role

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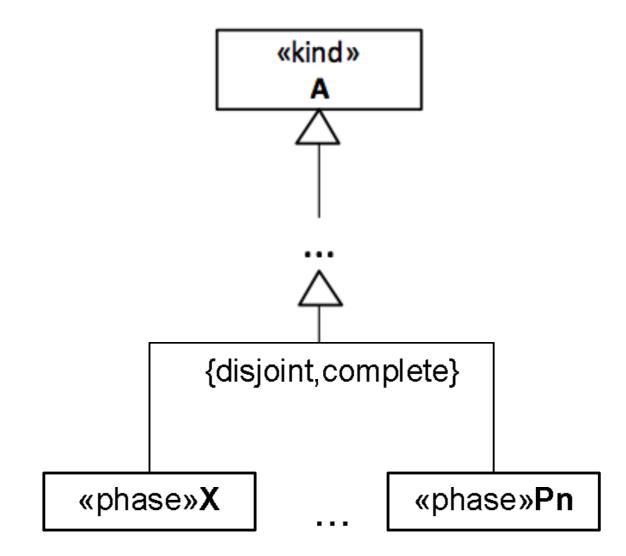




The Emerging Role Pattern



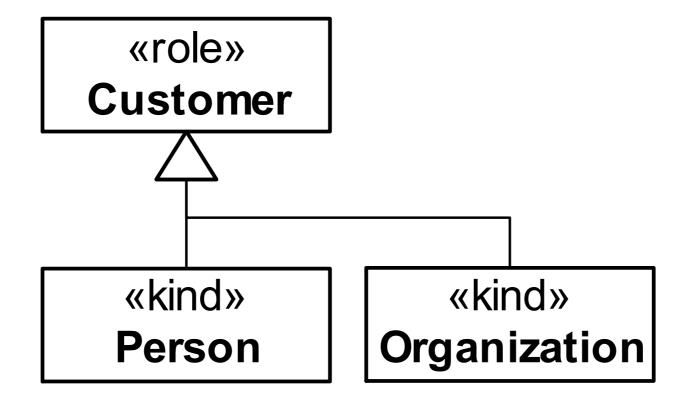
The Emerging Phase Pattern

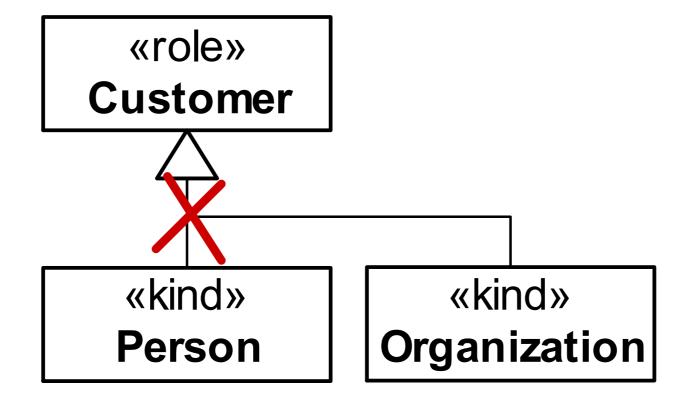


Problem (2)

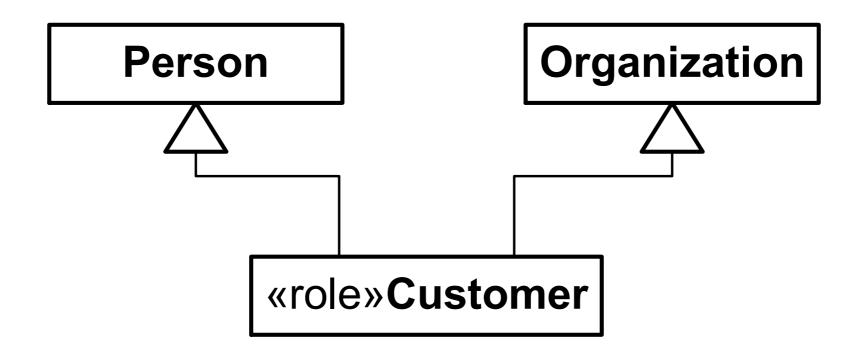
 Suppose that I want to represent that the ROLE Customer can be played by entities of different KINDS, namely, People and Organizations. How to relate the ROLE and its *allowed types* using subtyping relations?

A Classic Problem

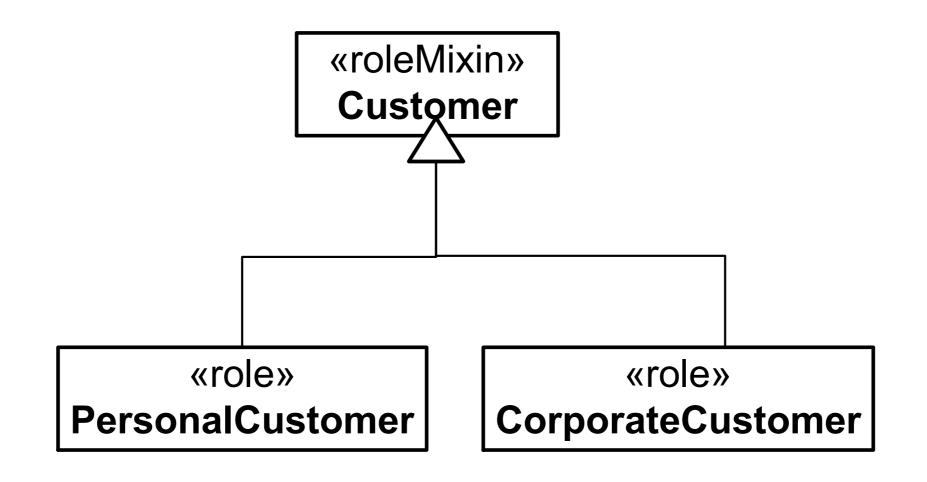


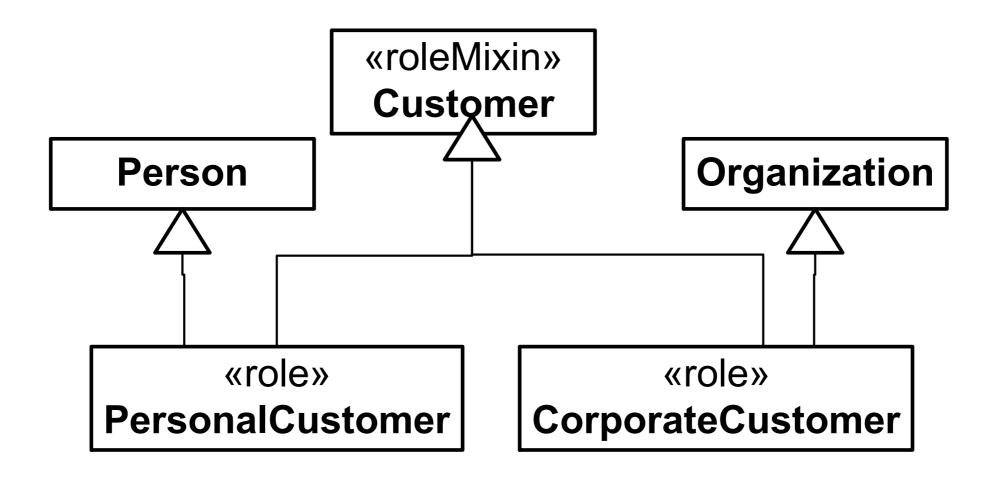


A Possible Alternative?

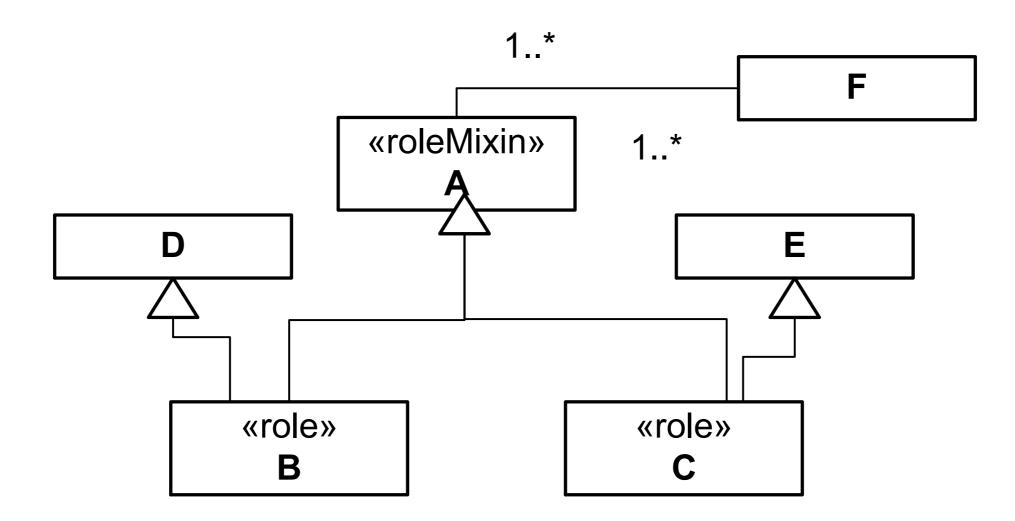


«roleMixin» **Customer**



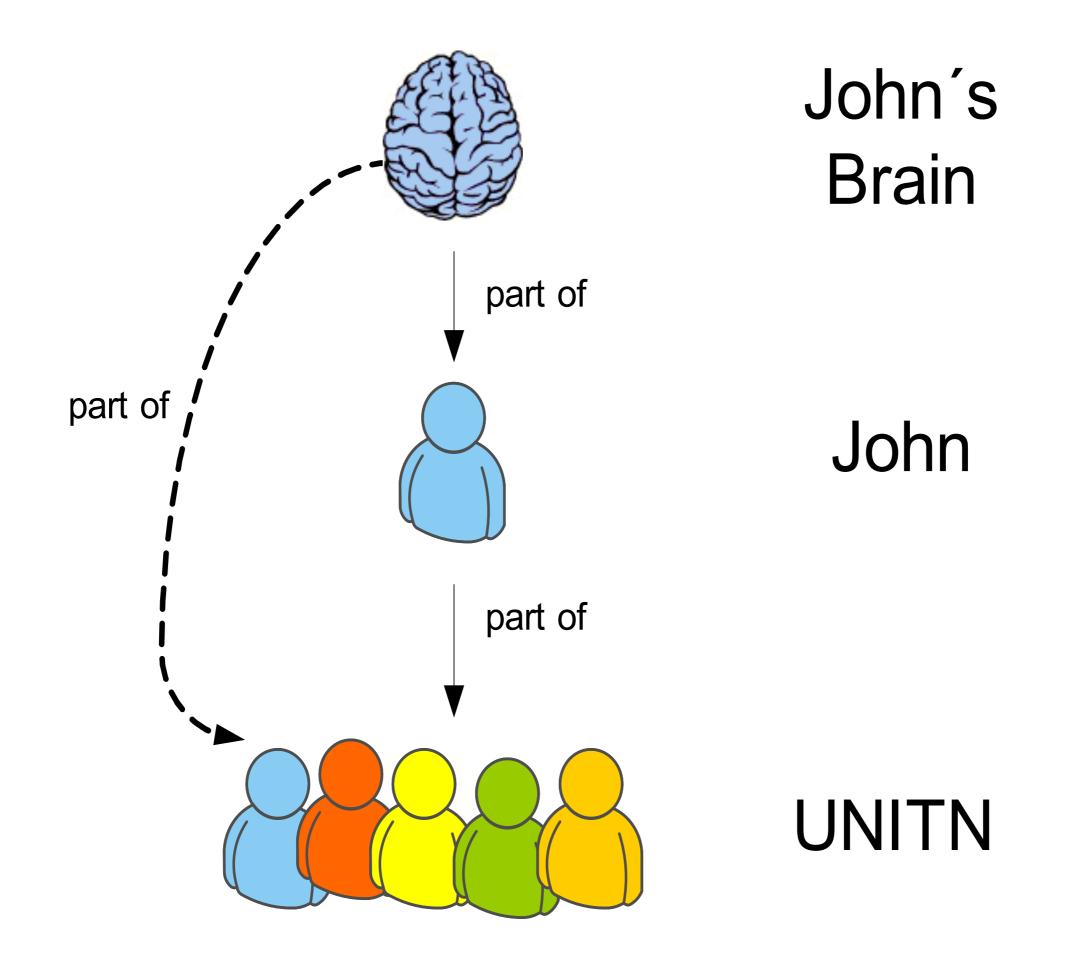


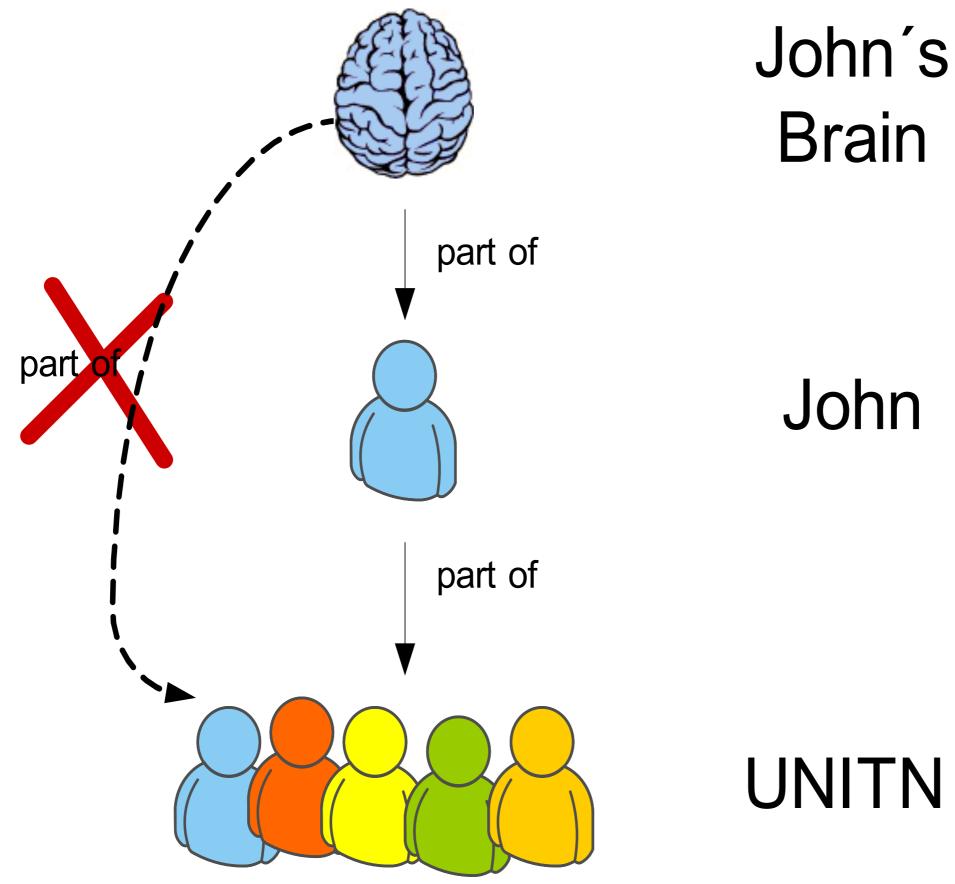
The emerging **RoleMixin** Pattern



Why is this important?

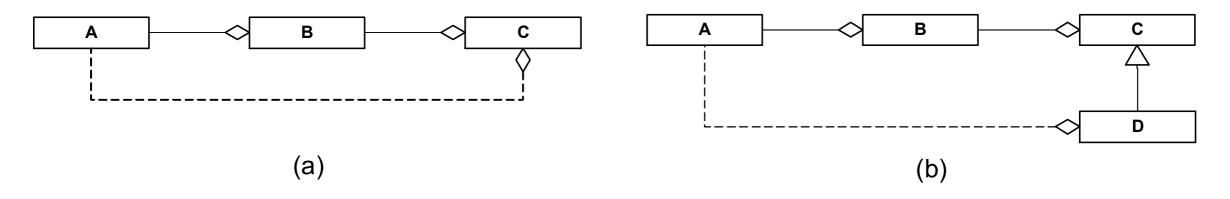
- Ontologically well-defined, cognitively sound systems of types
- Precise methodological guidelines for choosing how to model different elements in the universe of discourse
- 3. Incorporation of ontological constraints in the language metamodel to guarantee ontological consistency by design

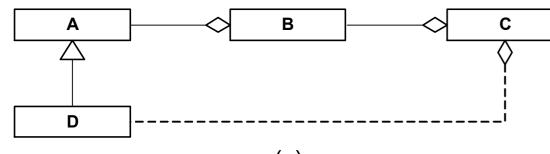




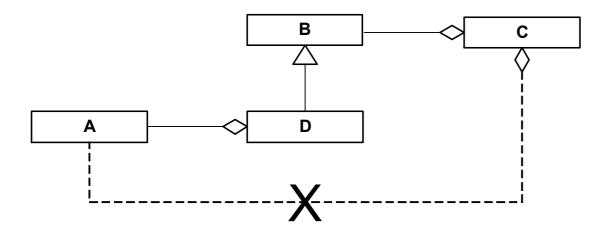
John

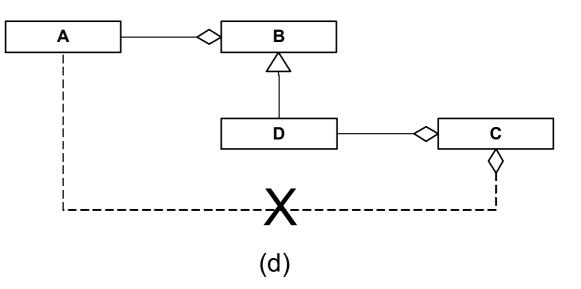
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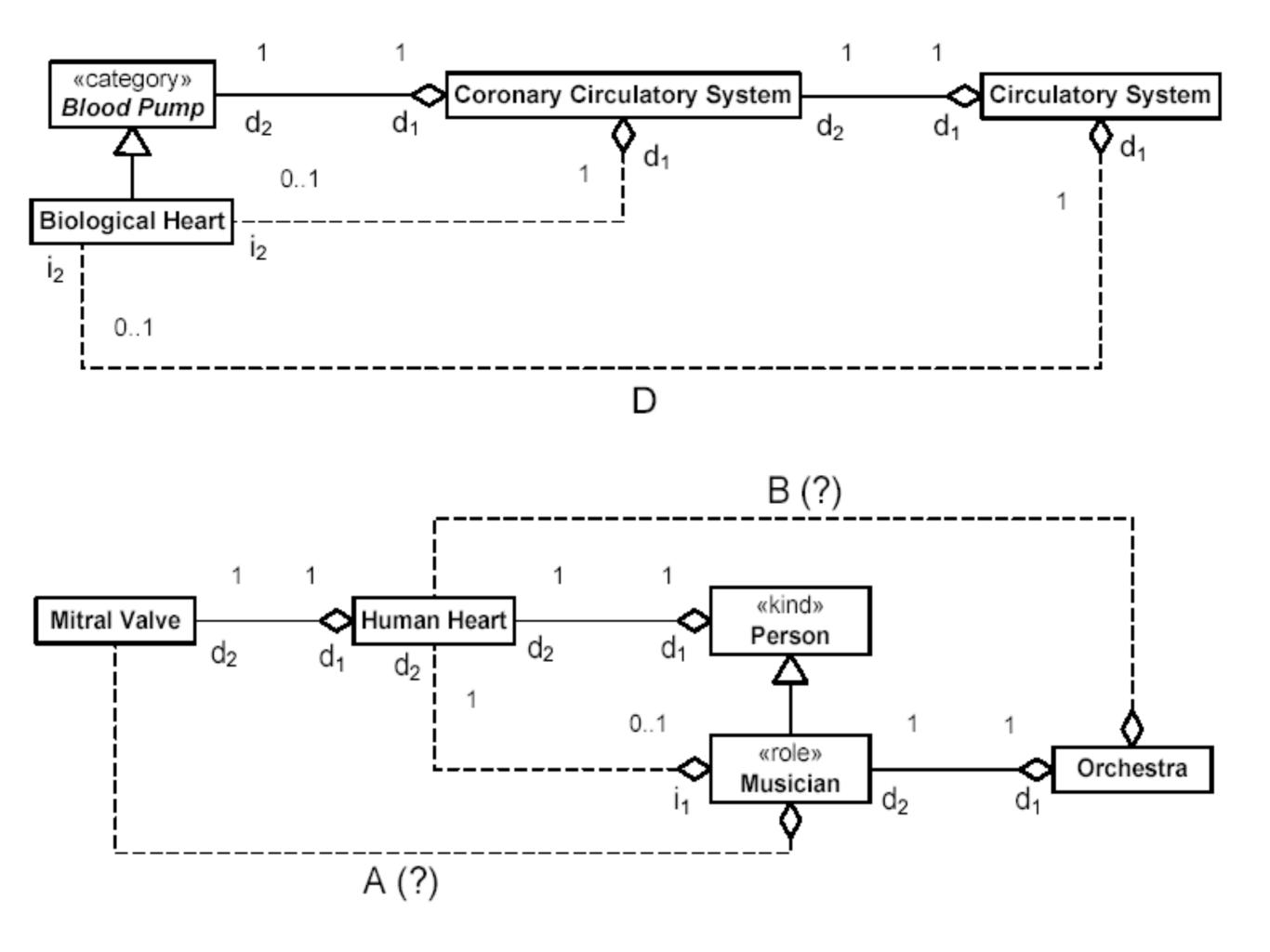


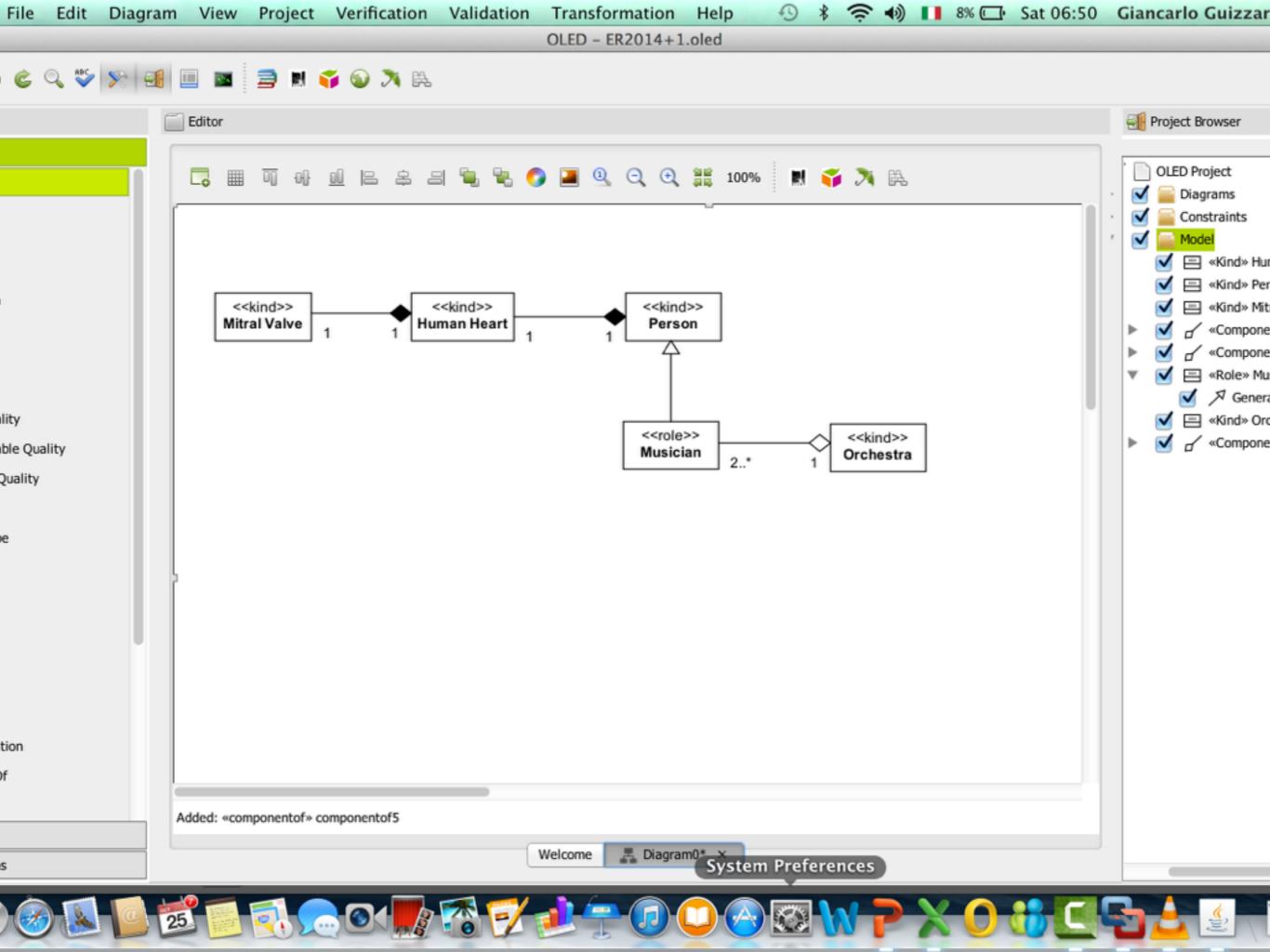










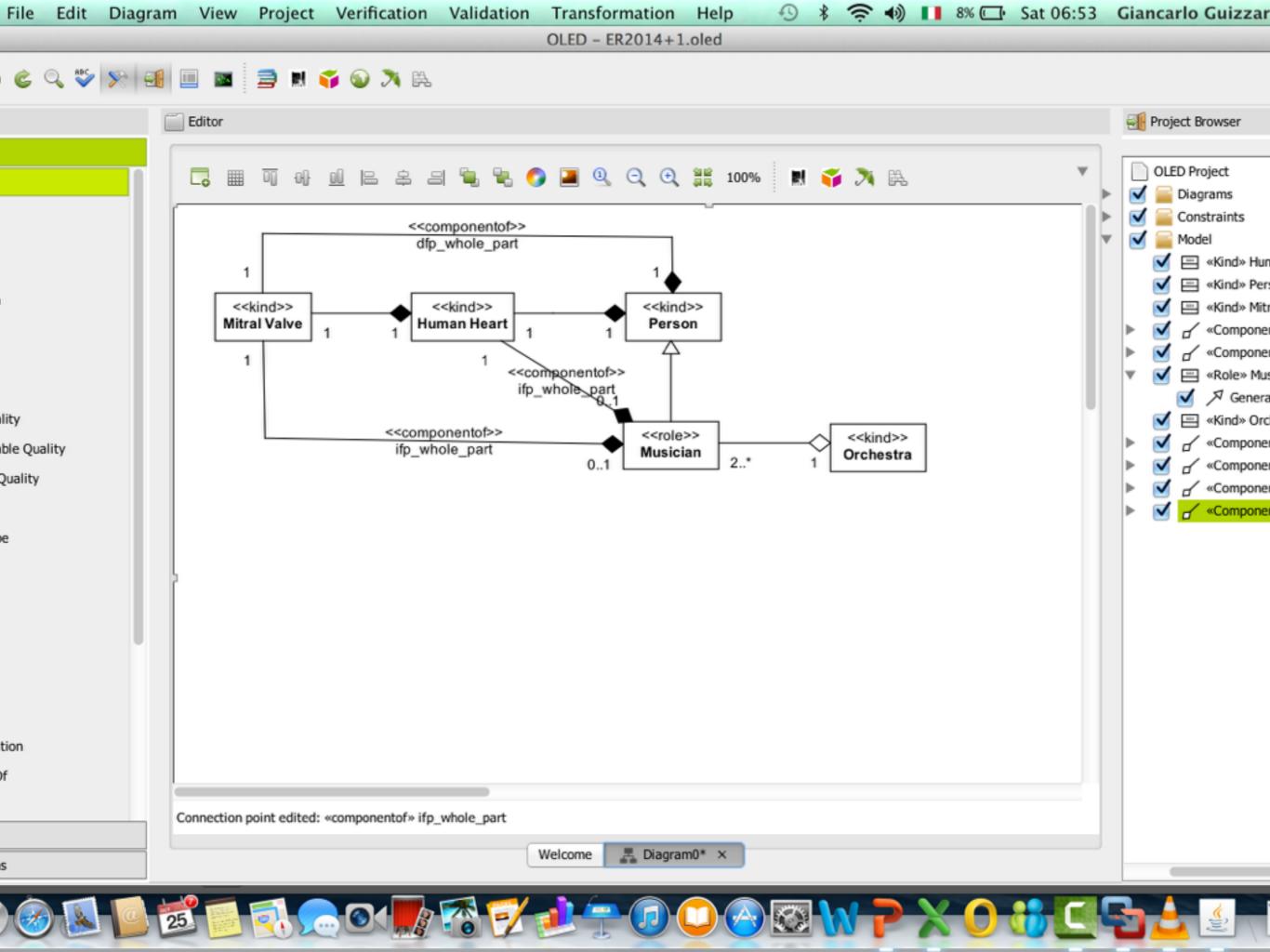


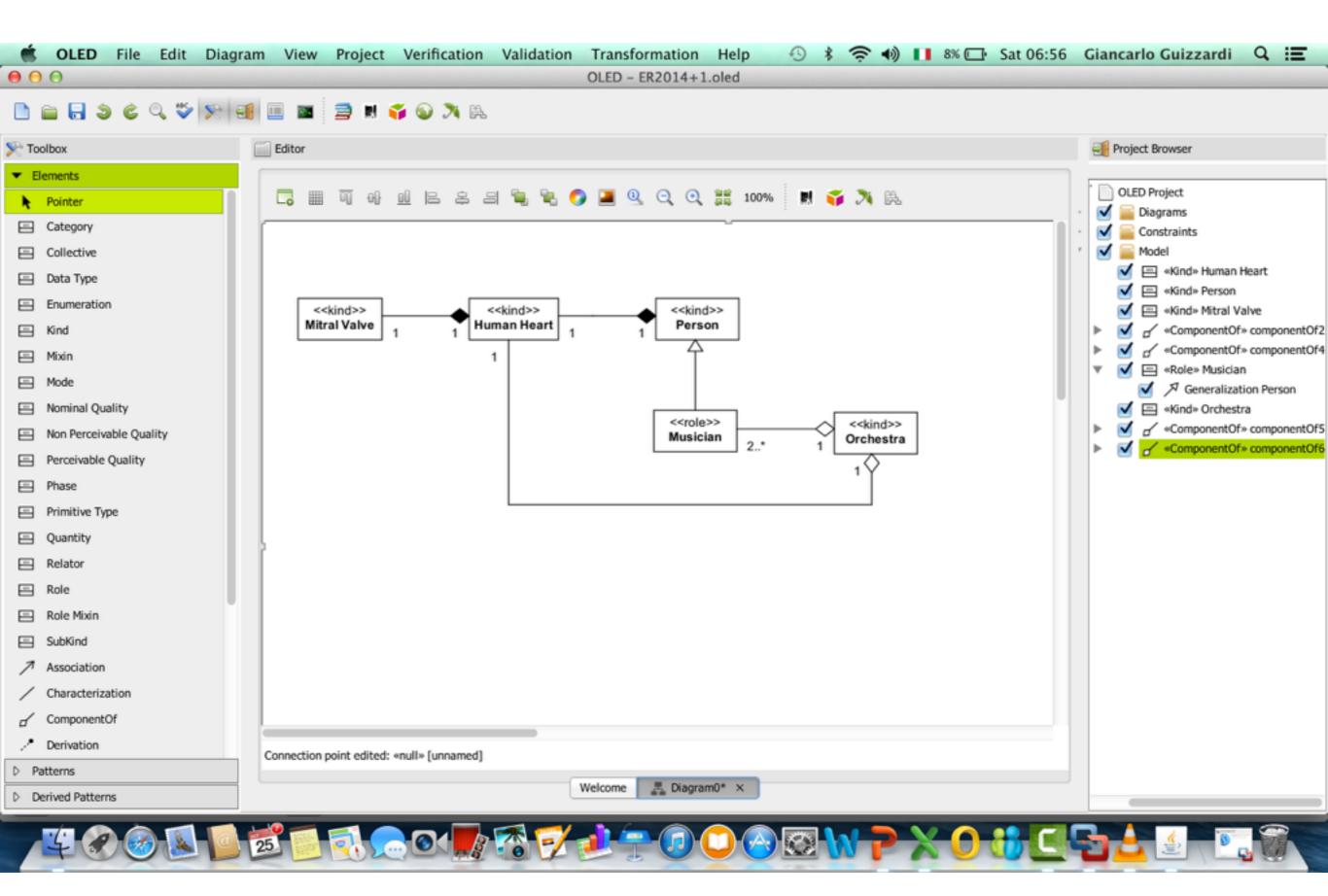
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«Role» Musician	«Kind» Human Heart COMP	ONENTOF Indirect Function	a Musician -> Human Heart	
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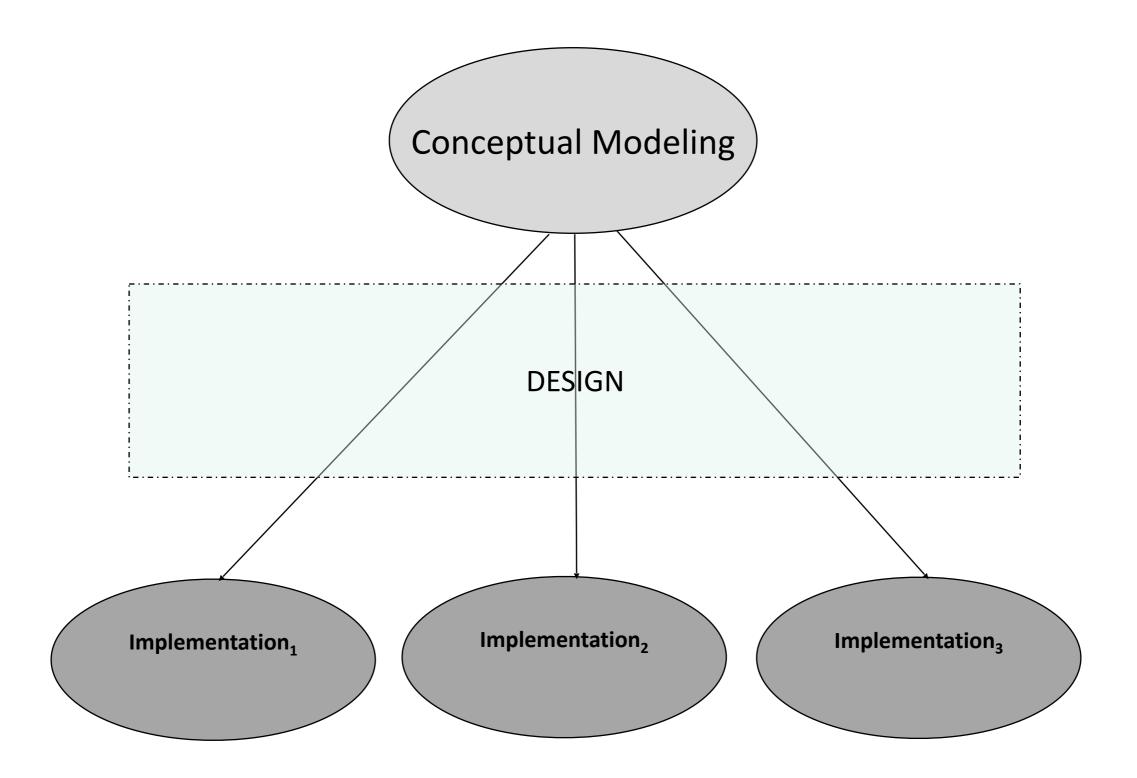
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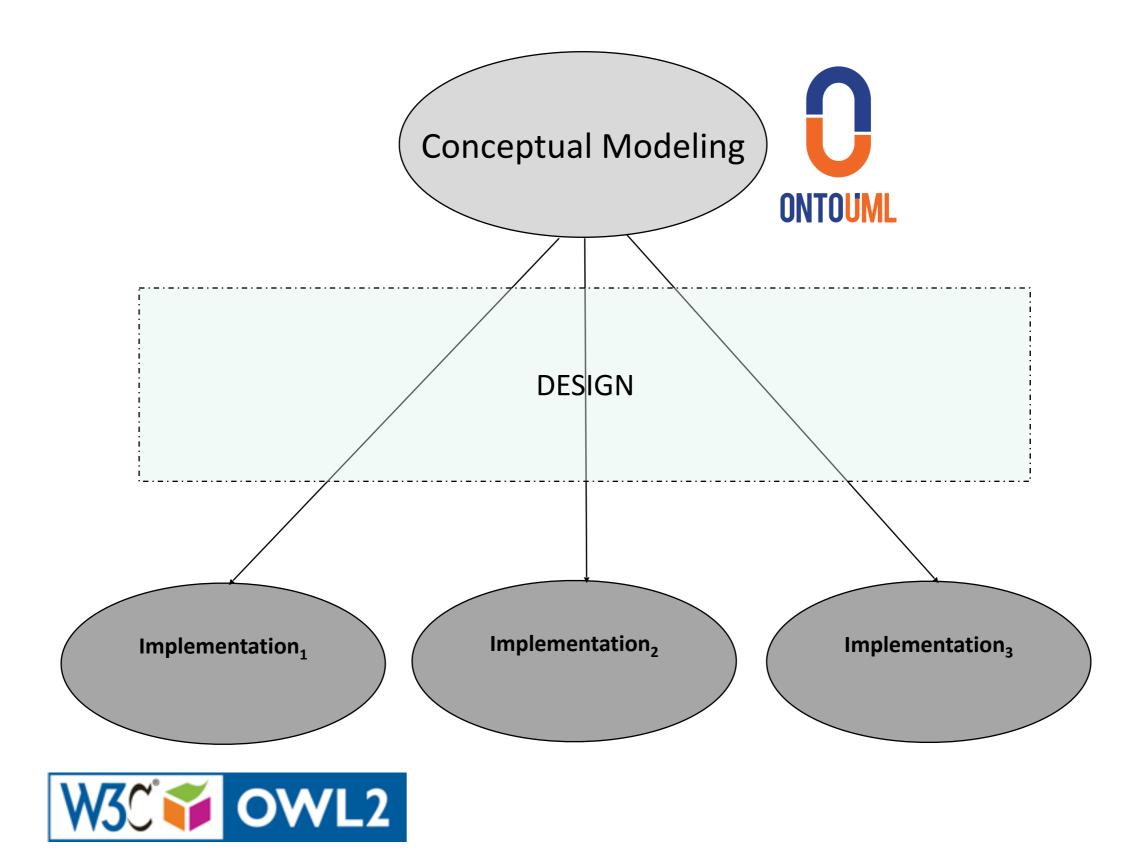
$\Theta \odot \Theta$		Transitivity in Part-Whole Relations					
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Connection point	concert mann [unnumen]						
Connection point		Welcome	📕 Diagram0* 🗙				

Why is this important?



Precise methodological guidelines for mapping into different implementation environments

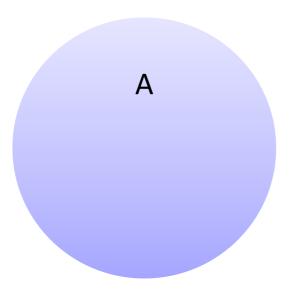


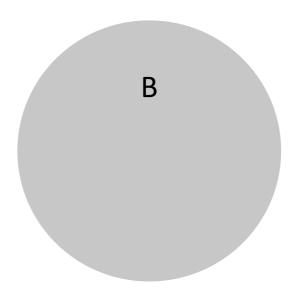


Why is this important?



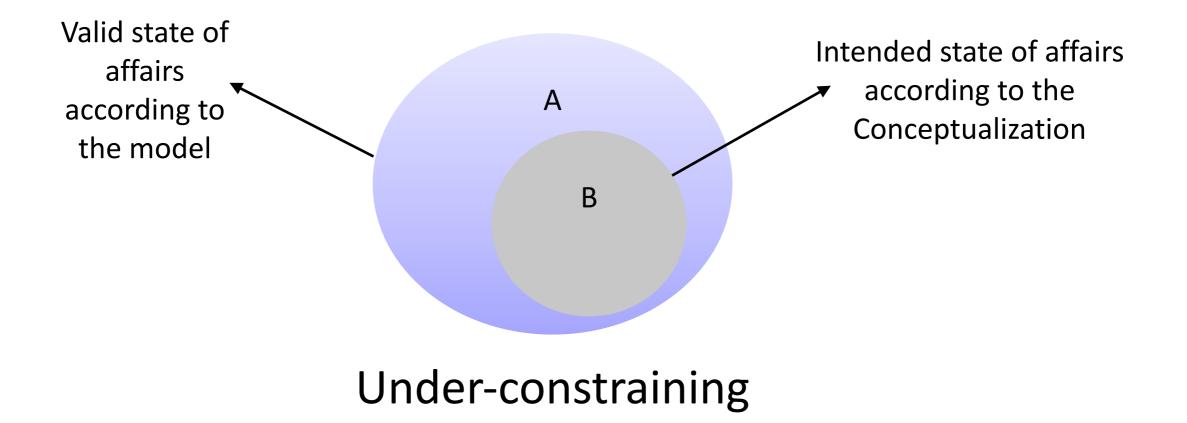
Precise modal semantics with implications for validation

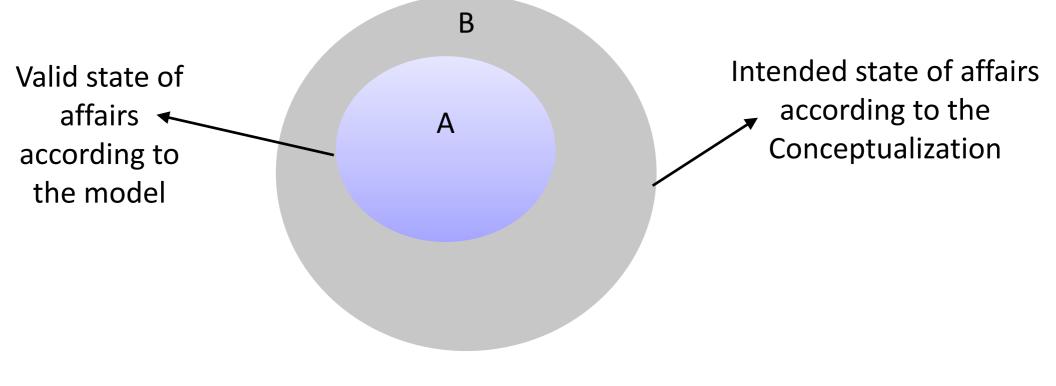




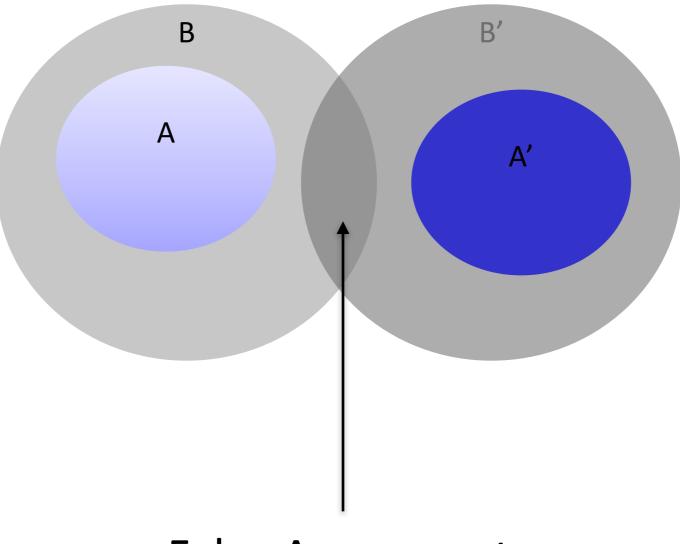
Valid state of affairs according to the representation

Intended state of affairs according to the Conceptualization

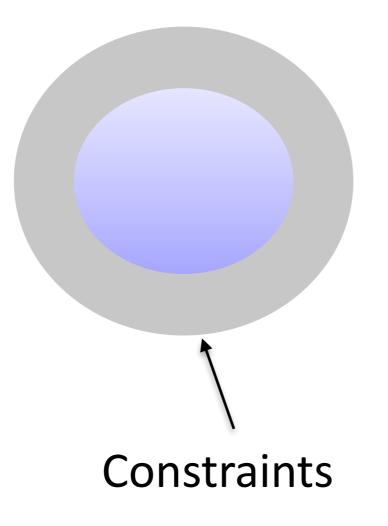


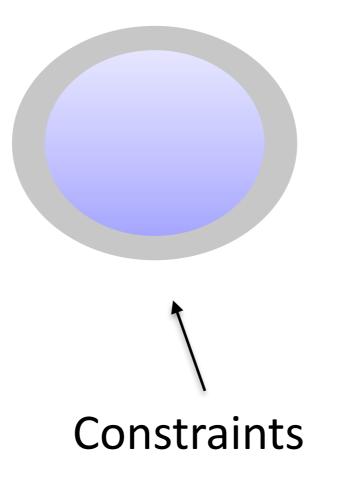


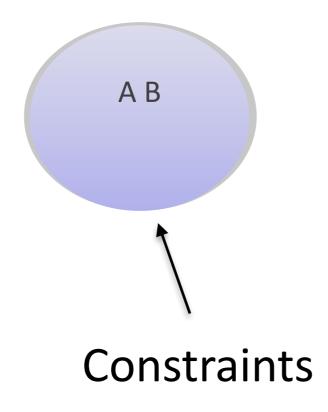
Over-constraining

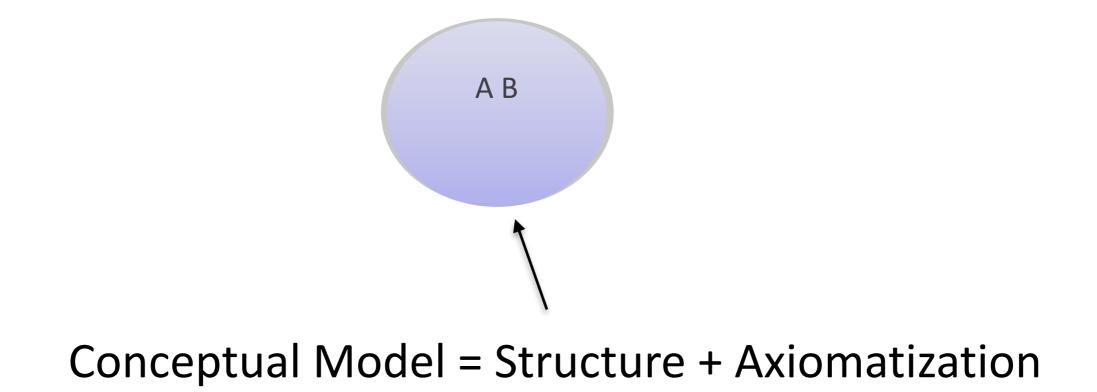


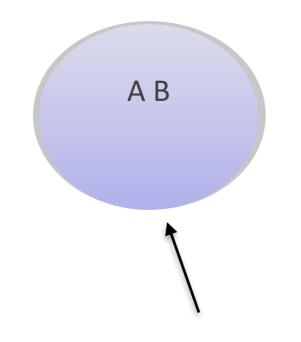
False Agreement



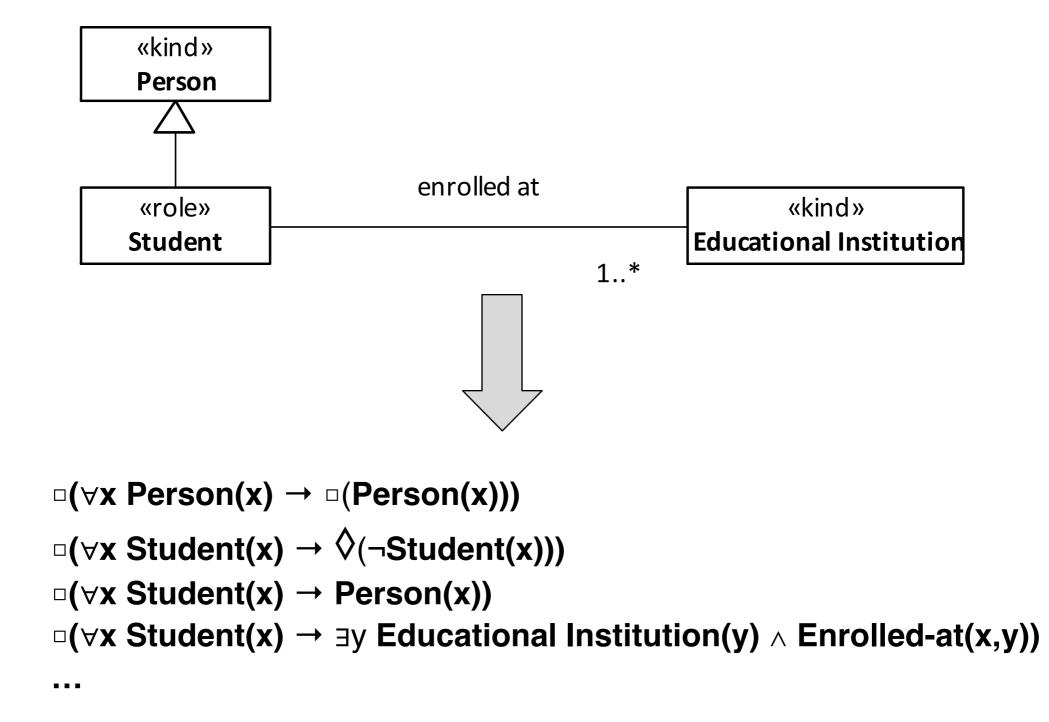


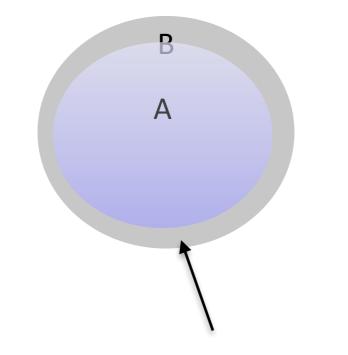




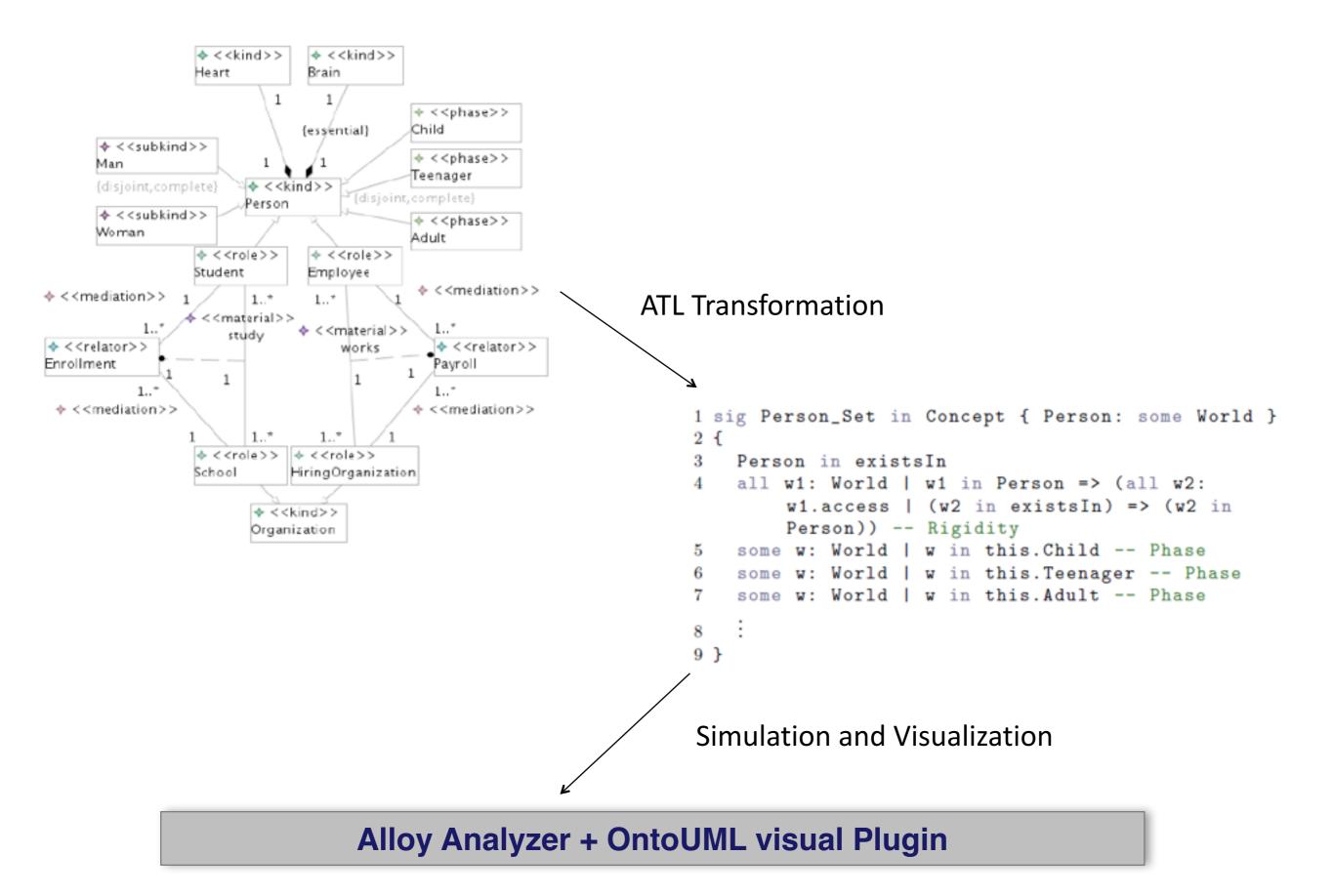


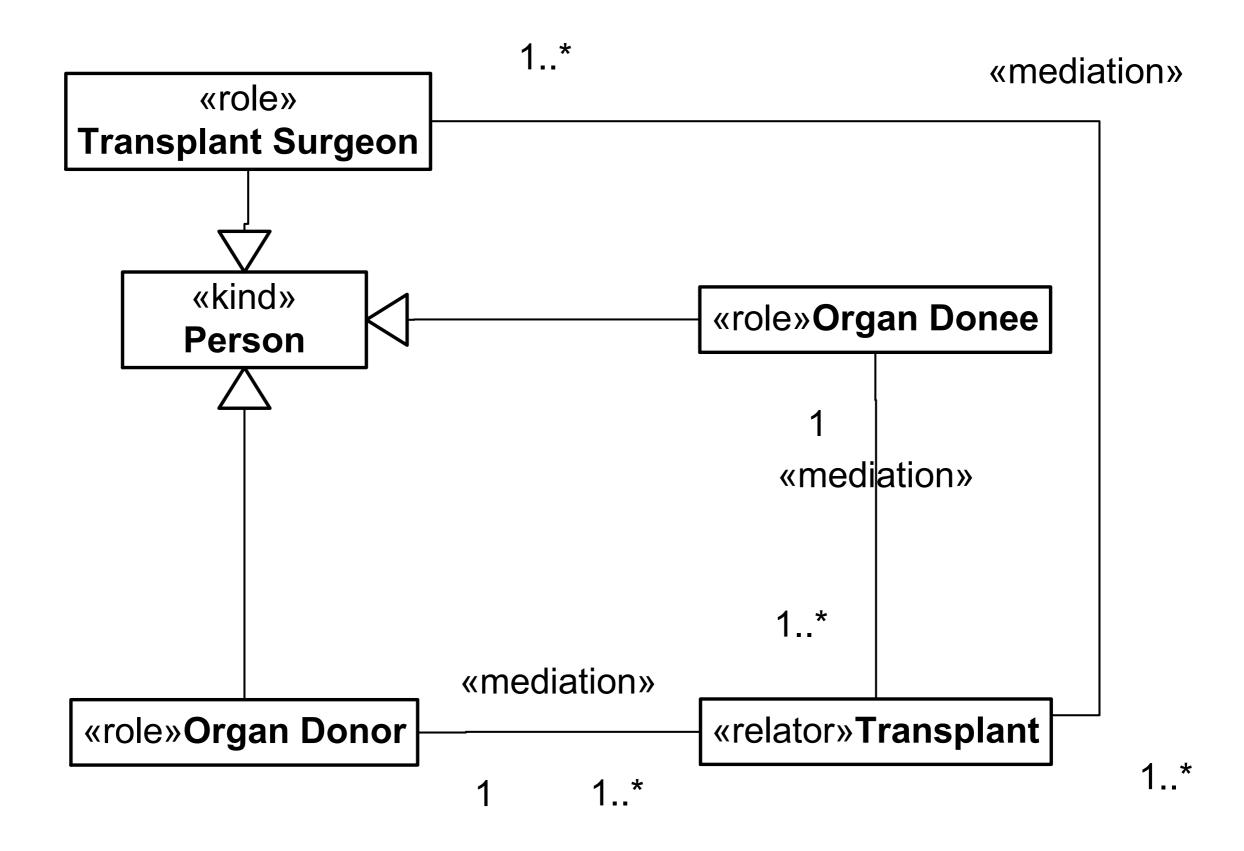
Conceptual Model = Structure + Axiomatization (Ontological Commitment)

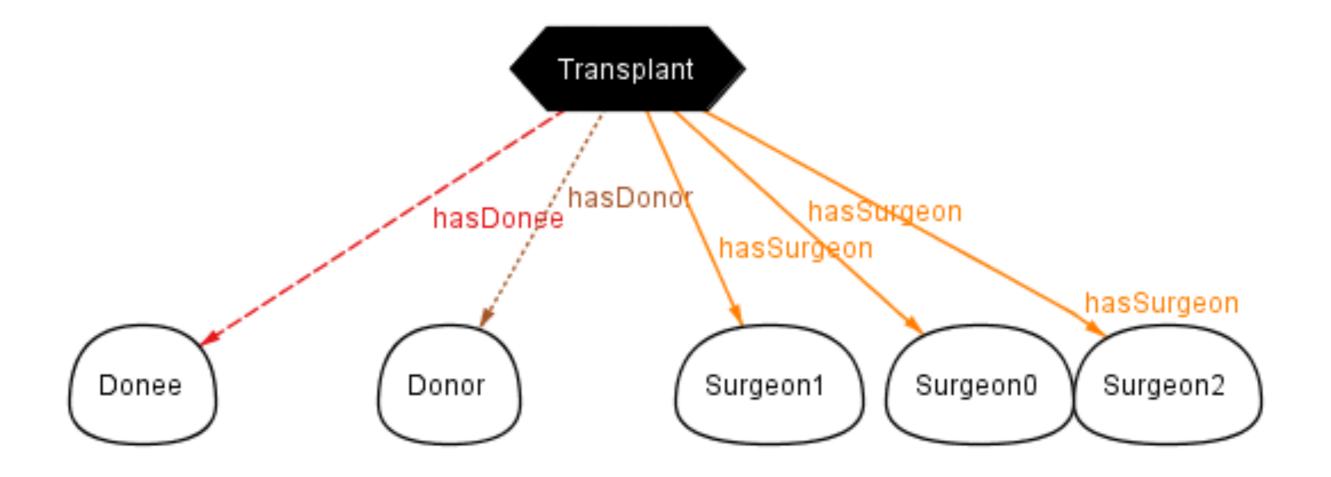


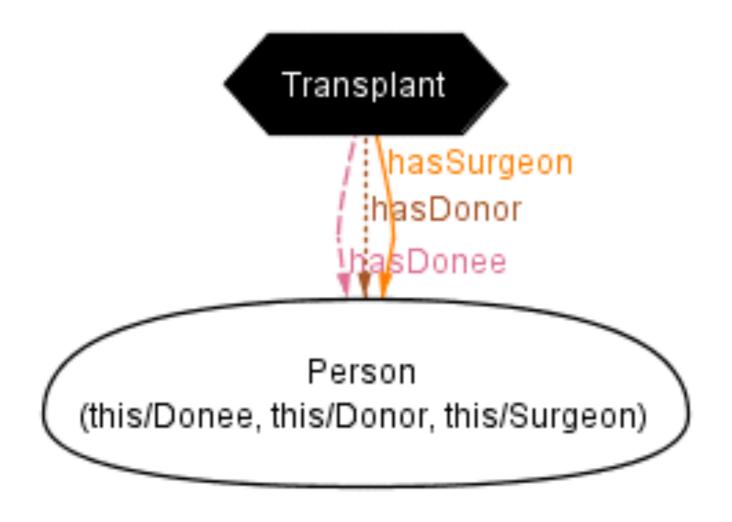


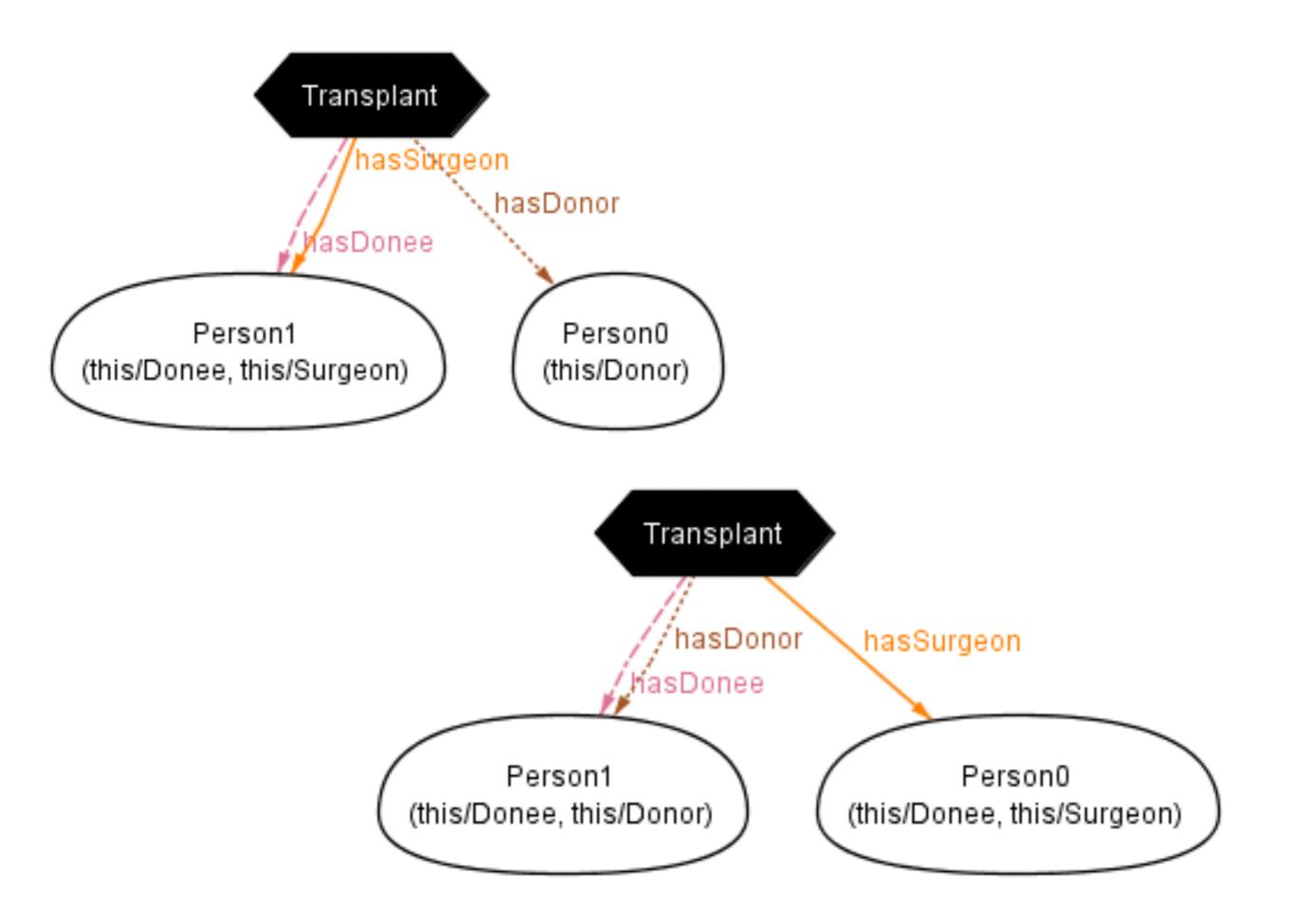
Conceptual Model = Structure + Domain-Independent Axioms + Domain-Specific Axioms

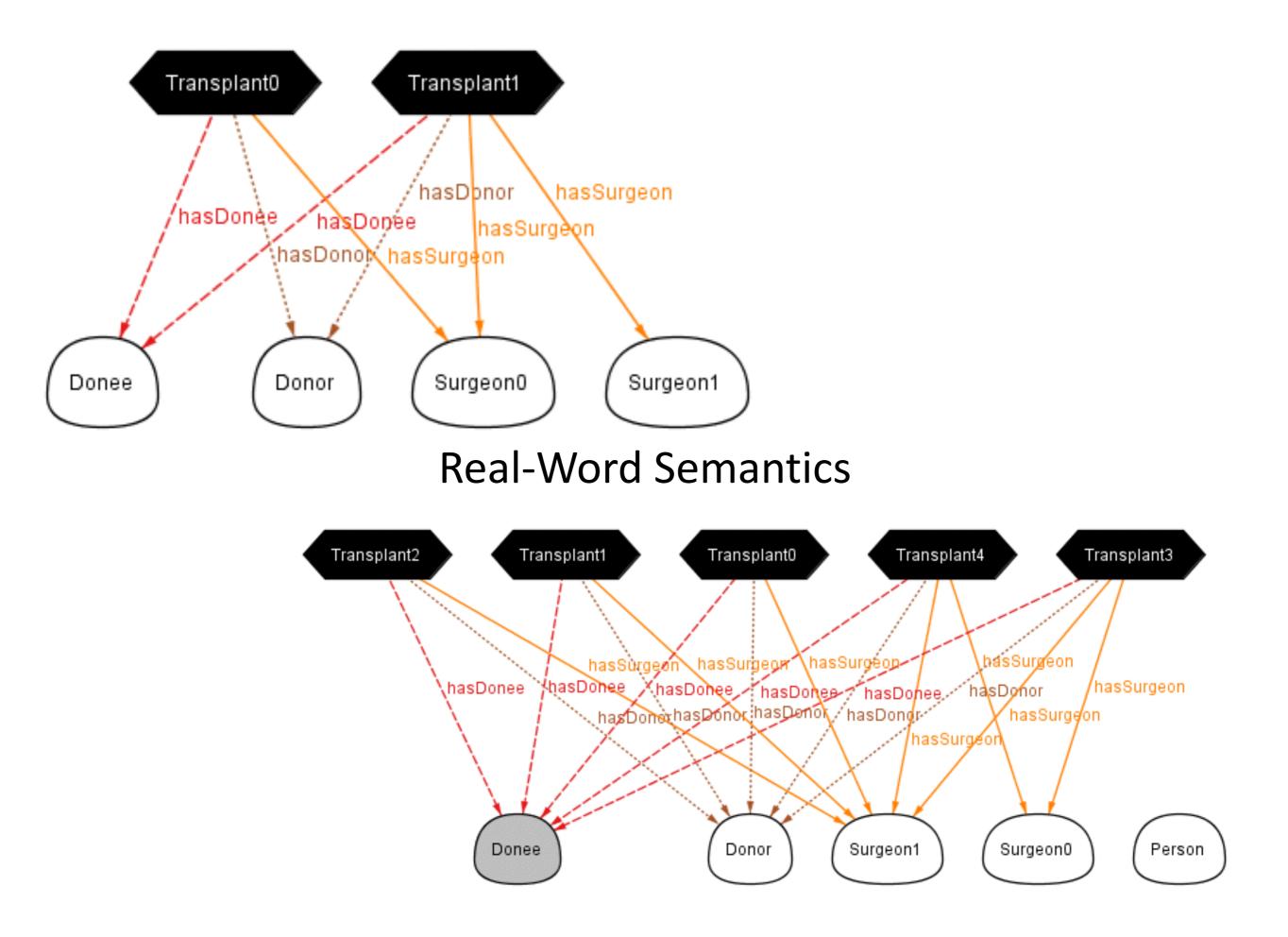














Data Modeling Guide (DMG) For An Enterprise Logical Data Model (ELDM)

Version 2.3

March 15, 2011

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Data Modeling Guide (DMG) For An Enterprise Logical Data Model, V2.3; 15 March 2011

Preface

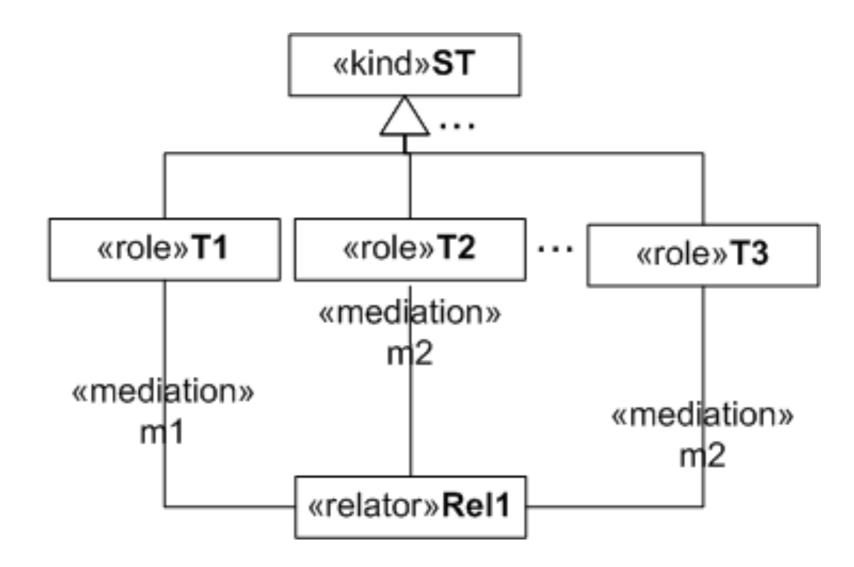
The success of this Data Modeling Guide for an Enterprise Logical Data Model could not have been possible without the inspired and exhaustive research of Giancarlo Guizzardi, notably his "Ontological Foundations for Structural Conceptual Models," published in 2005 in association with the Centre for Telemetrics and Information Technology, which provided the theoretical foundation for the methodologies describe within, and from which real world, practical implementations have already ensued.

At the core of Guizzardi's modeling paradigm are the principles of Rigidity, Uniform Identity and Existential Dependence. From those foundational tenets he extrapolates the concepts of SortalUniversal (Unified Principle of Identity), MixinUniversal (Disparate Set of Concepts), and finally the constructs of SubstanceSortal (Kind, Quantity, and Collective), Subkind, Phase, Role, Category, RoleMixin and Mixin. In short, the total package offered to us by Guizzardi contained a complete and fully integrated set of concepts and constructs that left us wanting for nothing.

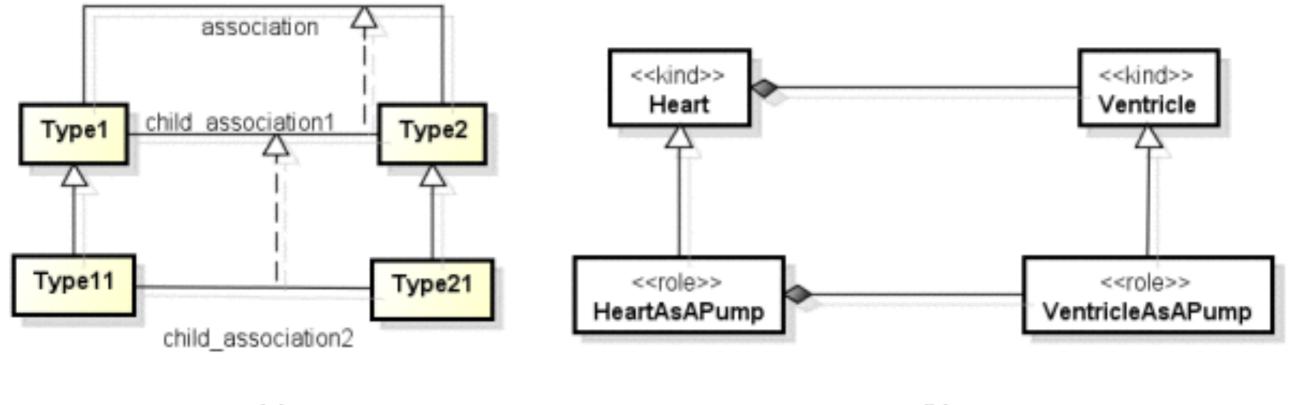
OntoUML Model Benchmark

- Model benchmark with 56 models
- Models in domains such as Provenance in Scientific Workflow, Public Cloud Vulnerability, Software Configuration Management, Emergency Management, Services, IT Governance, Organizational Structures, Software Requirements, Heart Electrophisiology, Amazonian Biodiversity Management, Human Genome, Optical Transport Networks, Federal Government Organizational Structures, Normative Acts, and Ground Transportation Regulation

The Emerging Anti-Pattern: Relation Between Overlapping Types (**RelOver**)

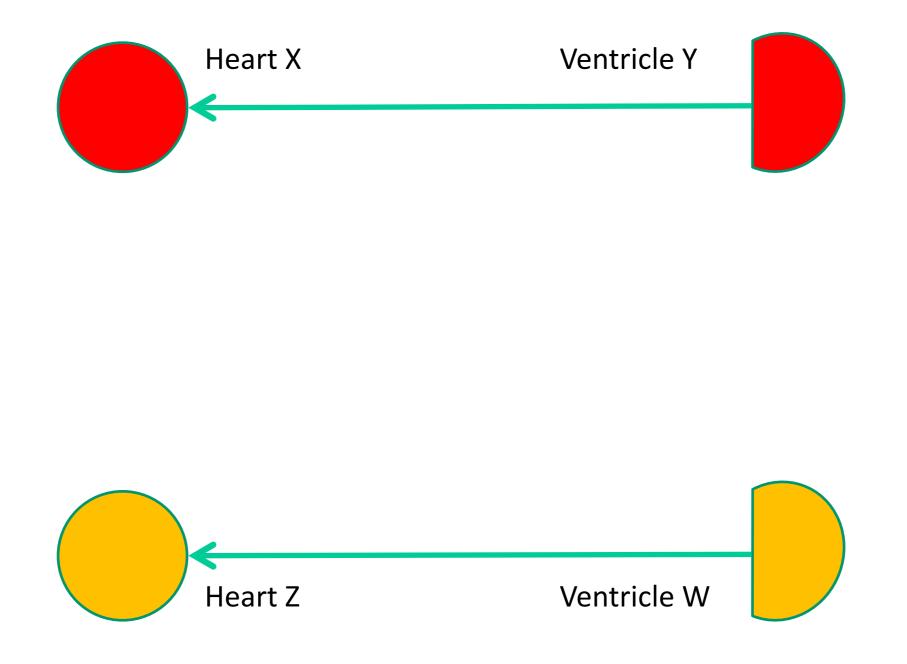


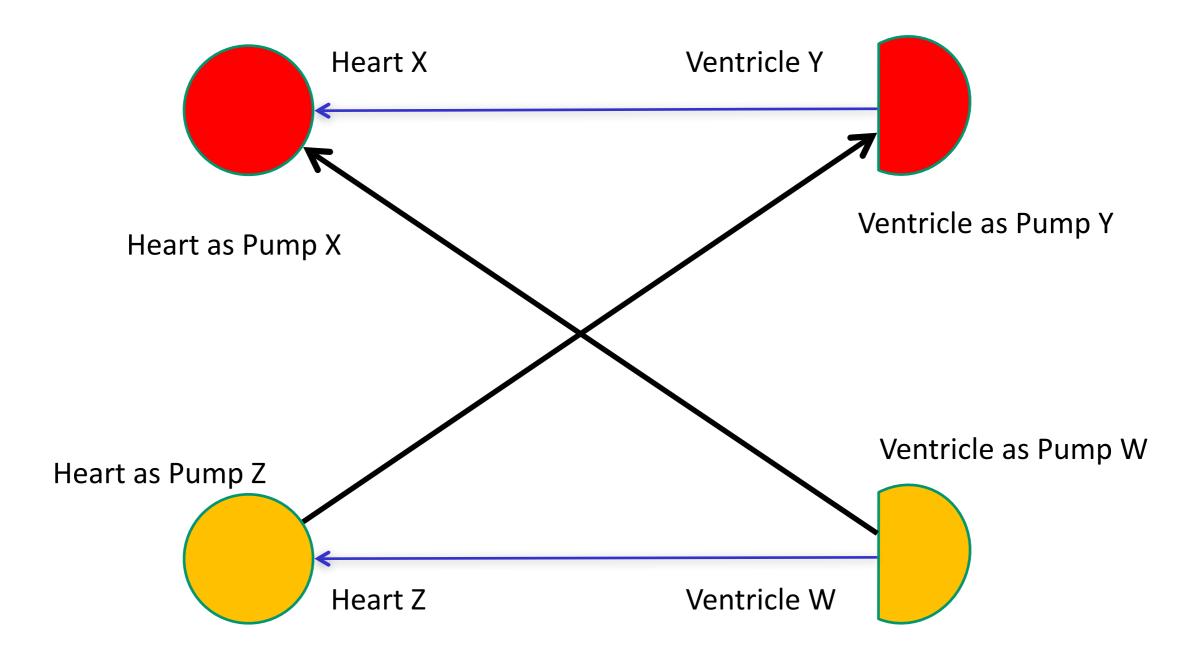
The Emerging Anti-Pattern: Relation Specialization (**RelSpec**)





(b)





Anti-Pattern Catalogue

- Association Cycle
- Binary Relation Between Over. Types
- Deceiving Intersection
- Free Role Specialization
- Imprecise Abstraction
- Multiple Relational Dependency
- Part Composing Over. Roles
- Whole Composed by Over. Parts
- Relator Mediating Over. Types
- Relation Composition
- Relator Mediating Rigid Types
- Relation Specialization
- Repeatable Relator Instances

- Relationally Dependent Phase
- Generalization Set With Mixed Rigidity
- Heterogeneous Collective
- Homogeneous Functional Complex
- Mixin With Same Identity
- Mixin With Same Rigidity
- Undefined Formal Association
- Undefined Phase Partition

Anti-Patterns (AP)	AP Occurrences	Relevant Model Construct (RMC)	RMC /AP Ratio	% of Qualified Models with AP Occurrence	
RelSpec	817	Association	4.92	48.15%	
ImpAbs	758	Association	5.30	72.22%	
AssCyc	1809	Association	2.22	92.59%	
RelOver	149	Relator	8.08	25%	
RepRel	319	Relator	3.77	64.58%	
BinOver	224	Association	17.93	48.15%	

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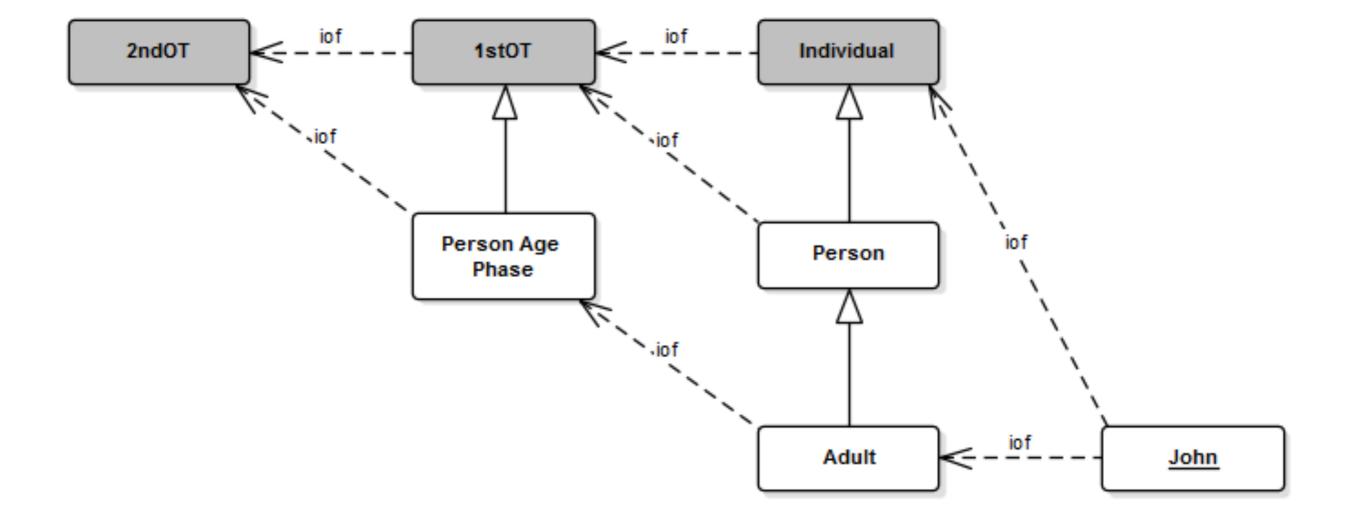
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Anti-Pattern	#Occ.	#Error	#Error / #Occ.	#Refac. /#Error	
RelSpec	315	279	88.6%	97.1%	
RepRel	221	57	25.8%	84.2%	
RelOver	124	70	56.5%	77.1%	
BinOver	74	31	41.9%	74.2%	
AssCyc	20	14	70.0%	71.4%	
ImpAbs	125	11	8.8%	27.3%	
Total	879	462	52.56%	88.53%	

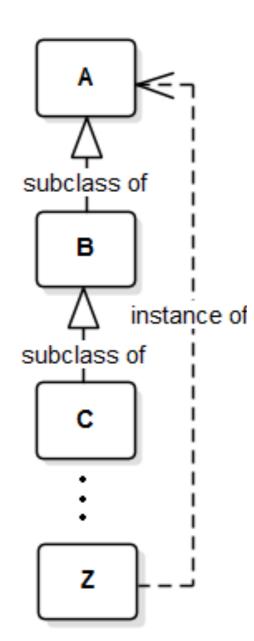
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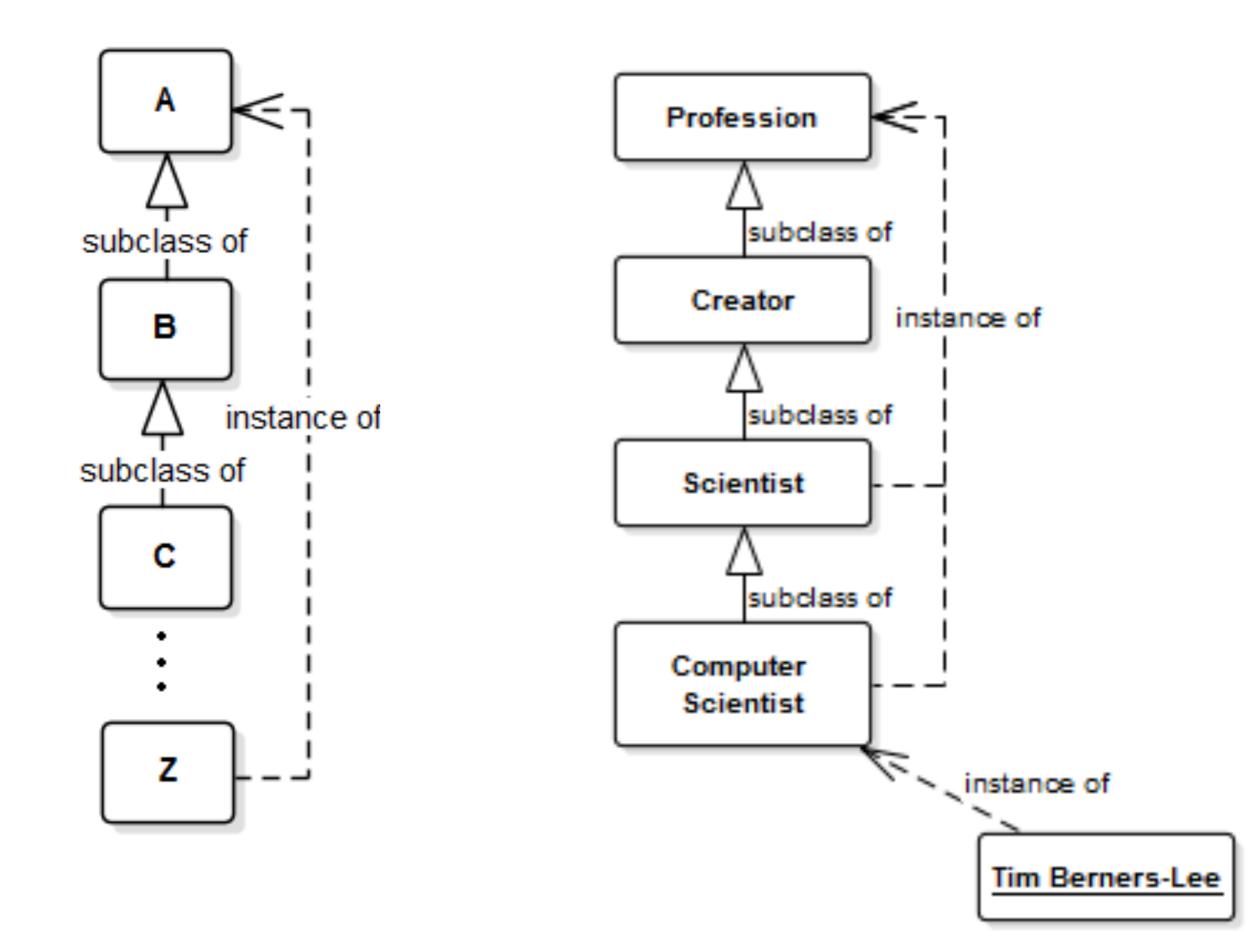
What if we went big... (searching for Anti-Patterns on WikiData)

Multi-Level Modeling



WD-AP-1

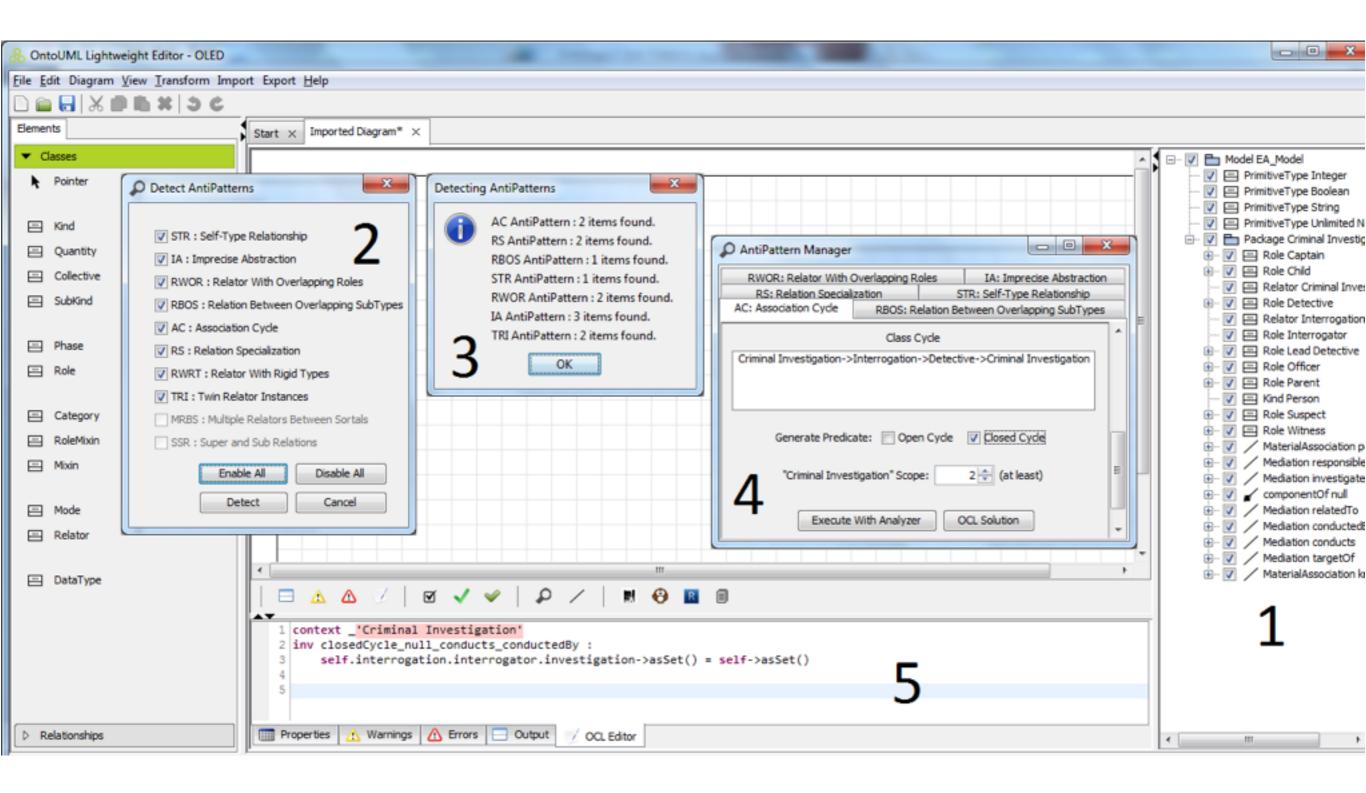


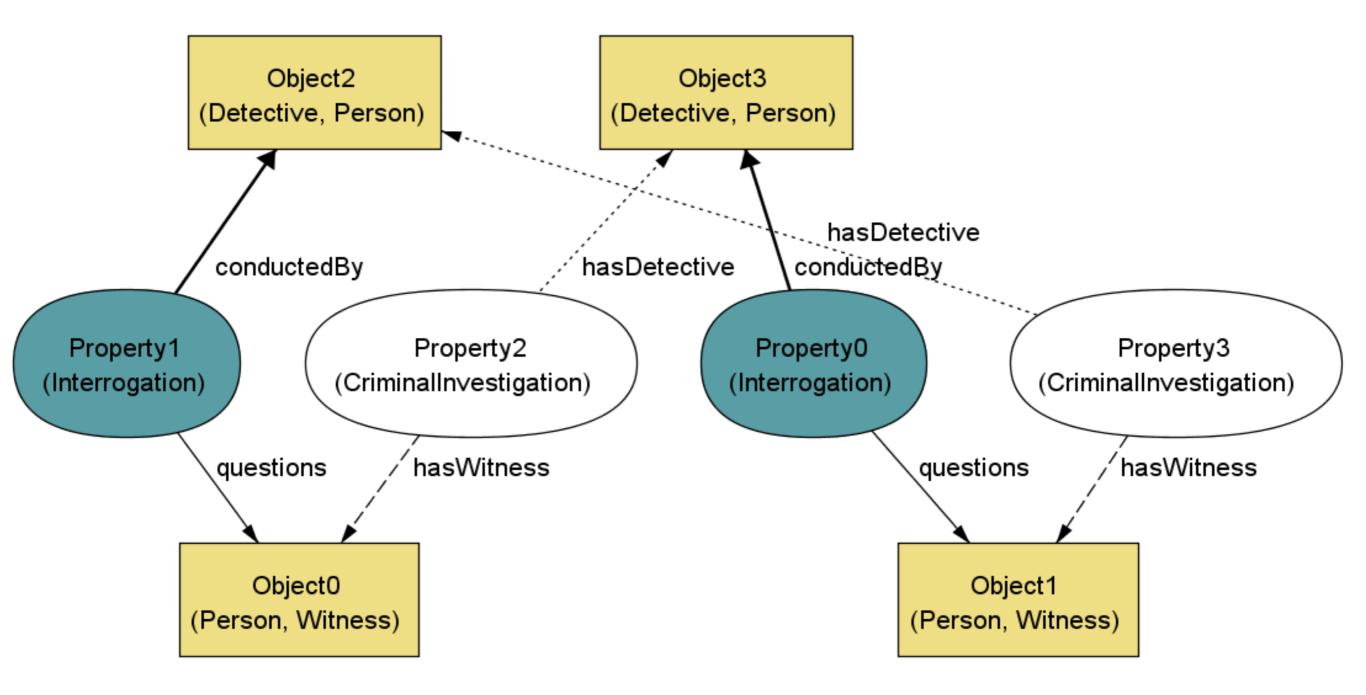


What if we went big...

Number of classes in any taxonomic hierarchy	337,102
Number of classes in taxonomic hierarchies spanning more than one level	17,819
Number of classes involved in AP1	15,177

OntoUML Criminal Investigation +child «Role» parentOf 🕨 Child «Material» +parent 1..2 «Role» «Kind» «Role» «Role» «Material» Person Parent Captain Officer knows +detective +suspect conductedBy 🕨 investigates 🕨 1...* «Role» «Role» «Mediation» «Mediation» 2...* Detective Suspect 1 1...* +investigation +investigation 1...* +investigation +interrogator «Relator» Criminal Investigation 1...* «Mediation» +investigation 1 relatedTo «Role» 1...* Witness +investigative context +witness «Role» +leader responsibleFor 1 +witness «ComponentOf» Lead Detective «Mediation» +part of investigatic1...* targetOf 🗩 1...* «Mediation» +interrogation «Relator» «Mediation» Interrogation +interrogation conducts 📂





ext _'Criminal Investigation'

				A		
	Relator Wi	th Overlapping Roles				
Relator: Criminal In	nvestigation					
Customizing Disjoin	ts Roles:			Add		
Lead Detective	Witness	Detective	Suspect			
Exclusive Disjoint Cr		nt from Table	Overlapping (at least)	T		
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3 4 context _'Cr 5 inv: self.wi 6 7 context _'De 8 inv: not sel	itness.oclAsTy riminal Invest itness.oclAsTy	pe(Person)->as igation' pe(Person)->as		ection(self.det		
9						
🎹 Properties 🔥 V	Varnings 🔥 Erro	ors 📃 Output	💋 OCL Editor			

Demos, Tools and Model Repository



Harness enterprise knowledge

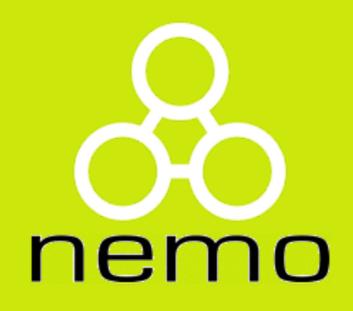
Explore the full potential of data in a information economy era

CONTACT US

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