Ontology-Driven Conceptual Modeling with UFO, gUFO and OntoUML

KRDB Summer Seminars, 2019 Giancarlo Guizzardi CORE/UNIBZ, Italy



ER Online Summer Seminars

An interdisciplinary series of weekly online events featuring world-class speakers



krdb.eu/ eross-2020

Acknowledgements:

Nicola Guarino
John Mylopoulos
NEMO^{1..*}
CORE^{1..*}

"Conceptual Modeling is the activity of representing the physical or social world for the purposes of communication, problem-solving and meaning negotiation among humans"

(Guarino, Mylopoulos & Guizzardi, 2019)
Philosophical Foundations for Conceptual Modeling

Conceptual Modeling ≈

Interface between Reality and Cognition

Another look at data

by GEORGE H. MEALY
Computer Consultant
Scituate, Massachusetts

INTRODUCTION

particular ontology, we can avoid a quarrel by adopt-

"data are fragments of a **theory of the real world**, and data processing juggles **representations** of these fragments of theory..."

them in a somewhat new form may prove to be at least suggestive.

To begin on a philosophical plane, let us note that we usually behave as if there were three realms of interest in data processing: the real world itself, ideas about it existing in the minds of men, and symbols on paper or some other storage medium. The latToward a theory of data

Relations

To fix our ideas, consider the following example of genealogical data, taken from Reference 2:

Another look at data

by GEORGE H. MEALY
Computer Consultant
Scituate, Massachusetts

INTRODUCTION

particular ontology, we can avoid a quarrel by adopt-

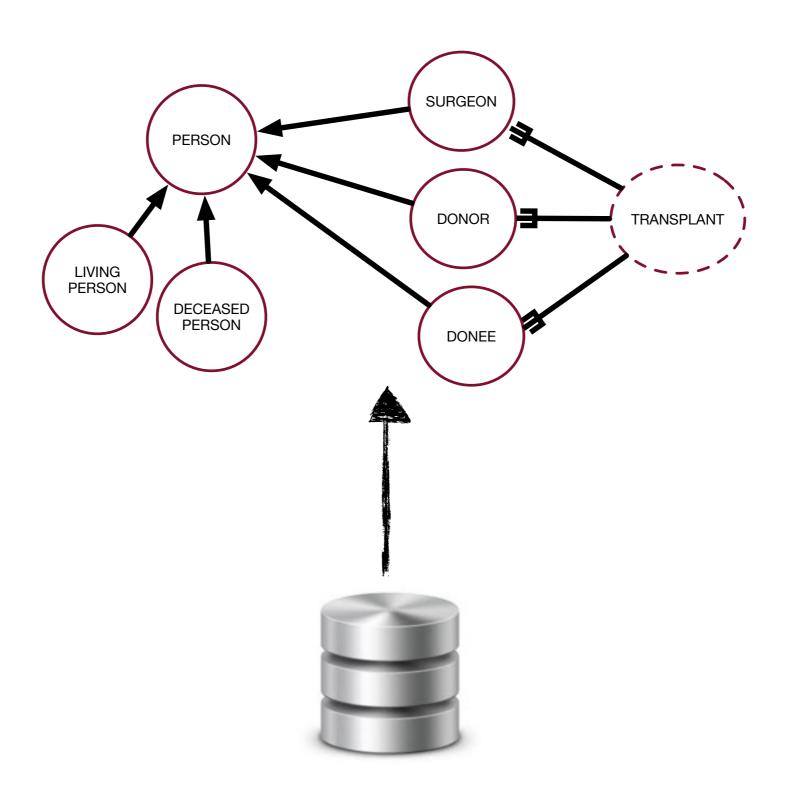
"data are fragments of a theory of the real world, and data processing juggles representations of these fragments of theory... The issue is ontology, or the question of what exists.""

them in a somewhat new form may prove to be at least suggestive.

To begin on a philosophical plane, let us note that we usually behave as if there were three realms of interest in data processing: the real world itself, ideas about it existing in the minds of men, and symbols on paper or some other storage medium. The latToward a theory of data

Relations

To fix our ideas, consider the following example of genealogical data, taken from Reference 2:



The opposite of Ontology is not Non-Ontology is Bad Ontology!

Ontology as a Calculus of Content

- 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



Classification and Taxonomic Structures, Part-Whole Relations, Relations, Causality, Multi-Level Modeling, Dependence, Events, Roles, etc...



EngineeringTools

Modeling Languages,
Methodologies, Computational
Tools, Patterns, Anti-Patterns, Code
Generators, Simulators, Complexity
Management Tools





Modeling Languages,

Methodologies, Computational Tools, Patterns, Anti-Patterns, Code Generators, Simulators, Complexity Management Tools

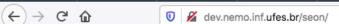
Engineering Tools

Domain Specific Theories

Foundatio Theorie

Software (Configuration Management, Adaptation and Run-Evolution, Defects and Anomalies, etc...)

Domain' Specific Theories



SEON: Software Engineering Ontology Network

SEON Network

Foundational Layer

UFO - Unified Foundational Ontology

Core Layer

SPO - Software Process Ontology

COM - Core Ontology on Measurement (external)

EO - Enterprise Ontology (external)

Domain Layer

SwO - Software Ontology

ReqON - Requirements engineering Ontology subNetwork

RSRO - Reference Software Requirements Ontology

RRO - Runtime Requirements Ontology

GORO - Goal-Oriented Requirements Ontology

RDPO - Requirements Development Process Ontology

DPO - Design Process Ontology

CPO - Coding Process Ontology

ROoST - Reference Ontology on Software Testing

QAPO - Quality Assurance Process Ontology

SPMO - Software Project Management Ontology

CMPO - Configuration Management Process Ontology

RSMO - Reference Software Measurement Ontology

Features

Concepts Searcher

Network Graph

Network Stats
Operational Version (OWL)

Feedback

SEON Version 1.0.5 Mon Sep 25 21:34:15 BRT 2017

SEON: The Software Engineering Ontology Network

... ☑ ☆

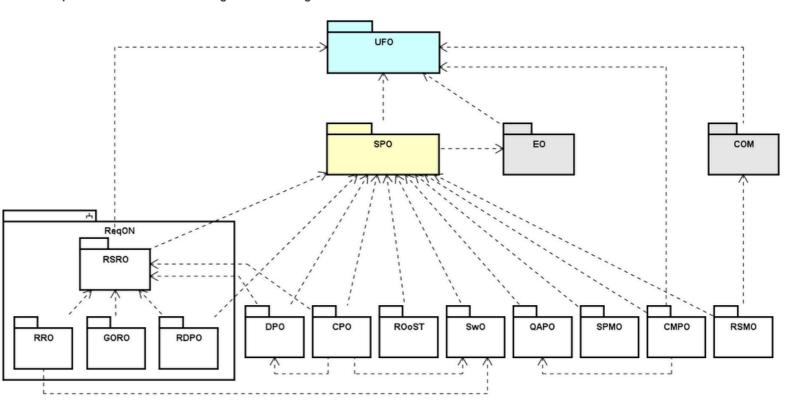
Q Search

SEON provides a well-grounded network of SE reference ontologies, and mechanisms for deriving and incorporating new integrated domain ontologies into the network.

SEON results from various efforts on building ontologies for the Software Engineering (SE) field. Although SEON itself is a new proposal, the studies and ontologies developed along the years are important contributions for defining this network. Hence, SEON rises with three main premises:

- i. being based on a well-founded grounding for ontology development;
- ii. offering mechanisms to support building and integrating new SE domain ontologies to the network; and
- iii. promoting integration by keeping a consistent semantics for concepts and relations along the whole network.

Currently, the SEON Network is composed of the networked ontologies shown in Figure 1.



Lagiaakiaa

Microeconomics (Service, Value, Economic Transactions, Trust, Contracts, Preference, Money, Risk, etc...)

Domain Specific Theories

Domain
Specific
Models &
Languages

Engineering Tools

Domain Specific Theories

Domain
Specific
Models &
Languages

We have analyzed and proposed improvements to a number of conceptual modeling languages and standards (e.g., ARIS, Archimate, BPMN, i*, DES...)

gineering Tools

Domain Specific Theories

Domain
Specific
Models &
Languages

Insights on the Use and Application of Ontology and Conceptual Modeling Languages in Ontology-Driven Conceptual Modeling

Michael Verdonck^(⋈) and Frederik Gailly

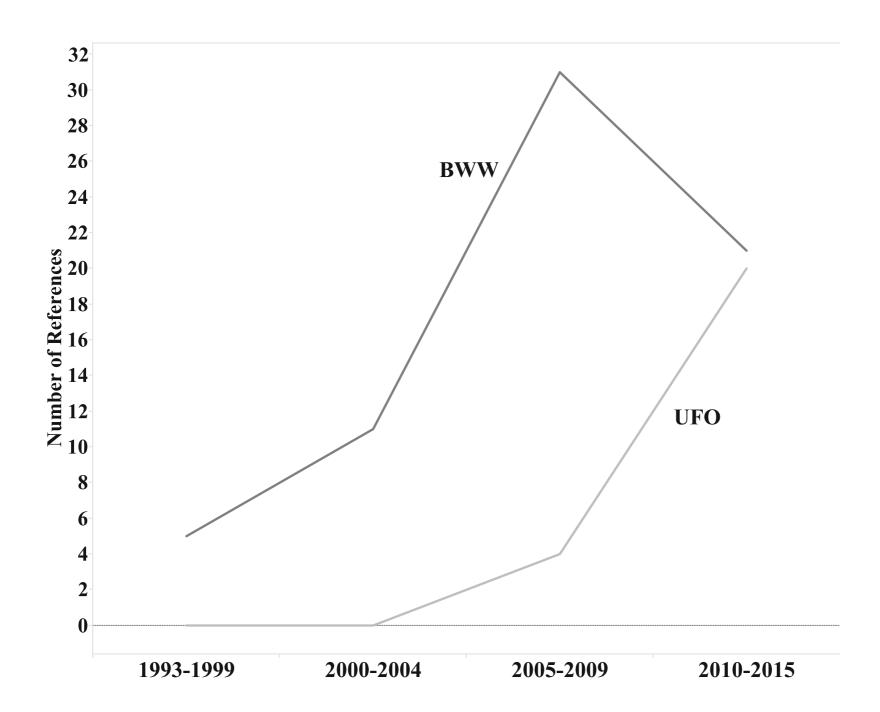
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

{michael.verdonck, frederik.gailly}@UGent.be

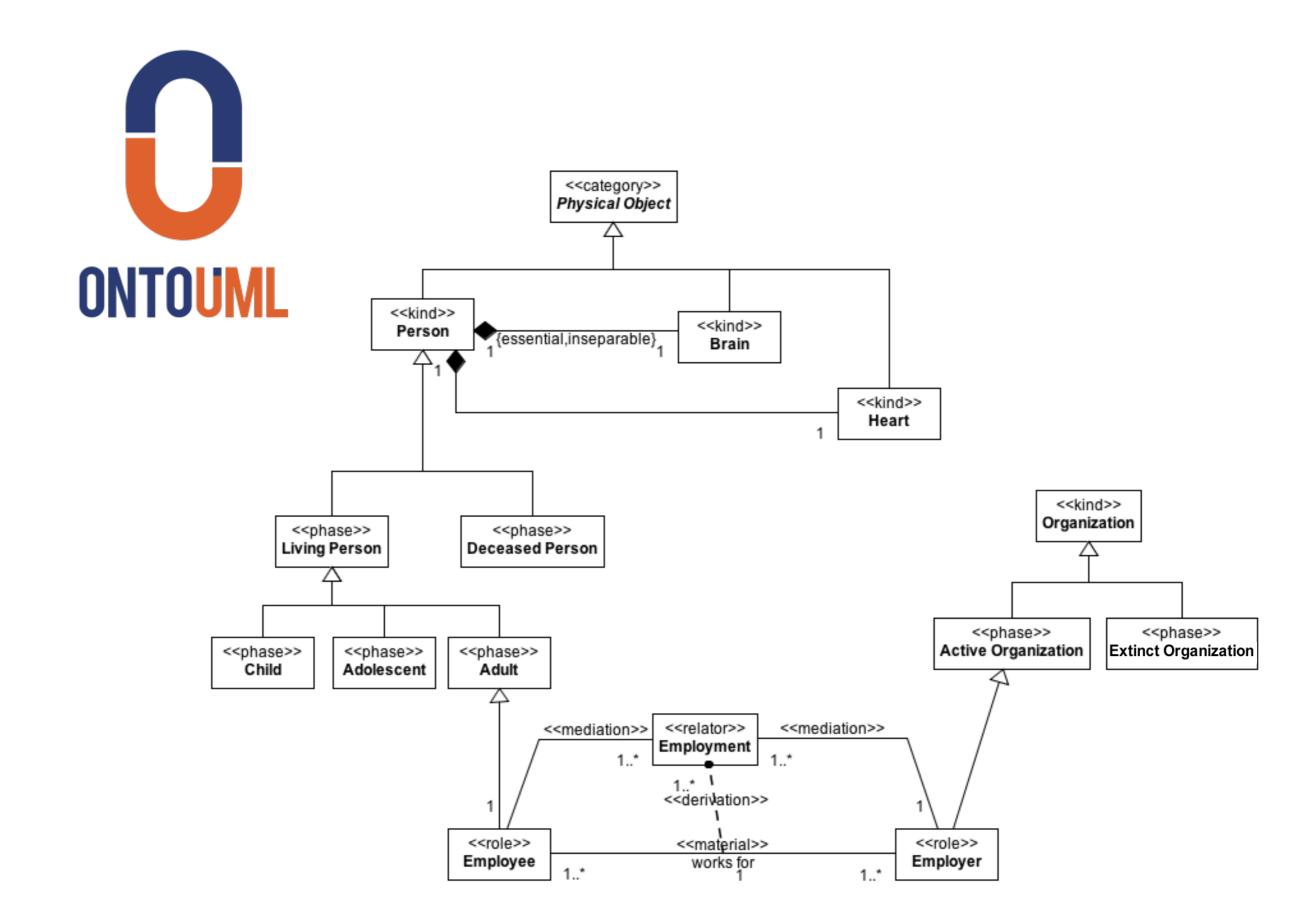
© Springer International Publishing AG 2016 I. Comyn-Wattiau et al. (Eds.): ER 2016, LNCS 9974, pp. 83–97, 2016.

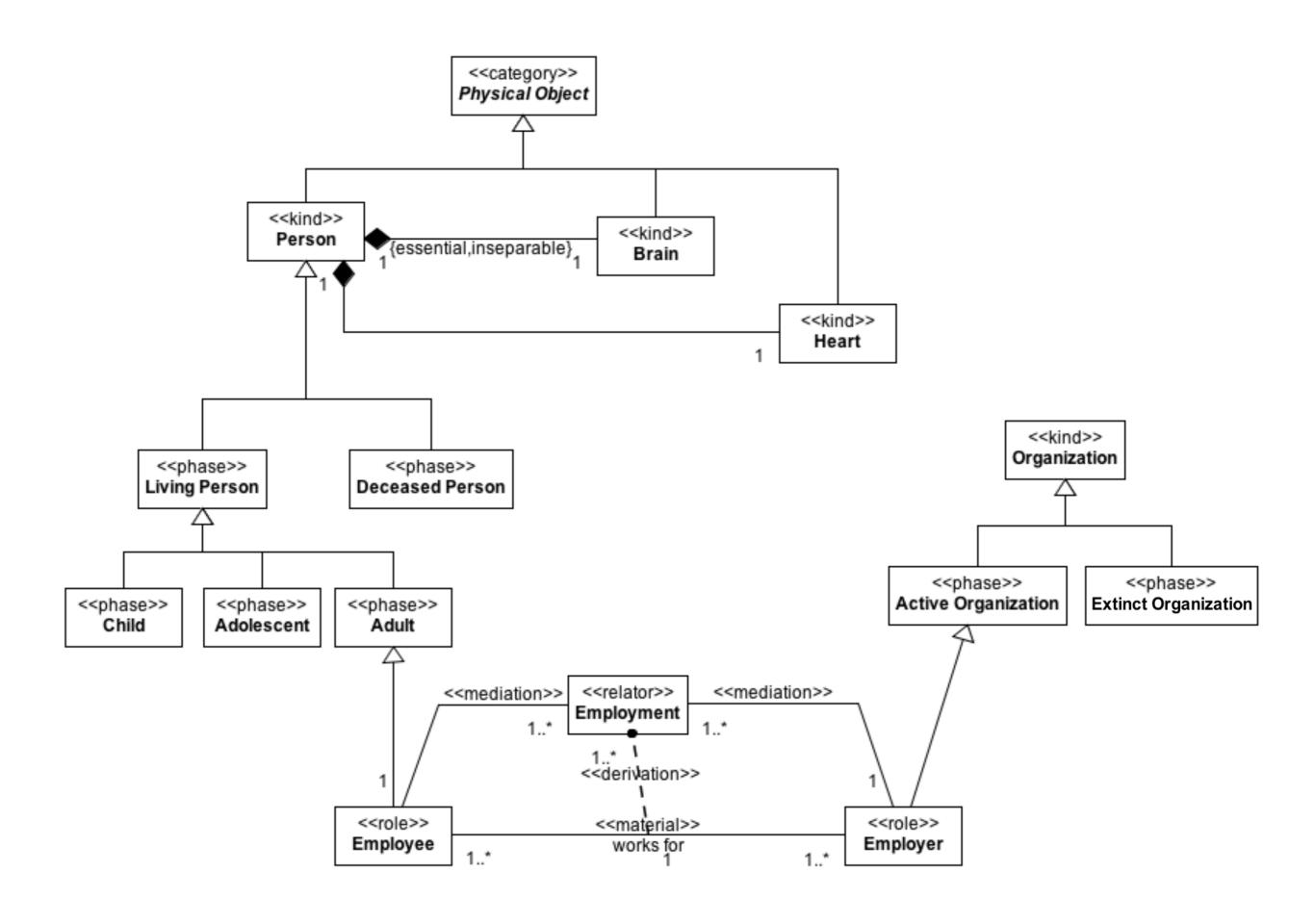
DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-46397-1_7

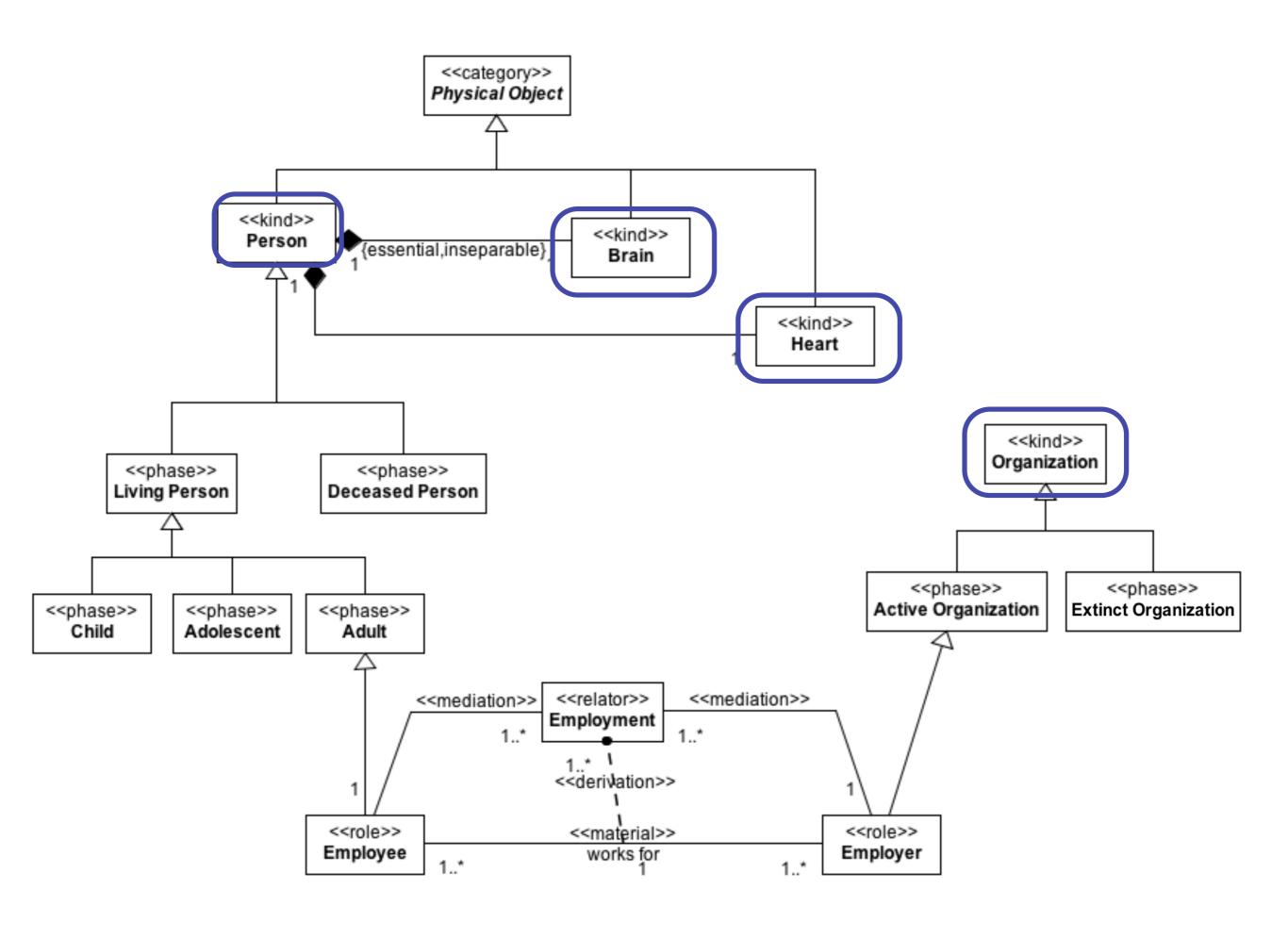
Type of Ontology	Frequency
Foundational Ontology	
BWW	68
UFO	24
General Formal Ontology (GFO)	4
Discrete Event Simulation Ontology (DESO)	3
DOLCE	3
Chisholm Ontology	2
SUMO	2
BORO	1
Basic Formal Ontology (BFO)	1
Searle's Ontology	1
Business/Enterprise	
REA	5

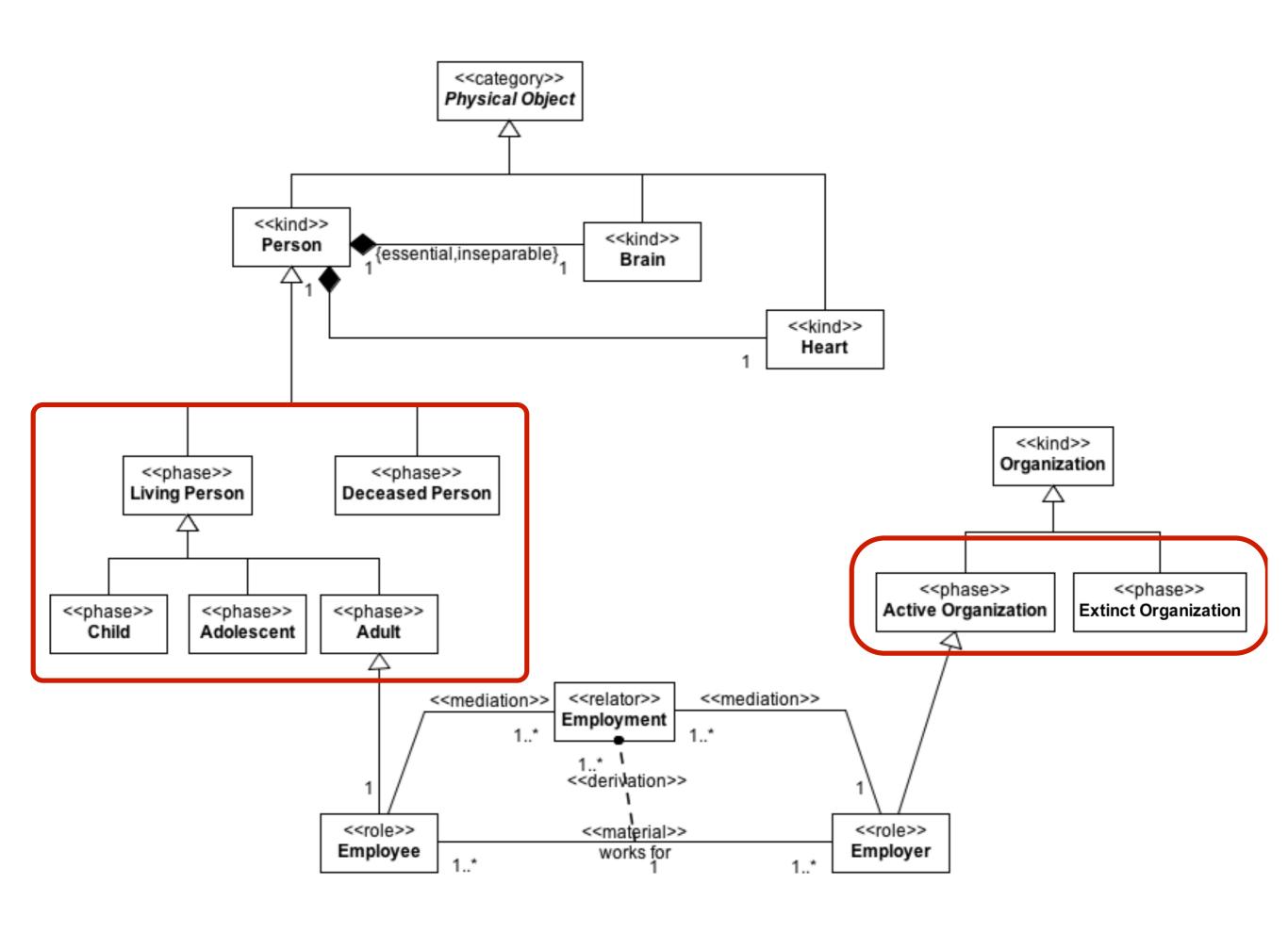


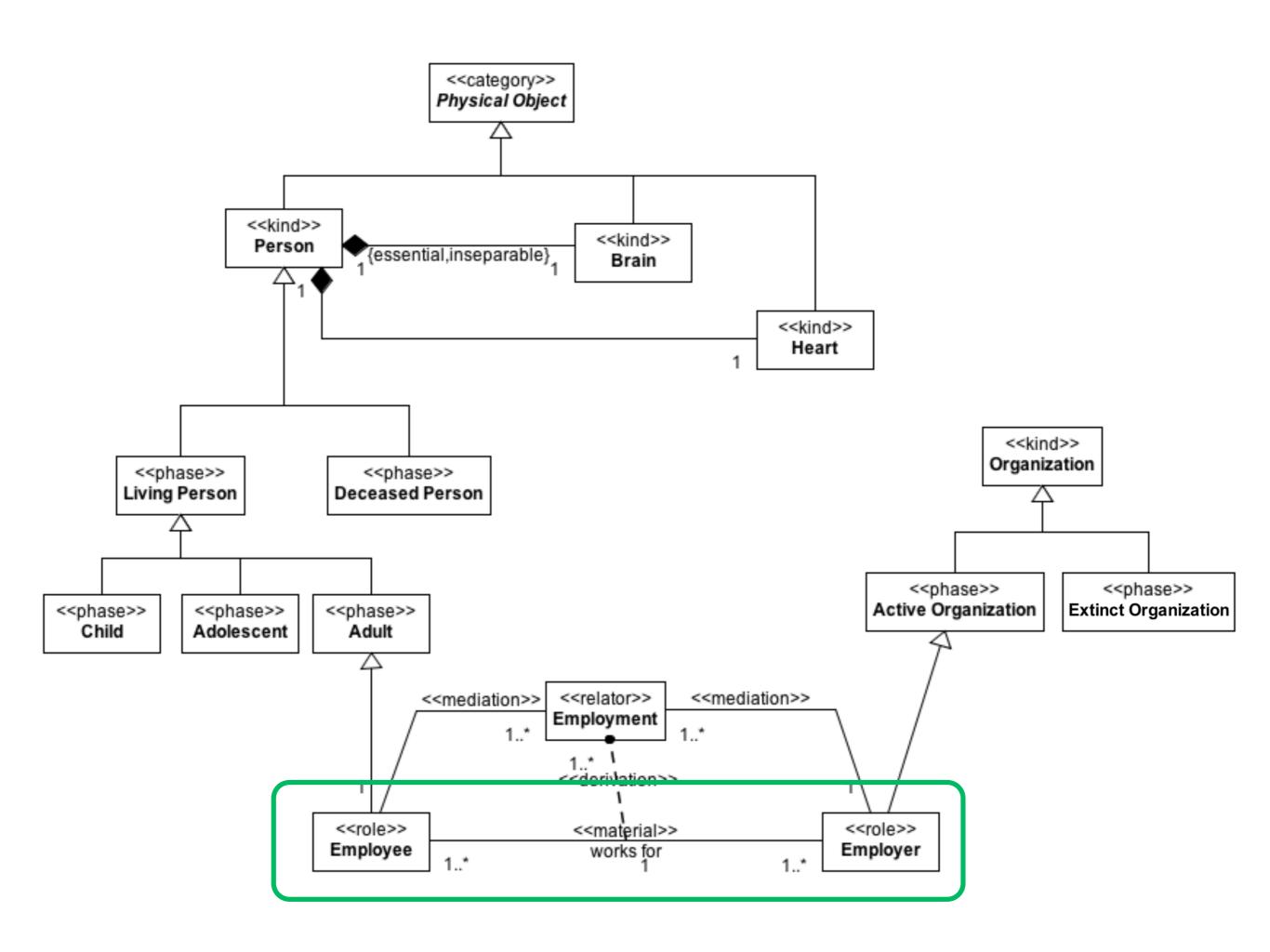
To gain a better understanding of the two most applied ontologies in ODCM, we have mapped their frequency of references over time. As we can see from Fig. 2, the BWW ontology has been especially popular in the years 2005-2009. However, since UFO's introduction in 2005, researchers performing ODCM have keenly adopted the ontology. It is clear that many users of BWW have switched to UFO in the years 2010–2015.

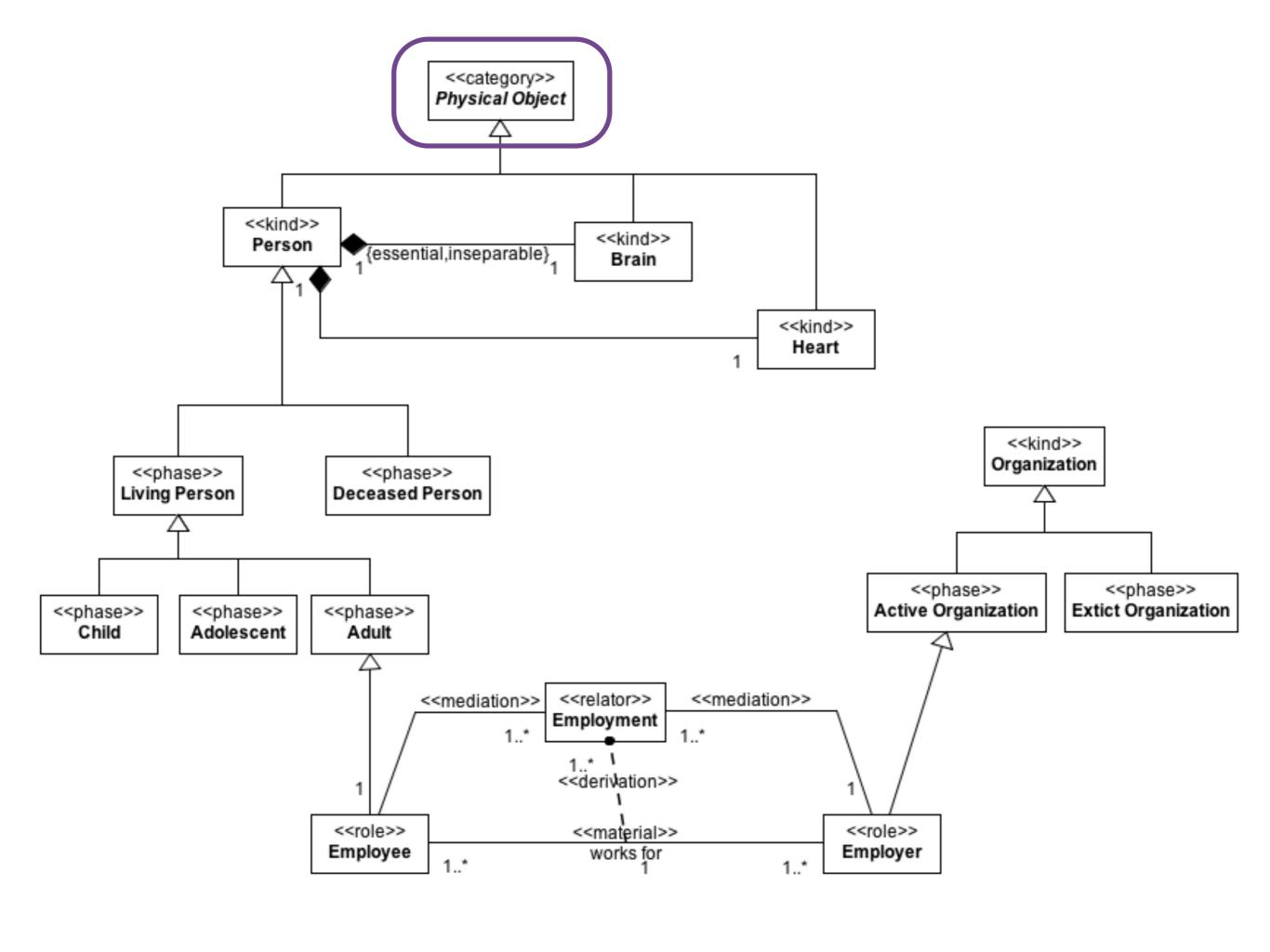


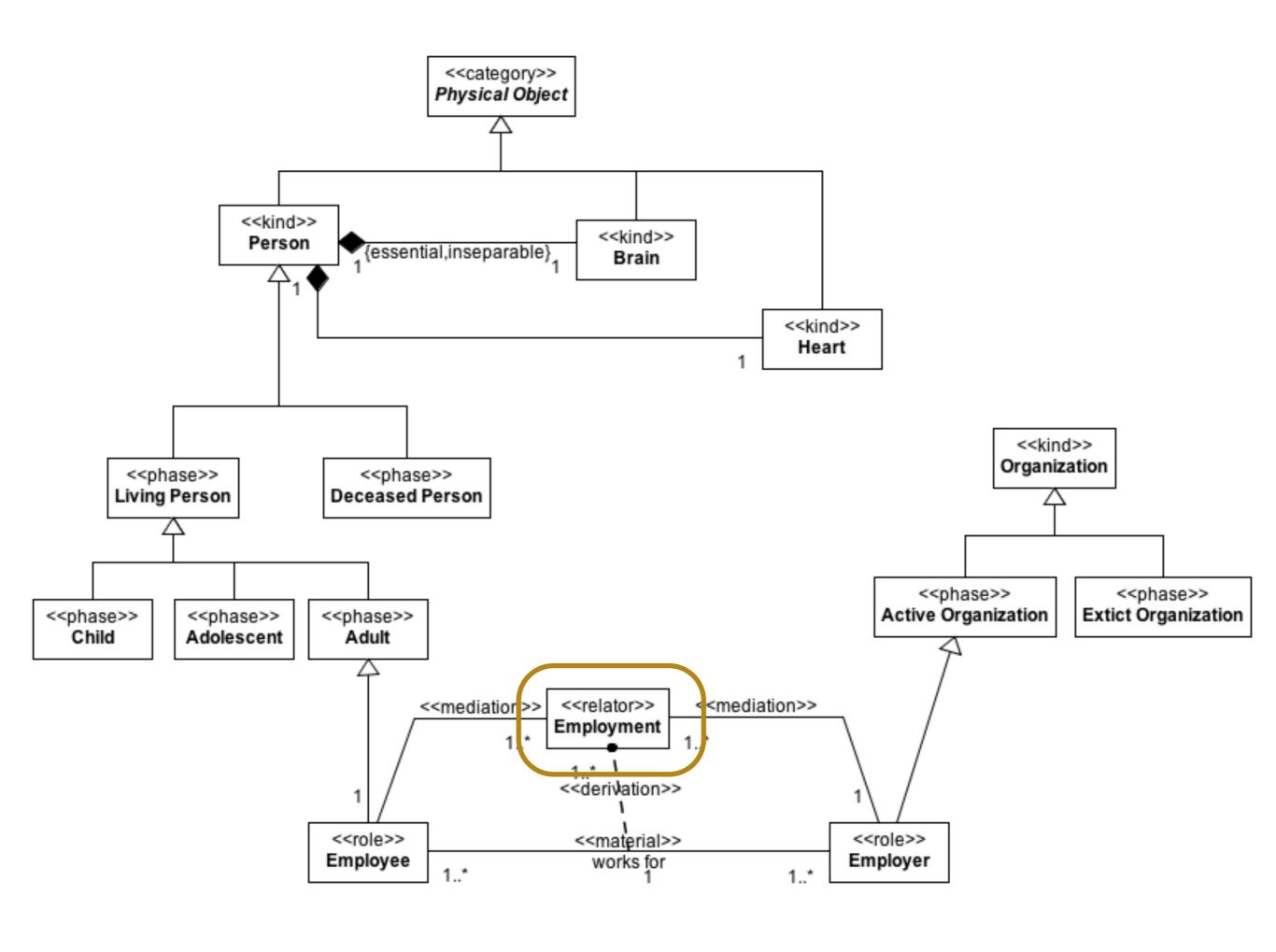


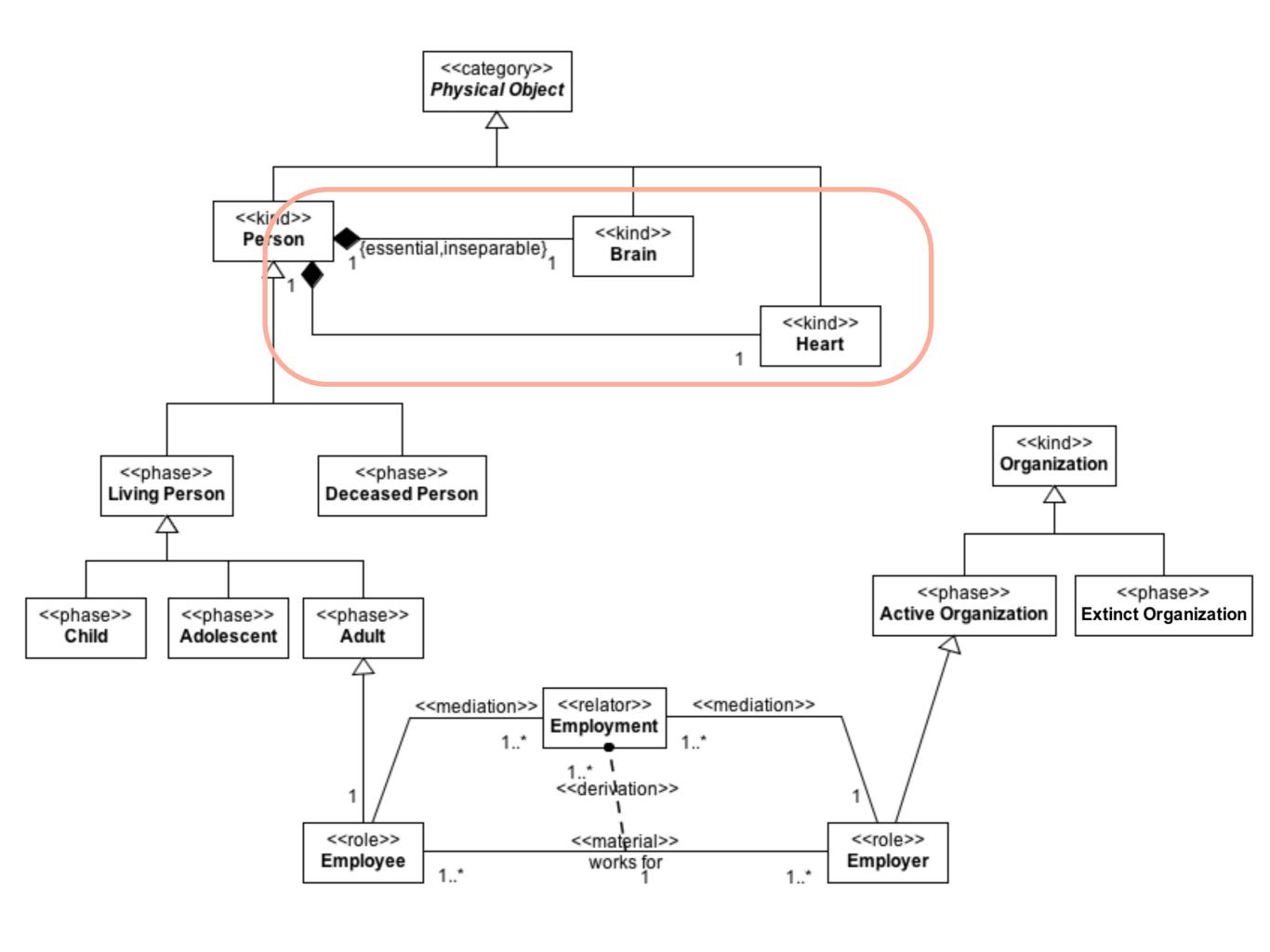




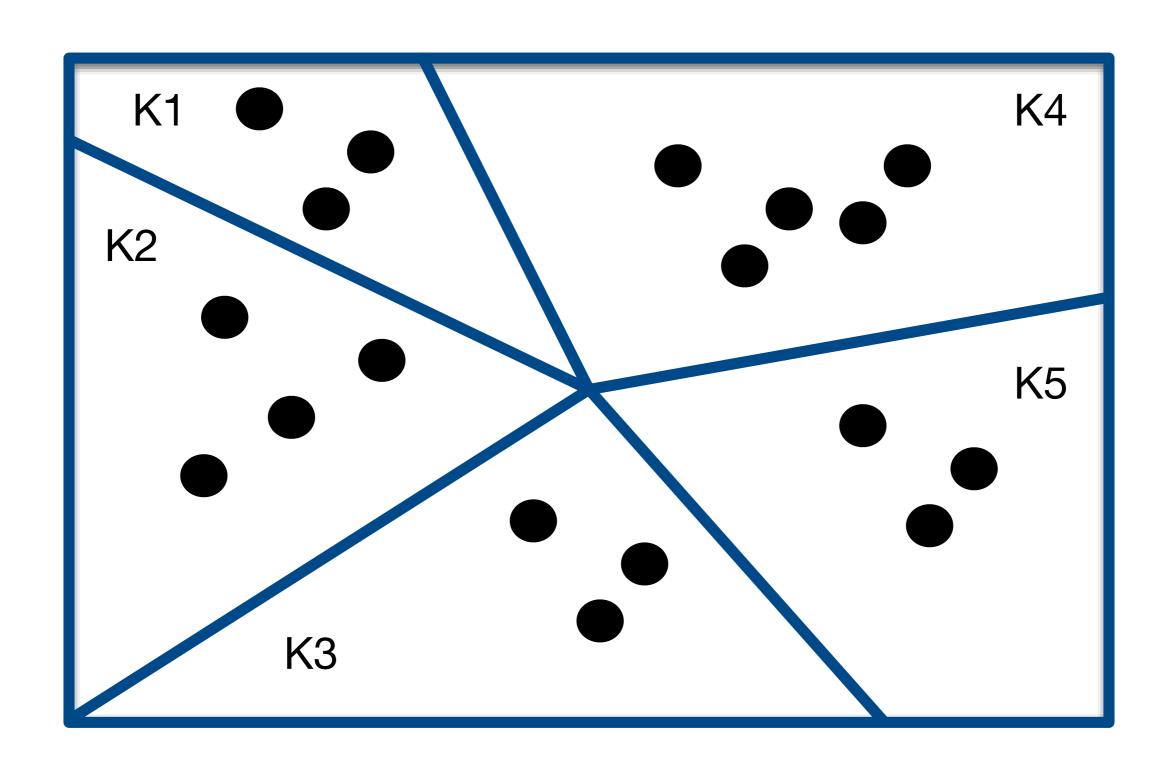




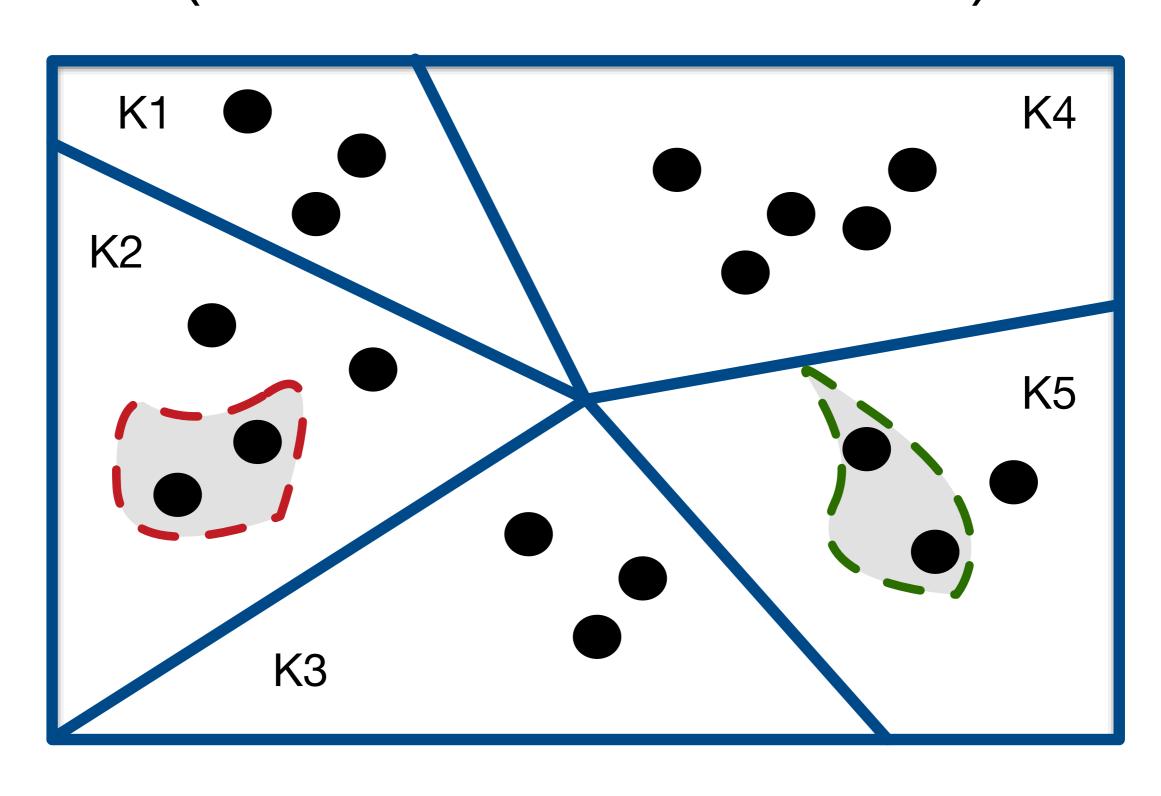




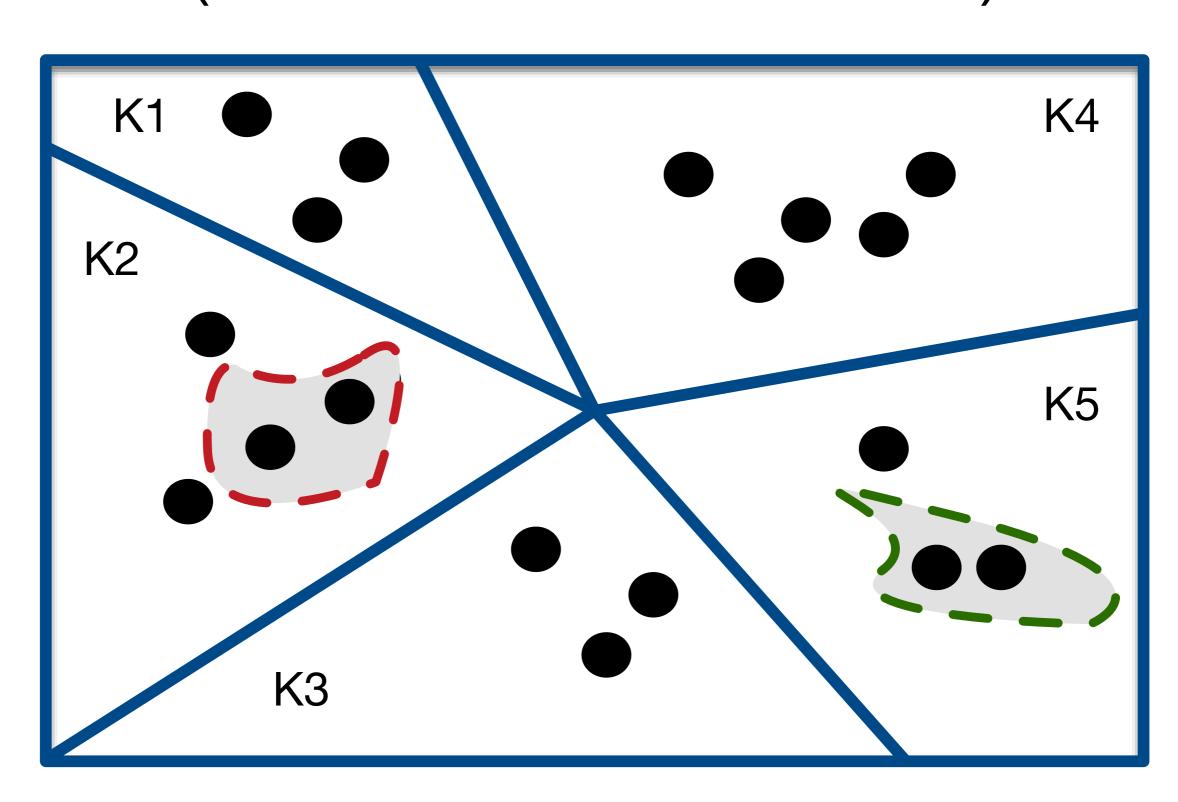
Kinds



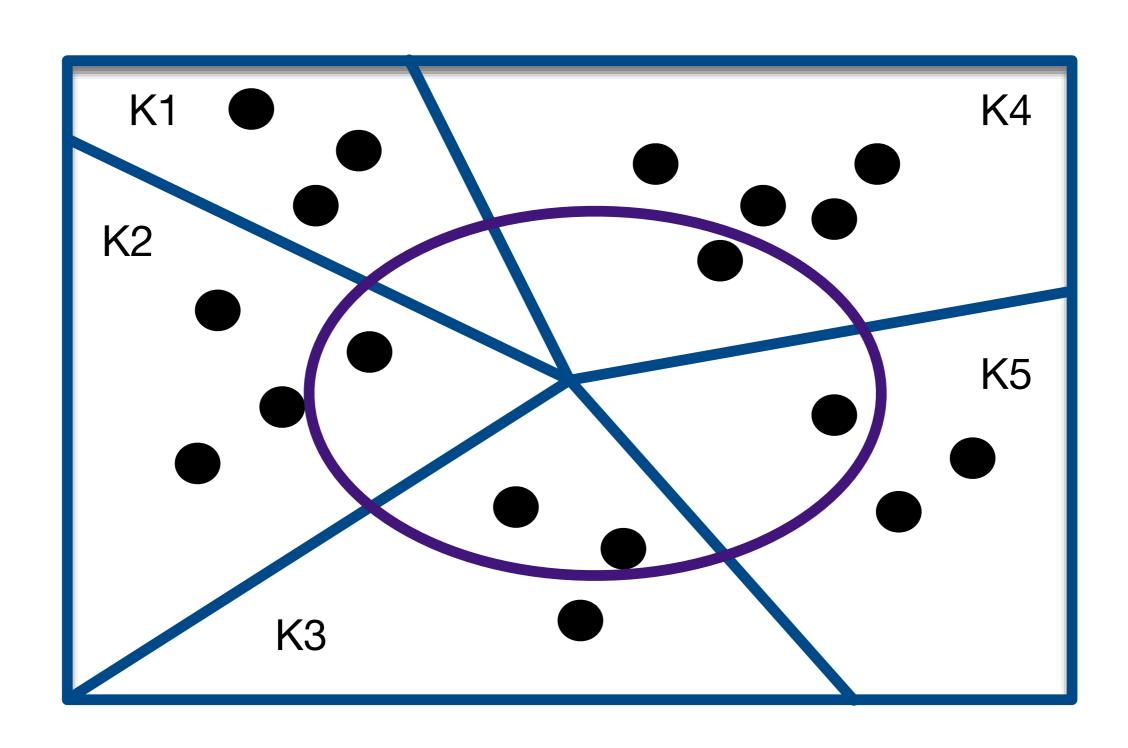
Anti-Rigid Sortals (Roles and Phases)



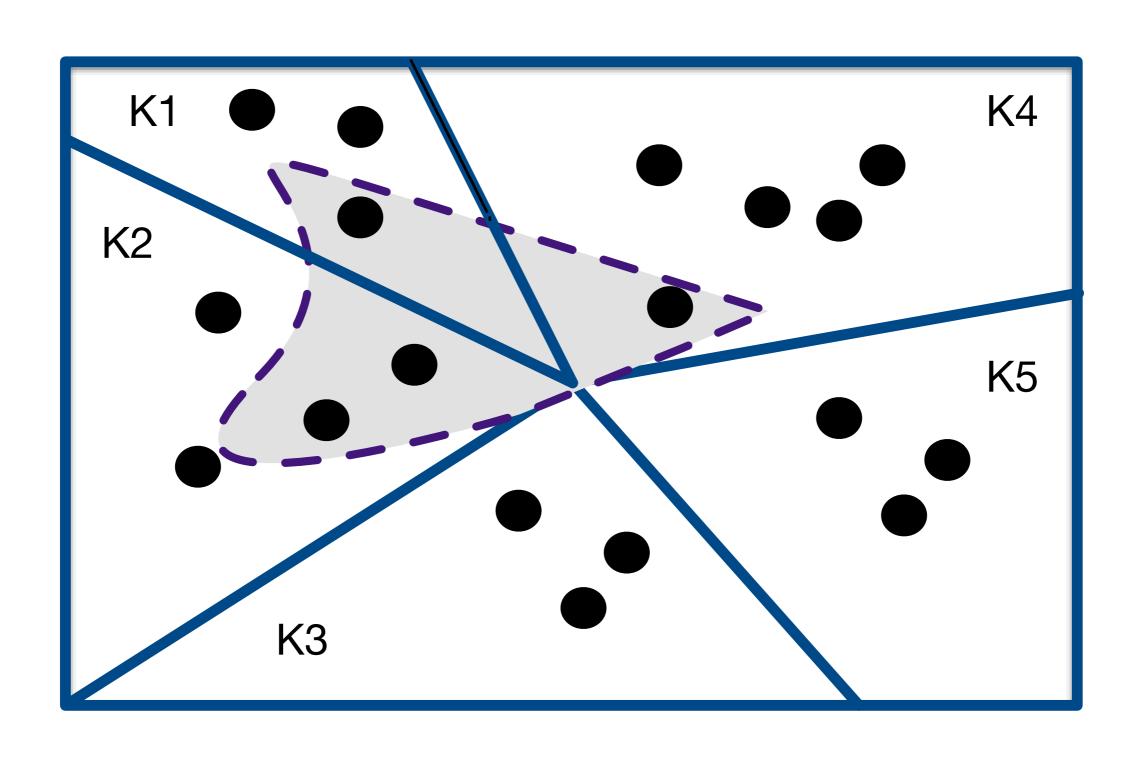
Anti-Rigid Sortals (Roles and Phases)



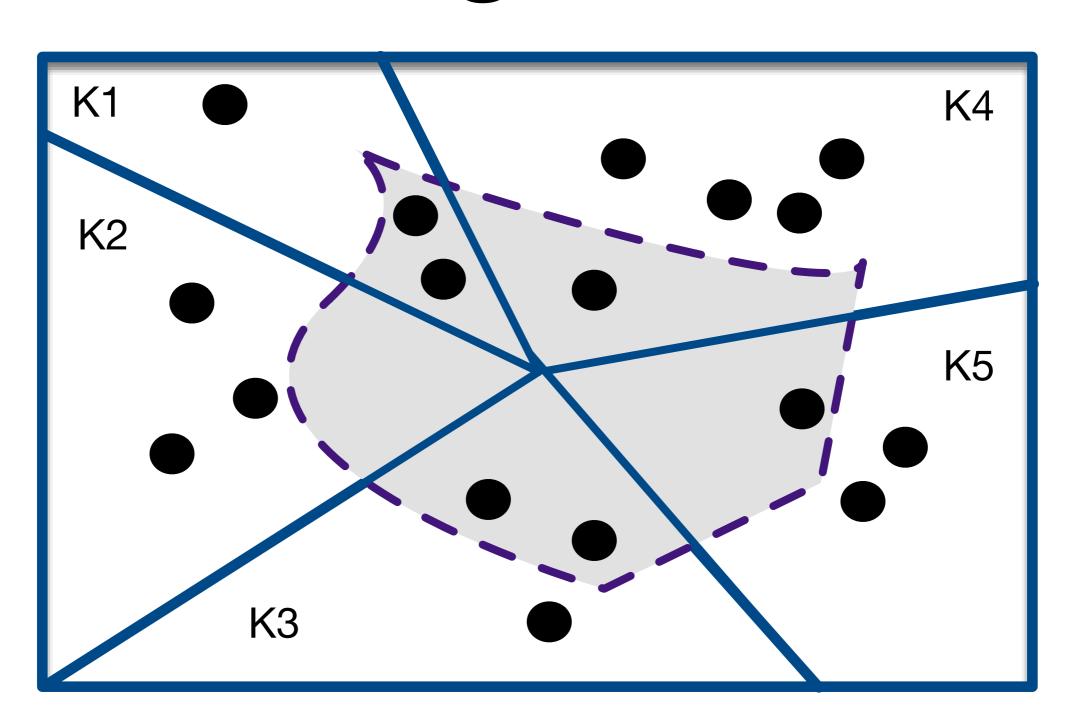
Rigid Mixins

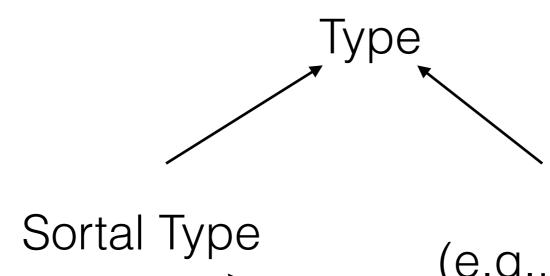


Anti-Rigid Mixins



Anti-Rigid Mixins



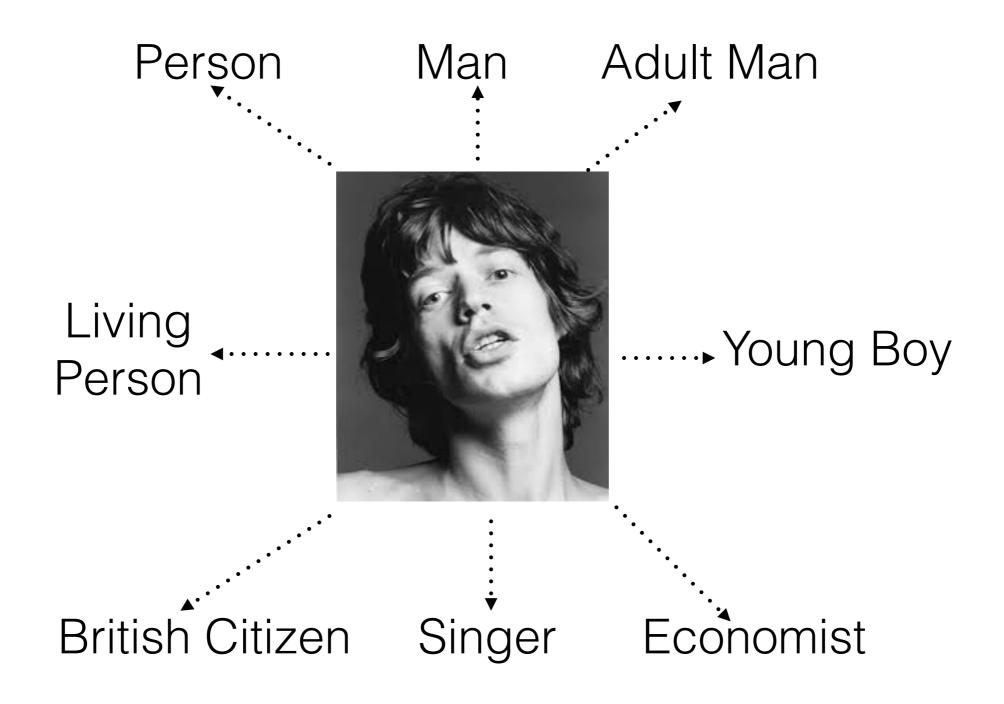


MIXIN

(e.g., insurable entity, cultural heritage item)

Rigid Sortal Type or **KIND**(e.g., person, dog, organization car)

Anti-Rigid
Sortal Type
including **ROLES**(e.g., student, singer)
and **PHASES**(e.g., living person,
metropolis)

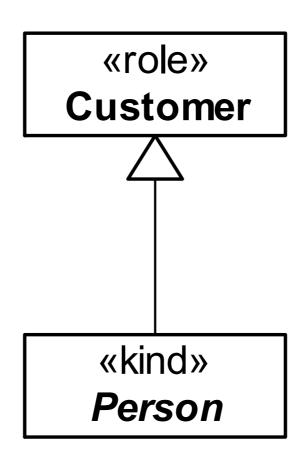


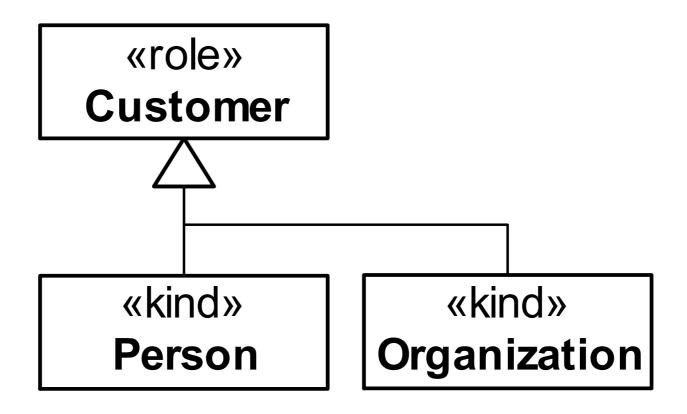
Solution

- 1. Characterizing the difference between:
 - NATURAL TYPE/KIND (e.g., PERSON) = RIGID SORTAL
 - ROLE (e.g., SINGER, ECONOMIST, BRITISH CITIZEN, KNIGHT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE) = ANTI-RIGID + RELATIONALLY DEPENDENT SORTAL
 - PHASE (e.g., LIVING PERSON, ADULT MAN) = ANTI-RIGID + RELATIONALLY INDEPENDENT SORTAL
 - MIXIN (e.g., CULTURAL HERITAGE ENTITY, PHYSICAL ENTITY, INSURABLE ITEM)? = MIXIN

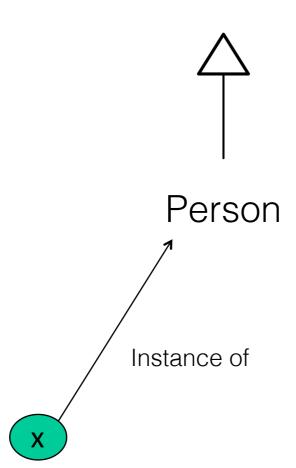
Role

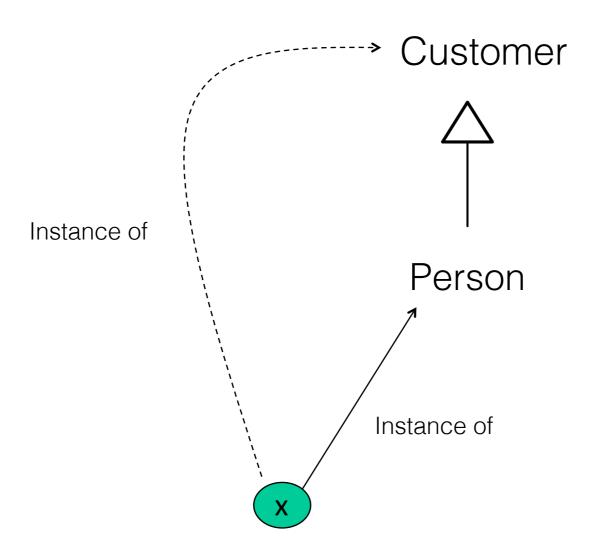
- All instances of a given ROLE are of the same KIND (e.g., all Students are Person)
- All instances of a ROLE instantiate that type only contingently (e.g., no Student is necessarily a Student)
- Instances of a KIND instantiate that ROLE when participating in a certain RELATIONAL CONTEXT (e.g., instances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

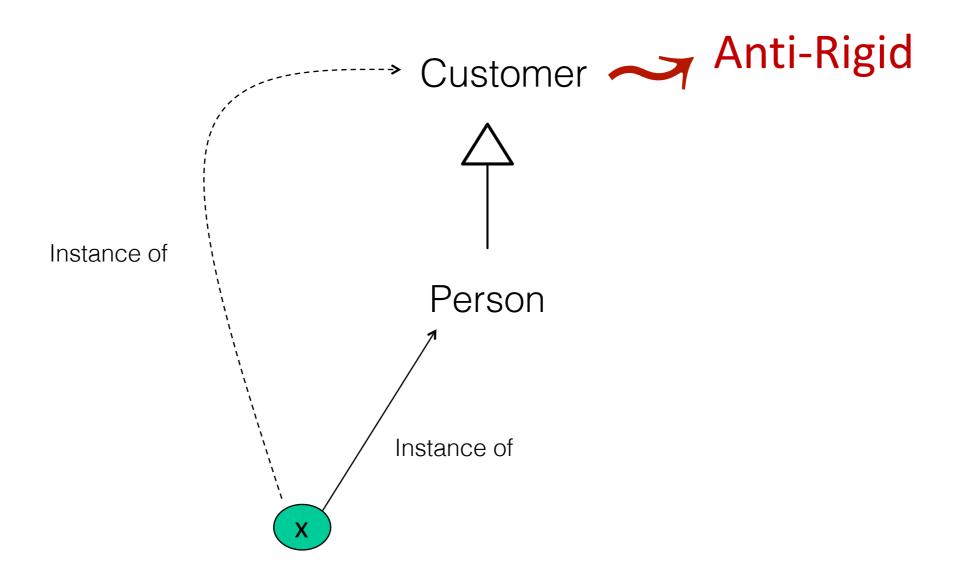


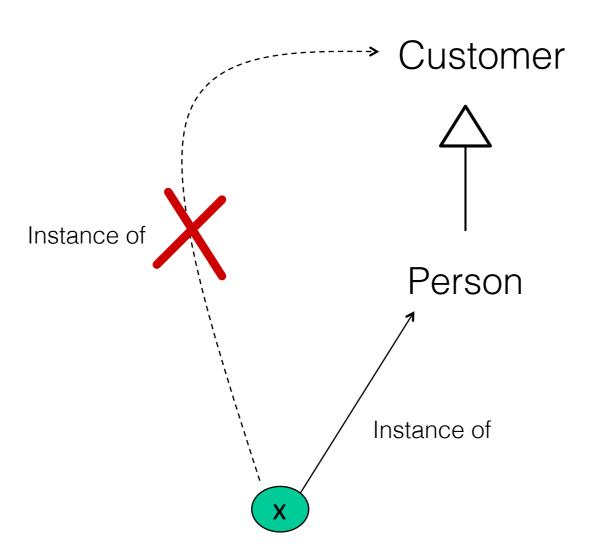


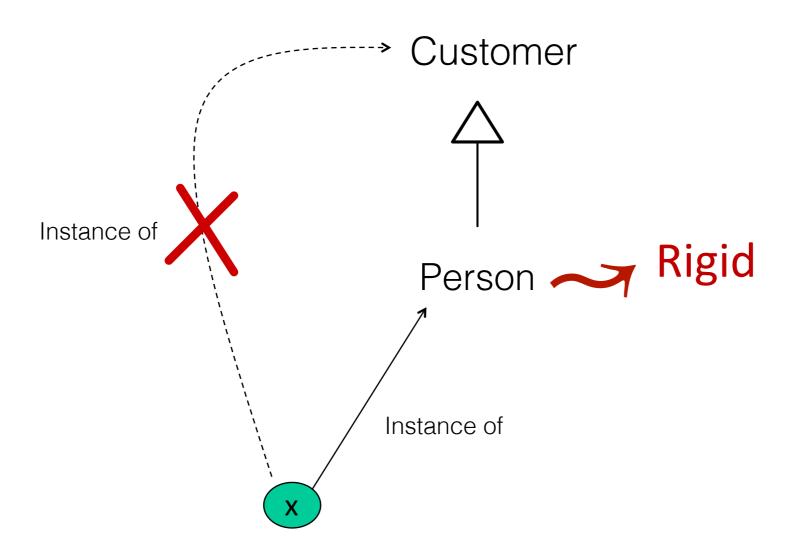
Customer

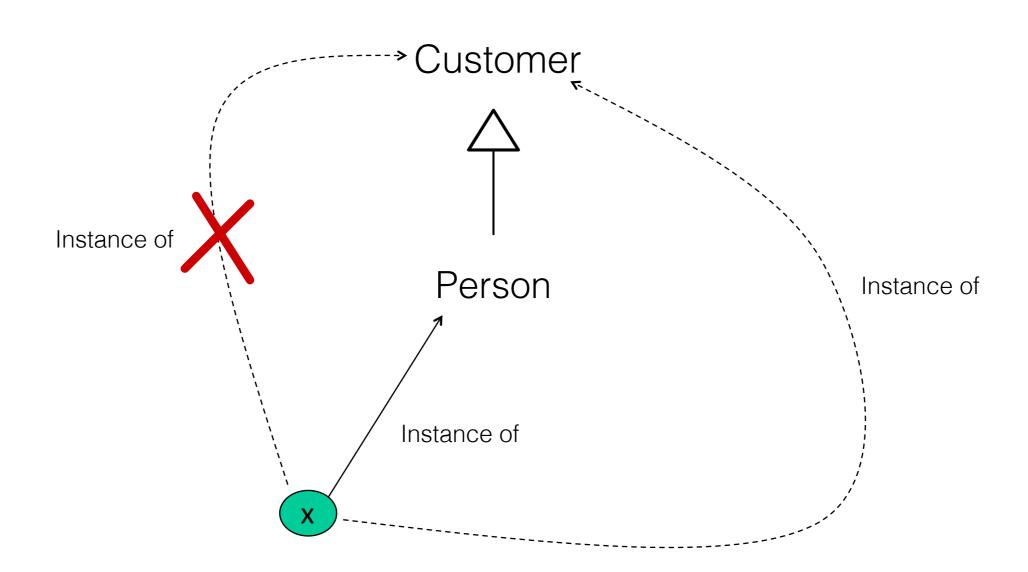


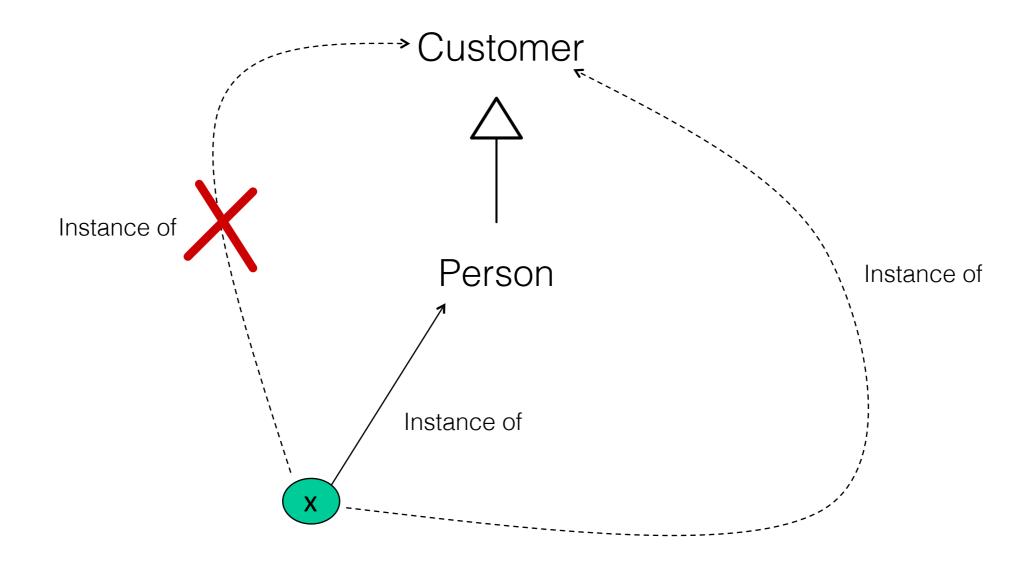








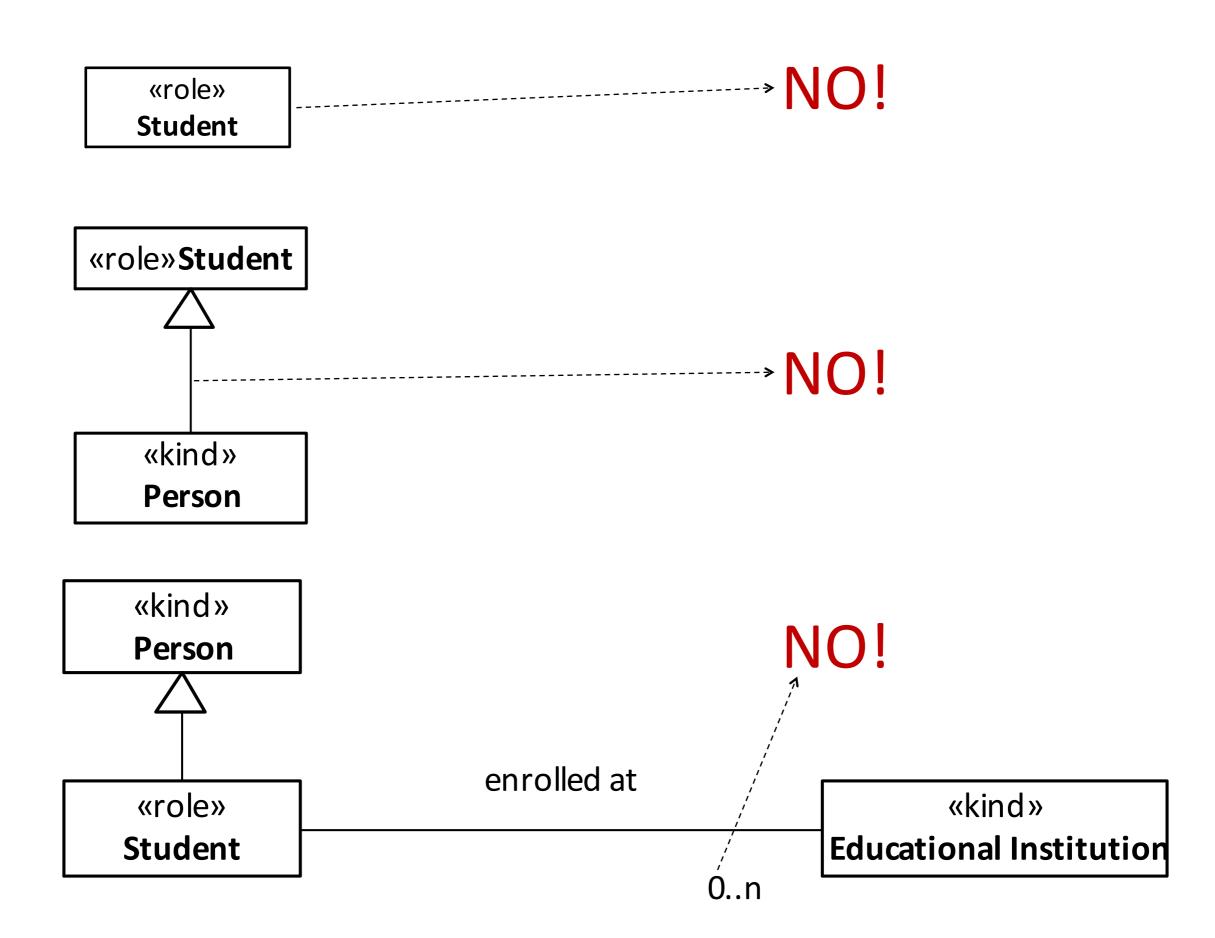


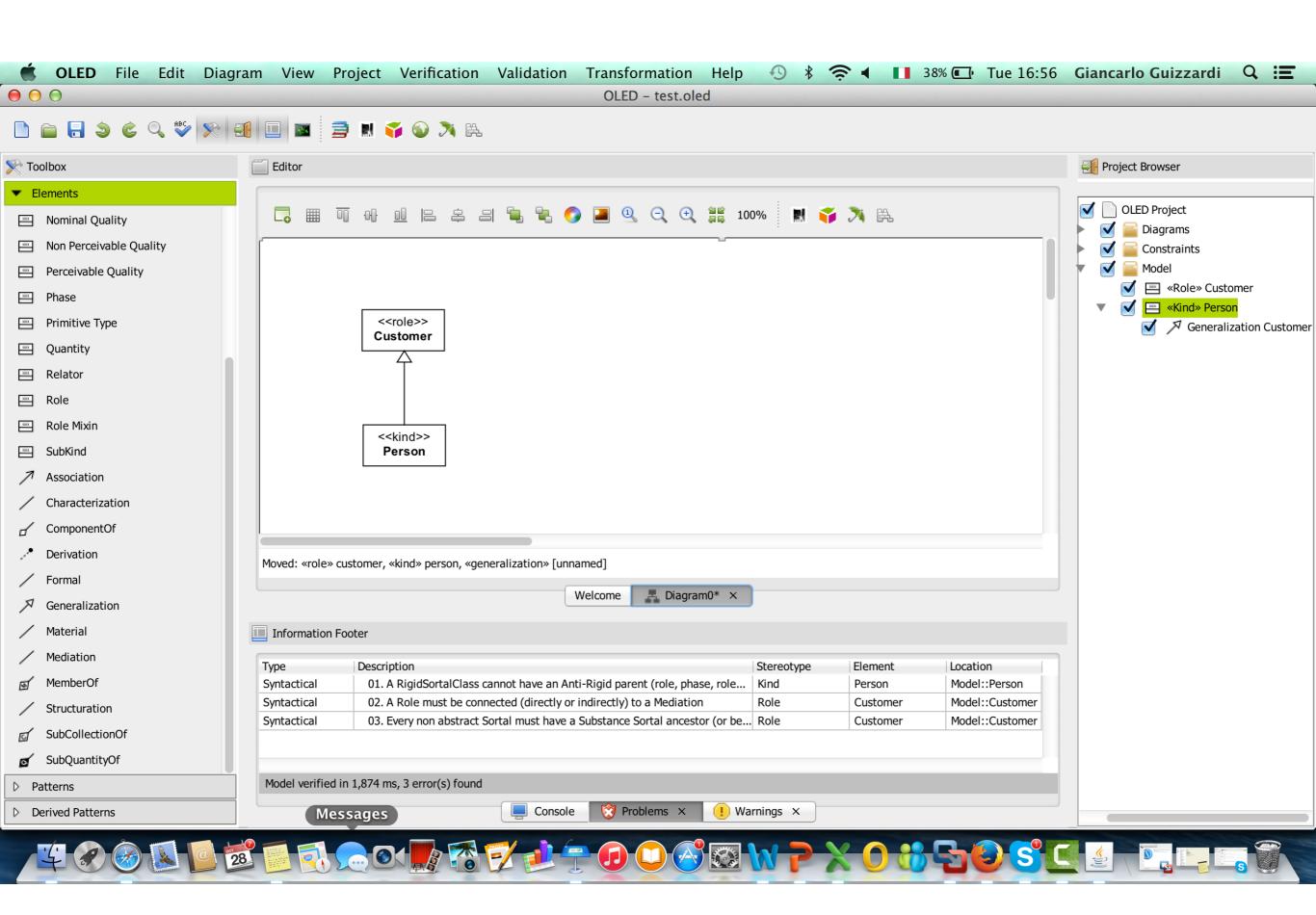


We run into a logical contradiction!

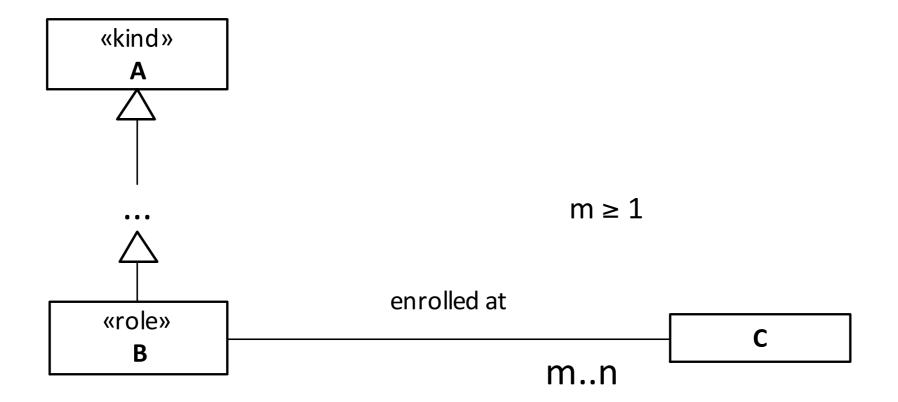
Role

- 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

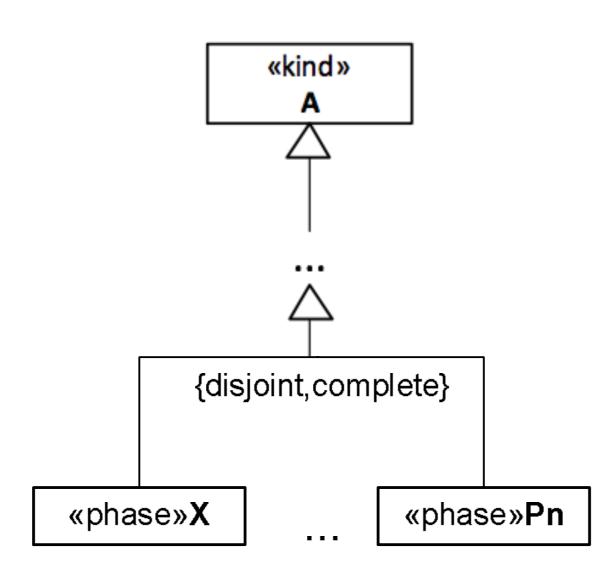


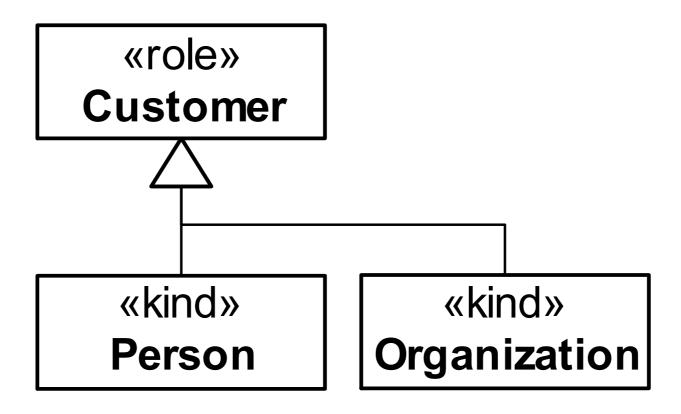


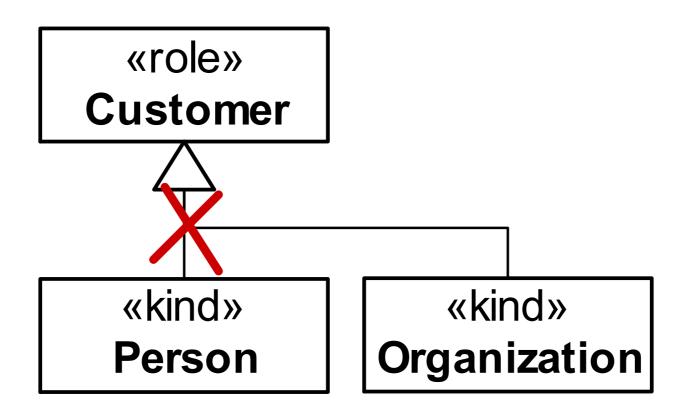
The Emerging Role Pattern



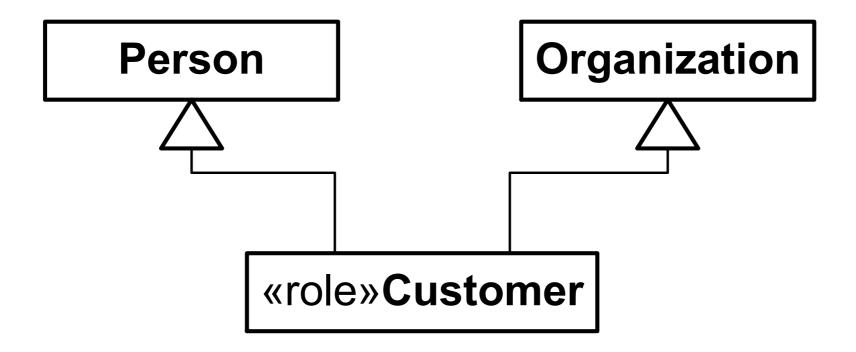
The Emerging Phase Pattern





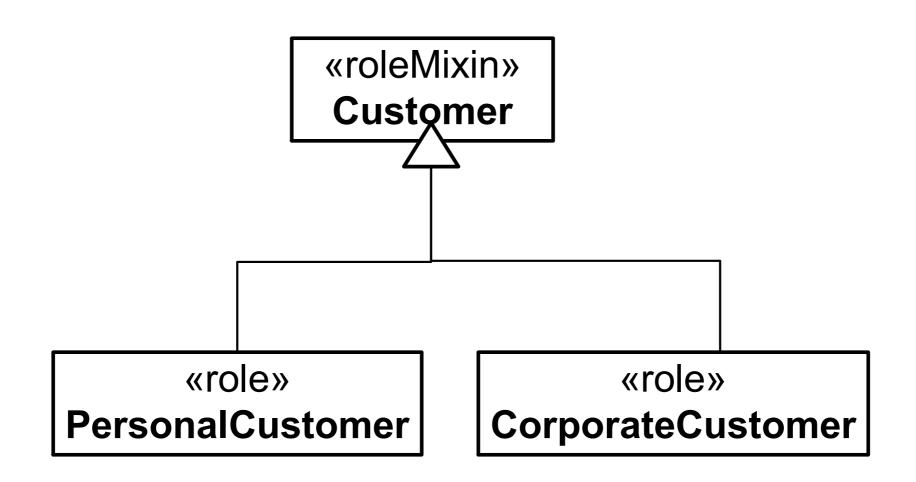


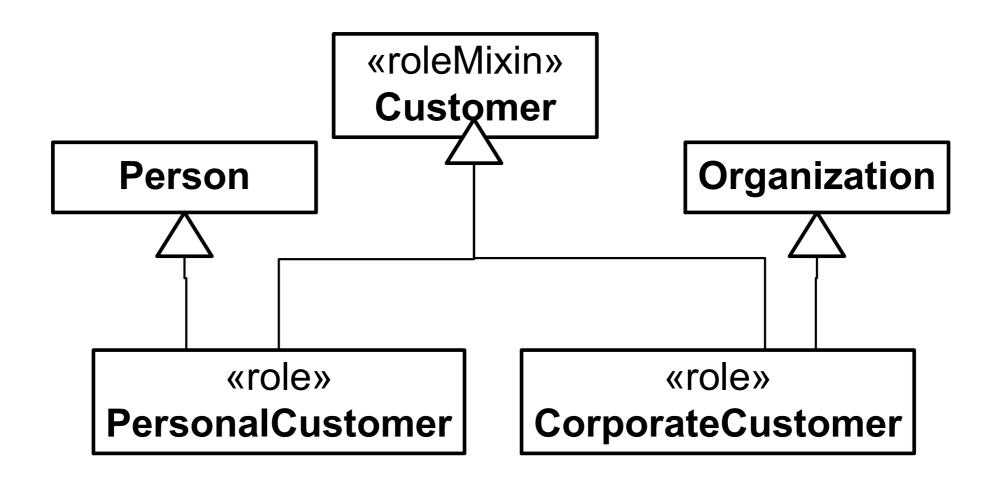
A Possible Alternative?



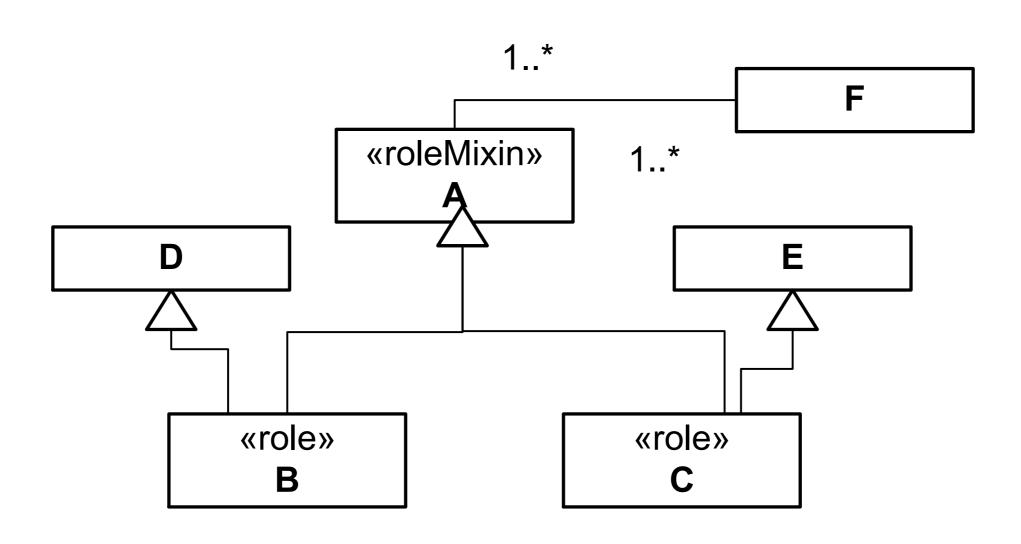
«roleMixin»

Customer

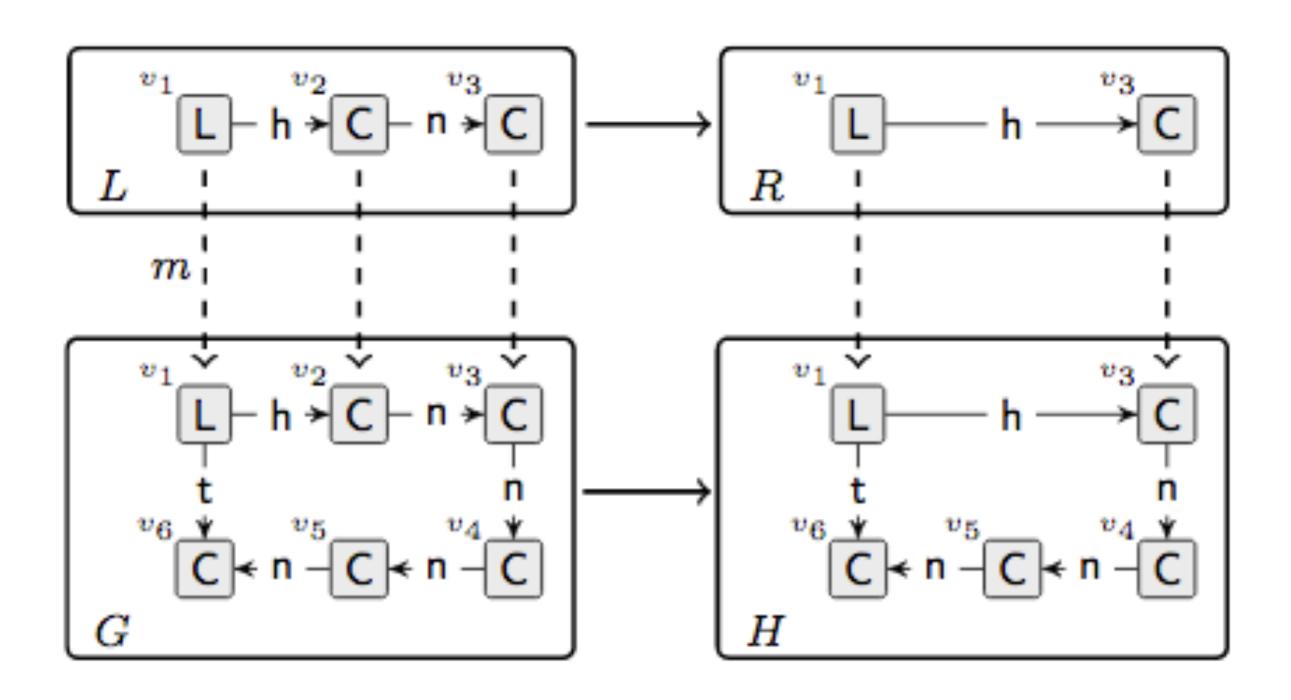


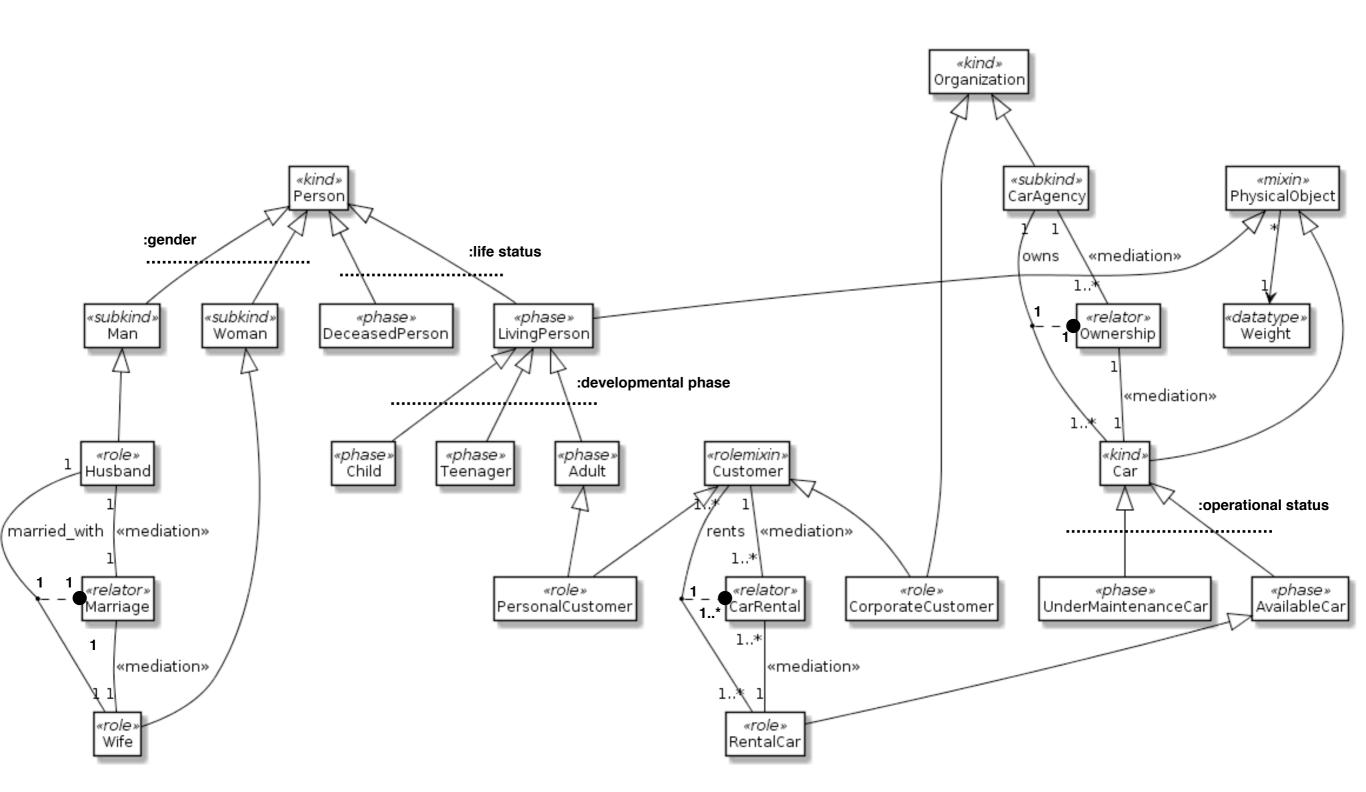


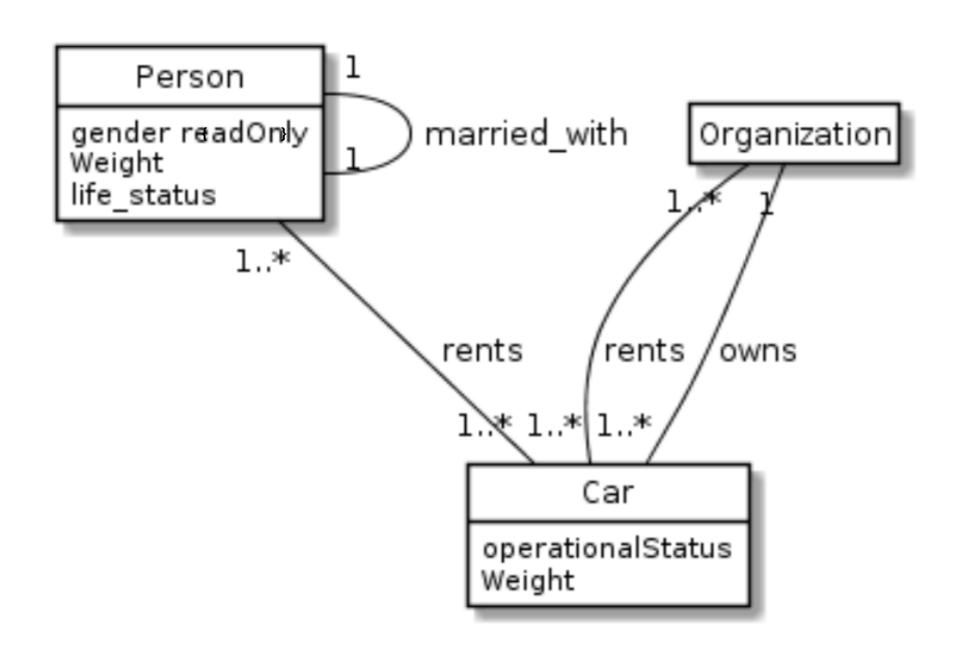
The emerging RoleMixin Pattern



OntoUML as a **Pattern Grammar**





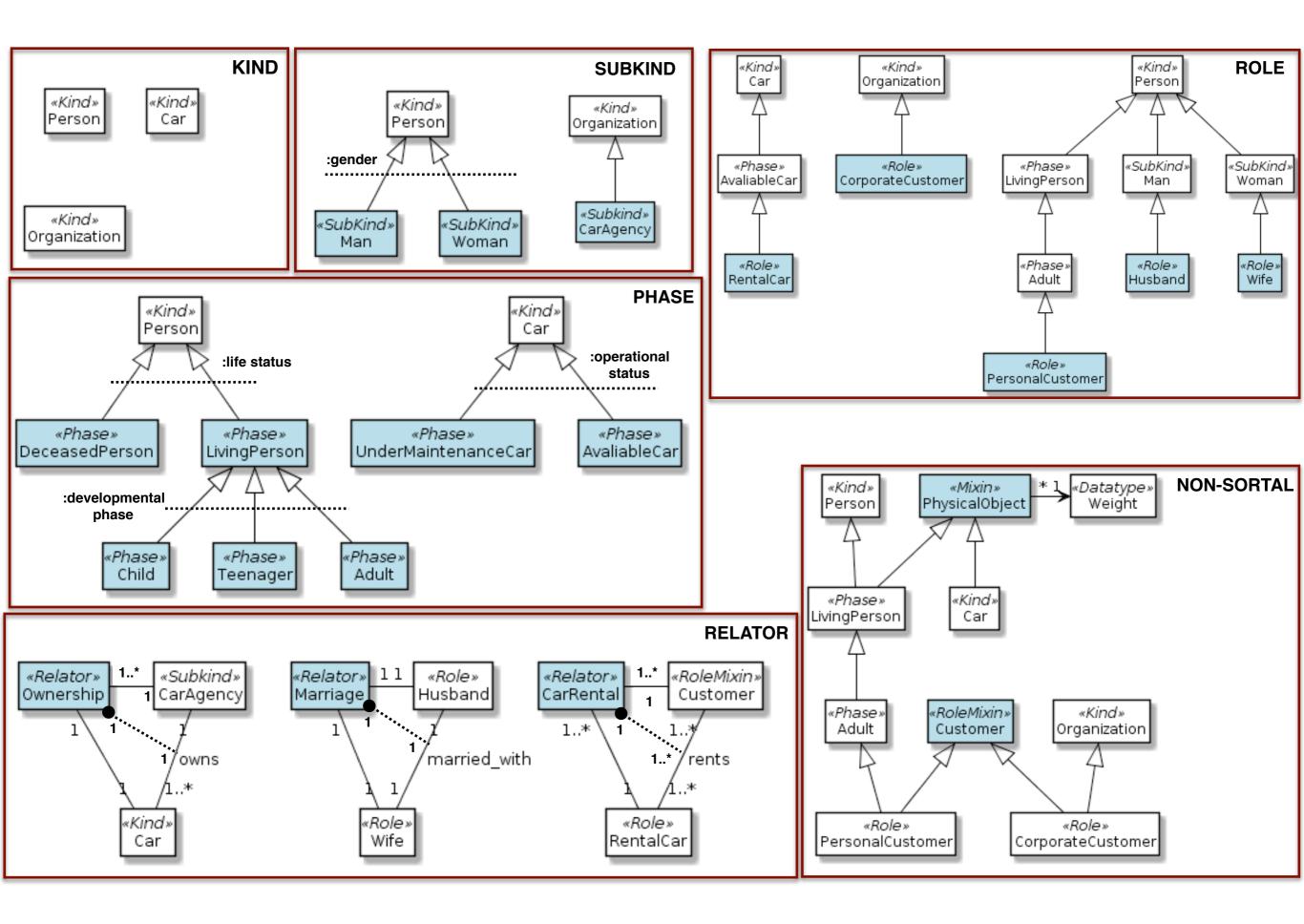


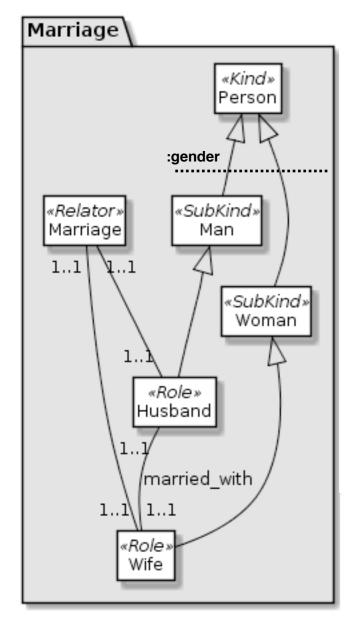
«Enumeration» lifeStatus

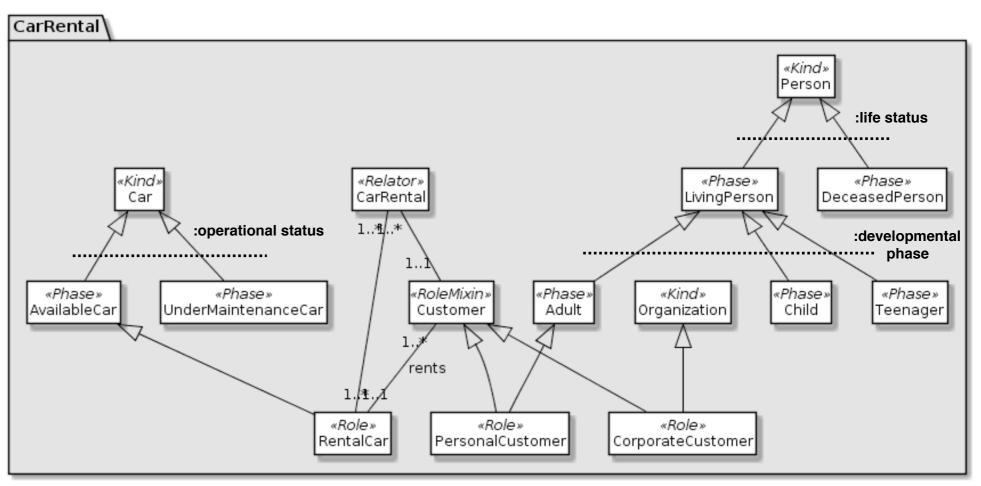
Child Teenager Adult DeceasedPerson *«Enumeration»* gender

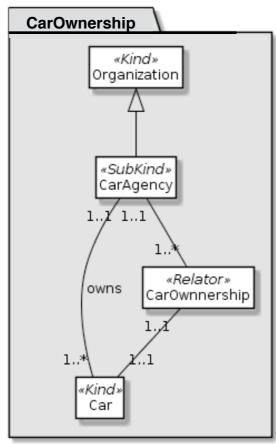
Man Woman «Enumeration» operationalStatus

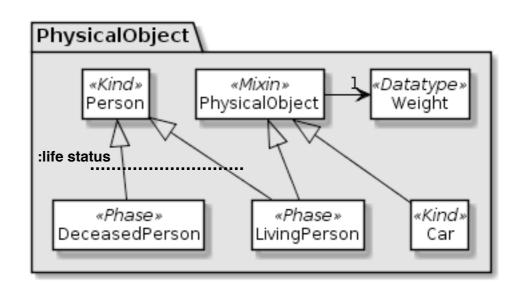
AvaliableCar UnderMaintenanceCar *«Datatype»* Weight

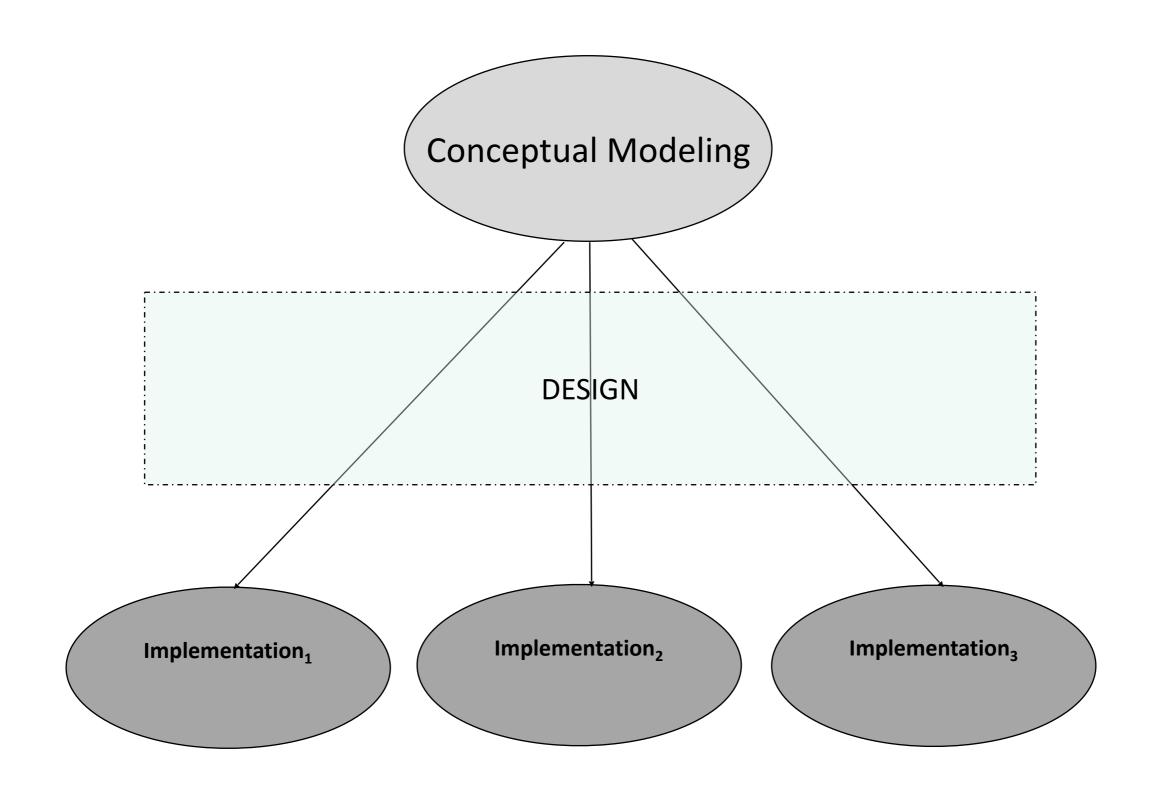


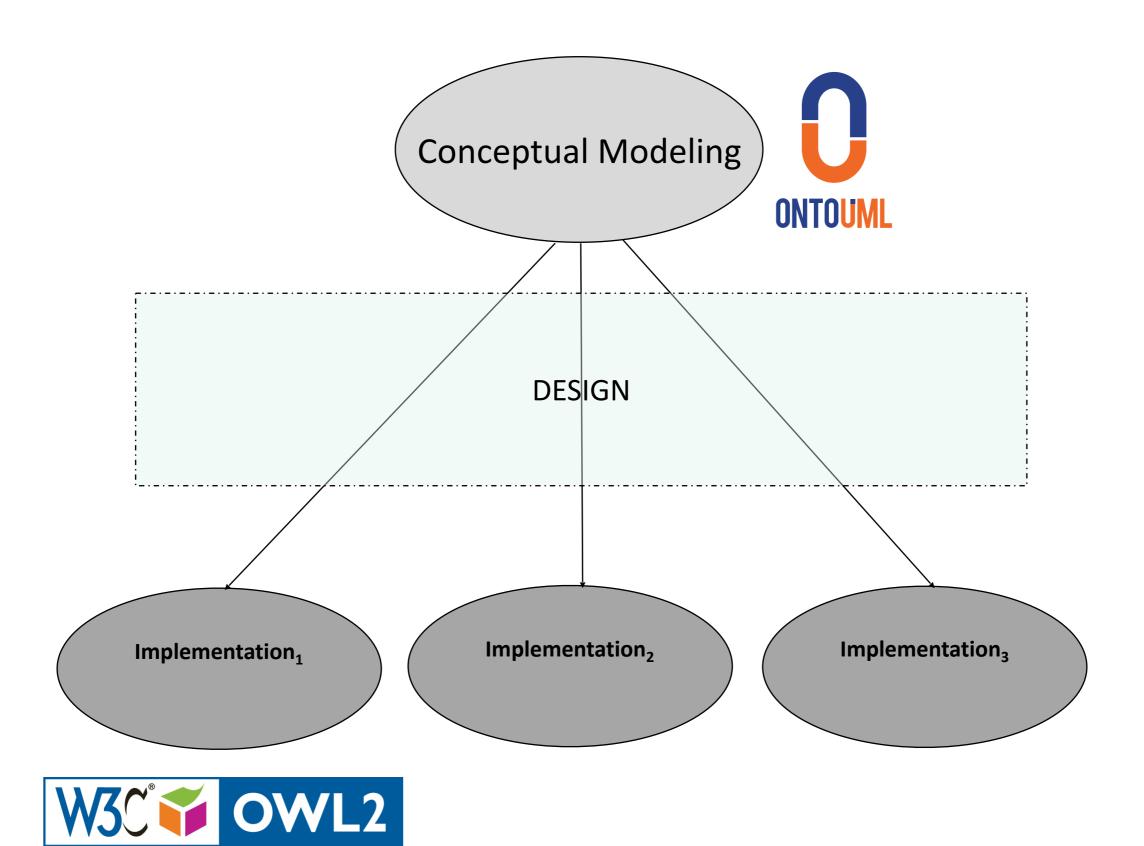


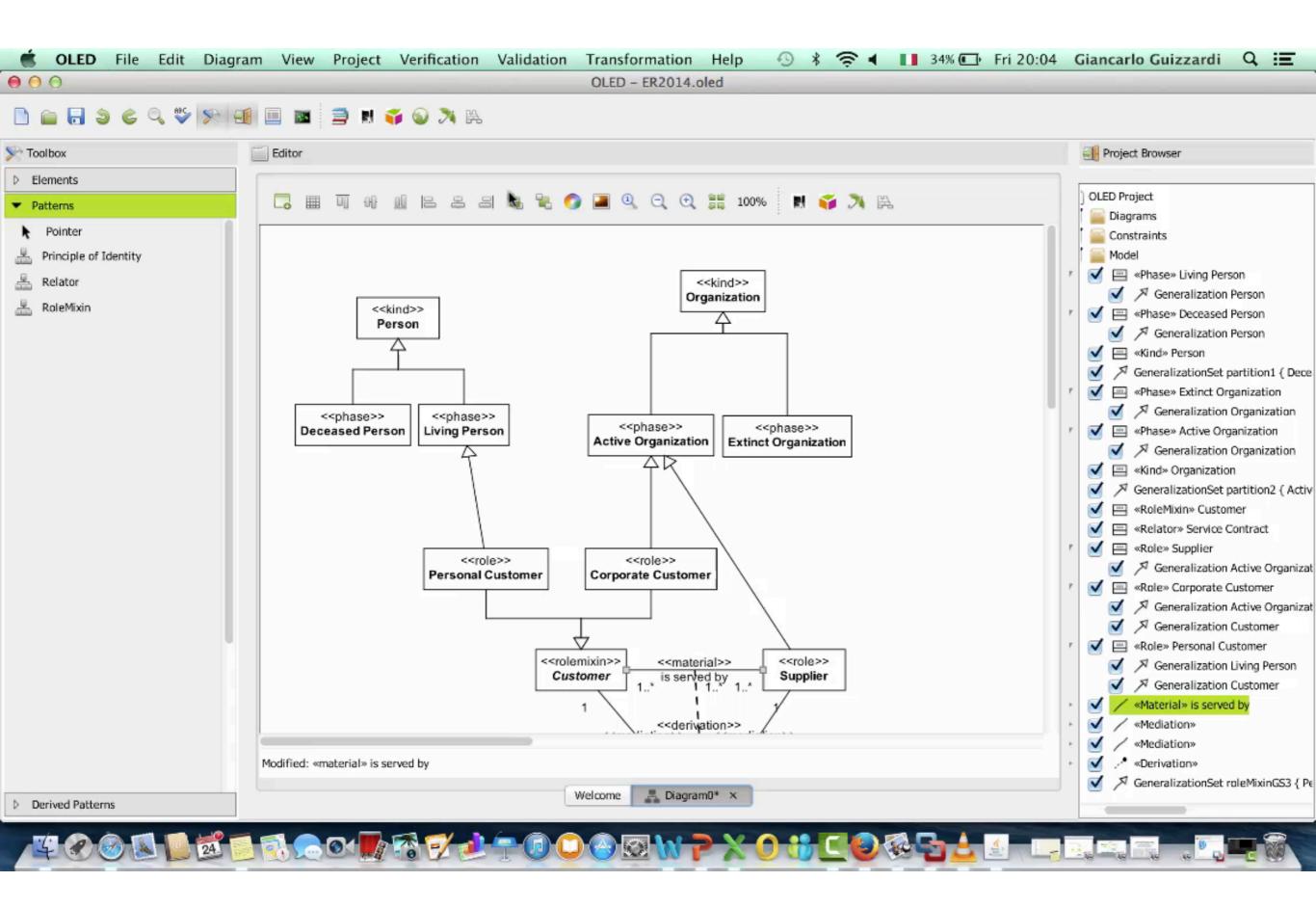














gUFO: A Lightweight Implementation of the Unified Foundational Ontology (UFO)

IRI

http://purl.org/nemo/gufo#

Creator(s)

Almeida, João Paulo A. Falbo, Ricardo A. Guizzardi, Giancarlo Sales, Tiago P.

Rights

This work is distributed under Creative Commons Attribution License CC BY 4.0

Ontology Source

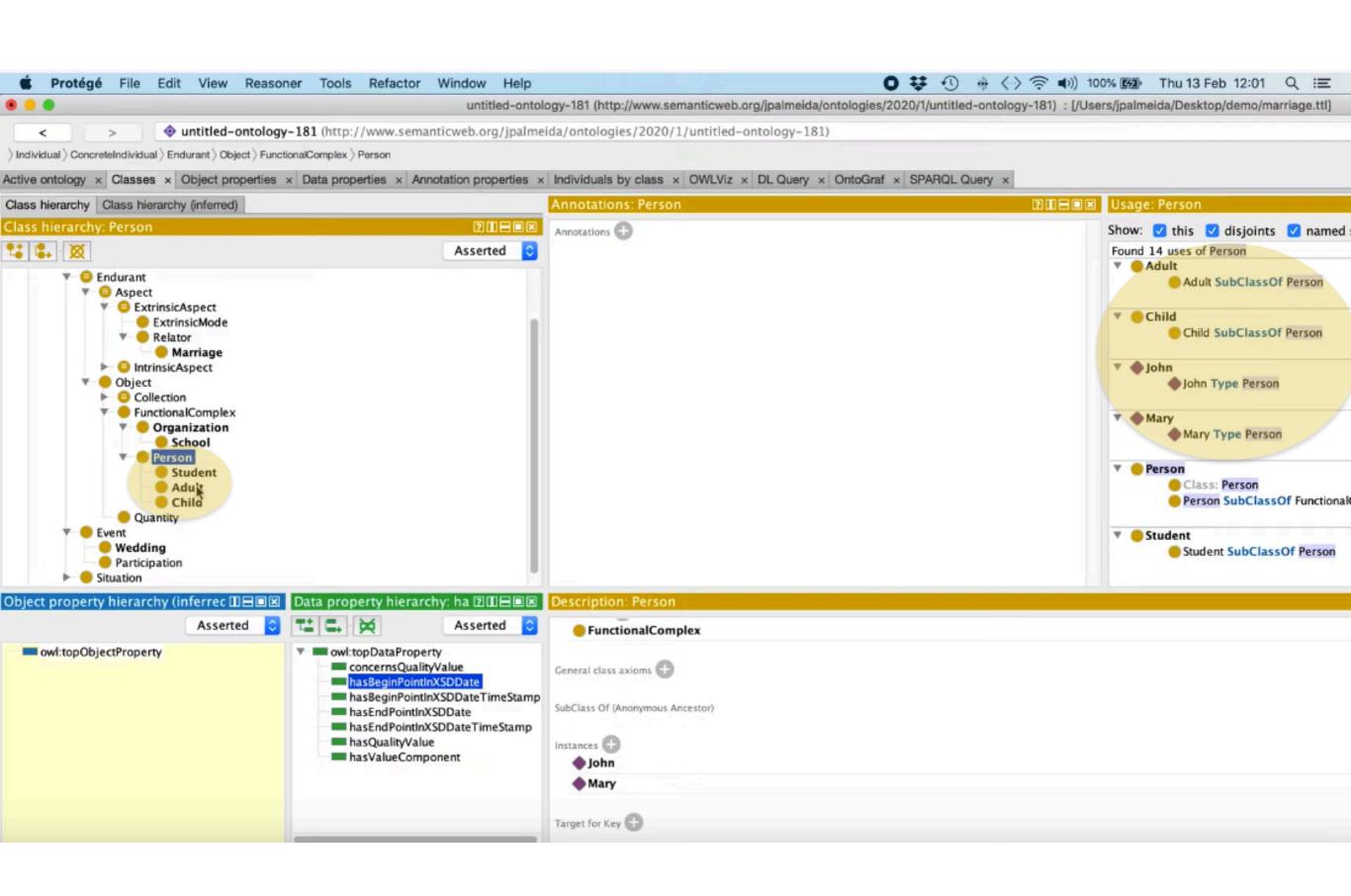
RDF (Turtle)

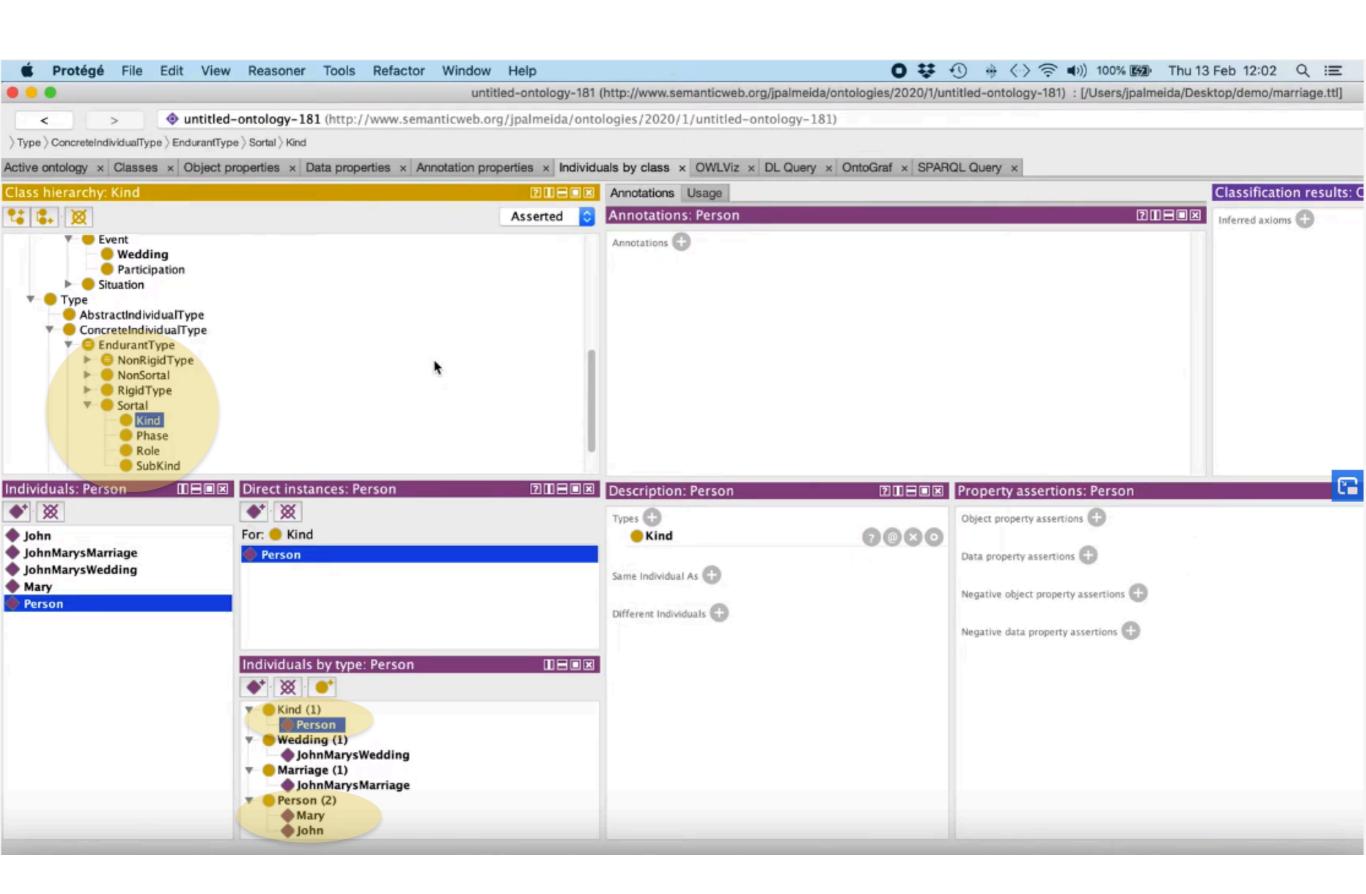
Description

The objective of gUFO is to provide a lightweight implementation of the Unified Foundational Ontology (UFO) [1-5] suitable for Semantic Web OWL 2 DL applications.

Intended users are those implementing UFO-based lightweight ontologies that reuse gUFO by specializing and instantiating its elements.

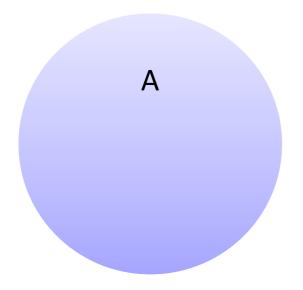
There are three implications of the use of the term lightweight. First of all, we have employed little expressive means in an effort to retain computational properties for the resulting OWL ontology. Second, we have selected a subset of UFO-A [1, 2] and UFO-B [3] to include here. In particular, there is minimalistic support for UFO-B (only that which is necessary to establish the participation of objects in events and to capture historical dependence between events). Third, a lightweight ontology, differently from a reference ontology, is designed with the purpose of providing an implementation artifact to structure a knowledge base (or knowledge graph). This has driven a number of programatic

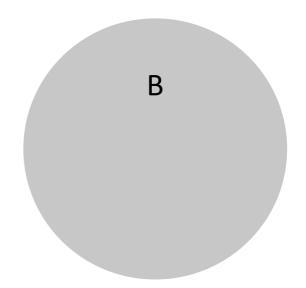




```
demo > = school.ttl
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Child
 22
       :Child rdf:type owl:Class ;
 23
 24
              rdfs:subClassOf :Person .
 25
 26
 27
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Marriage
 28
       :Marriage rdf:type owl:Class ;
 29
                 rdfs:subClassOf gufo:Relator .
 30
 31
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Organization
 32
 33
       :Organization rdf:type owl:Class ;
 34
                     rdfs:subClassOf gufo:FunctionalComplex .
 35
 36
 37
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Person
       :Person rdf:type owl:Class ;
 38
              rdfs:subClassOf gufo:FunctionalComplex .
 39
 40
 41
 42
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Child
 43
       :Child rdf:type owl:NamedIndividual ,
 44
                       gufo: Phase .
 45
 46
 47
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#John
 48
       :John rdf:type owl:NamedIndividual ,
 49
                      :Person .
 50
```

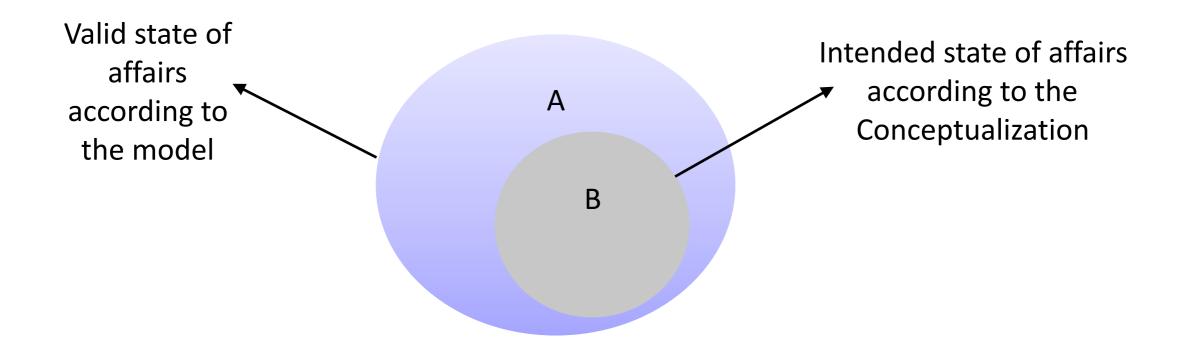
```
demo > = school.ttl
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Child
 22
       :Child rdf:type owl:Class ;
 23
 24
              rdfs:subClassOf :Person .
 25
 26
 27
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Marriage
       :Marriage rdf:type owl:Class ;
 28
 29
                 rdfs:subClassOf gufo:Relator .
 30
 31
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Organization
 32
 33
       :Organization rdf:type owl:Class ;
 34
                     rdfs:subClassOf gufo:FunctionalComplex .
 35
 36
 37
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Person
       :Person rdf:type owl:Class ;
 38
 39
              rdfs:subClassOf gufo:FunctionalComplex .
 40
 41
 42
      ### http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#Child
 43
       :Child rdf:type owl:NamedIndividual ,
 44
                       gufo: Phase .
 45
 46
 47
           http://www.semanticweb.org/jpalmeida/ontologies/2020/1/untitled-ontology-181#John
 48
       :John rdf:type owl:NamedIndividual ,
 49
                      :Person .
 50
```



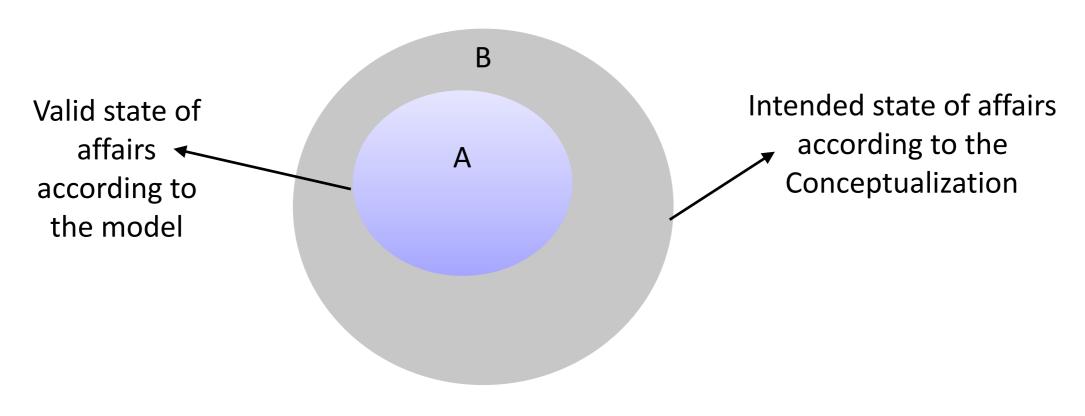


Valid state of affairs according to the representation

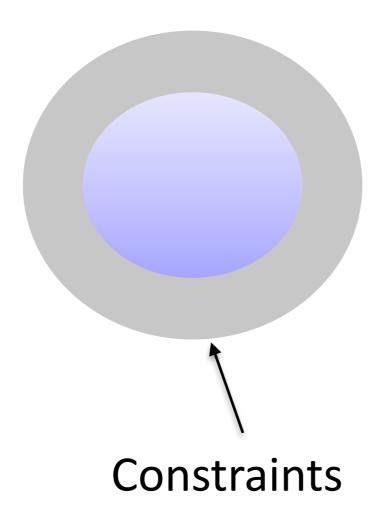
Intended state of affairs according to the Conceptualization

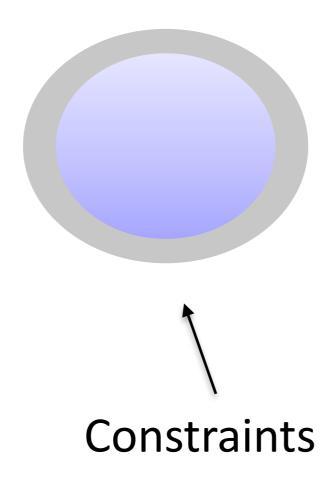


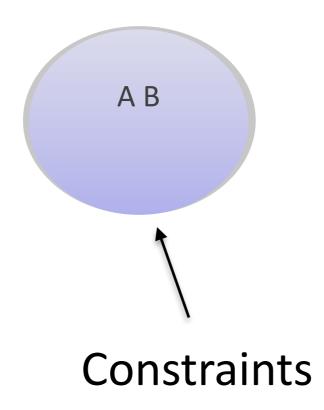
Under-constraining

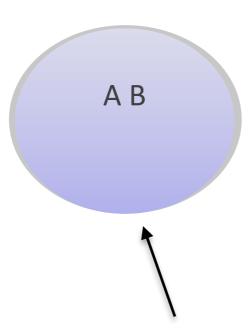


Over-constraining

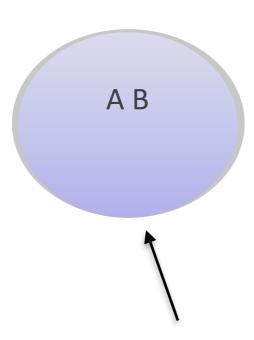




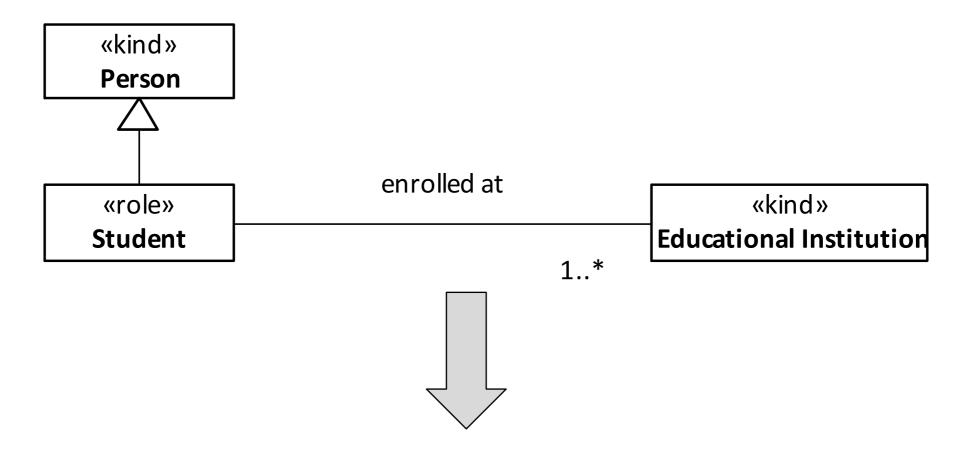




Conceptual Model = Structure + Axiomatization

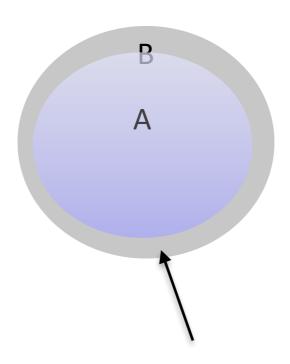


Conceptual Model = Structure + Axiomatization (Ontological Commitment)

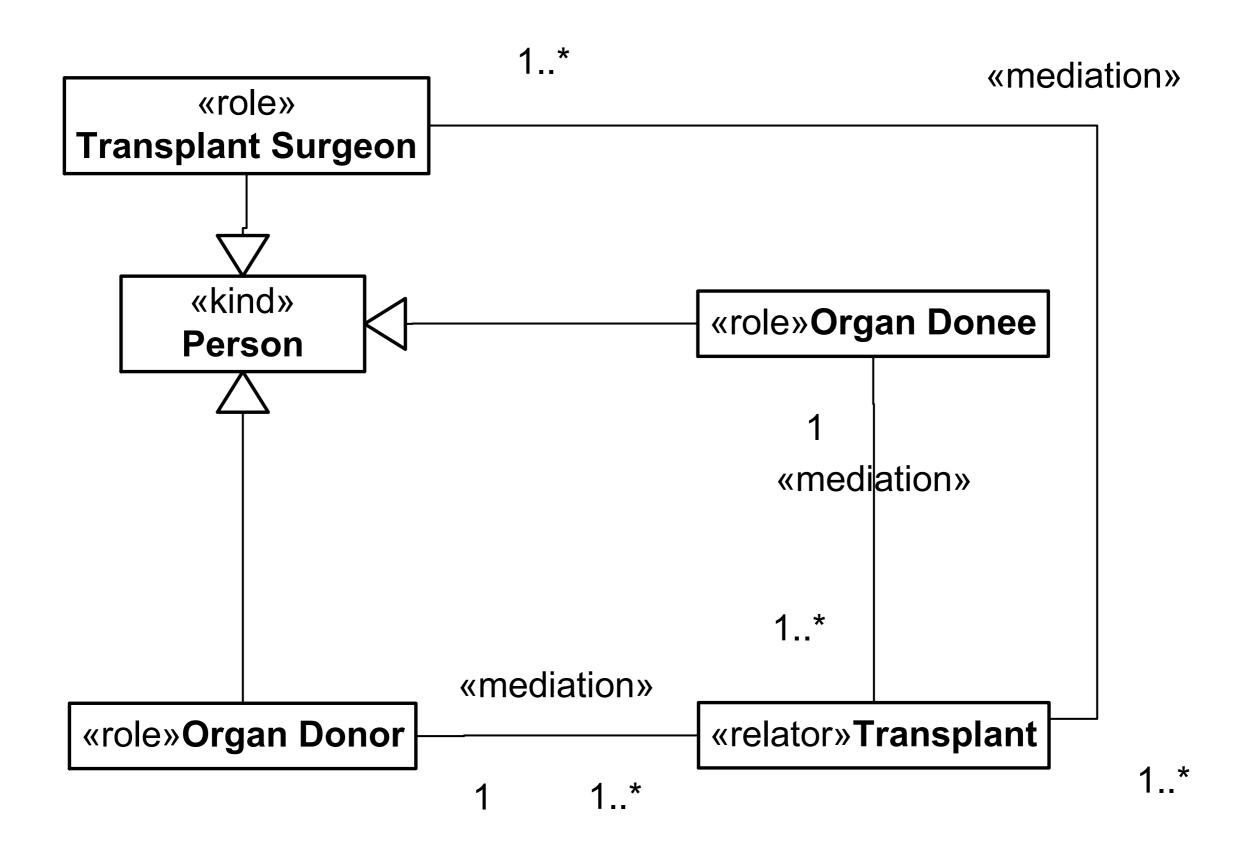


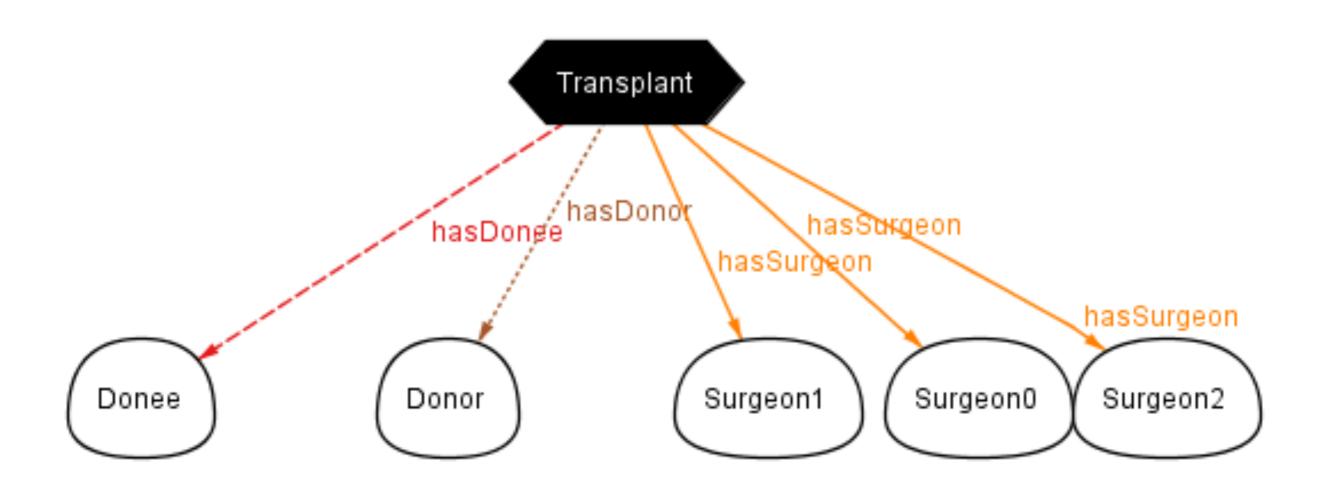
- \neg (\forall x Person(x) \rightarrow \neg (Person(x)))
- $\neg (\forall x \; Student(x) \rightarrow \Diamond (\neg Student(x)))$
- $\neg (\forall x \; Student(x) \rightarrow Person(x))$
- □(∀x Student(x) → ∃y Educational Institution(y) ∧ Enrolled-at(x,y))

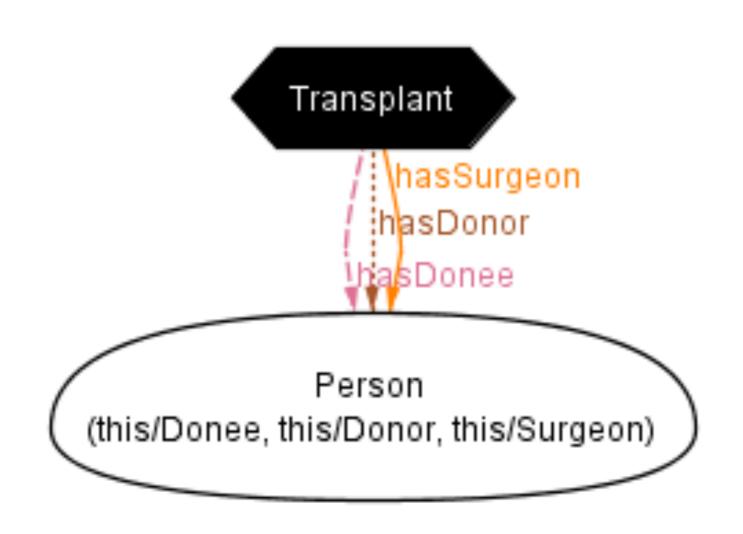
. . .

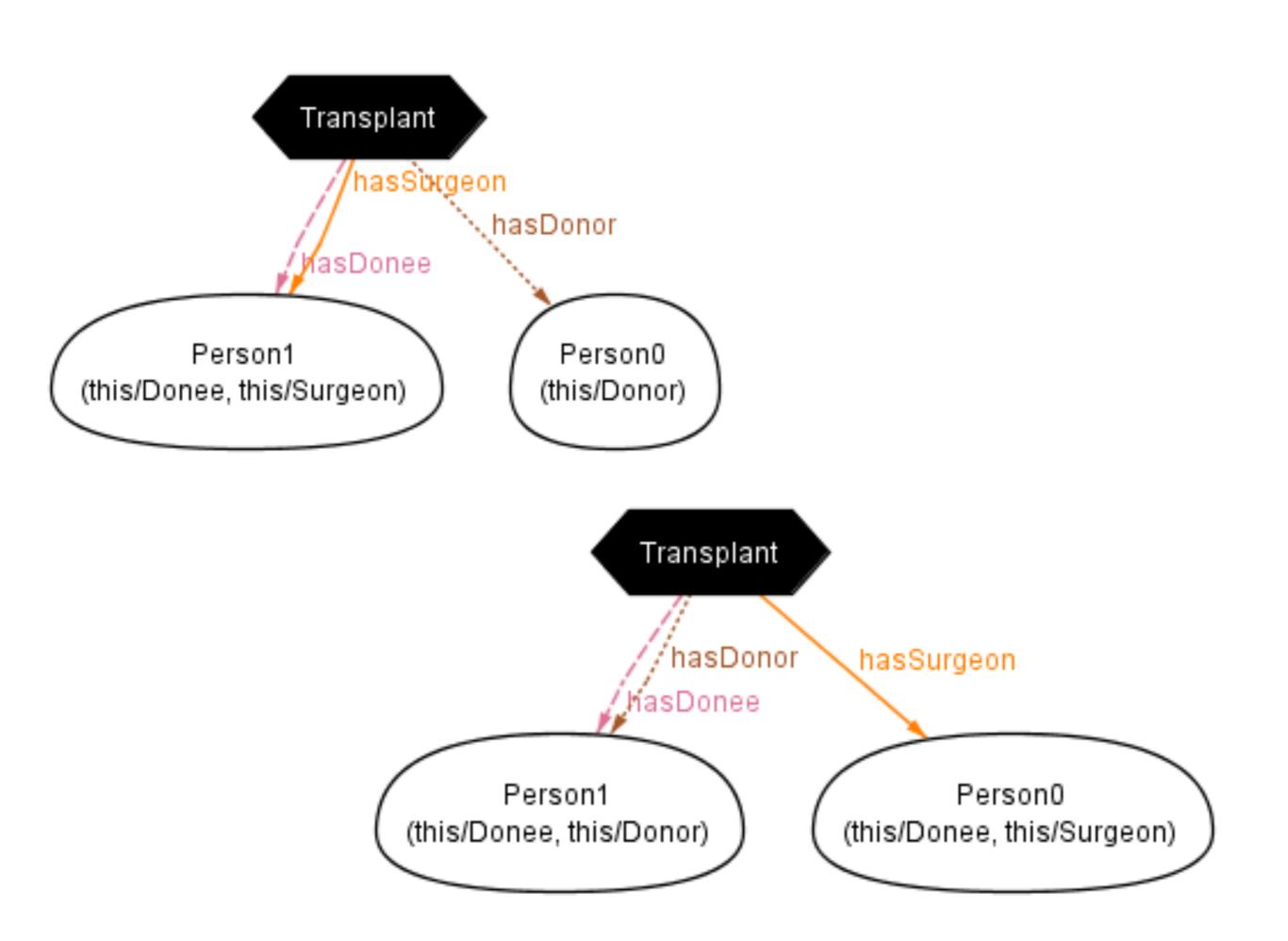


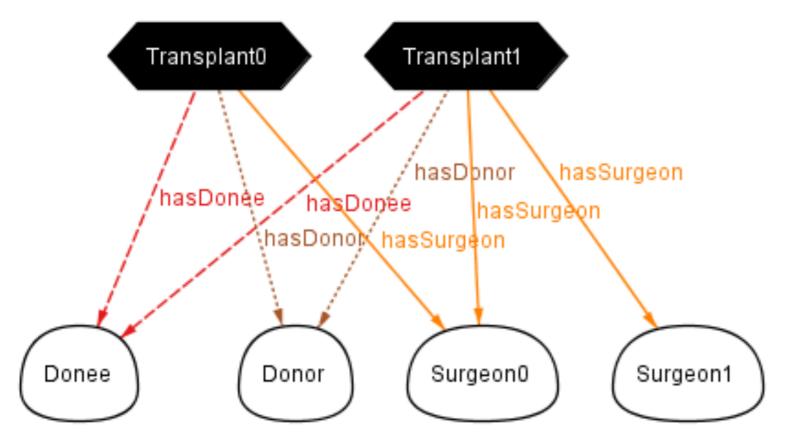
Conceptual Model =
Structure + Domain-Independent Axioms +
Domain-Specific Axioms



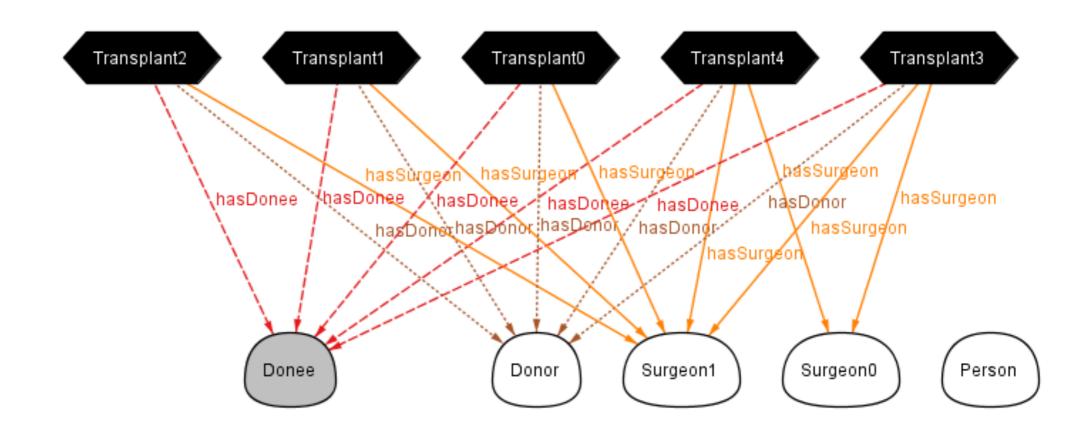




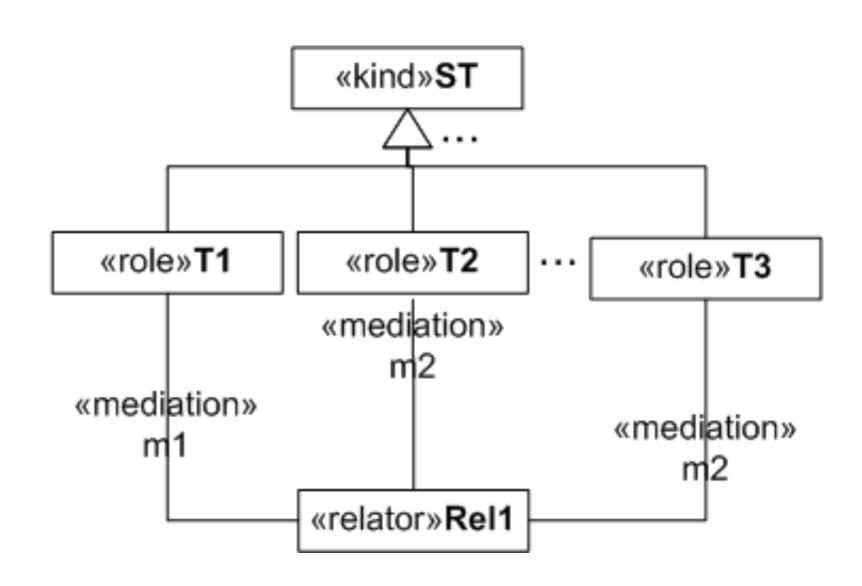




Real-Word Semantics



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

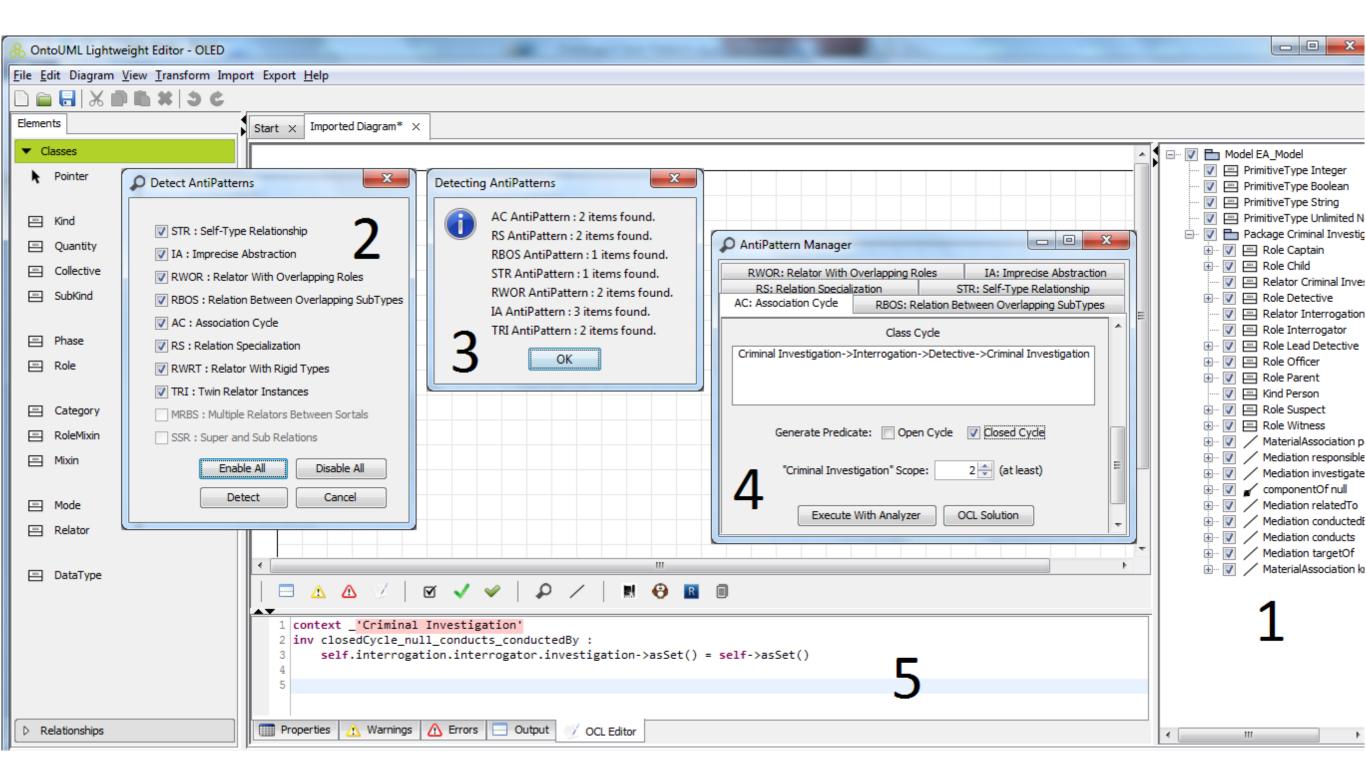


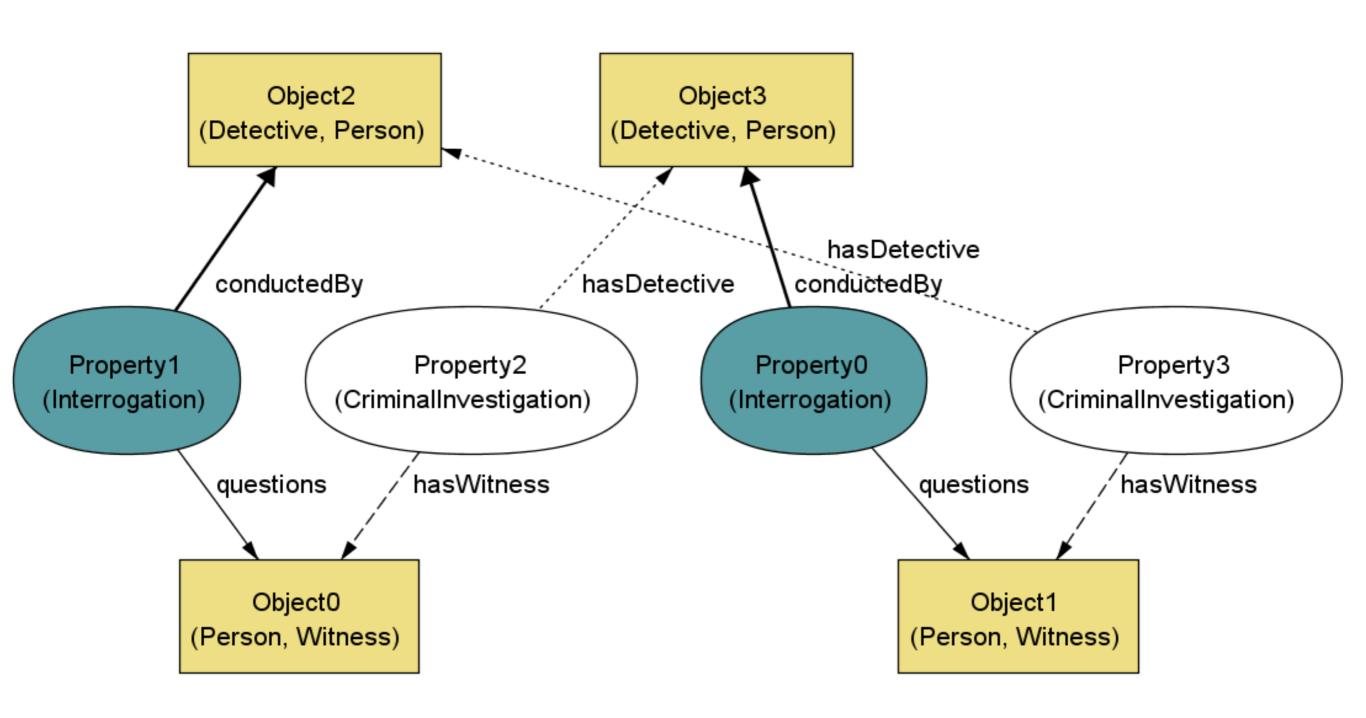
Anti-Pattern Catalogue

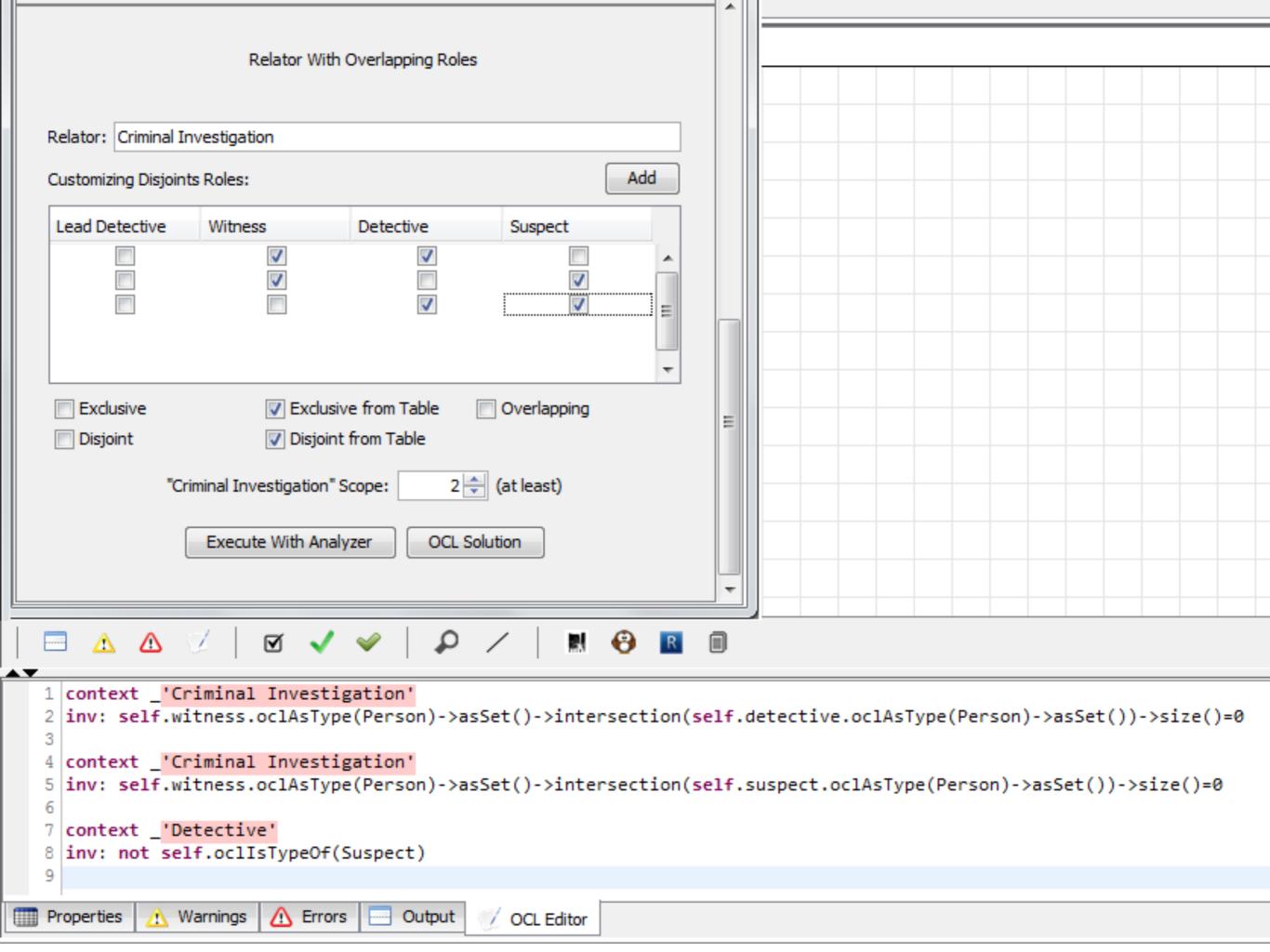
- Association Cycle
- Binary Relation Between Over. Types
- Deceiving Intersection
- Free Role Specialization
- Imprecise Abstraction
- Multiple Relational Dependency
- Part Composing Over. Roles
- Whole Composed by Over. Parts
- Relator Mediating Over. Types
- Relation Composition
- Relator Mediating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

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







"Few modelers, however, have had the experience of subjecting their models to continual, automatic review. Building a model incrementally with an analyzer, simulating and checking as you go along, is a very different experience from using pencil and paper alone. The first reaction tends to be amazement: modeling is much more fun when you get instant, visual feedback. Then the sense of **humiliation** sets in, as you discover that there's almost nothing you can do right."

(Daniel Jackson, Software Abstractions: Logic, Language, and Analysis, 2006)

References

- J. P. A. Almeida, G. Guizzardi, T. P. Sales, R. A. Falbo, "gUFO: A Lightweight Implementation of the Unified Foundational Ontology (UFO)", Technical Report, 2020. https://nemo-ufes.github.io/gufo/
- GUARINO, N., GUIZZARDI, G., MYLOPOULOS, J., On the Philosophical Foundations of Conceptual Models, 29th International Conference on Information Modeling and Knowledge Bases (EJC'19), Lappeenranta, Finland, 2019.
- GUIZZARDI, G., FIGUEREDO, G., HEDBLOM, M., POELS, G., Ontology-Based Model Abstraction, IEEE 13th International Conference on Research Challenges in Information Science (RCIS 2019), Brussels, Belgium, 2019.
- ALMEIDA, J.P., FALBO, R.A., GUIZZARDI, G., Events as Entities in Ontology-Driven Conceptual Modeling, 38th International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER 2019), Salvador, Brazil.
- BENEVIDES, A.B., ALMEIDA, J.P.A., GUIZZARDI, G., Towards a Unified Theory of Endurants and Perdurants: UFO-AB, 3rd International Workshop on Foundational Ontologies (FOUST), Graz, Austria, 2019.

References

- GUIZZARDI, G., FONSECA, C., BENEVIDES, A.B., ALMEIDA, J.P., PORELLO, D., SALES, T.P., Endurant Types in Ontology-Driven Conceptual Modeling: Towards OntoUML 2.0, 37th International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER 2018), Xi'an, China.
- FIGUEREDO, G., DUCHARD, A., HEDBLOM, M., GUIZZARDI, G., Breaking into Pieces: An Ontology-Based Approach for Conceptual Modeling Complexity Management, IEEE 12th International Conference on Research Challenges in Information Science (RCIS 2018), Nantes, France, 2018.
- ZAMBOM, E., GUIZZARDI, G., Formal Definition of a General Ontology Pattern Language using a Graph Grammar, Proceedings of the 13th International Federated Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems (FedCSIS 2017), Prague, 2017, IEEE Computer Society.
- Ruy, F., Falbo, R.A., Barcellos, M.P., Costa, S.D., Guizzardi, G., SEON: A Software Engineering Ontology Network, 20th International Conference on Knowledge Engineering and Knowledge Management (EKAW 2016), Bologna, Italy, 2016.
- Verdonck, M., Gailly, F.: Insights on the Use and Application of Ontology and ConceptualModeling Languages in Ontology-Driven Conceptual Modeling. In: Proc.35th ER (2016).

References

- SALLES. T.P., GUIZZARDI, G., Ontological Anti-Patterns: Empirically Uncovered Error-Prone Structures in Ontology-Driven Conceptual Models, Data & Knowledge Engineering, Elsevier, 2015.
- GUIZZARDI, G., WAGNER, G., ALMEIDA, J.P.A., GUIZZARDI, R.S.S., Towards Ontological Foundation for Conceptual Modeling: The Unified Foundational Ontology (UFO) Story, Applied Ontology, IOS Press, 2015.
- GUERSON, J., SALES, T.P., GUIZZARDI, G., ALMEIDA, J.P., OntoUML Lightweight Editor: A Model-Based Environment to Build, Evaluate and Implement Reference Ontologies, 19th IEEE Enterprise Computing Conference (EDOC 2015), Demo Track, Adelaide, Australia, 2015.
- GUIZZARDI, G., Ontological Patterns, Anti-Patterns and Pattern Languages for Next-Generation Conceptual Modeling, invited companion paper to the Keynote Speech delivered at the 33rd International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER 2014), Atlanta, USA.
- Mealy, G. H., Another Look at Data, AFIPS Conference Proceedings, Volume 31, Washing-ton, DC: Thompson Books, London: Academic Press, 525–534, 1967.

unibz

gguizzardi@unibz.it