

Philosophical ontology and knowledge engineering

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I will briefly present the work of the new Institute for Formal Ontology and Medical Information Science in the University of Leipzig. The aim of IFOMIS is to develop a common reference ontology for the domain of medicine and to demonstrate that certain traditional methods of philosophical ontology can help in this regard. Our thesis is that philosophical investigations into what kinds of entities there are, what the most general structures of reality are, and how reality can be described, or carved up, in different ways and at different granularities can help in developing appropriate representation techniques. I will sketch the spectrum of philosophical ontologies, including such alternatives as substance ontology, trope ontology, and field ontology and explain what we can learn from them for ontological engineering in the bio-medical domain.

Biographical notes:

1991: Intermediate Exam (Vordiplom), Mechanical Engineering, Technical University of Munich

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