

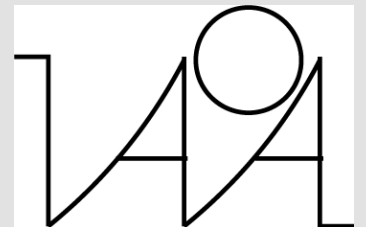


IAOA

**The *International Association for
Ontology and its Applications***

Ontolog virtual panel, June 18th, 2009

Nicola Guarino
ISTC-CNR, Laboratory for Applied Ontology, Trento, Italy



The challenges of *interdisciplinarity*

Working at (and in...) the *interfaces* among

Disciplines

Cultures

Languages

Socio-technical systems

...is **HARD!**

- Anyway, these are the main challenges of modern, global, networked society
- Ontologies are certainly intended to address such challenges

A new discipline (or science) is emerging?

See recent proposals for Web Science, Services Science...

Maybe.

For sure, a *humble*, truly interdisciplinary approach is needed, focusing on letting new ideas, approaches, methodologies emerge from the *mutual cross-fertilization* of different disciplines.

That's why we believe that this association is **NEEDED**.

Building an interdisciplinary community: a bit of history

1993: 1st International workshop on Formal Ontology & Information Systems

1998: 1st FOIS conference

2002: Ontolog forum

2003: First proposal for a European Network of Excellence on Axiomatic Ontologies (AXION)

2005: Applied Ontology (IOS Press)

2005: ECOR, NCOR, JCOR...

2006: First public discussion on an ontology association at FOIS (Baltimore)

2008: Public assembly at FOIS (Saarbrücken)

In parallel:

- various consortia focusing mainly on Semantic Web;
- various ontology standardization attempts

From the Statute

“The Association is a non-profit organization the purpose of which is to promote interdisciplinary research and international collaboration at the *intersection of philosophical ontology, linguistics, logic, cognitive science, and computer science*, as well as in the applications of ontological analysis to *conceptual modeling, knowledge engineering, knowledge management, information-systems development, library and information science, scientific research, and semantic technologies* in general.”

Activities (from the Statute)

- Educating interested stakeholders on what ontologies are and how they can be effectively utilized;
- Promoting cooperation among public and private institutions, cultural associations, consortia, and cooperative societies that pursue similar aims;
- Establishing connections with national and international institutions that pursue similar aims;
- Supporting the development of collaborations between research and industry;
- Supporting international scientific exchanges, paying particular attention to rising and developing countries;
- Supporting the publication of journals and books, potentially through direct agreements with publishing companies (agreement with IOS Press concerning Applied Ontology, FOIS, and FOMI already operational);
- Stimulating research in areas related to the Association's purpose through the establishment of scholarships, fellowships, and awards;
- Organizing, potentially in cooperation with related organizations, scientific meetings, conferences, educational activities and similar events;
- Creating temporary or permanent groups comprising members who share specific interests.

Activities (cont.d)

- Community building (cooperation, information exchange, best practices, support to the establishment of local groups)
- Suggestion for curricula in the area of applied ontology, organization of summer schools, collection of teaching resources....
- Reports concerning the status and the strategic perspectives of applied ontological research, aiming at influencing concrete policy choices worldwide
- Support of guidelines, standardization and certification efforts concerning, for instance, ontology quality and evaluation
- Promotion of coordination initiatives among ontology-related projects
- Possible associations to establish contacts with: AAI, ECCAI, ACL, FoLLI, Global Wordnet Association, W3C...

IAOA Executive Council (*)

- Nicola Guarino, ISTC-CNR, Italy *(President)*
- John Bateman, University of Bremen, Germany
- Stefano Borgo, ISTC-CNR, Italy *(Secretary)*
- Paul Buitelaar, DERI, Ireland
- Antony Galton, University of Exeter, UK
- Michael Gruninger, University of Toronto, Canada
- Riichiro Mizoguchi, University of Osaka, Japan
- Mark Musen, Stanford University, USA
- Leo Obrst, MITRE, USA
- Laure Vieu, IRIT-CNRS, France and ISTC-CNR, Italy *(Treasurer)*
- Peter Yim, Ontolog, USA

(*) provisional body, only in charge until the first general Assembly
(to be held within one year)

IAOA: a unique combination of key aspects

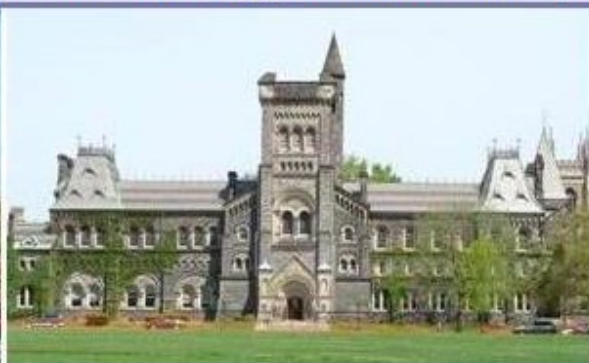
1. Interdisciplinarity
2. Cooperation between academy, industry, and community of practice (with an eye on education)
3. Scientific authoritativeness
4. Openness
5. Legal status
6. Transparent governance

Current status

- Formally registered according to the Italian law
- About 190 people in the mailing list
- On-line payment being setup
- Members-only page will give access to benefits
 - Free online access to Applied Ontology, FOIS proceedings, FOMI proceedings
 - Discount on future sponsored conferences, such as FOIS 2010.

FOIS 2010

6th International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems



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Welcome to FOIS 2010

Toronto, Canada, May 11-14, 2010

The [FOIS conference series](#) began with the first meeting in Trento, Italy, in June 1998, which was followed by meetings in 2001, 2004, 2006, and 2008. The sixth FOIS conference will be held in Toronto, Canada, during 11-14 May 2010, and we are now calling for papers to be considered for inclusion in the conference.

Ontology began life in ancient times as a fundamental part of philosophical enquiry concerned with the analysis and categorisation of what exists. In recent years, the subject has taken a practical turn with the advent of complex computerised information systems which are reliant on robust and coherent representations of their subject matter. The systematisation and elaboration of such representations and their associated reasoning techniques constitute the modern discipline of formal ontology, which is now being applied to such diverse domains as artificial intelligence, computational linguistics, bioinformatics, GIS, knowledge engineering, information retrieval, and the Semantic Web. Researchers in all these areas are becoming increasingly aware of the need for serious engagement with ontology, understood as a general theory of the types of entities and relations making up their respective domains of enquiry, to provide a solid foundation for their work.

FOIS is intended to provide a meeting point for researchers from these and other disciplines with an interest in formal ontology, where both theoretical issues and concrete applications can be explored in a spirit of genuine interdisciplinarity.

Applied Ontology

Interdisciplinary Journal on Ontological Analysis and Conceptual Modeling



Editors in chief:

Nicola Guarino
ISTC-CNR

Mark Musen
Stanford University

IOS Press

Amsterdam, Berlin,
Washington, Tokyo, Beijing

www.applied-ontology-org

Contributions from IAOA EC members

1. Peter Yim: Community, Collaboration, and Collective IQ
2. Antony Galton and Laure Vieu: IAOA and Education
3. Leo Obrst: Ontologies and Communities of Interest
4. Michael Gruninger: IAOA, Ontologies, and Standards
5. Paul Buitelaar: Ontologies and Natural Language Processing
6. John Bateman: Some Burning Issues for Ontology Initiatives

Your ***active contribution*** is welcome!

Suggestions?
Recommendations?
Questions?
Concerns?