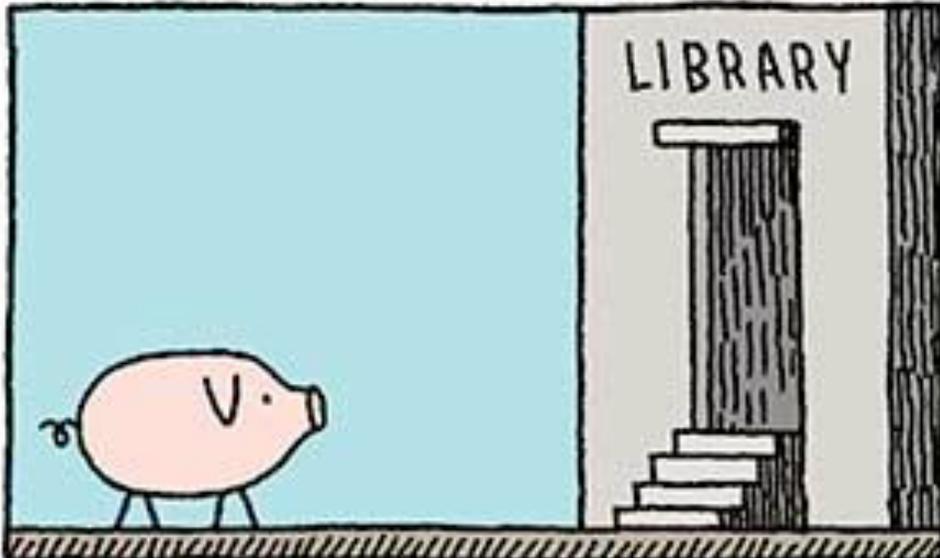
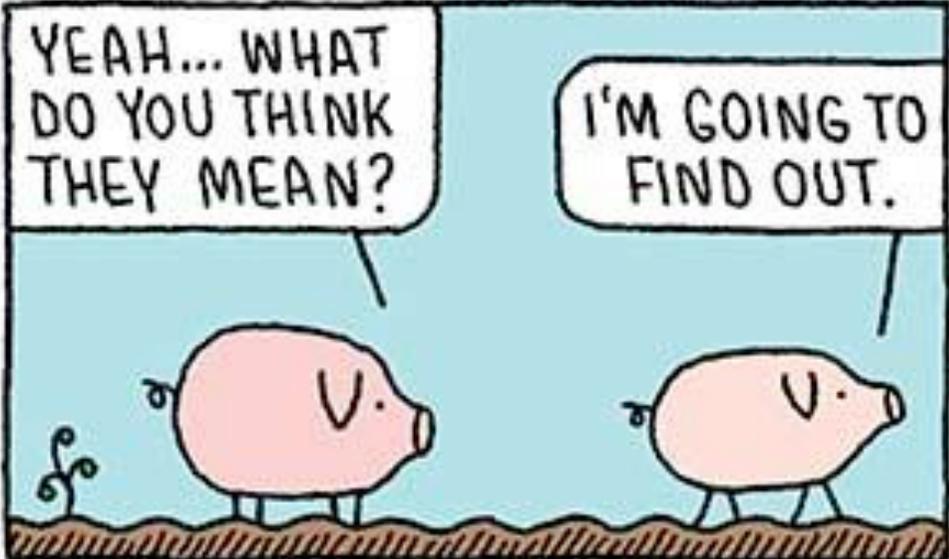
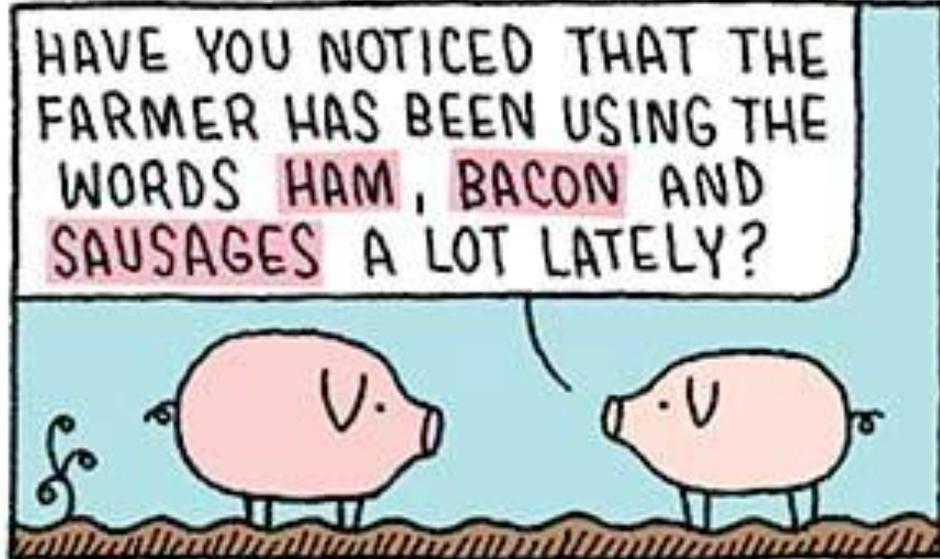
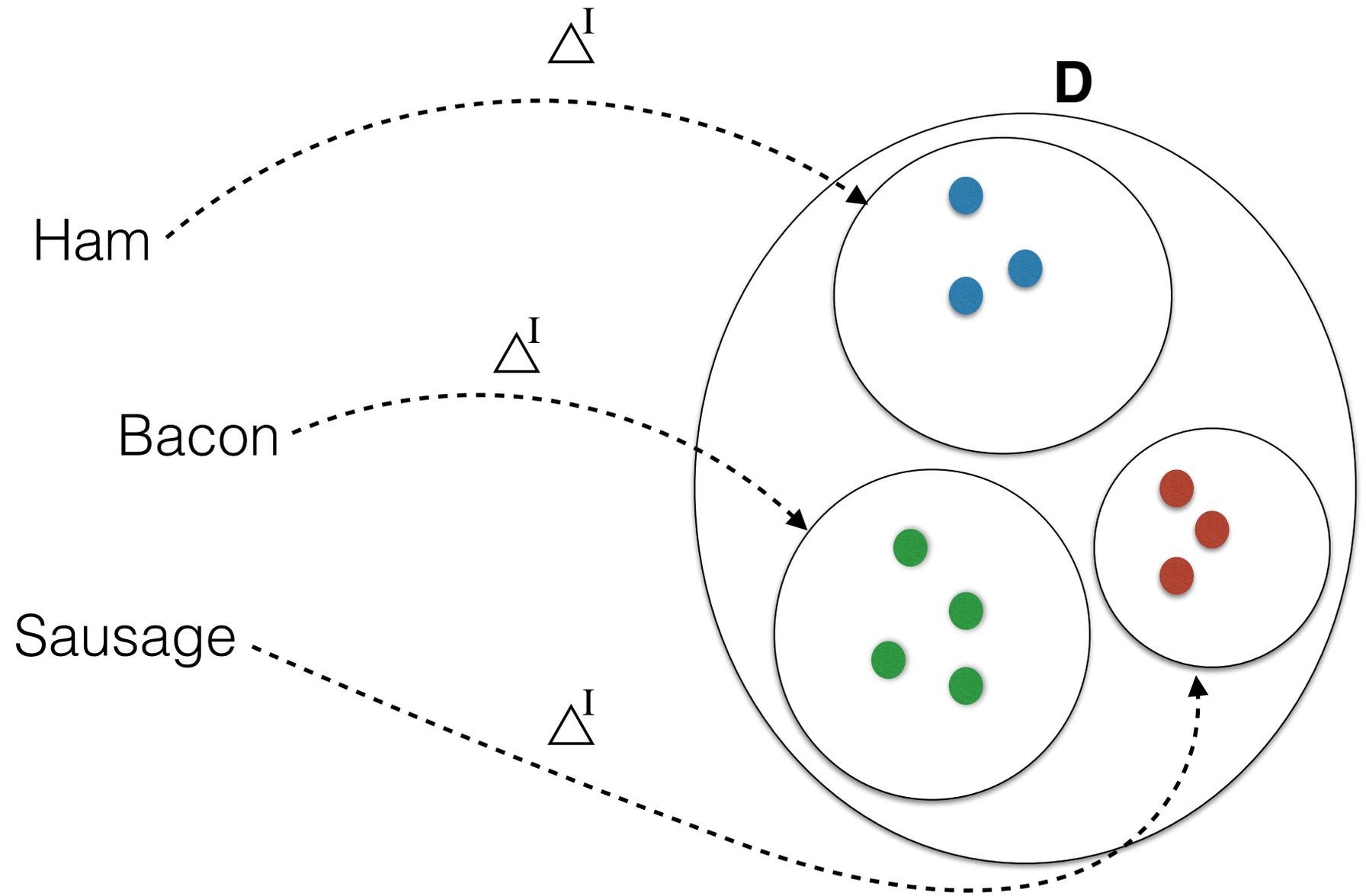


Conceptual Models as **Ontological Contracts**

Giancarlo Guizzardi
CORE/UNIBZ, Italy
(together with
Nicola Guarino and the
NEMO Group)



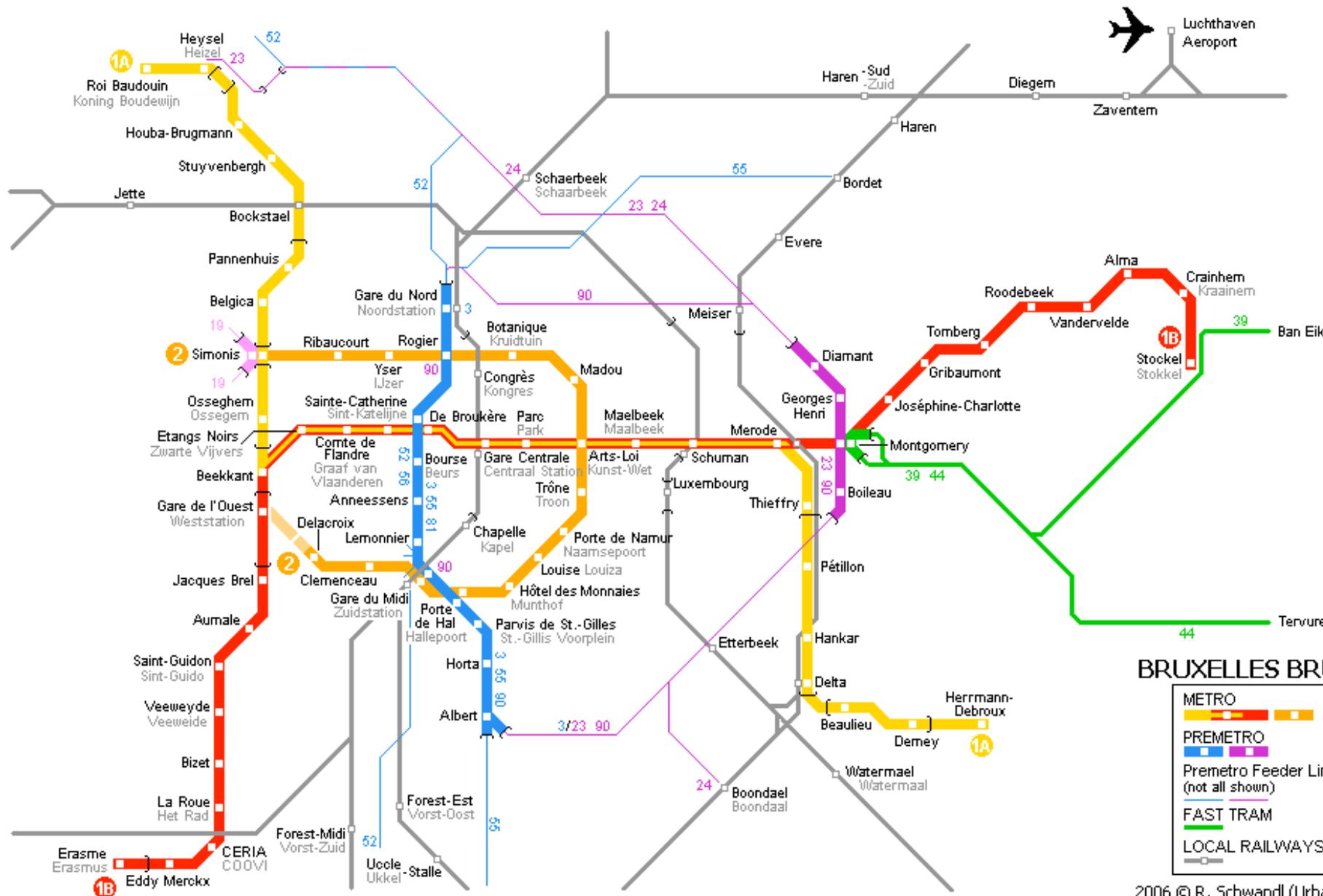
By Tom Gould



Real-World (**Ontological**)
Semantics

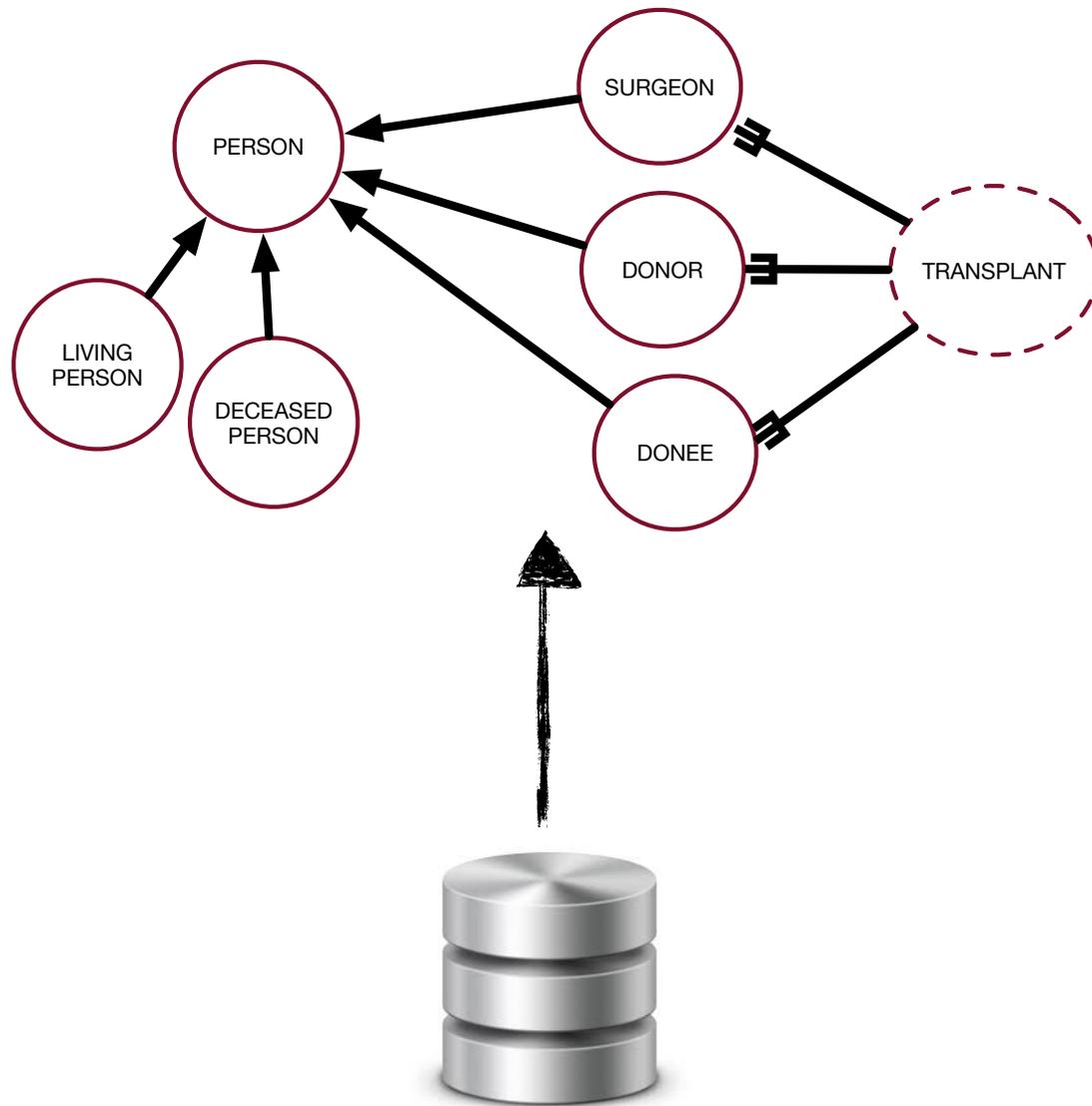
X

Formal Semantics



BRUXELLES BRUSSEL

- METRO
- PREMETRO
- Premetro Feeder Lines (not all shown)
- FAST TRAM
- LOCAL RAILWAYS



Another look at data

by GEORGE H. MEALY

Computer Consultant
Scituate, Massachusetts

INTRODUCTION

We do not, it seems, have a very clear and commonly agreed upon set of notions about data—either what they are, how they should be fed and cared for, or their relation to the design of programming languages and operating systems. This paper sketches a theory of data which may serve to clarify these questions. It is based on a number of old ideas and may, as a result, seem obvious. Be that as it may, some of these old ideas are not common currency in our field, either separately or in combination; it is hoped that rehashing 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 lat-

particular ontology, we can avoid a quarrel by adopting the nominalist's position.

Our plan of attack is to indicate the nature of the theory of relations, based on the example of genealogical data. This will lead immediately to formulation of our notions about data in general, including rather precise definitions of concepts such as data structure, list processing, and representation. These notions are used in the second part of the paper as the basis for some remarks and suggestions concerning language and system design.

Toward a theory of data

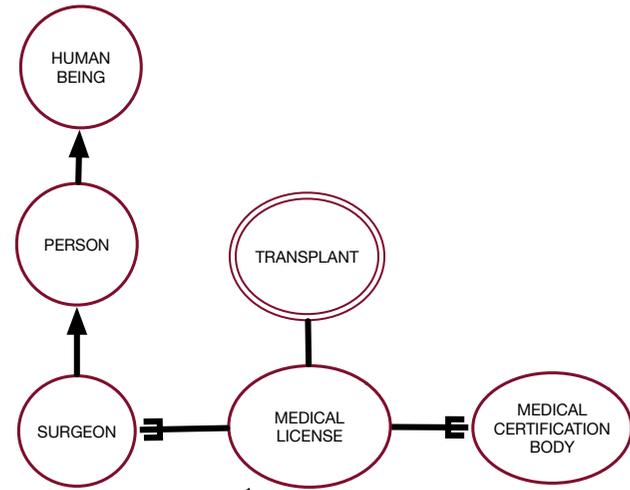
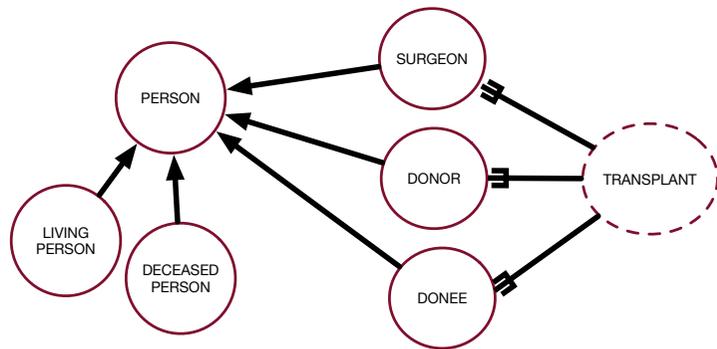
Relations

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

*“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.”*

(G.H. Mealy,
Another Look at Data, 1967)

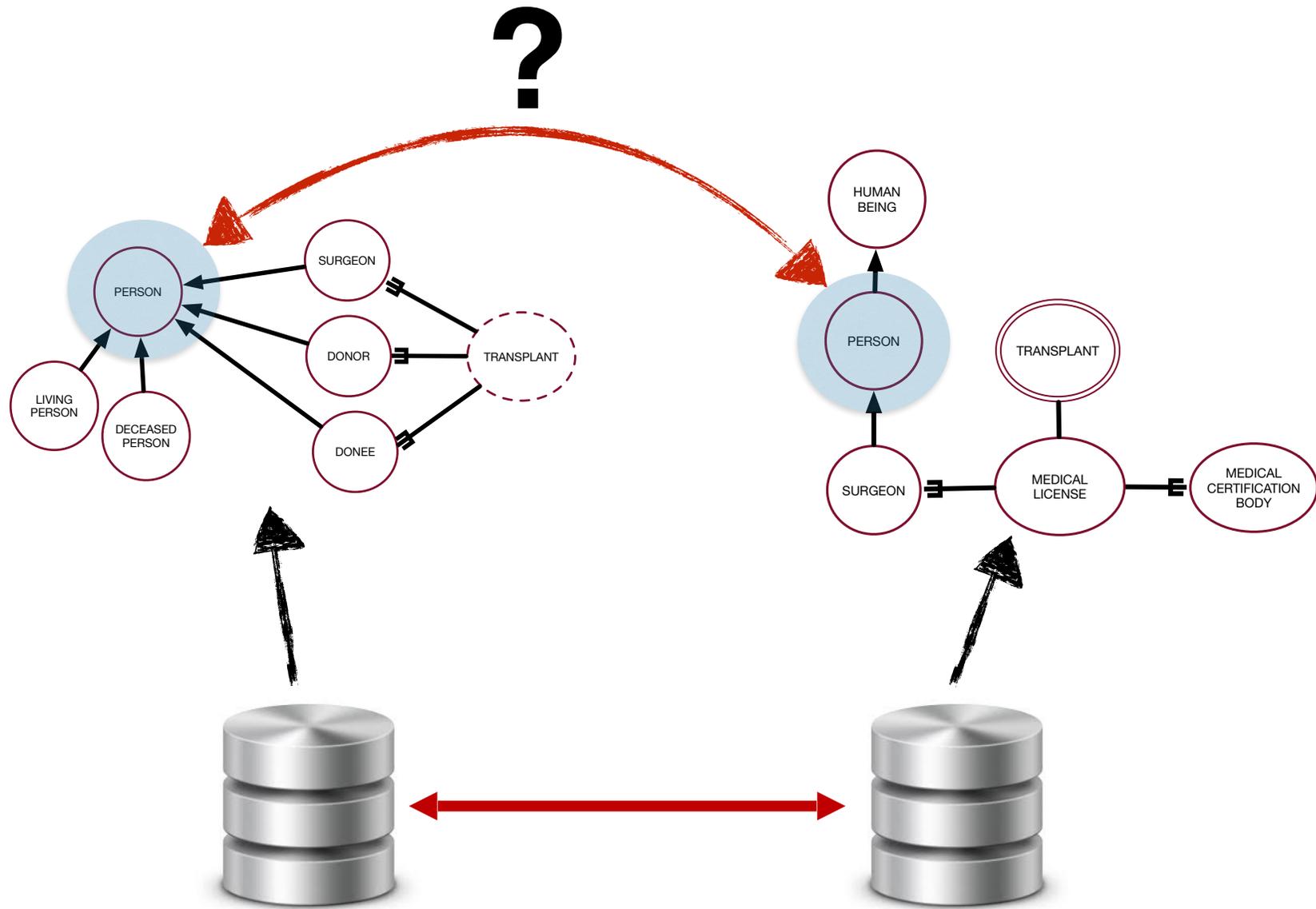


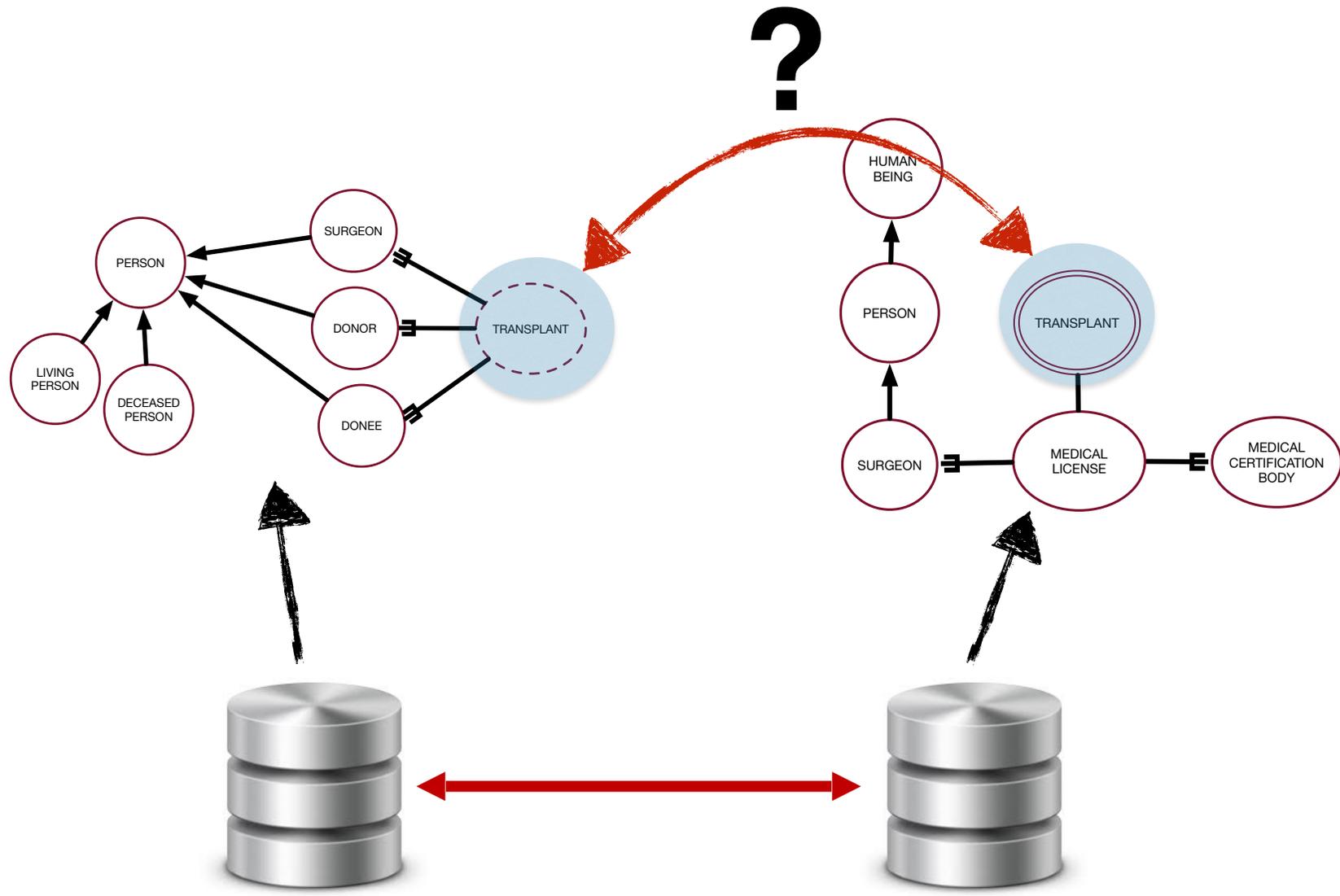


Semantic Interoperability



relating different
worldviews, i.e., different
conceptualizations of
reality





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World Trade Centre insurance

Bad forms

After a rancorous trial, relief for many insurers of the twin towers

May 6th 2004 | From the print edition



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IT WAS a \$3.5 billion question: was the crashing of two aeroplanes into New York's twin towers in September 2001 one event or two? One, many insurers are relieved to know. On May 3rd a jury ruled that Swiss Re, the world's second-largest reinsurer, which wrote about a quarter of the coverage for the World Trade Centre, was bound by a form that classed such attacks as a single occurrence. Last week the same jury had reached a similar verdict for several Lloyd's of London syndicates and seven other insurers. The loser was Larry Silverstein, the centre's leaseholder. He had argued that another form was valid, in the hope of claiming around \$7 billion for two events. Now he may get only half that.

AP



Silverstein's the loser

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In most disaster insurance, "occurrence" is carefully defined. Earthquake coverage typically treats all shaking

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World Trade Centre insurance

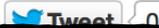
Bad forms

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similar... and se... Silver... anothe... \$7 billion for the events. Now he may get only half that.

"In most disaster insurance, "occurrence" is carefully defined..."

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World Trade Centre insurance

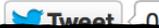
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Silverstein's the loser

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World Trade Centre insurance

One into two

Having lost one legal case to insurers, the towers' leaseholder wins a second

Dec 9th 2004 | NEW YORK | From the print edition



SEVEN months ago, a jury in lower Manhattan ruled that under the forms covering insurance of the World Trade Centre, the striking of the twin towers by two aeroplanes constituted only one “occurrence”. Consequently, Larry Silverstein, who had recently leased the Trade Centre complex, was entitled to one payment, not two—a difference of \$3.5 billion. On December 6th, in the same courtroom with the same judge presiding, another jury decided that under the documents used by nine other insurers the attacks were two events, thus qualifying for two payments. The verdict will provide Mr Silverstein with as much as \$1.1 billion extra for rebuilding the Trade Centre. It will also ensure that he remains in control of the project.

Why, after two weeks of deliberation, did the second jury come to a different conclusion from the first? The main reason lay in the preliminary paperwork signed by the underwriters. Because the Trade Centre had been leased to Mr Silverstein only weeks before the attack, the final insurance contracts had yet to be signed. The insurers in the first trial had signed a form with a much tighter definition of an “occurrence” than in the form signed by the nine insurers in the second trial. In addition, the insurance companies' claim that they always define “occurrence” precisely may have been undermined by testimony that they had been flexible in other cases—for example, involving sequences of

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1

There is no doubt about the brute reality. The issue is **interpreting** that part of **reality according to a certain system of categories**

2

There are **multiple views on reality** that can conflict and unless we are fully aware of their distinctions, we cannot safely harmonize those views

3

There is no experiment that can be done to settle these conflicts. It can only be resolved by **conceptual clarification** and **meaning negotiation** relying on a **prioristic** system of categories

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**

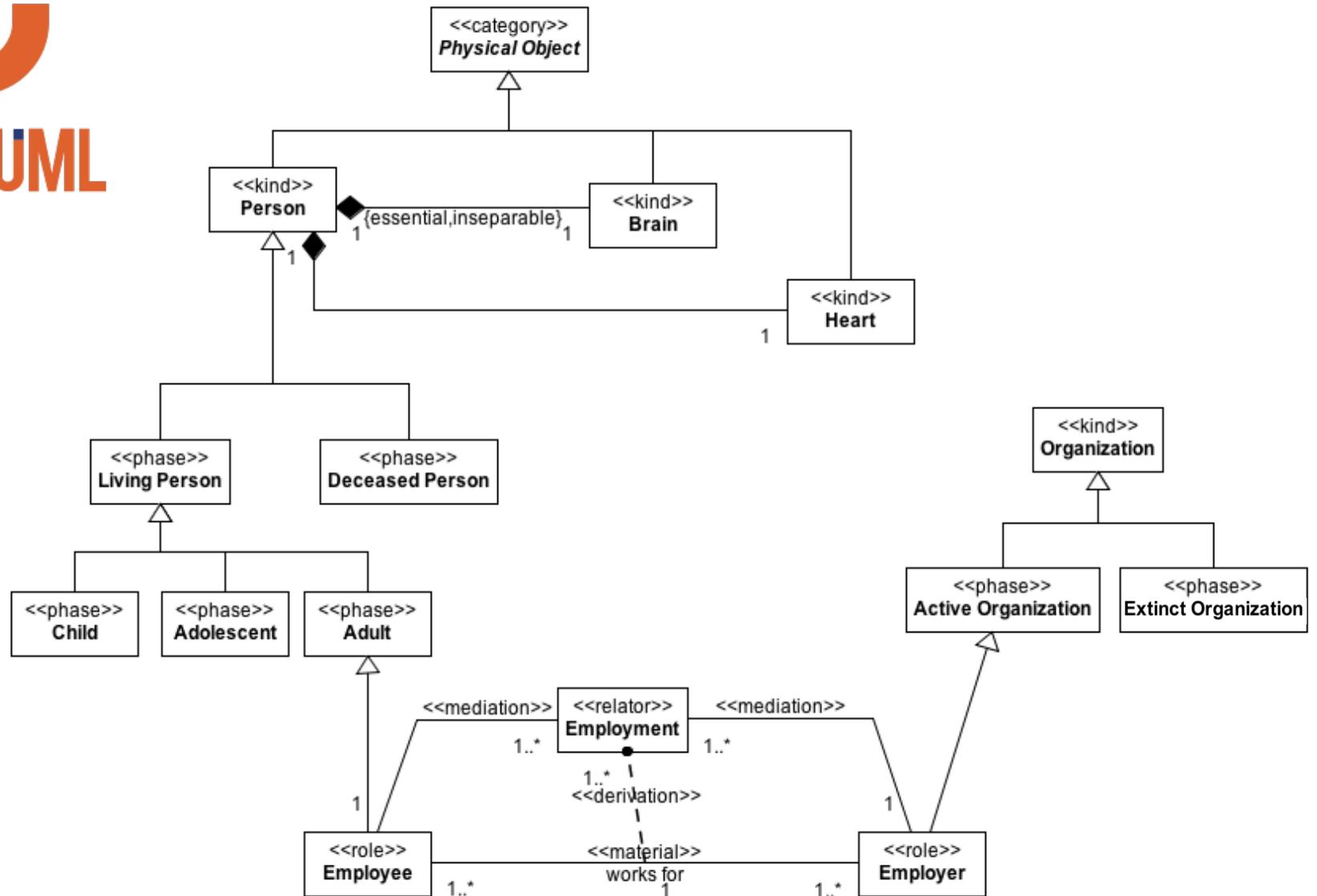
Ontology-Driven Conceptual **Modeling**

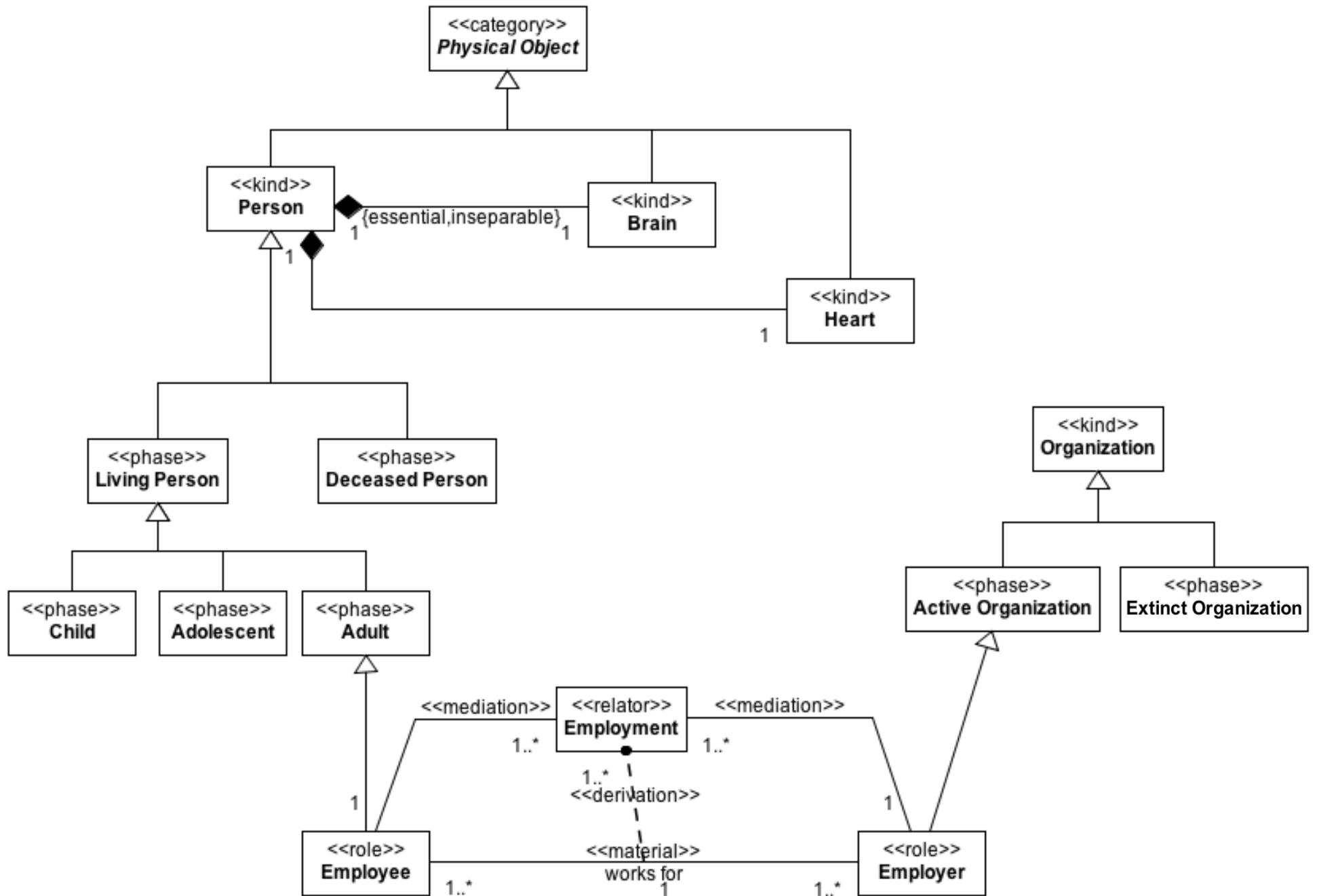
A discipline aiming at developing ontology-based methodologies, computational tools and **modeling languages** for the area of Conceptual Modeling

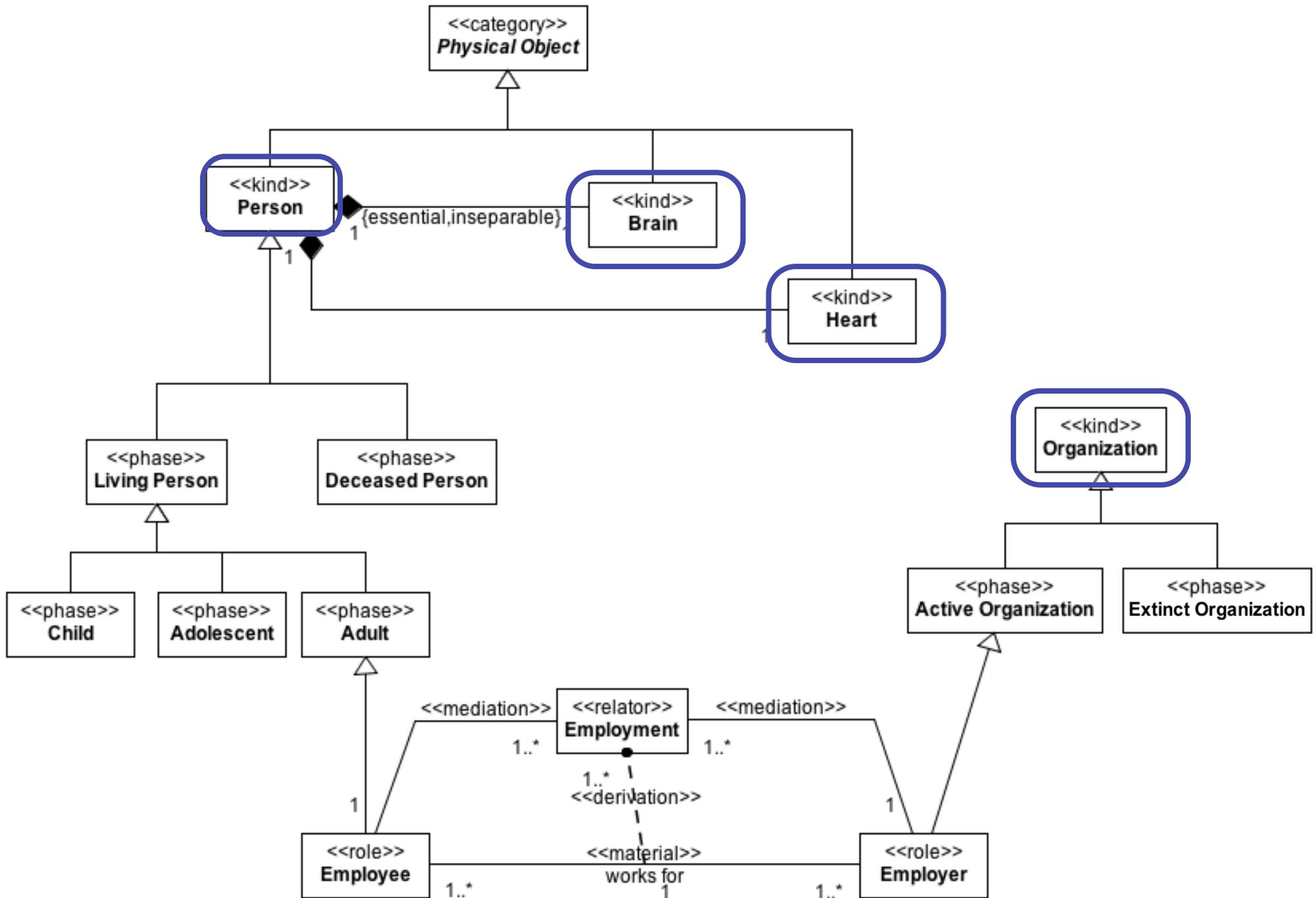
UFO

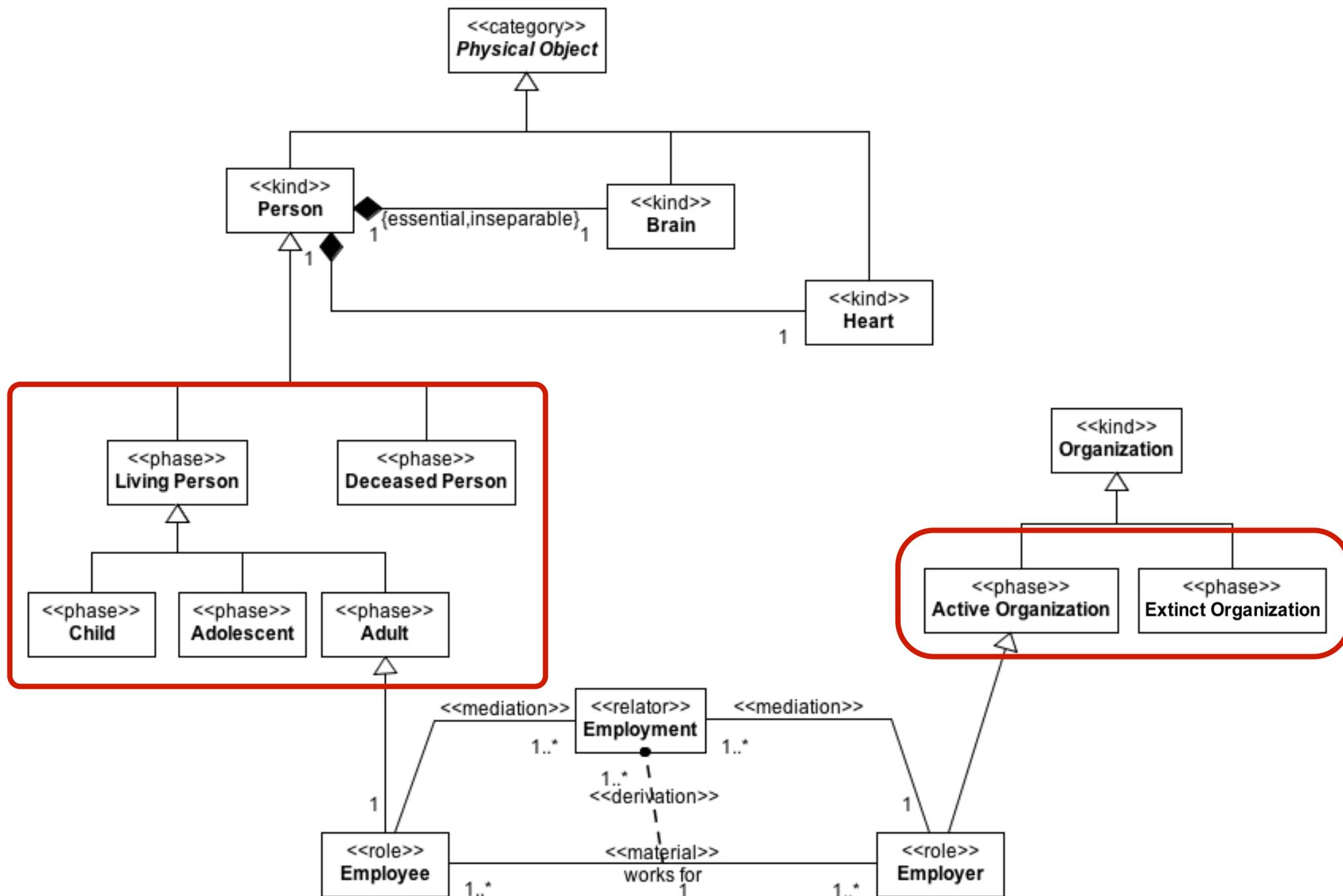
(Unified Foundational Ontology)

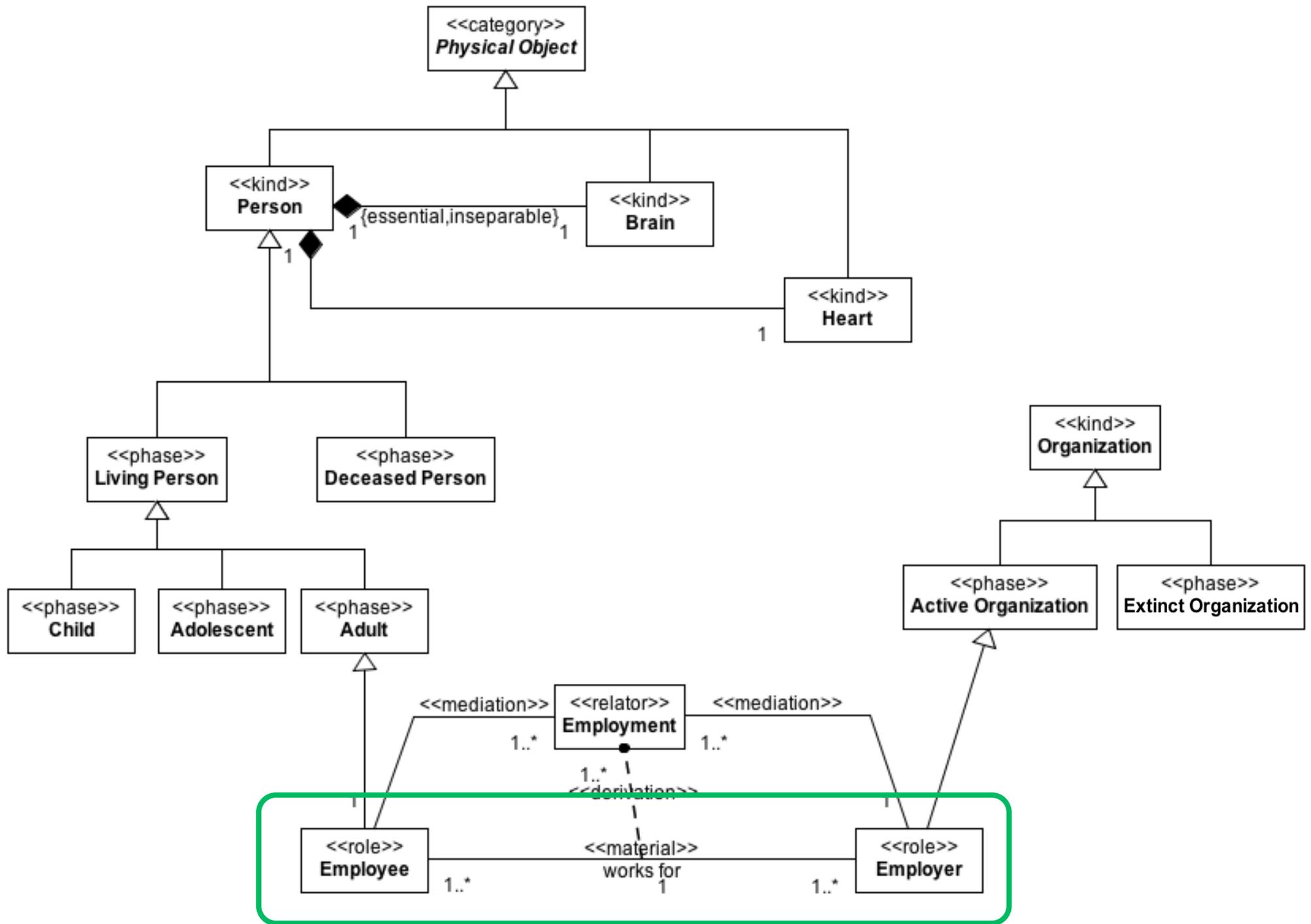
- Over the years, we have built a Philosophically and Cognitively well-founded Ontology to contribute to the general goal of serving as a Foundation for Conceptual Modeling
- This Ontology has been used to as a theory for addressing many classical conceptual modeling constructs such as **Object Types**, **Identity and Taxonomic Structures** (CAISE 2004, CAISE 2007, CAISE 2012, Synthese 2015, ER 2018), **Part-Whole Relations** (CAISE 2007, CAISE 2009, FOIS2010, CAISE 2011), **Intrinsic and Relational Properties** (ER 2006, ER 2008, ER 2011, CAISE 2015, DKE 2015, ER 2018), **Weak Entities, Attributes and Datatypes** (ER 2006), **Events** (ER 2013, BPM 2016), **Multi-Level Modeling and Powertypes** (JOWO 2015, ER 2015, DKE 2017, ER 2018), etc...

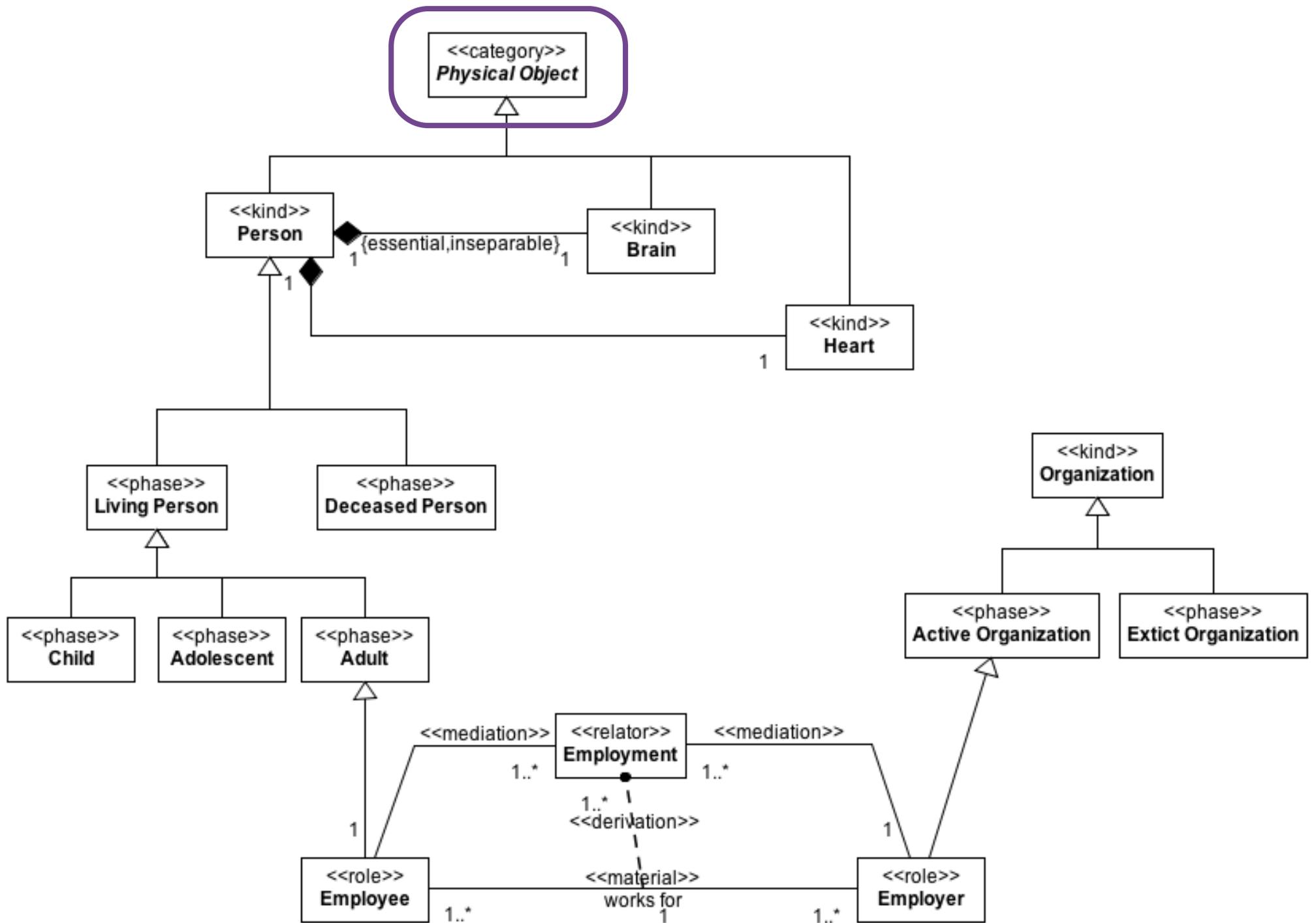


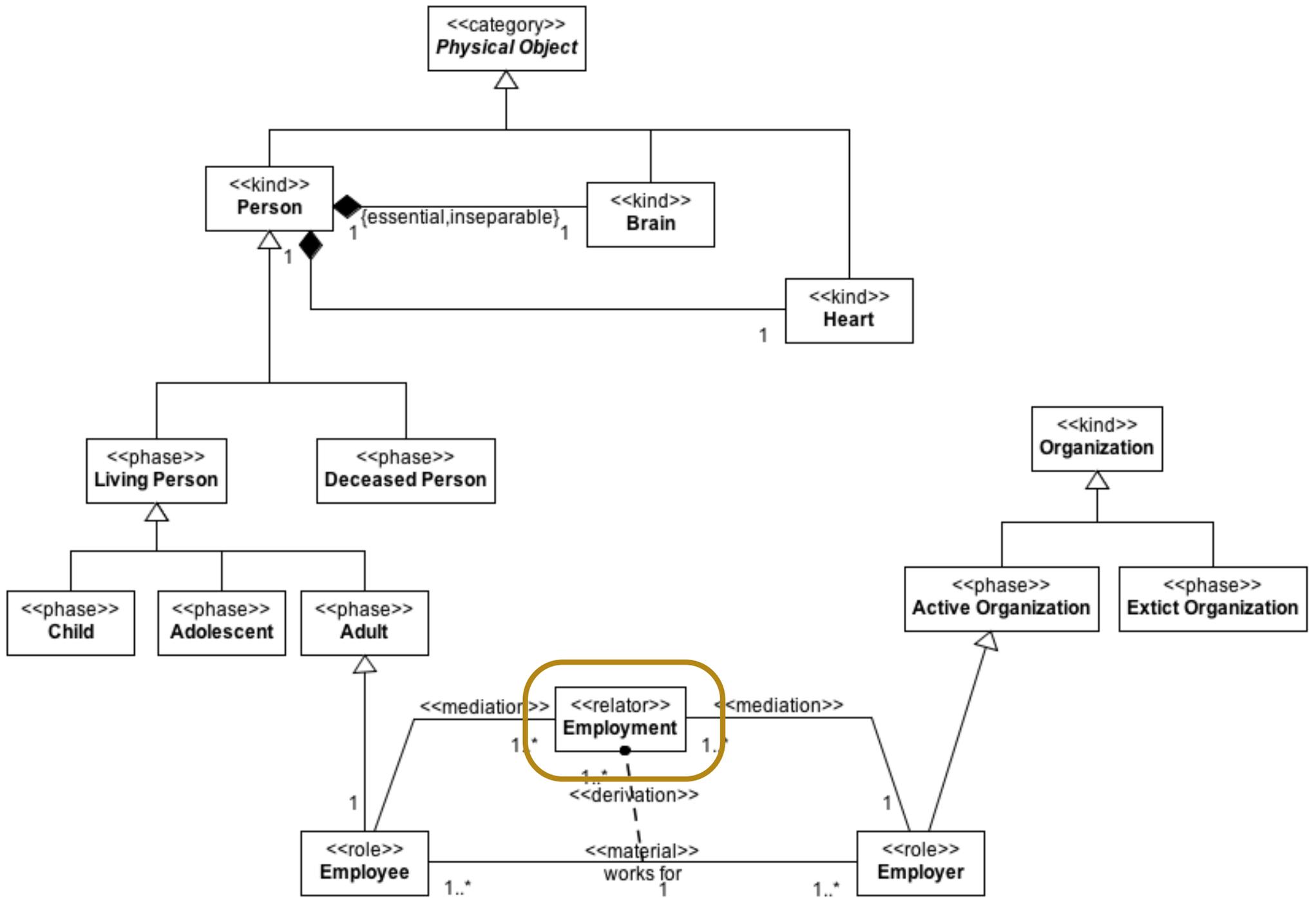


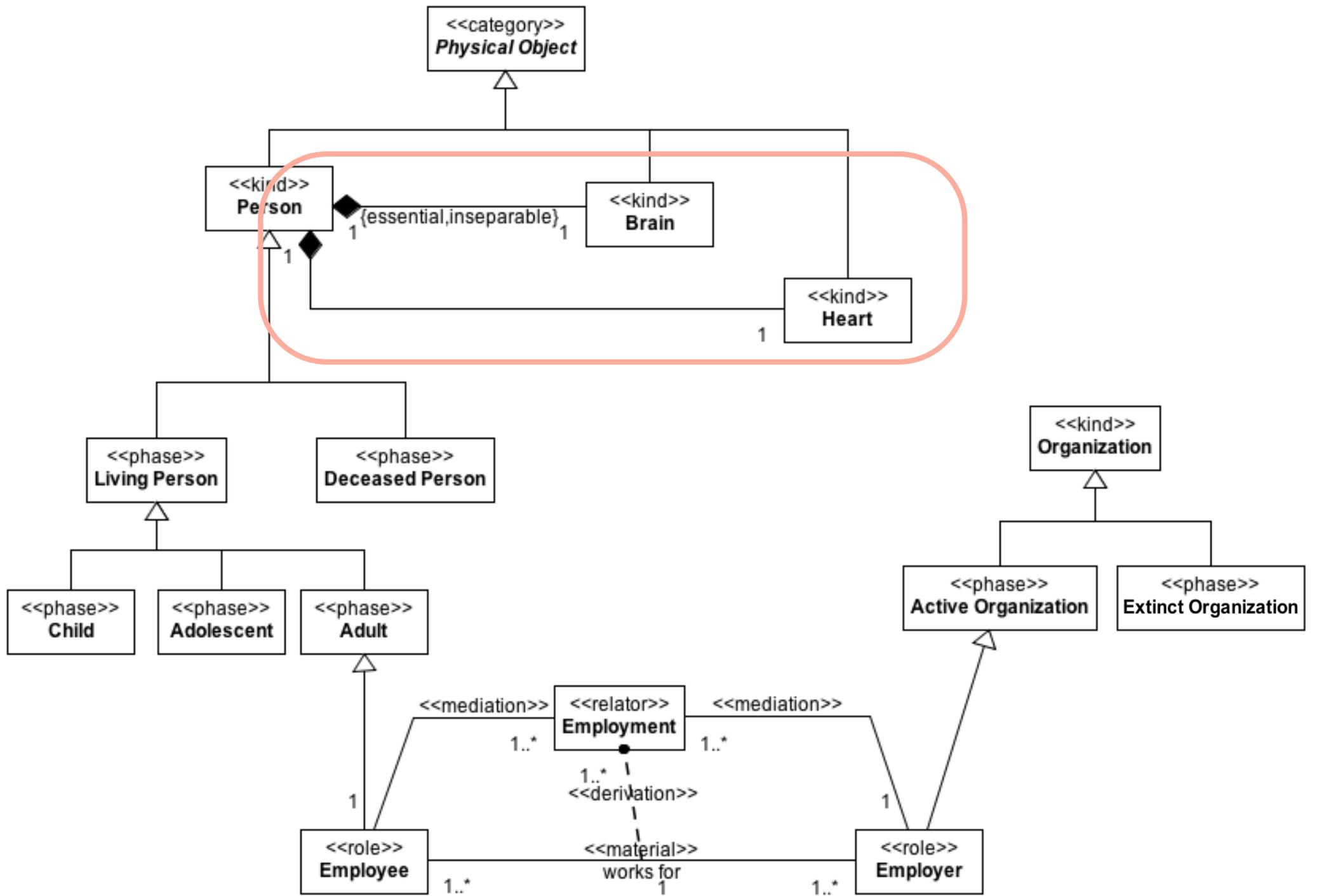




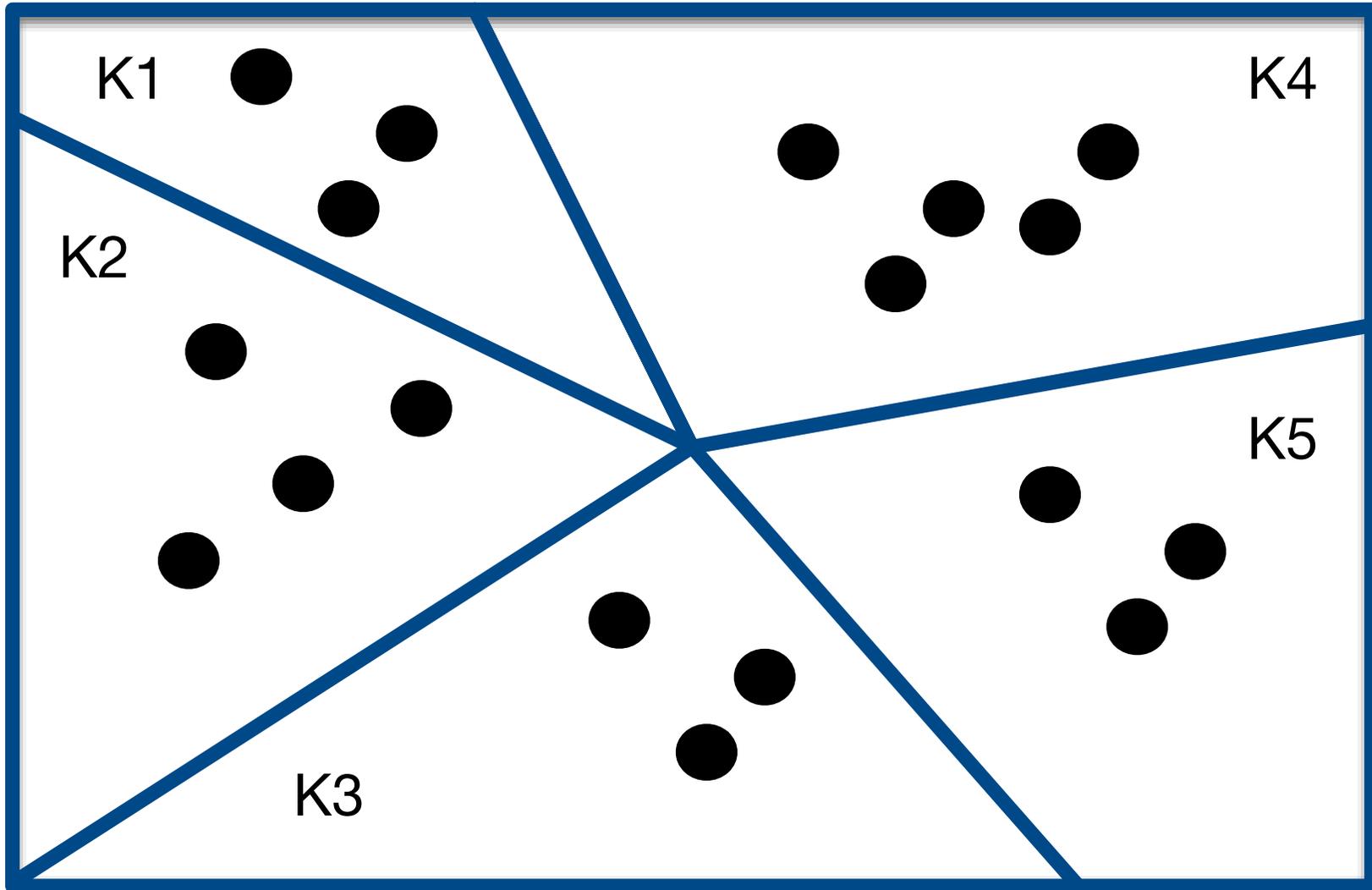




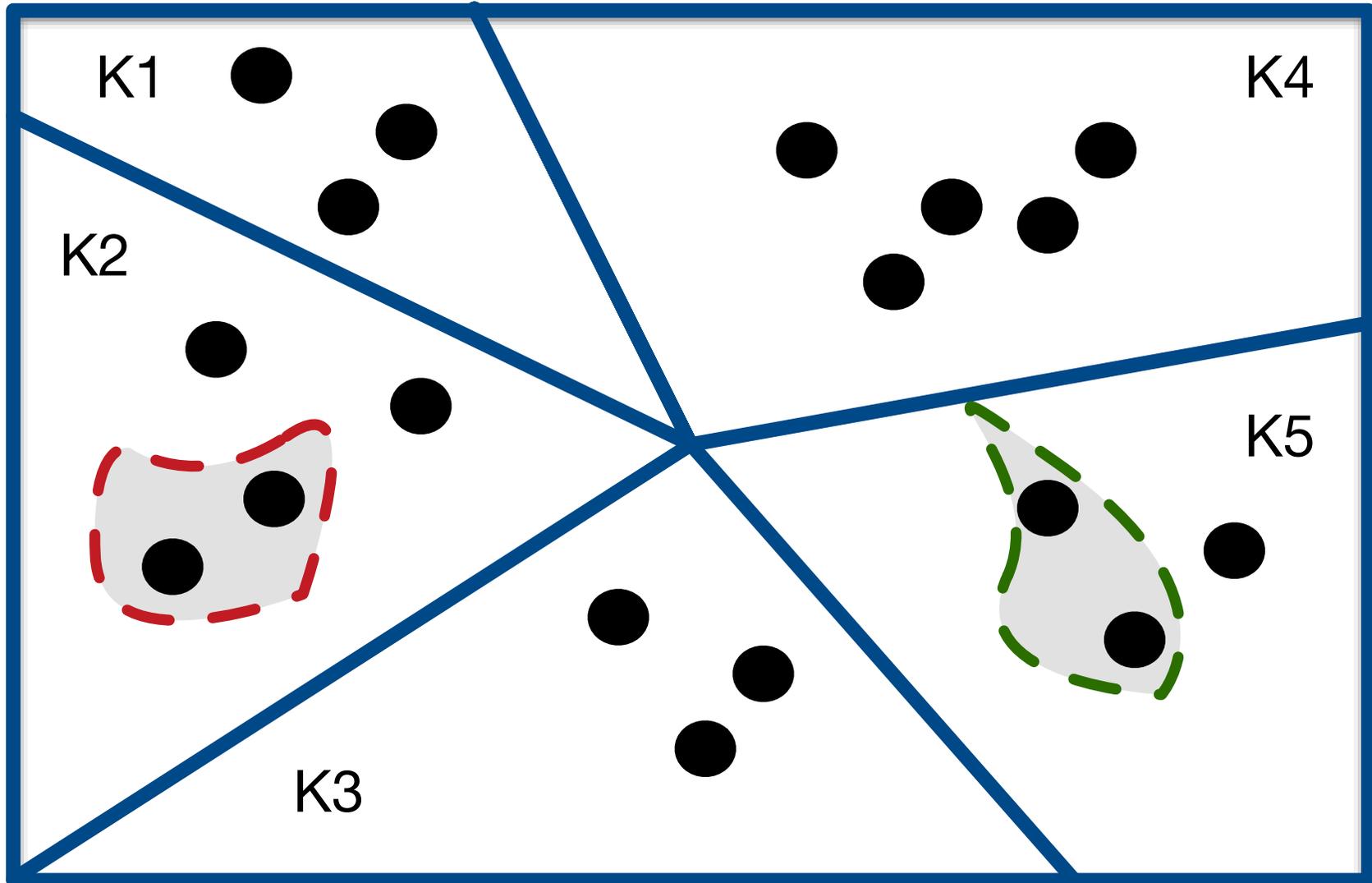




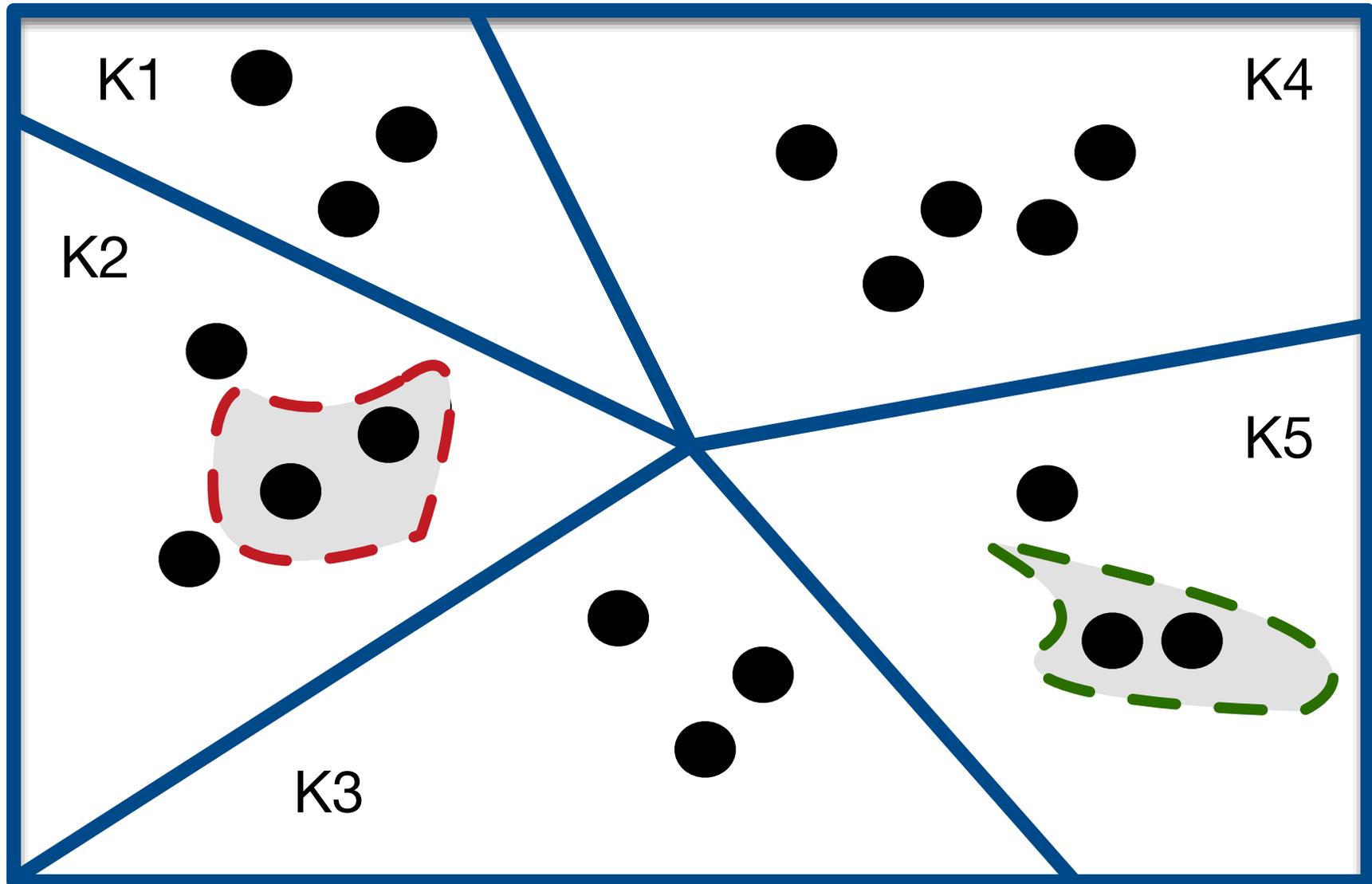
Kinds



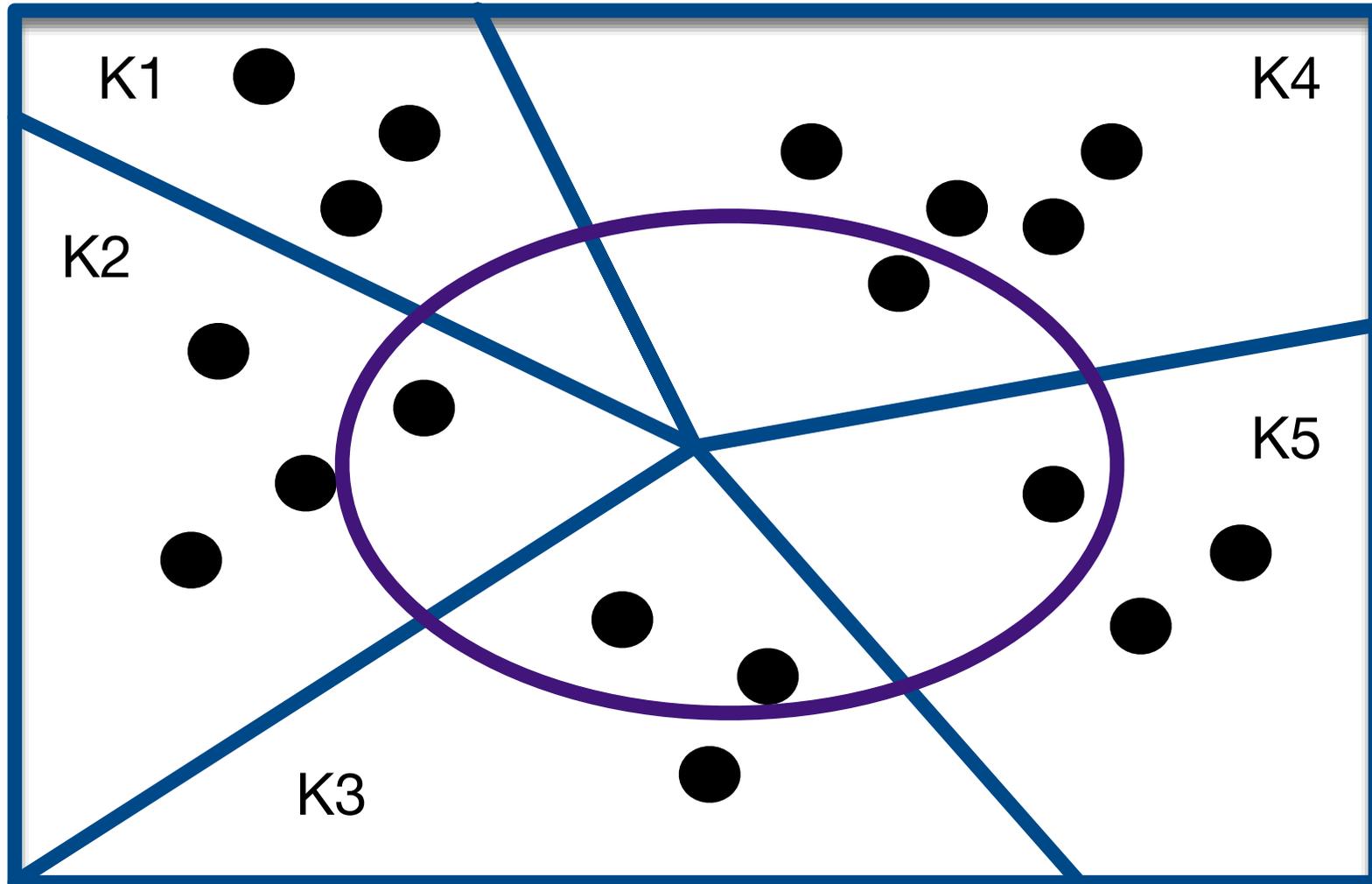
Anti-Rigid Sortals (**Roles** and **Phases**)



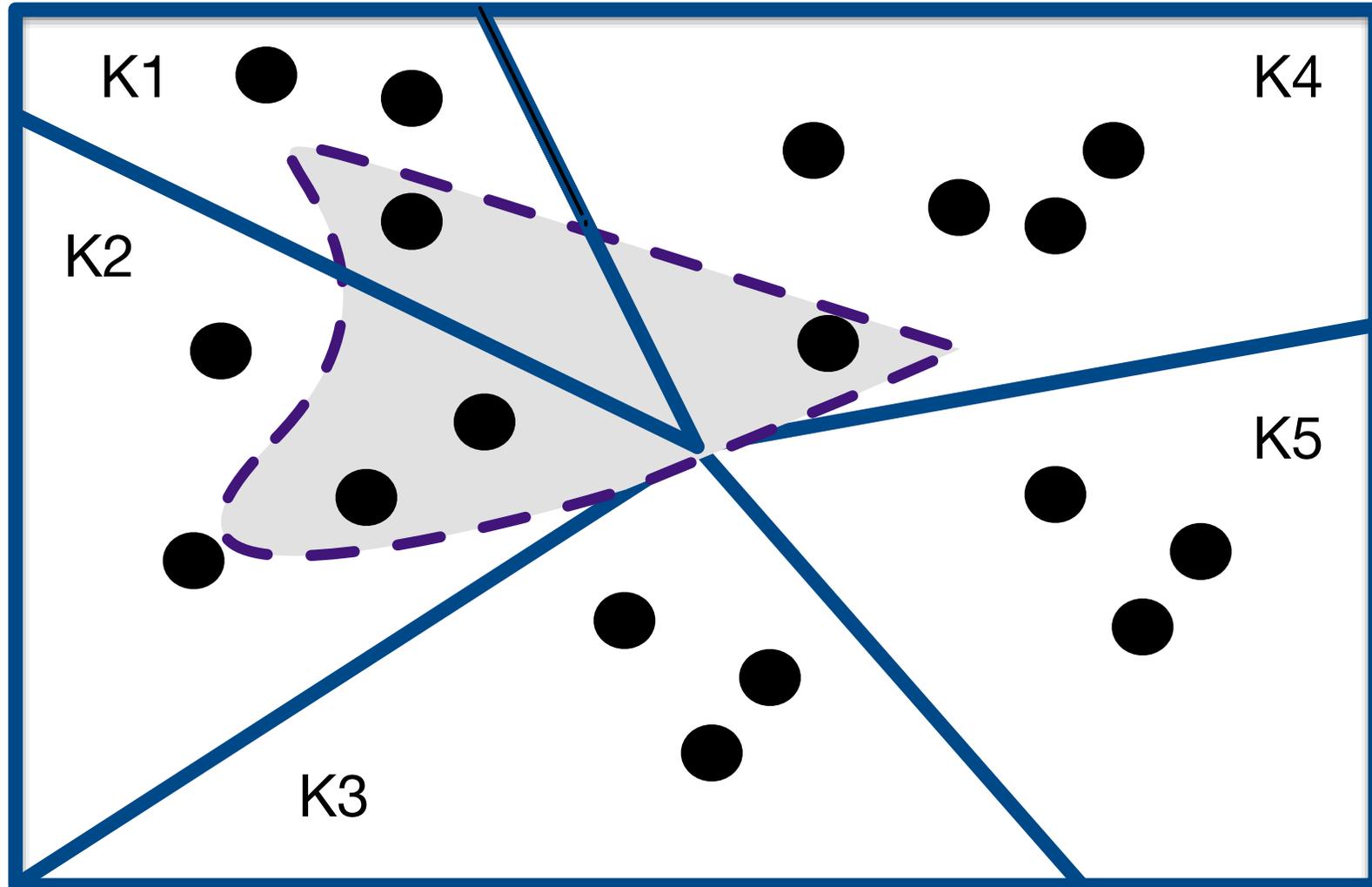
Anti-Rigid Sortals (**Roles** and **Phases**)



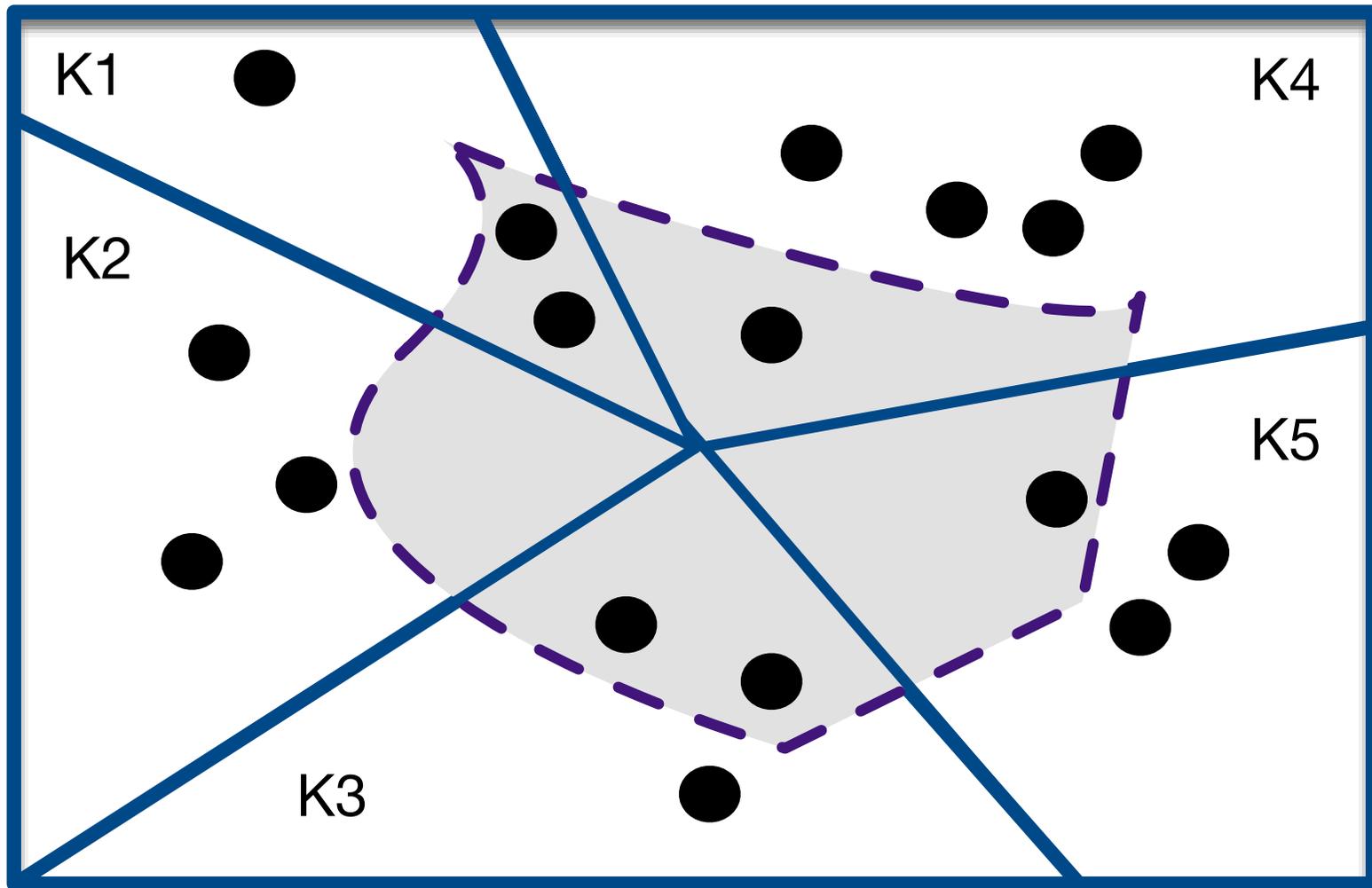
Rigid Mixins

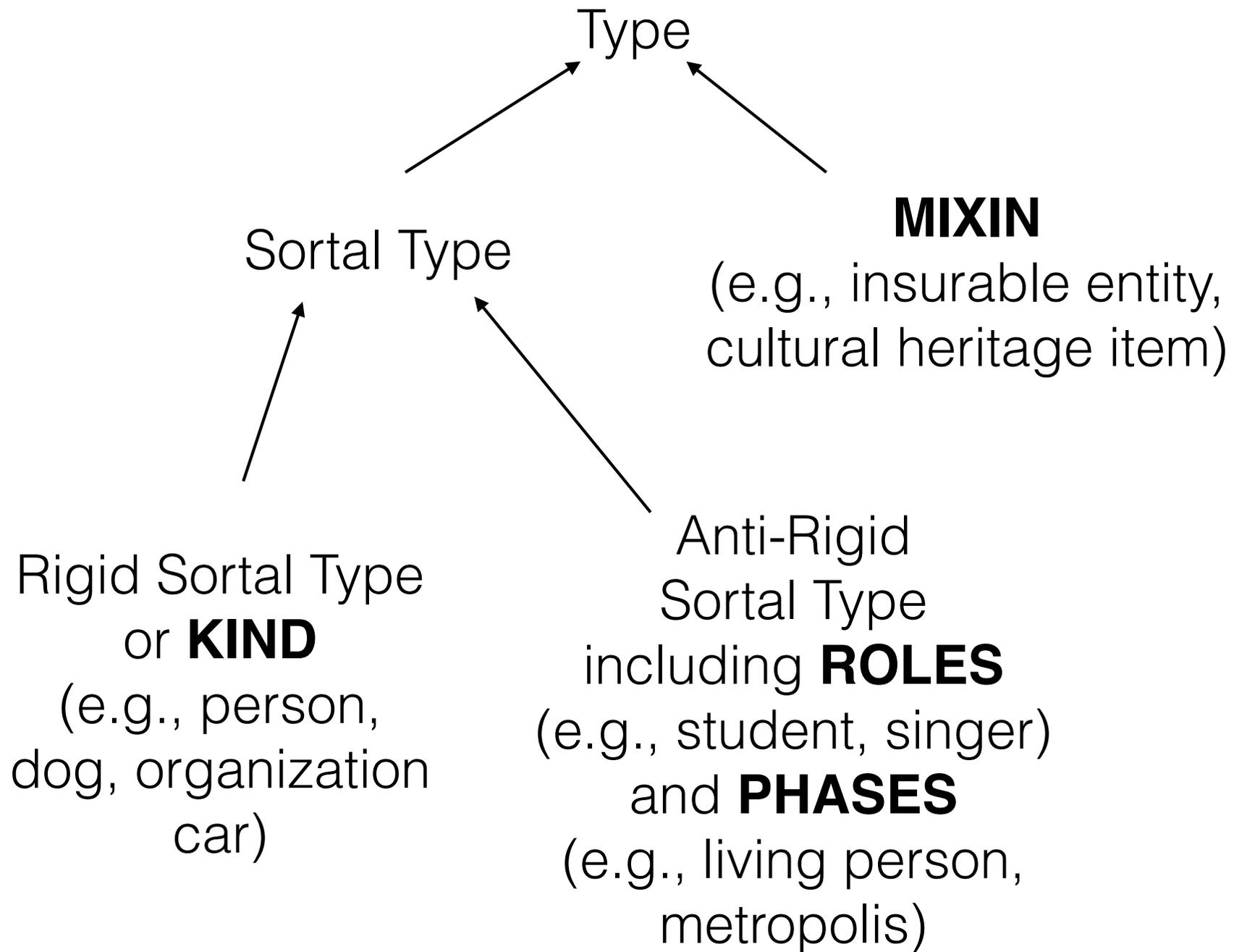


Anti-Rigid Mixins



Anti-Rigid Mixins



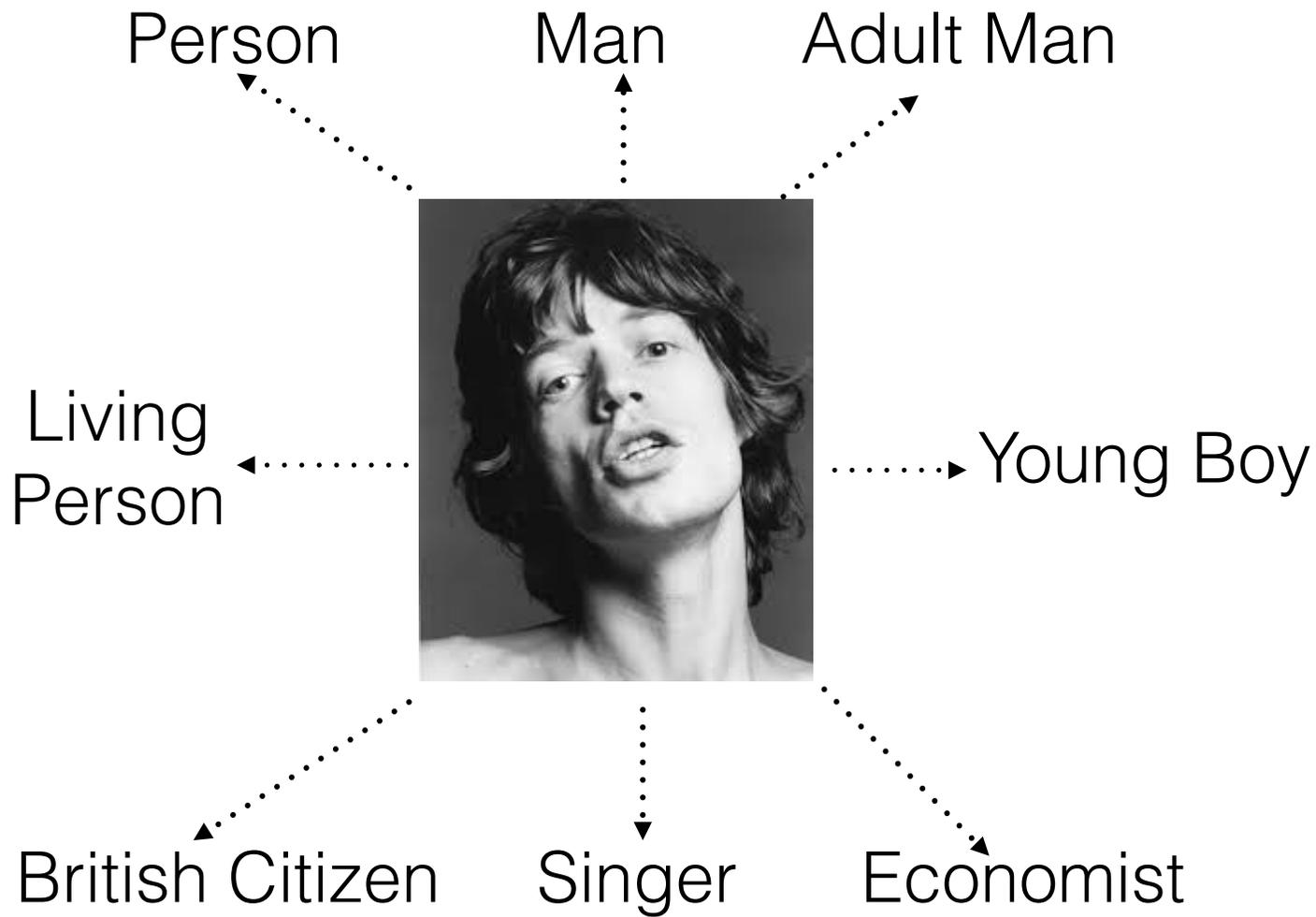












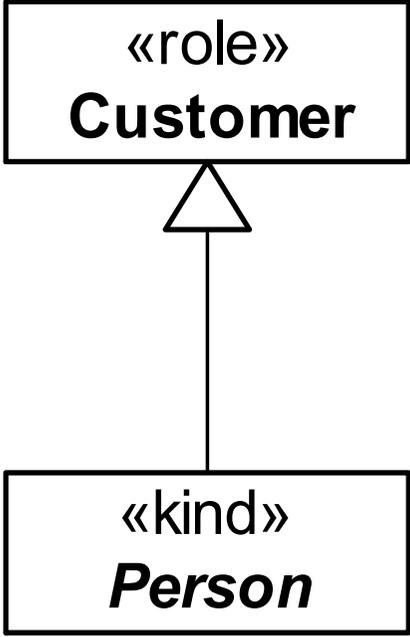
Solution

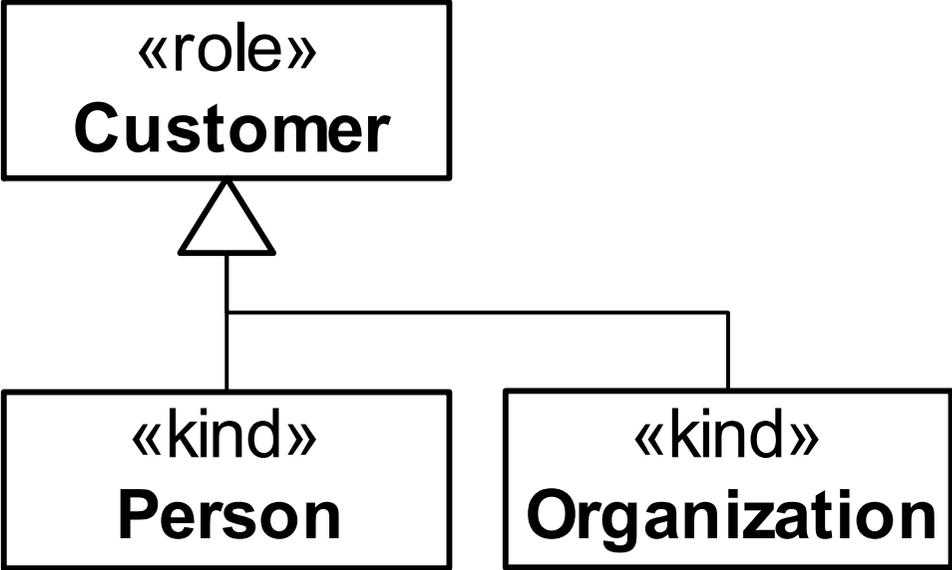
1. Characterizing the difference between:

- 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**

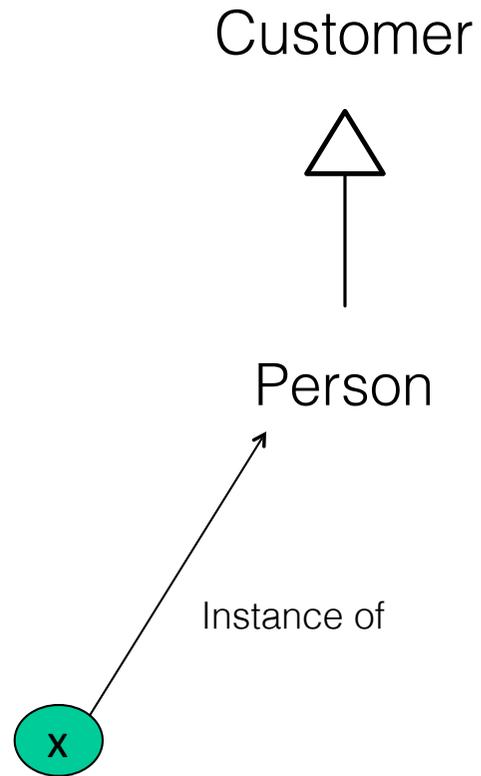
Role

- 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 an Educational Institution)
- **A ROLE cannot be a supertype of a Rigid Type**

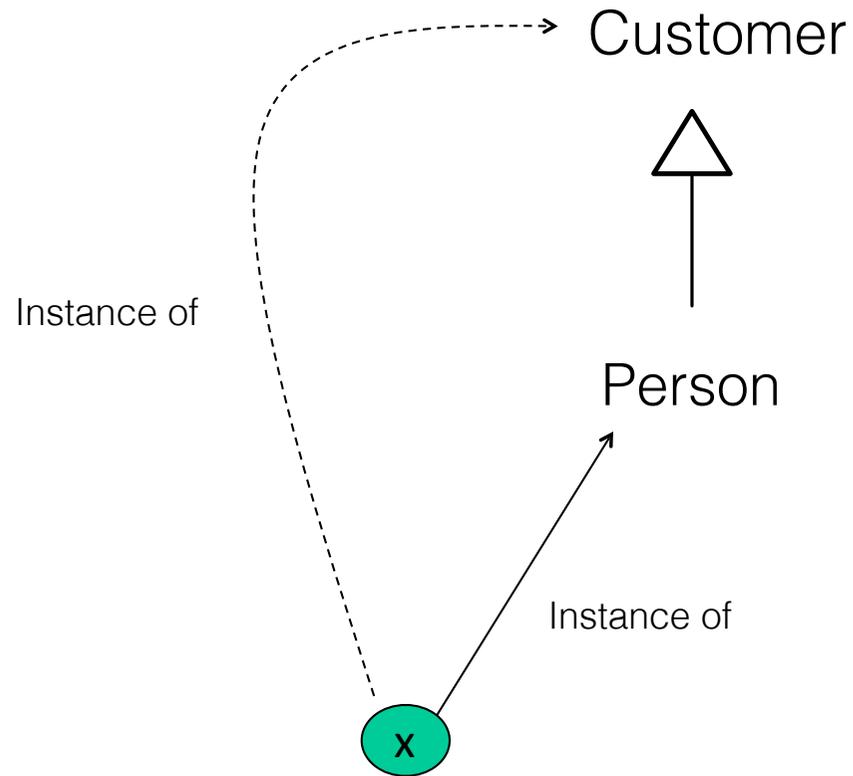




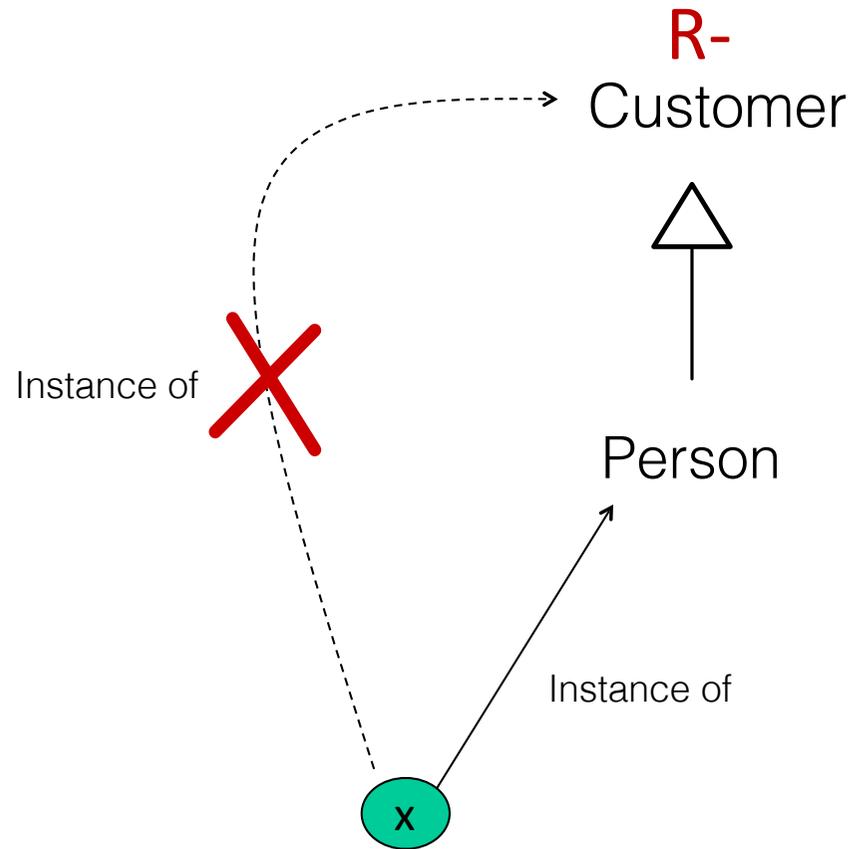
WORLD W



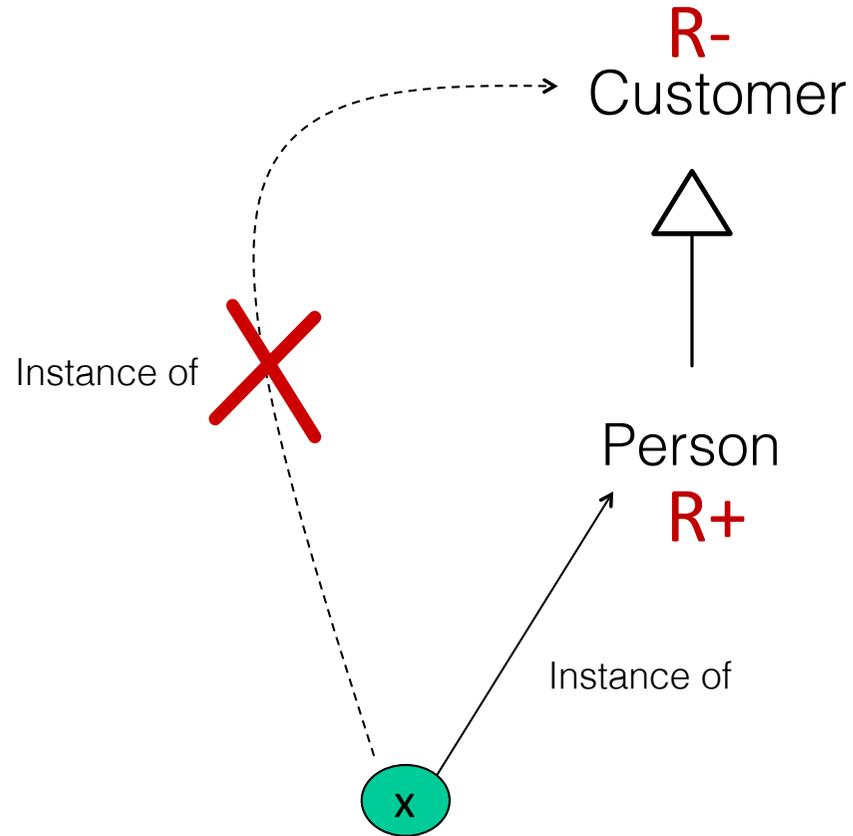
WORLD W



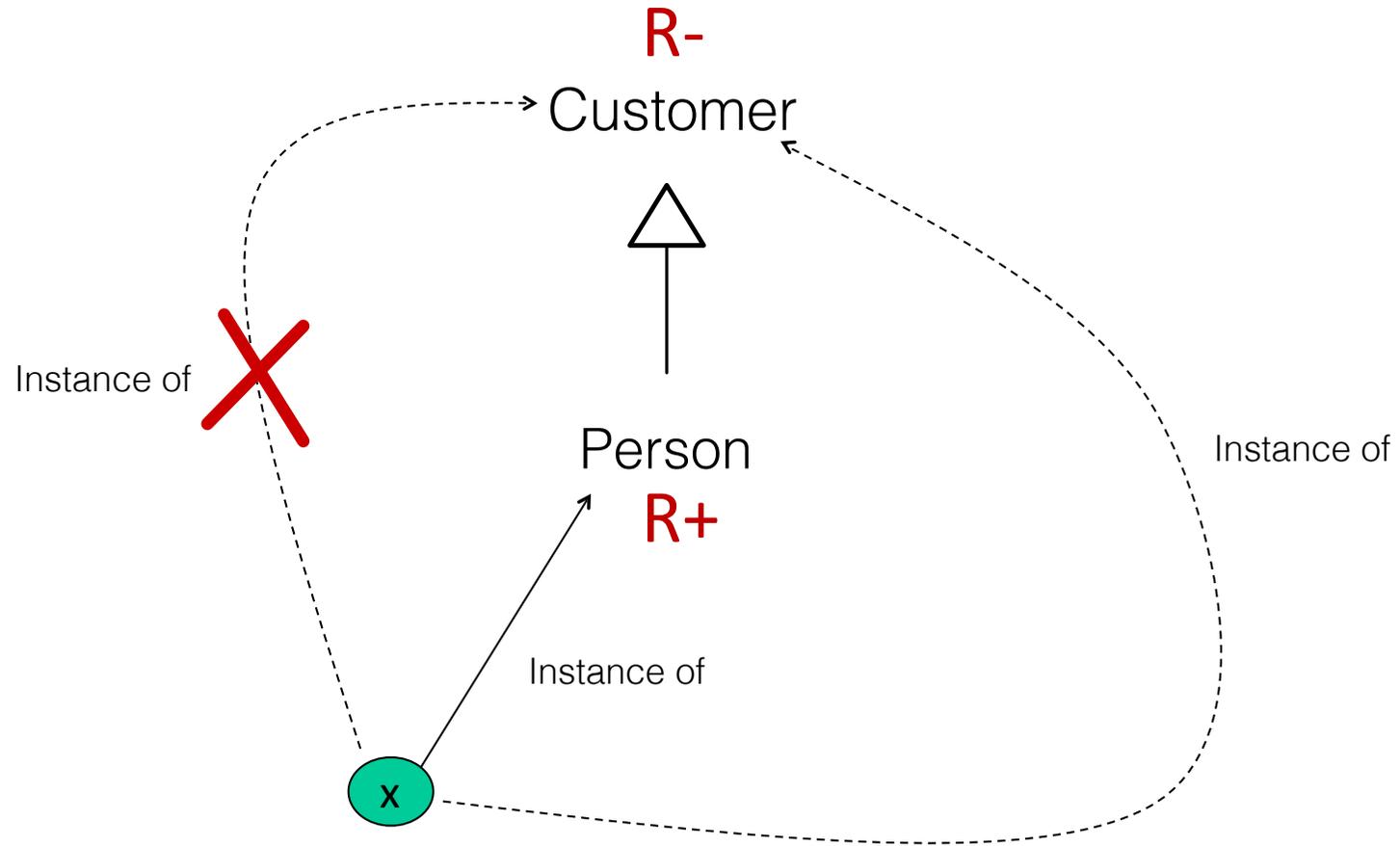
WORLD W'



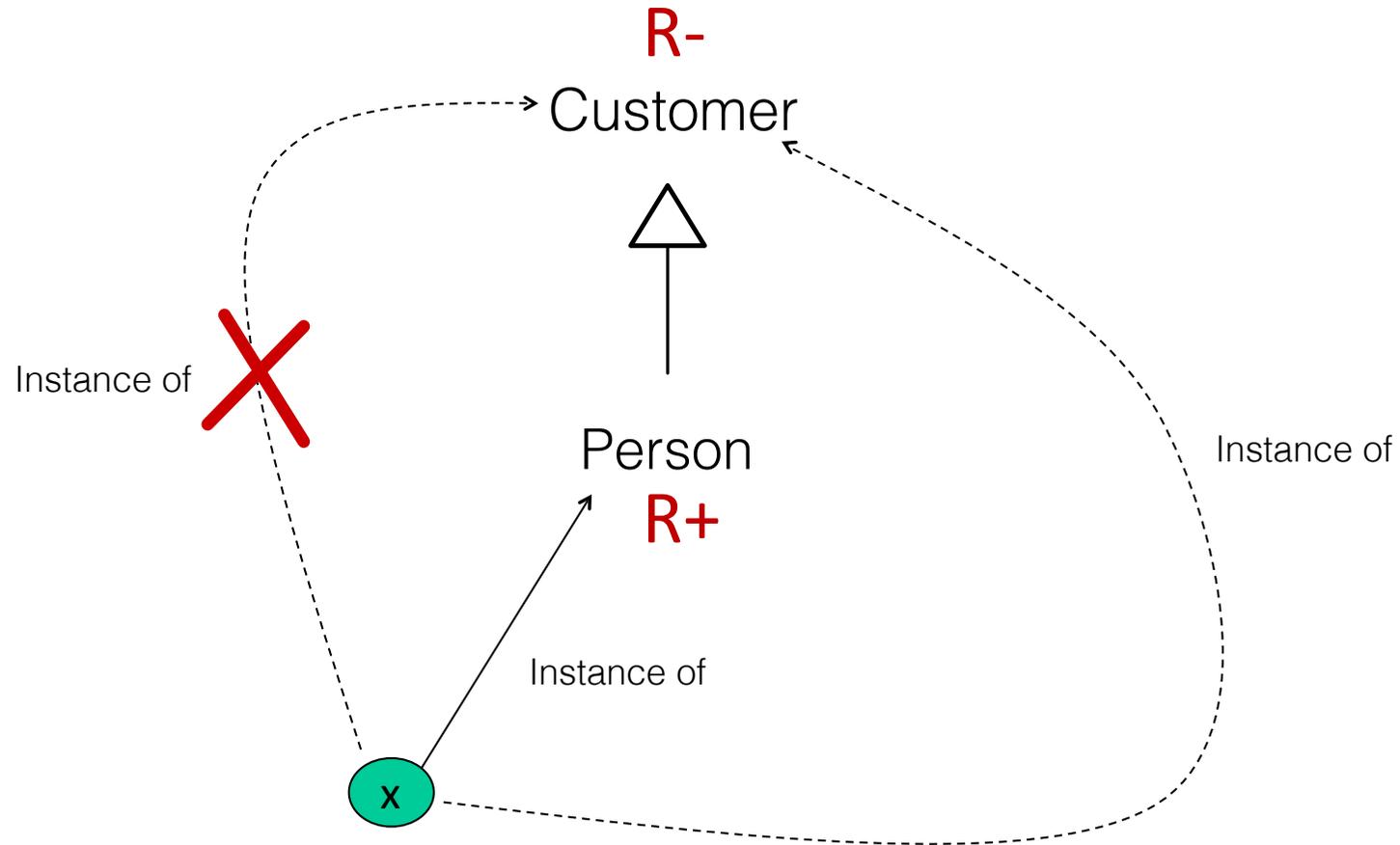
WORLD W'



WORLD W'



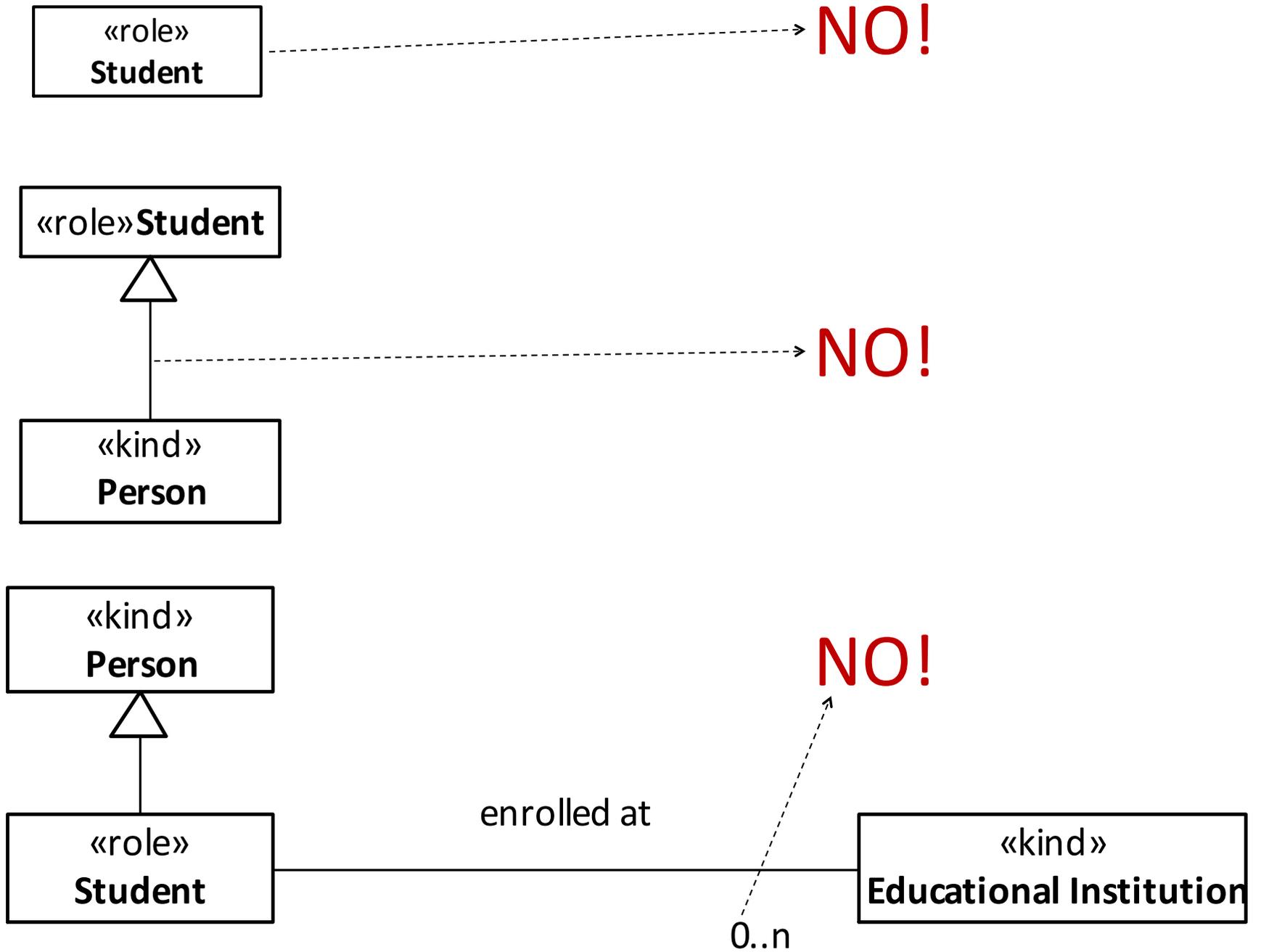
WORLD W'



We run into a logical contradiction!

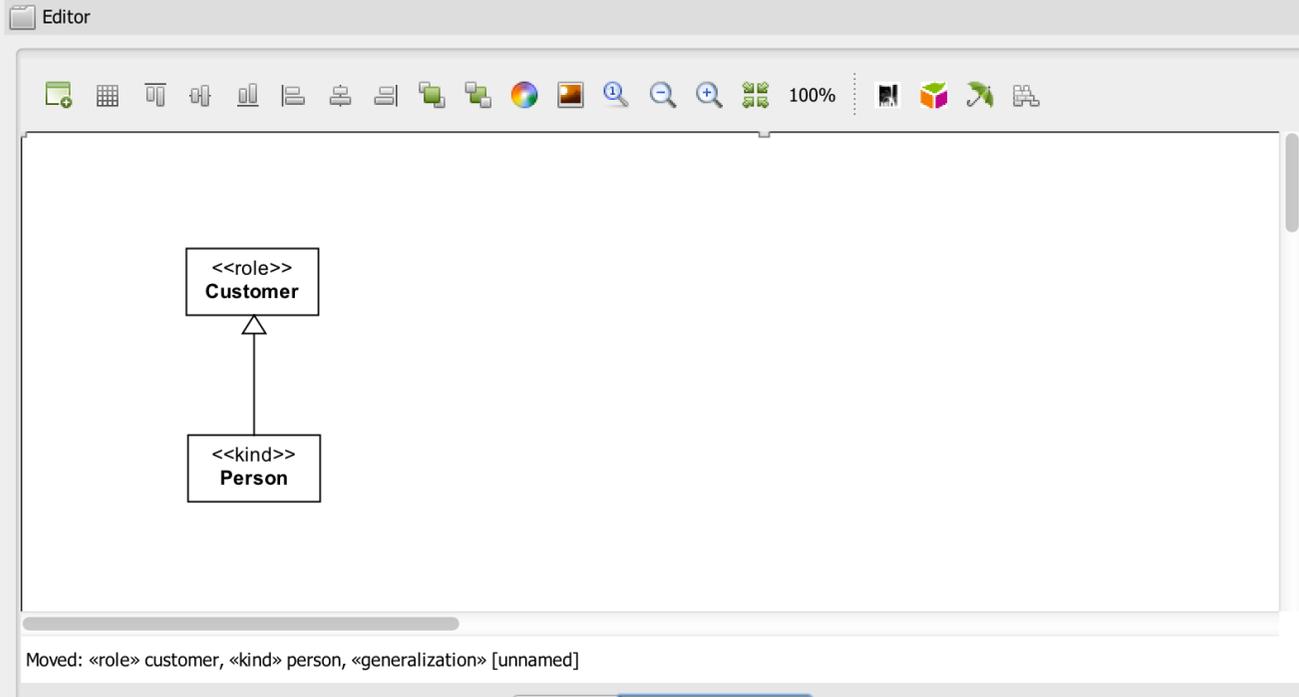
Role

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- Toolbox**
- ▼ Elements
 - Nominal Quality
 - Non Perceivable Quality
 - Perceivable Quality
 - Phase
 - Primitive Type
 - Quantity
 - Relator
 - Role
 - Role Mixin
 - SubKind
 - Association
 - Characterization
 - ComponentOf
 - Derivation
 - Formal
 - Generalization
 - Material
 - Mediation
 - MemberOf
 - Structuration
 - SubCollectionOf
 - SubQuantityOf
 - ▶ Patterns
 - ▶ Derived Patterns



- Project Browser**
- ✓ OLED Project
 - ✓ Diagrams
 - ✓ Constraints
 - ✓ Model
 - ✓ «Role» Customer
 - ✓ «Kind» Person
 - ✓ Generalization Customer

Information Footer

Type	Description	Stereotype	Element	Location
Syntactical	01. A RigidSortalClass cannot have an Anti-Rigid parent (role, phase, role...	Kind	Person	Model::Person
Syntactical	02. A Role must be connected (directly or indirectly) to a Mediation	Role	Customer	Model::Customer
Syntactical	03. Every non abstract Sortal must have a Substance Sortal ancestor (or be...	Role	Customer	Model::Customer

Model verified in 1,874 ms, 3 error(s) found

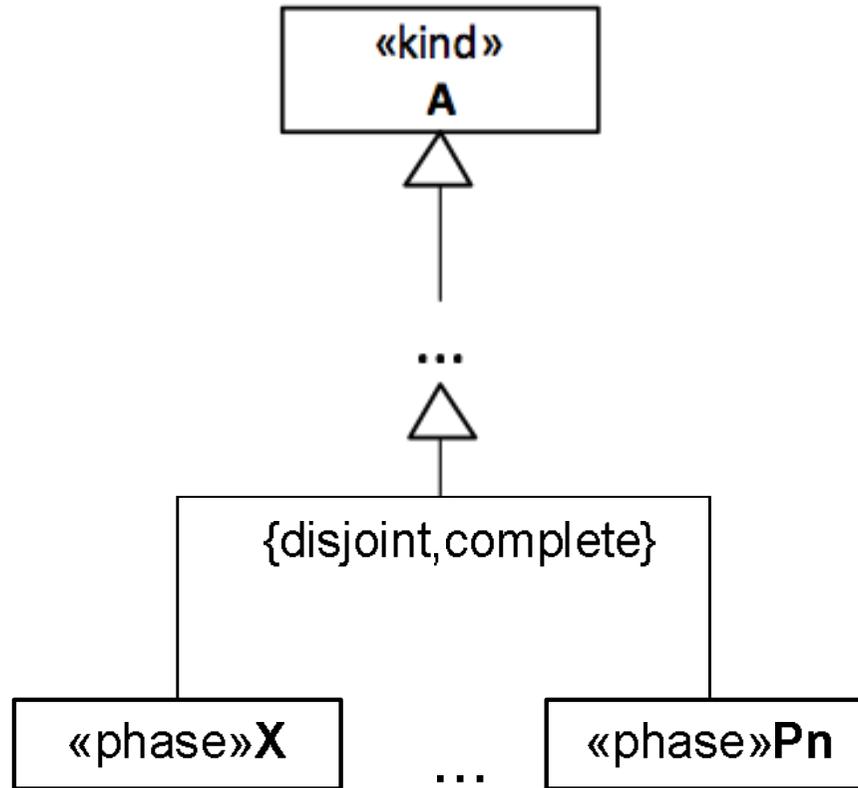
Messages Console Problems × Warnings ×



The Emerging **Role** Pattern



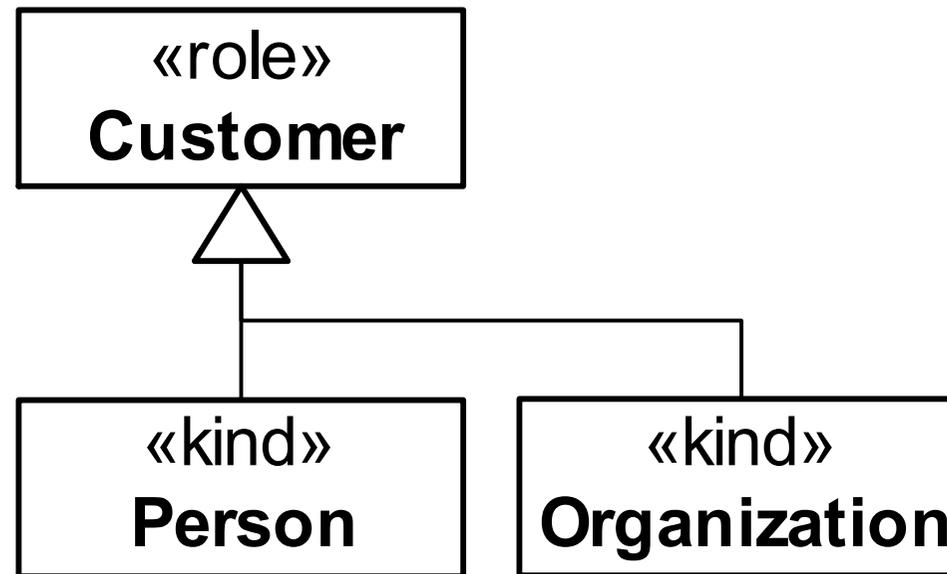
The Emerging **Phase** Pattern

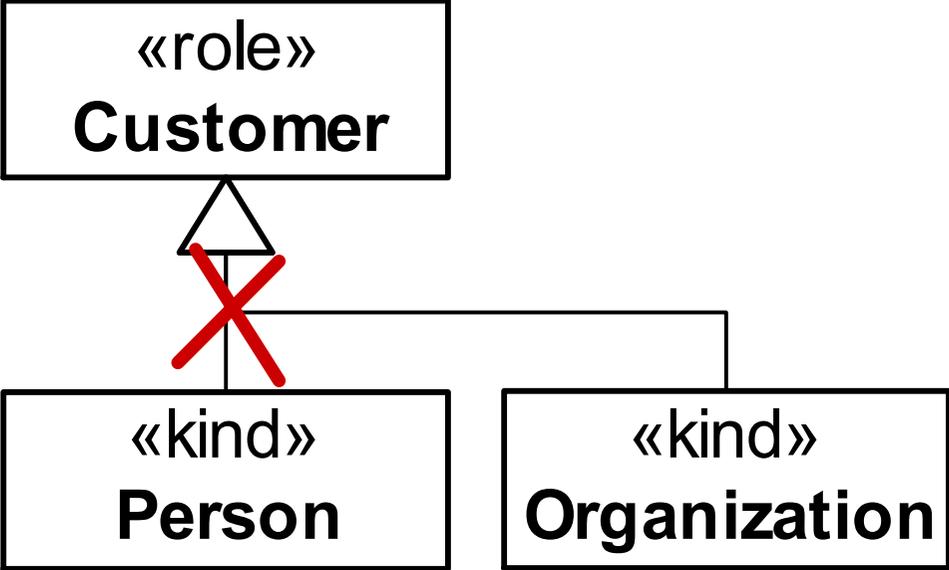


Problem (2)

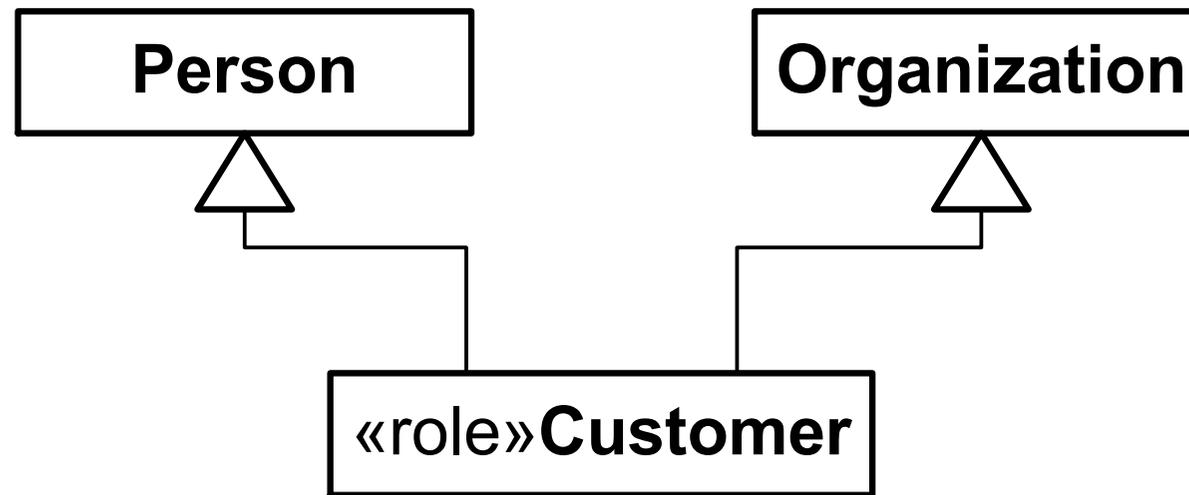
1. Suppose that I want to represent that the ROLE Customer can be played by entities of different KINDS, namely, People and Organizations. How to relate the ROLE and its *allowed types* using subtyping relations?

A Classic Problem

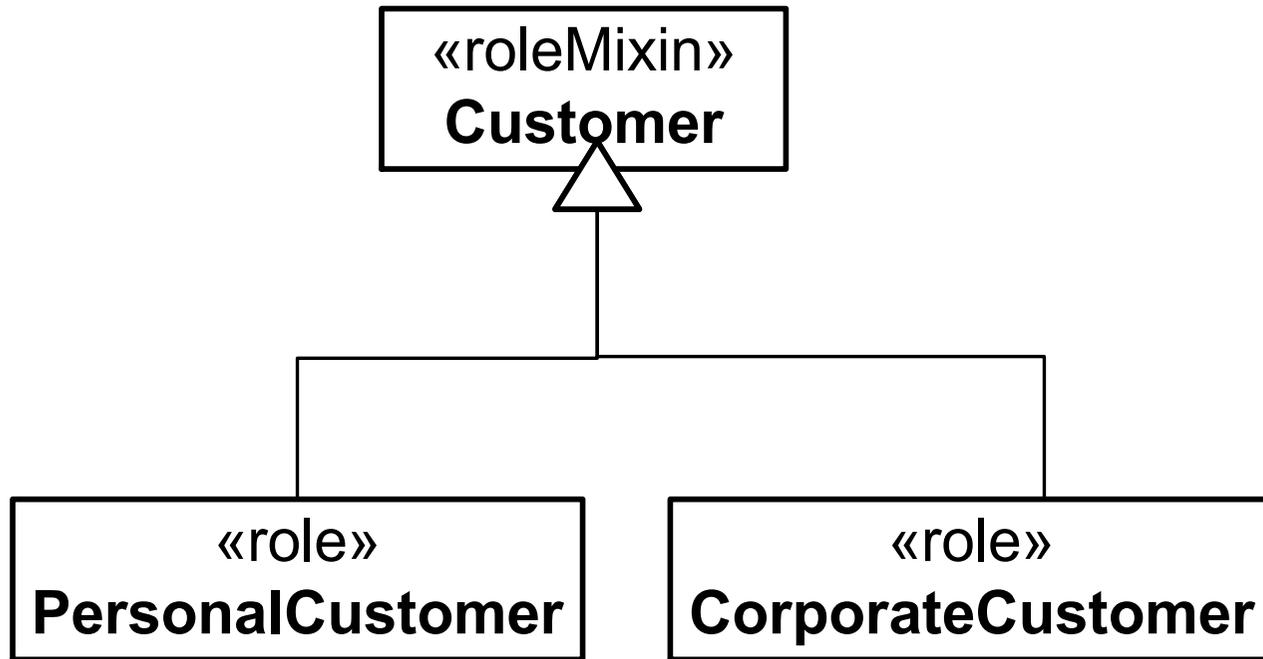


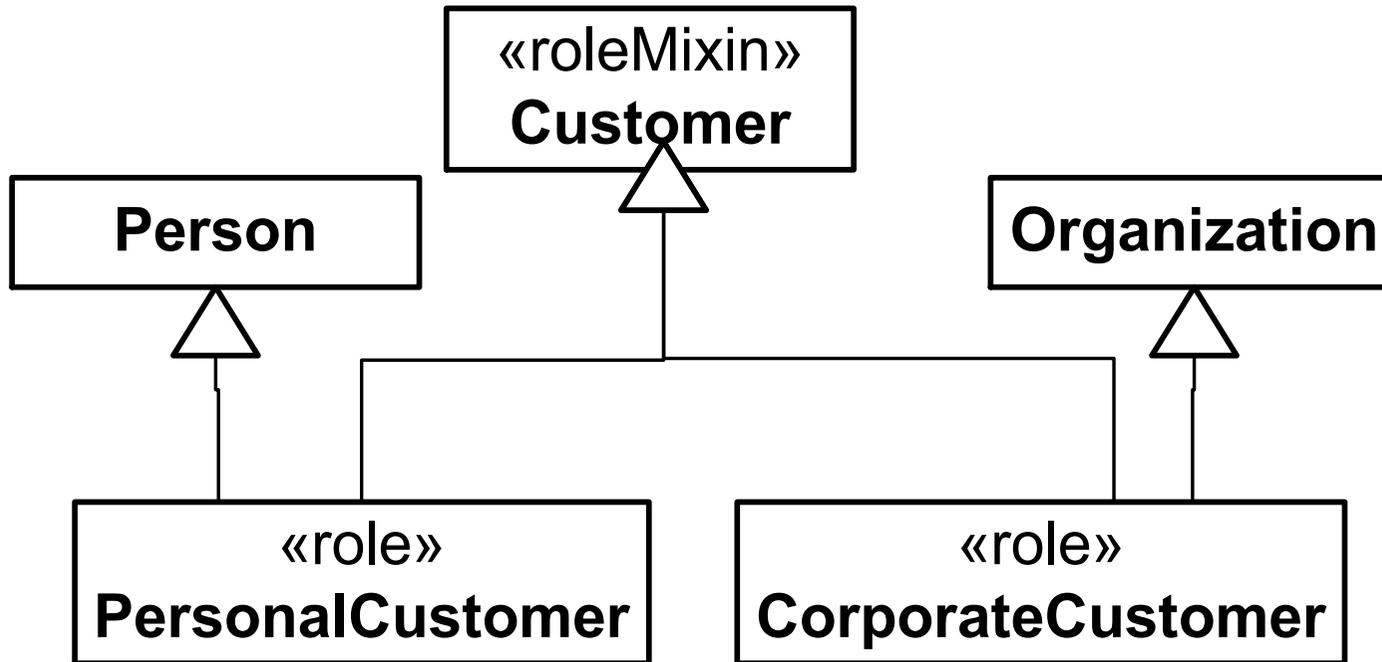


A Possible Alternative?

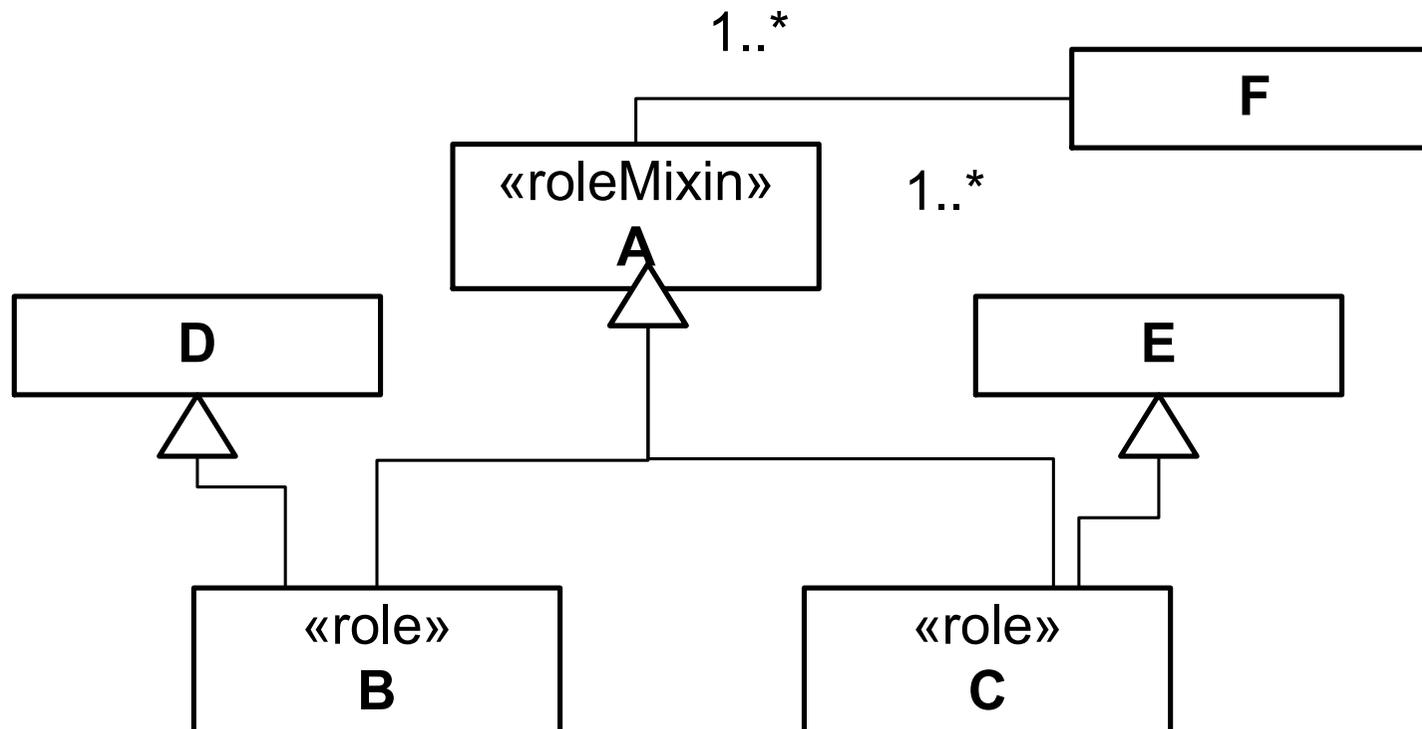


«roleMixin»
Customer





The emerging **RoleMixin** Pattern





Toolbox

- Elements
- Patterns**
 - Pointer
 - Principle of Identity
 - Relator
 - RoleMixin
- Derived Patterns

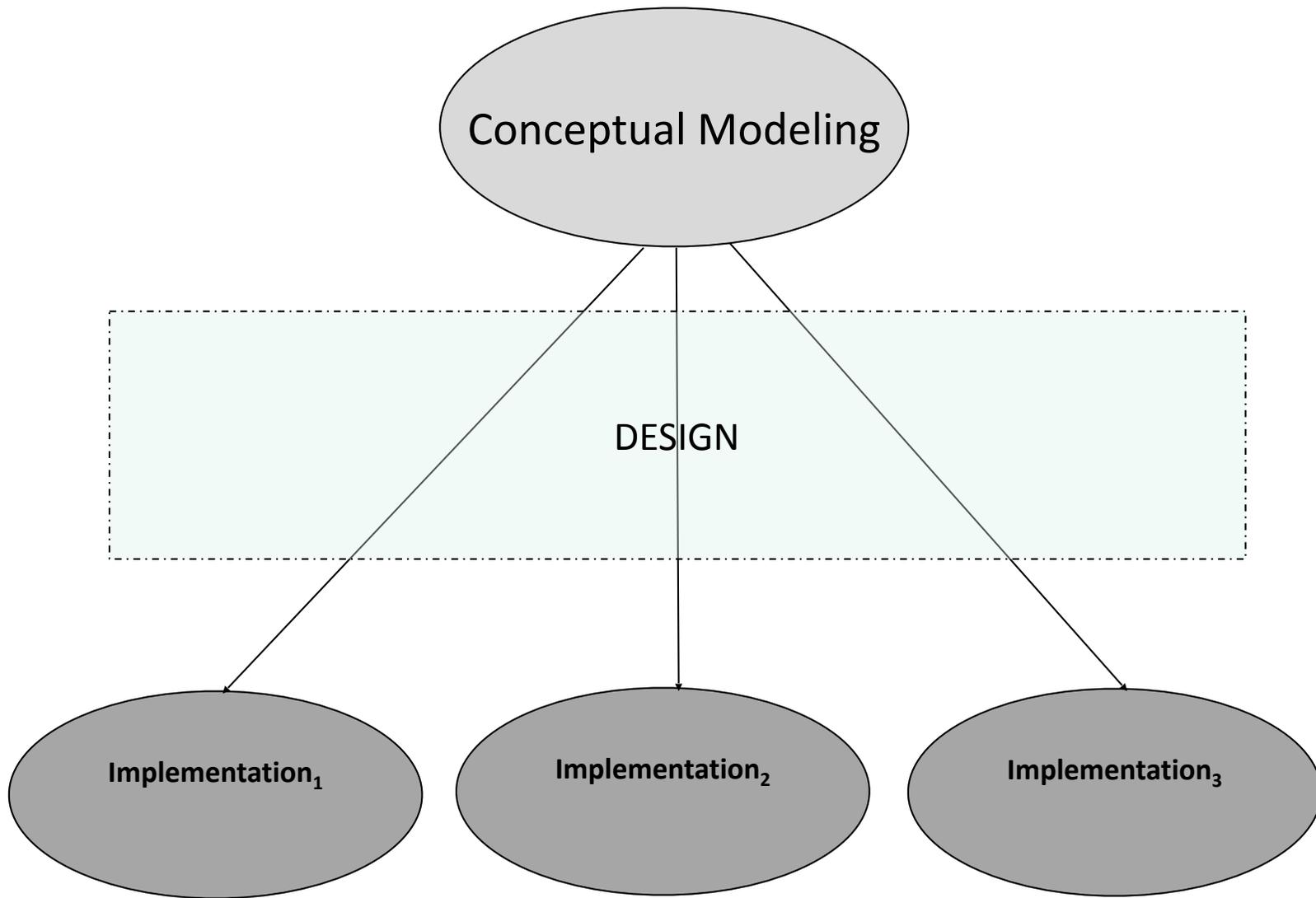
Editor

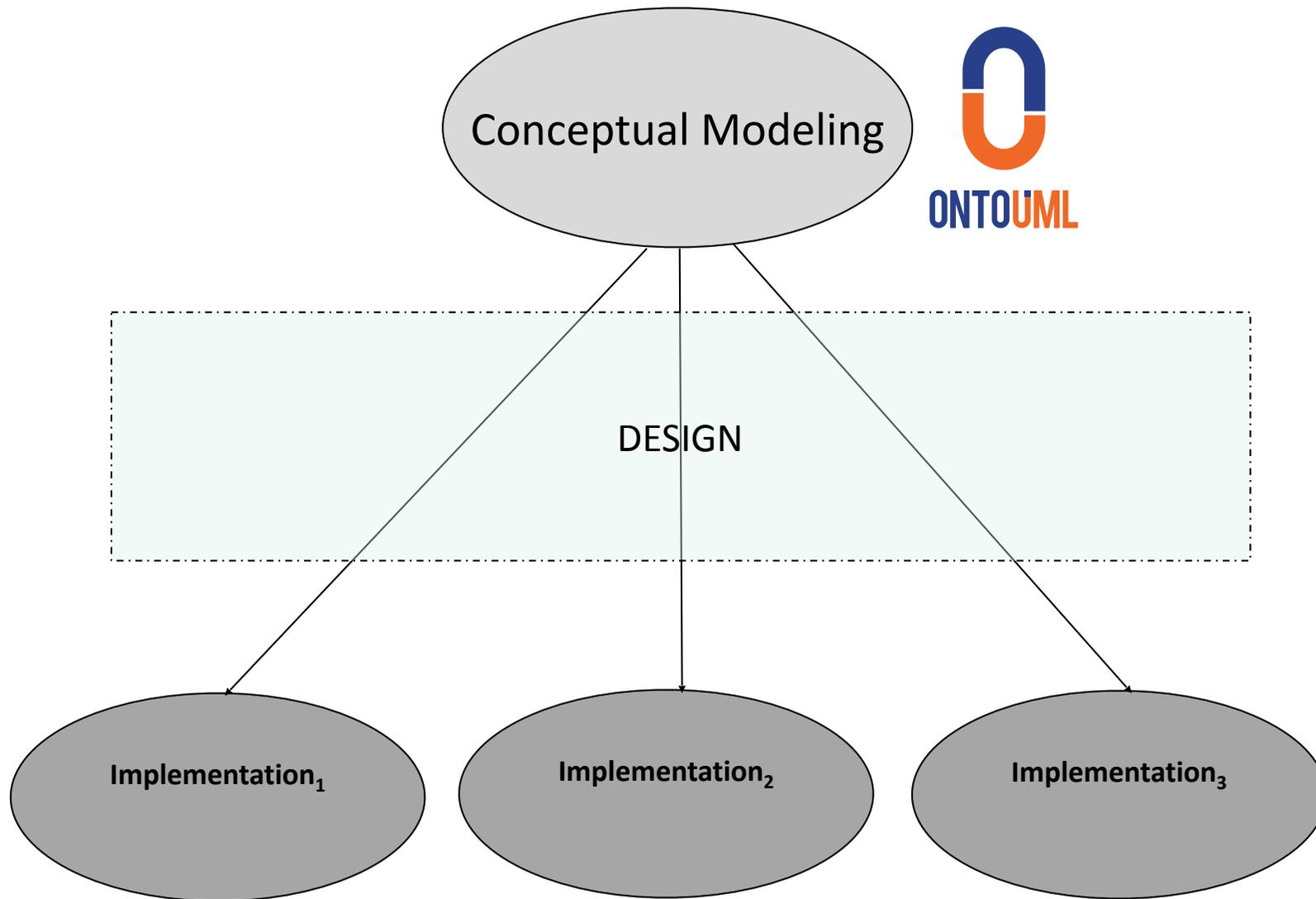
Welcome Diagram0 x

Project Browser

- OLED Project
 - Diagrams
 - Constraints
 - Model









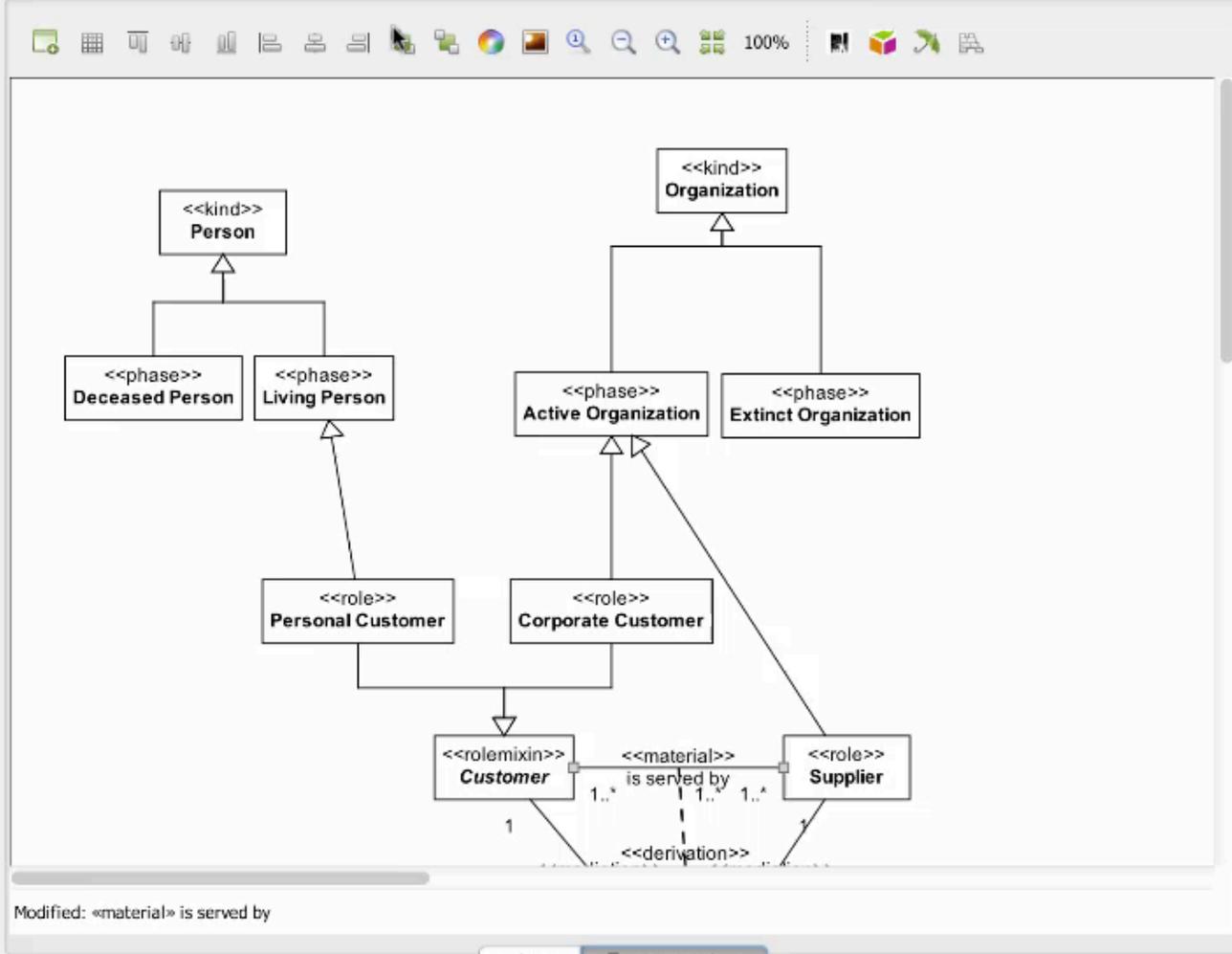
Toolbox

Elements

Patterns

- Pointer
- Principle of Identity
- Relator
- RoleMixin

Editor



Modified: «material» is served by

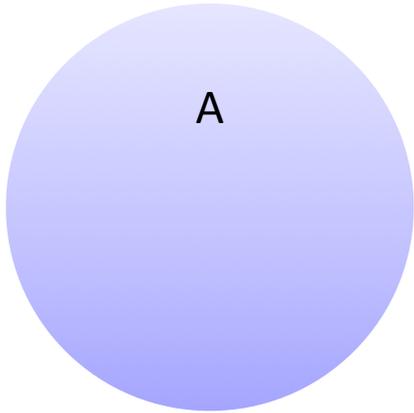
Project Browser

- OLED Project
 - Diagrams
 - Constraints
 - Model
 - «Phase» Living Person
 - Generalization Person
 - «Phase» Deceased Person
 - Generalization Person
 - «Kind» Person
 - GeneralizationSet partition1 { Dece
 - «Phase» Extinct Organization
 - Generalization Organization
 - «Phase» Active Organization
 - Generalization Organization
 - «Kind» Organization
 - GeneralizationSet partition2 { Activ
 - «RoleMixin» Customer
 - «Relator» Service Contract
 - «Role» Supplier
 - Generalization Active Organizat
 - «Role» Corporate Customer
 - Generalization Active Organizat
 - Generalization Customer
 - «Role» Personal Customer
 - Generalization Living Person
 - Generalization Customer
 - «Material» is served by
 - «Mediation»
 - «Mediation»
 - «Derivation»
 - GeneralizationSet roleMixinGS3 { Pe

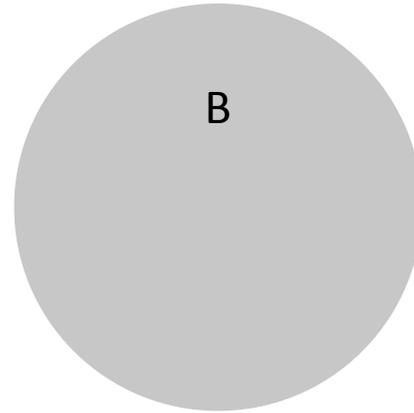
Derived Patterns



Complexity Management:
Viewpoint Extraction,
Modularization and Abstraction

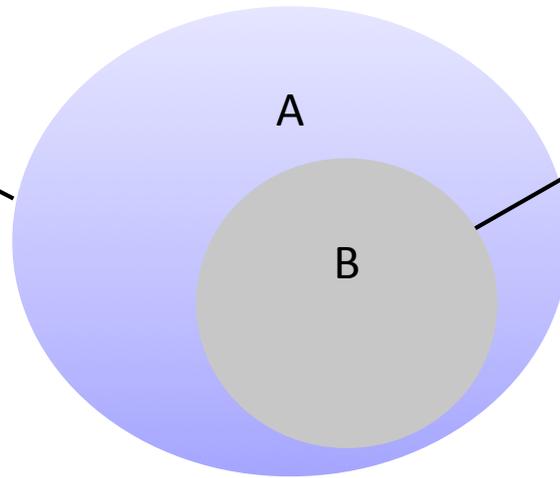


Valid state of affairs
according to the representation



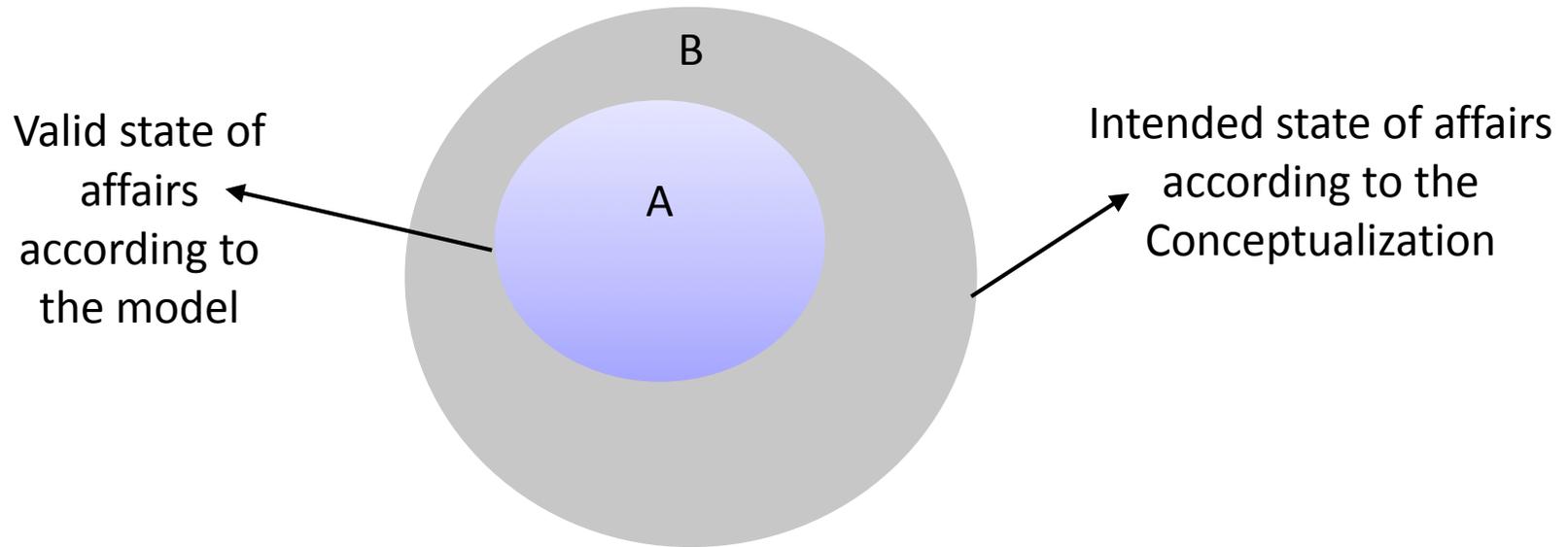
Intended state of affairs
according to the Conceptualization

Valid state of affairs according to the model

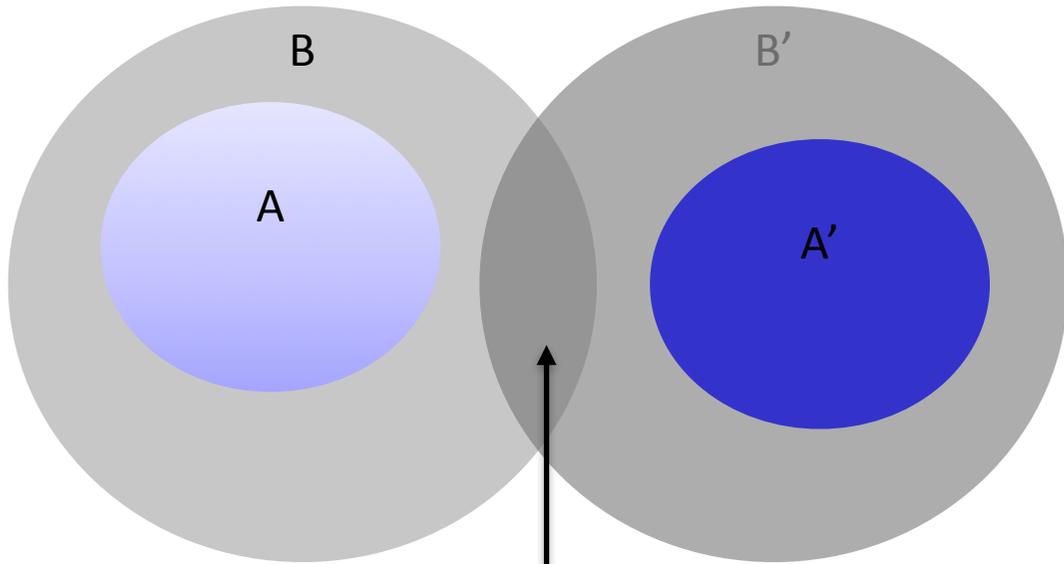


Intended state of affairs according to the Conceptualization

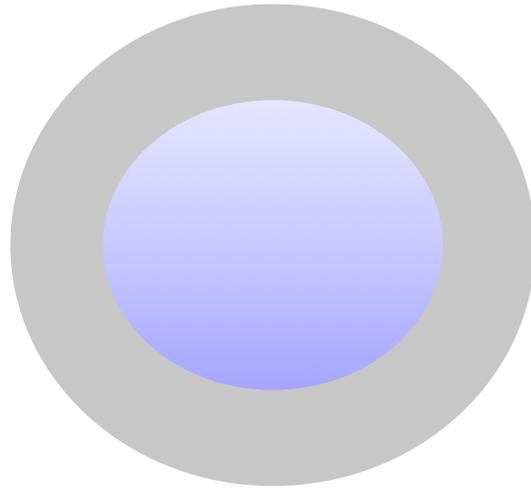
Under-constraining



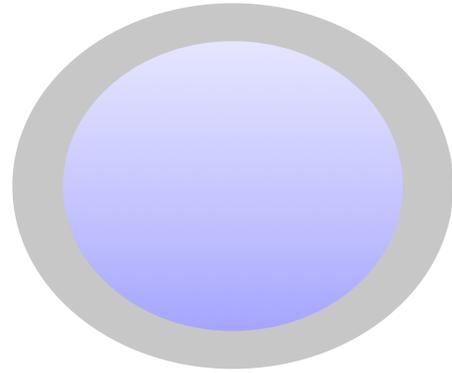
Over-constraining



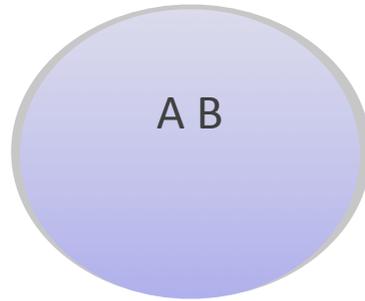
False Agreement



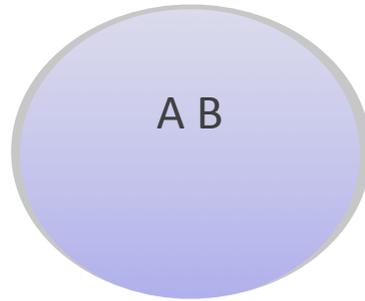
Constraints



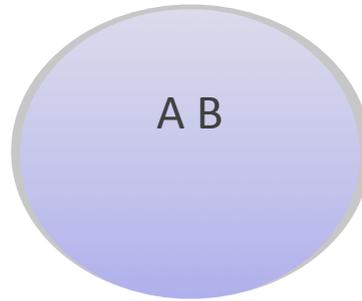
Constraints



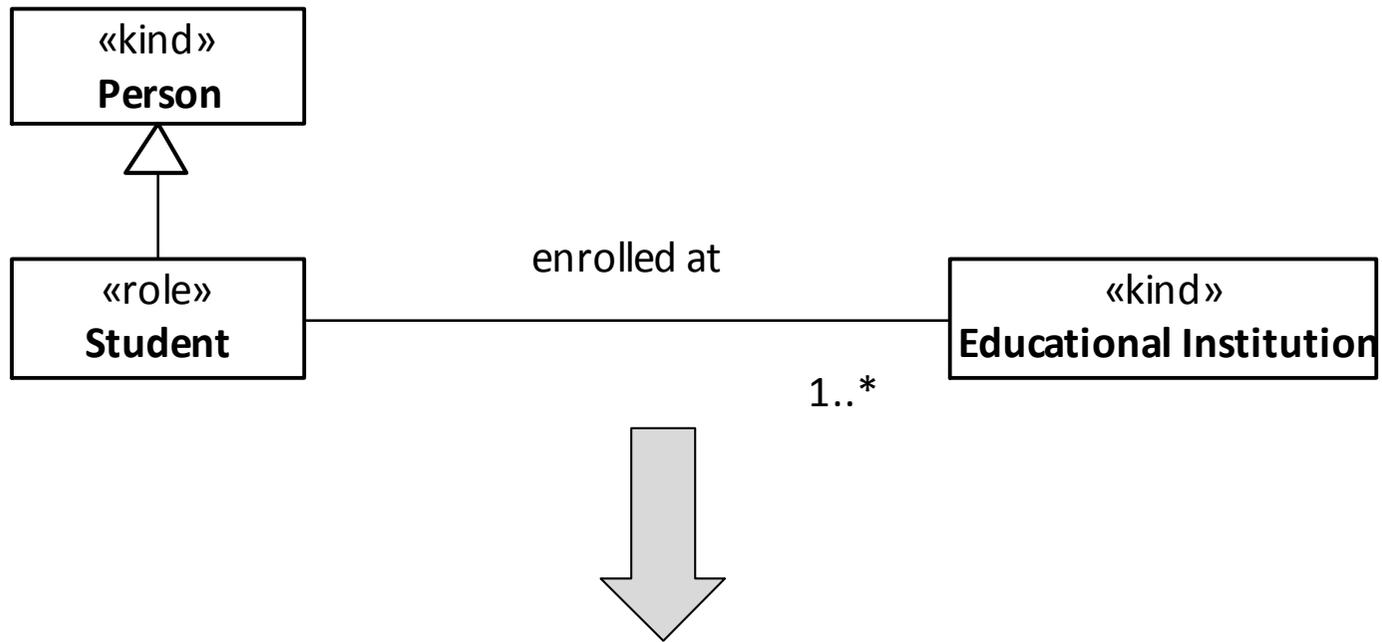
Constraints



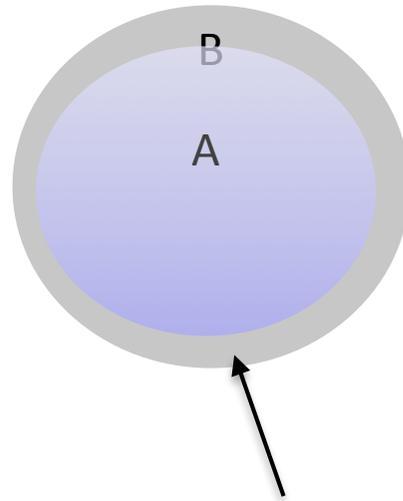
Conceptual Model = Structure + Axiomatization



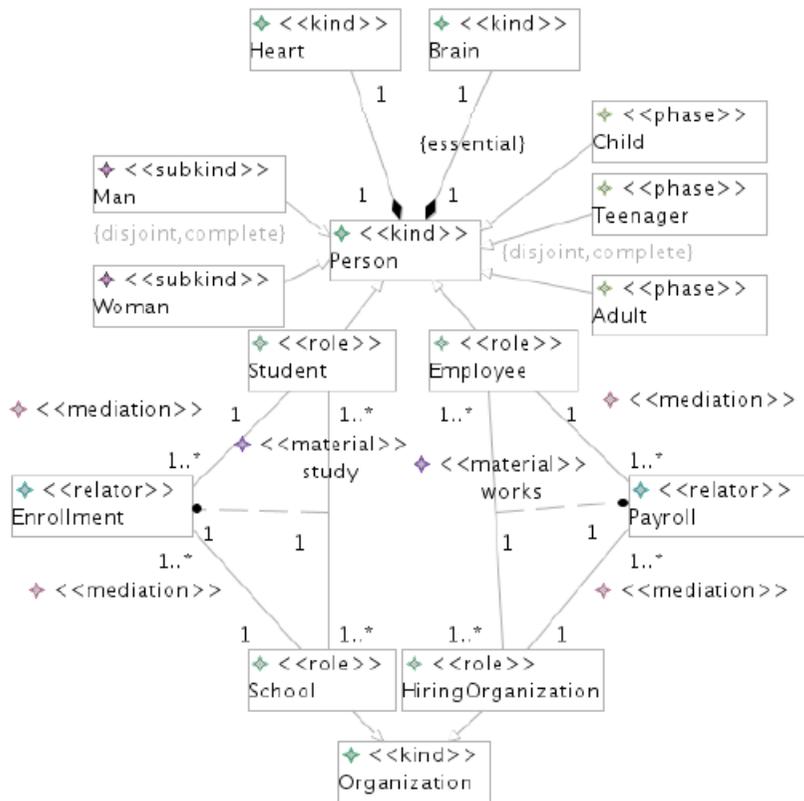
Conceptual Model = Structure + Axiomatization
(Ontological Commitment)



- (∀x **Person(x)** → □(**Person(x)**))
- (∀x **Student(x)** → ◇(¬**Student(x)**))
- (∀x **Student(x)** → **Person(x)**)
- (∀x **Student(x)** → ∃y **Educational Institution(y) ∧ Enrolled-at(x,y)**)
- ...



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



ATL Transformation

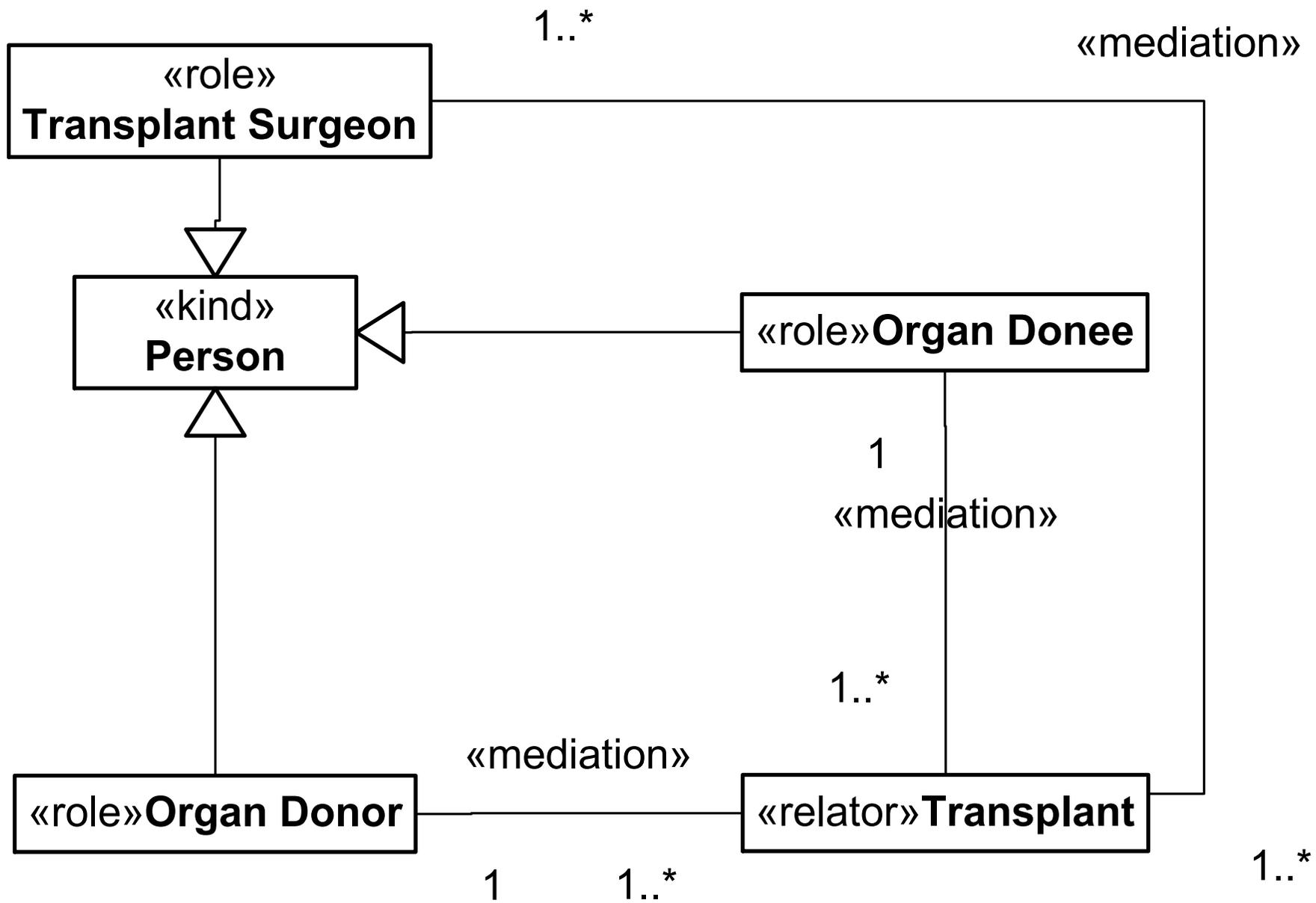
```

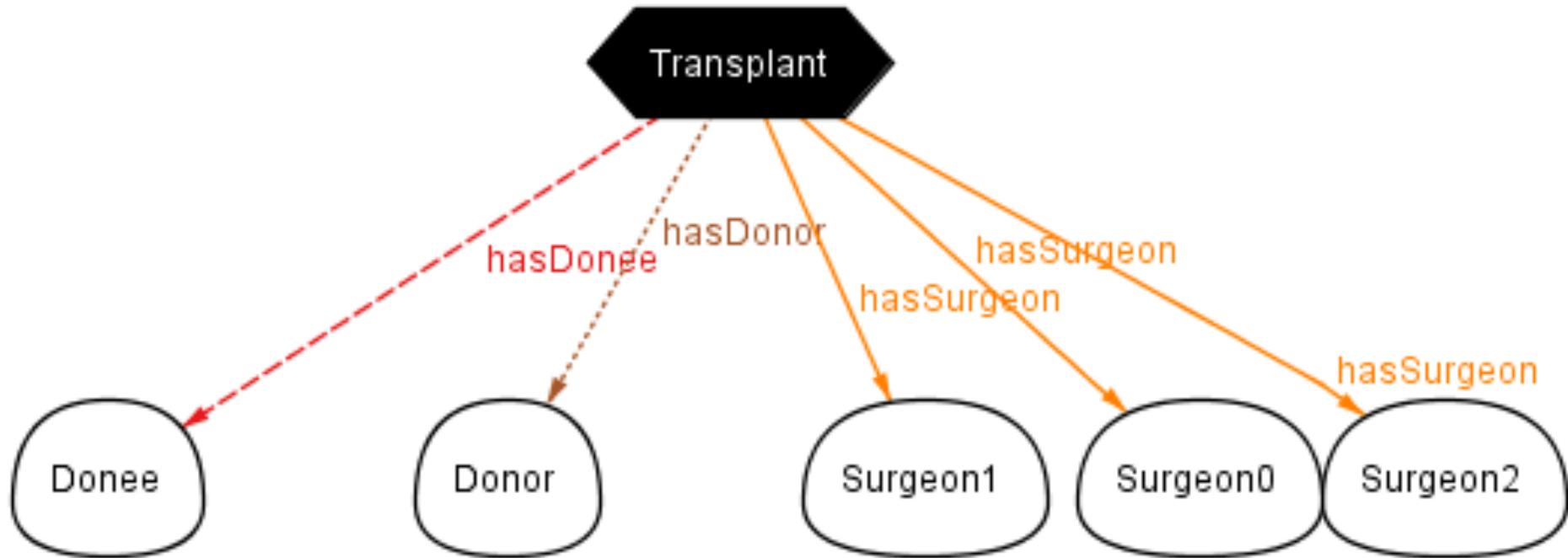
1 sig Person_Set in Concept { Person: some World }
2 {
3   Person in existsIn
4   all w1: World | w1 in Person => (all w2:
5     w1.access | (w2 in existsIn) => (w2 in
6     Person)) -- Rigidity
7   some w: World | w in this.Child -- Phase
8   some w: World | w in this.Teenager -- Phase
9   some w: World | w in this.Adult -- Phase
8   :
9 }

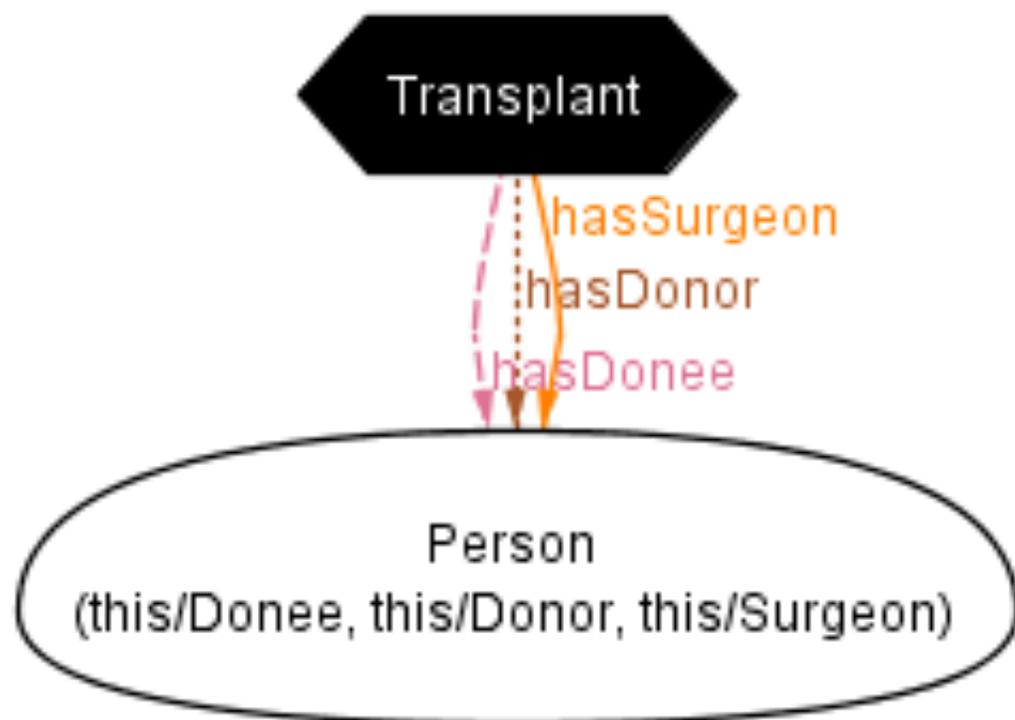
```

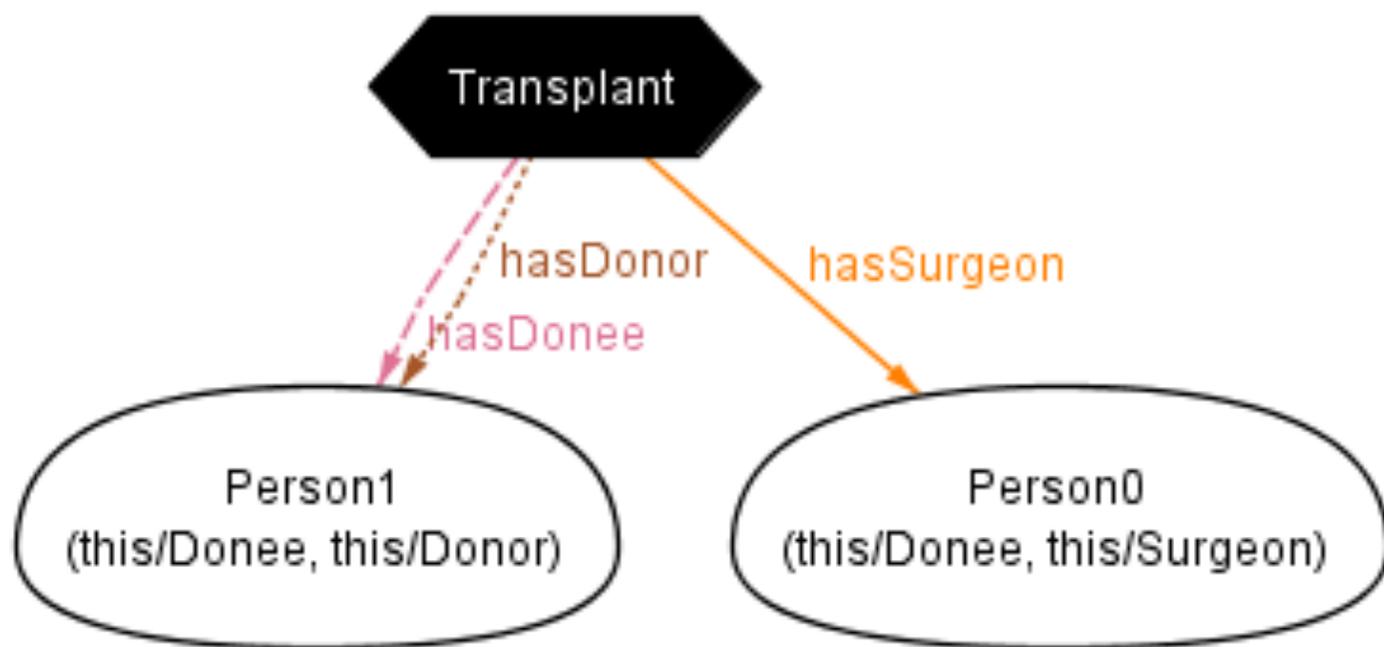
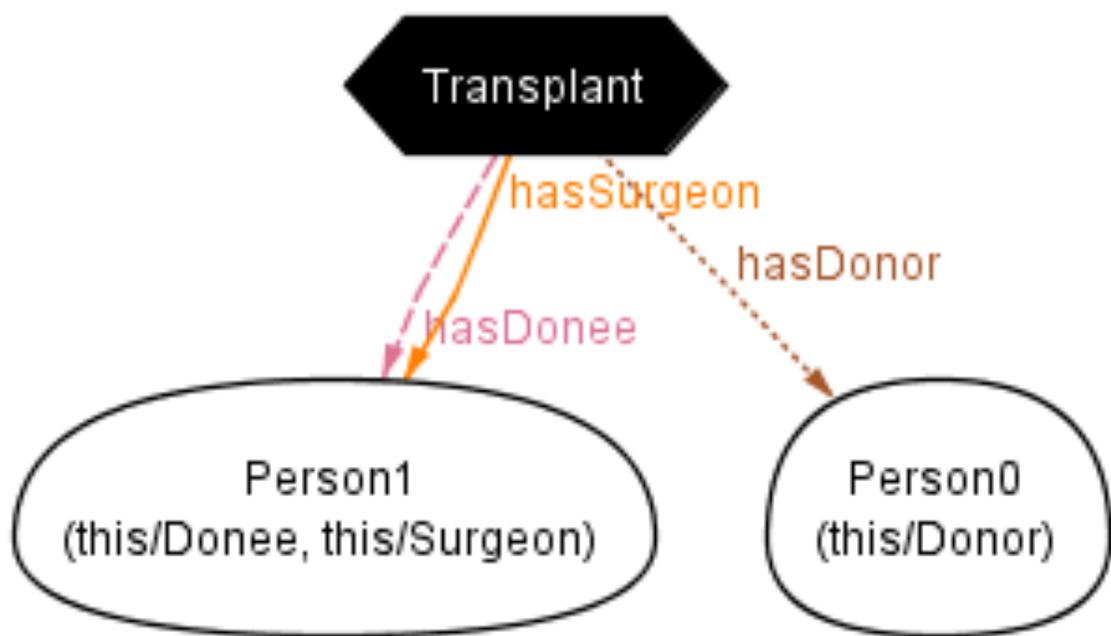
Simulation and Visualization

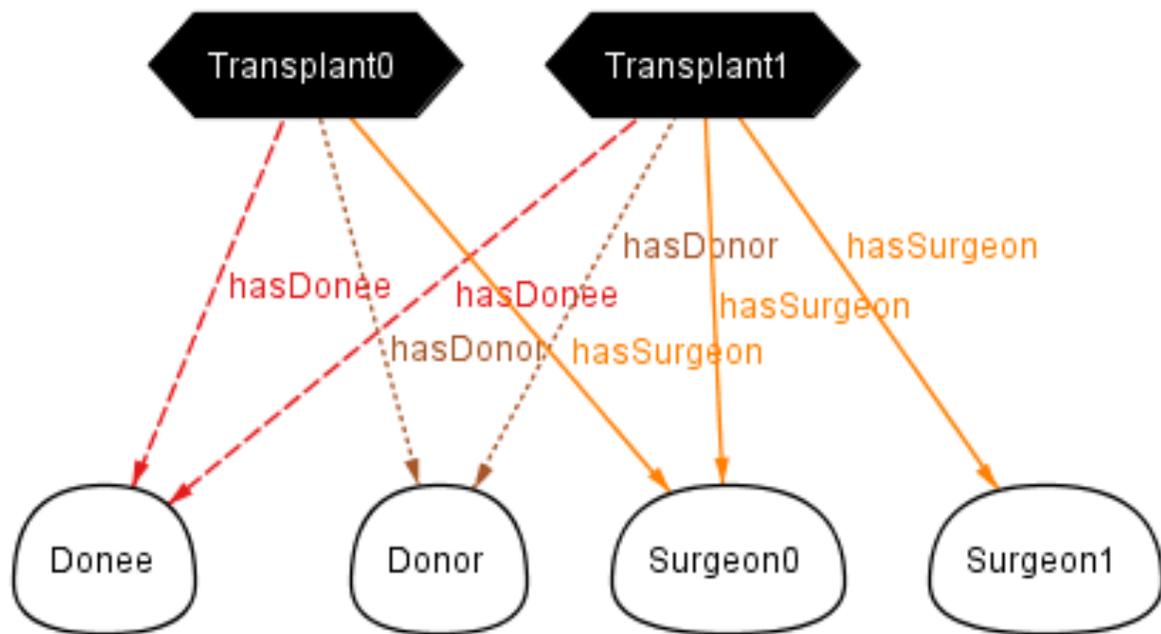
Alloy Analyzer + OntoUML visual Plugin



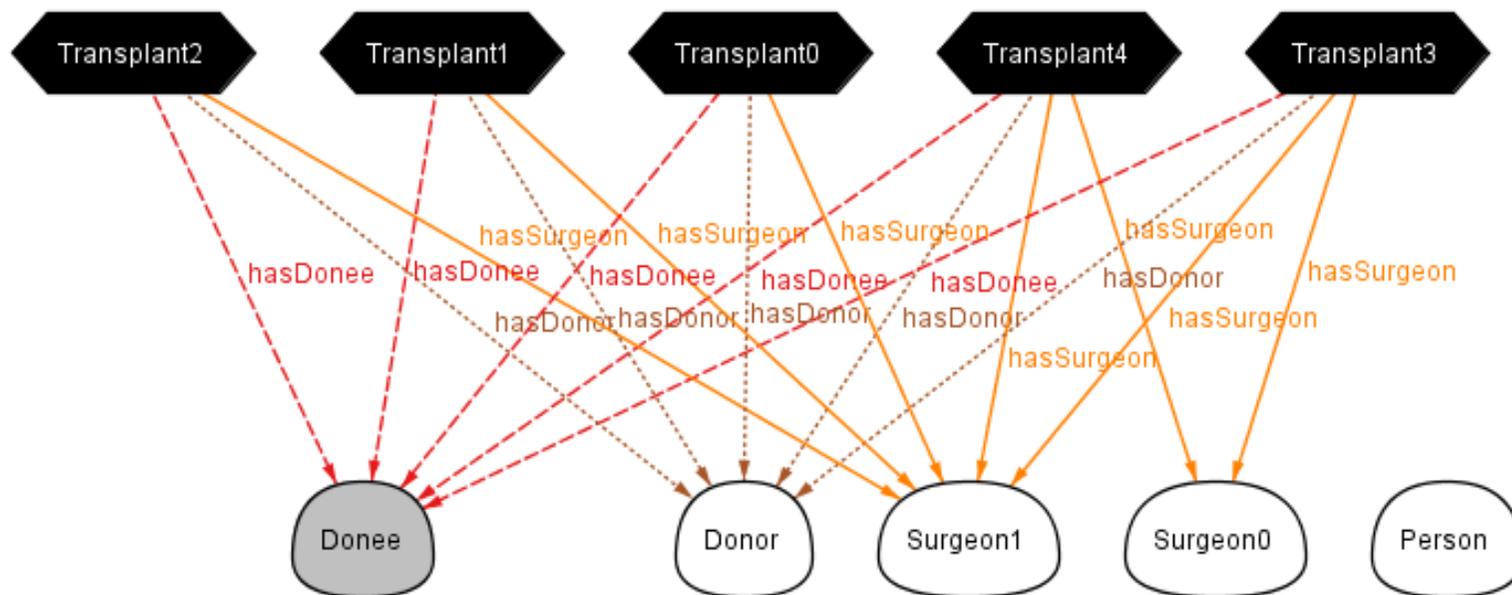








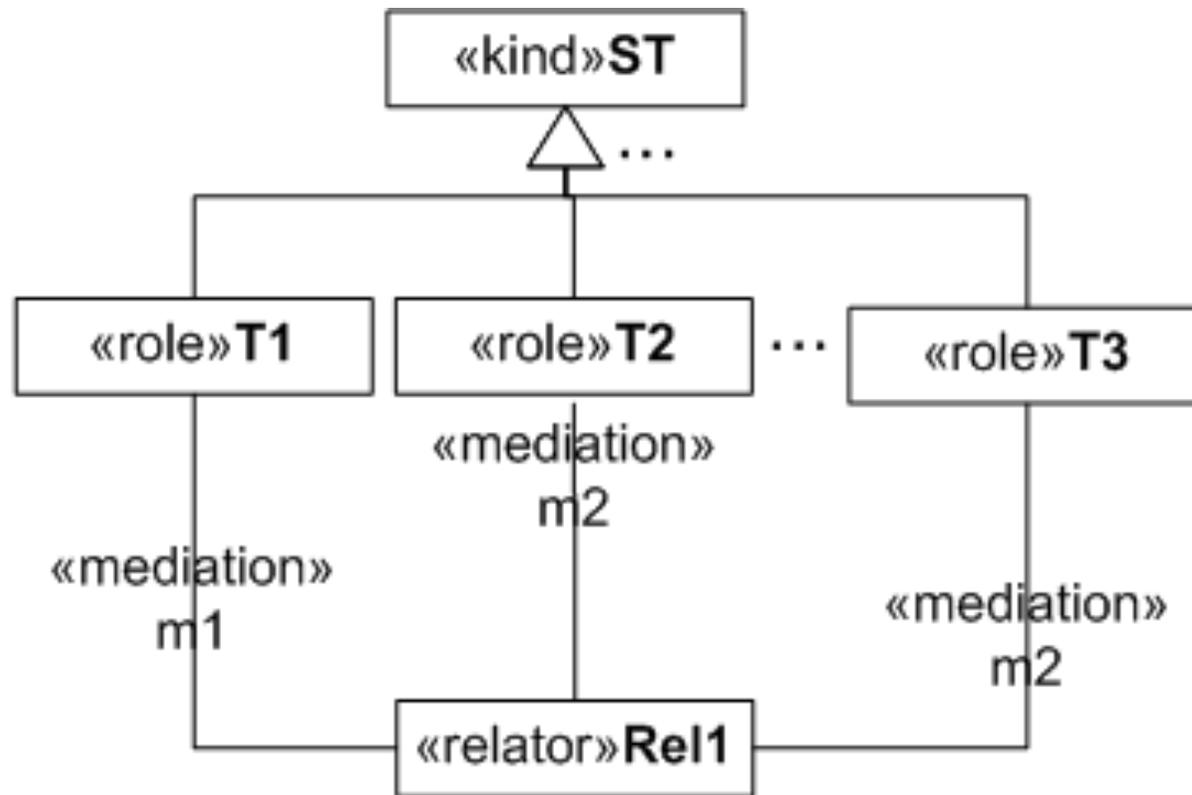
Real-Word Semantics



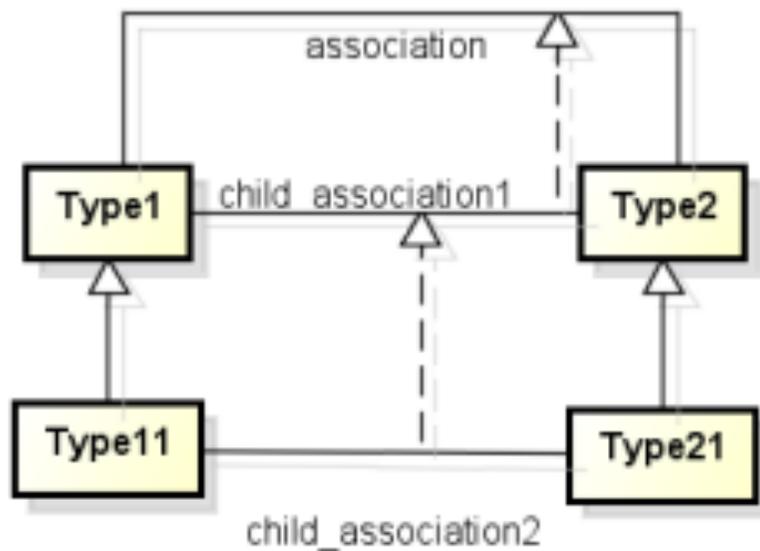
OntoUML Model Benchmark

- 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 Electrophysiology, Amazonian Biodiversity Management, Human Genome, Optical Transport Networks, Federal Government Organizational Structures, Normative Acts, and Ground Transportation Regulation

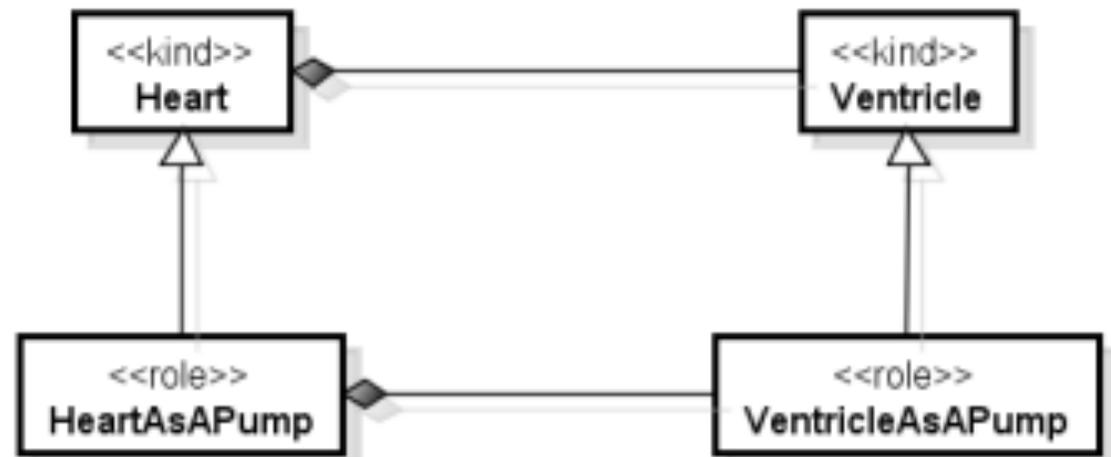
The Emerging Anti-Pattern: Relation Between Overlapping Types (**RelOver**)



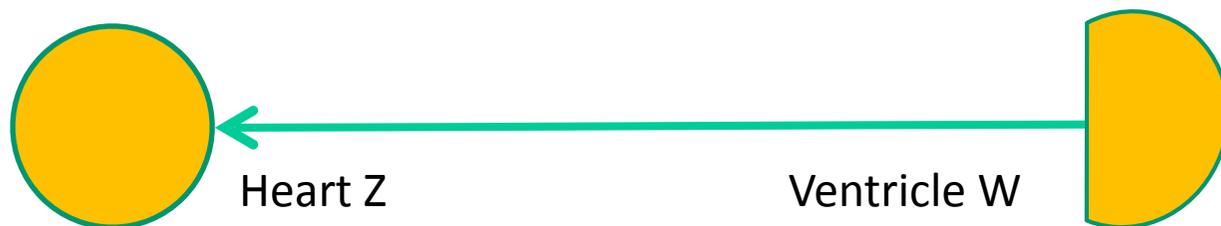
The Emerging Anti-Pattern: Relation Specialization (**RelSpec**)

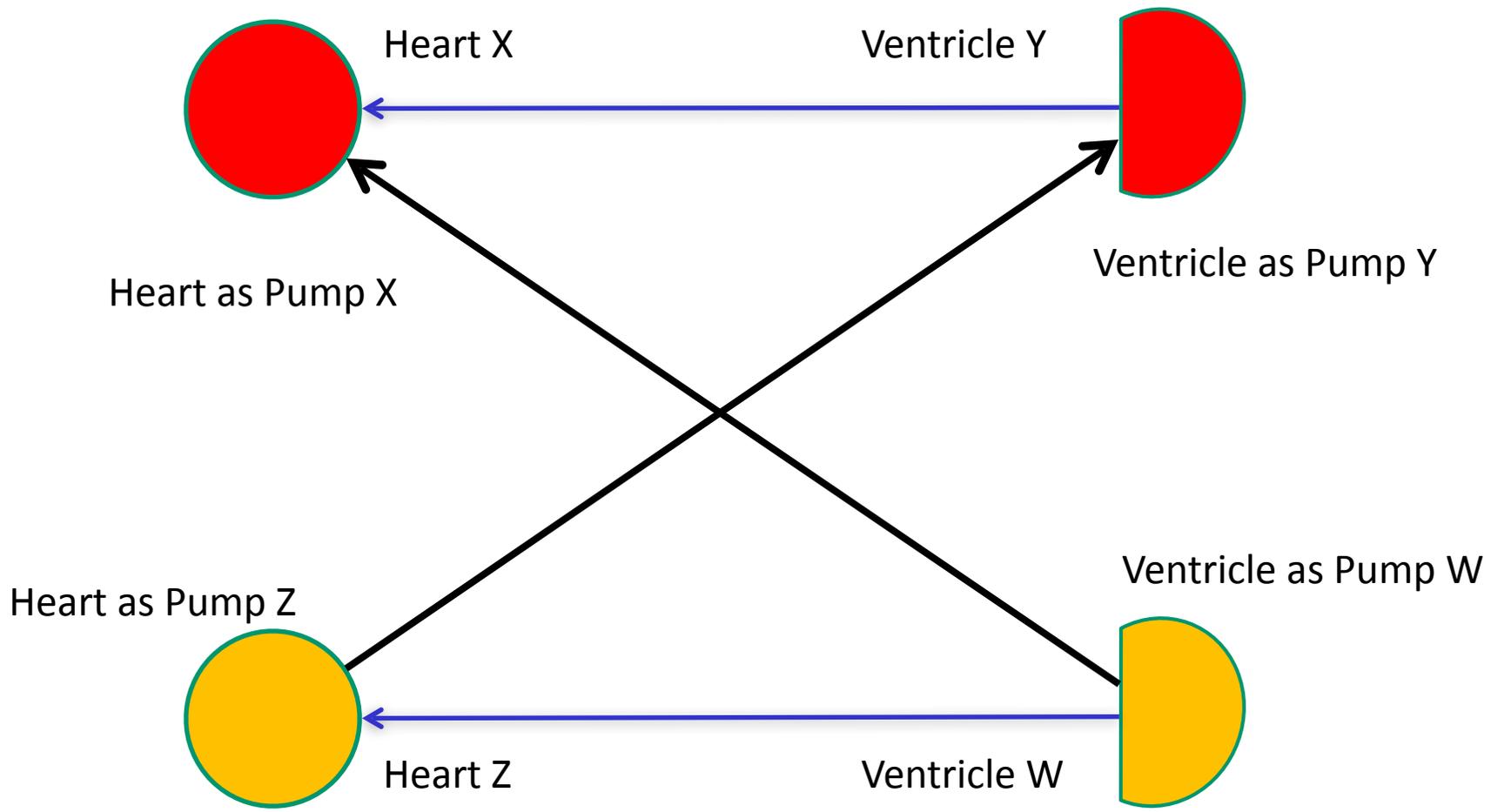


(a)



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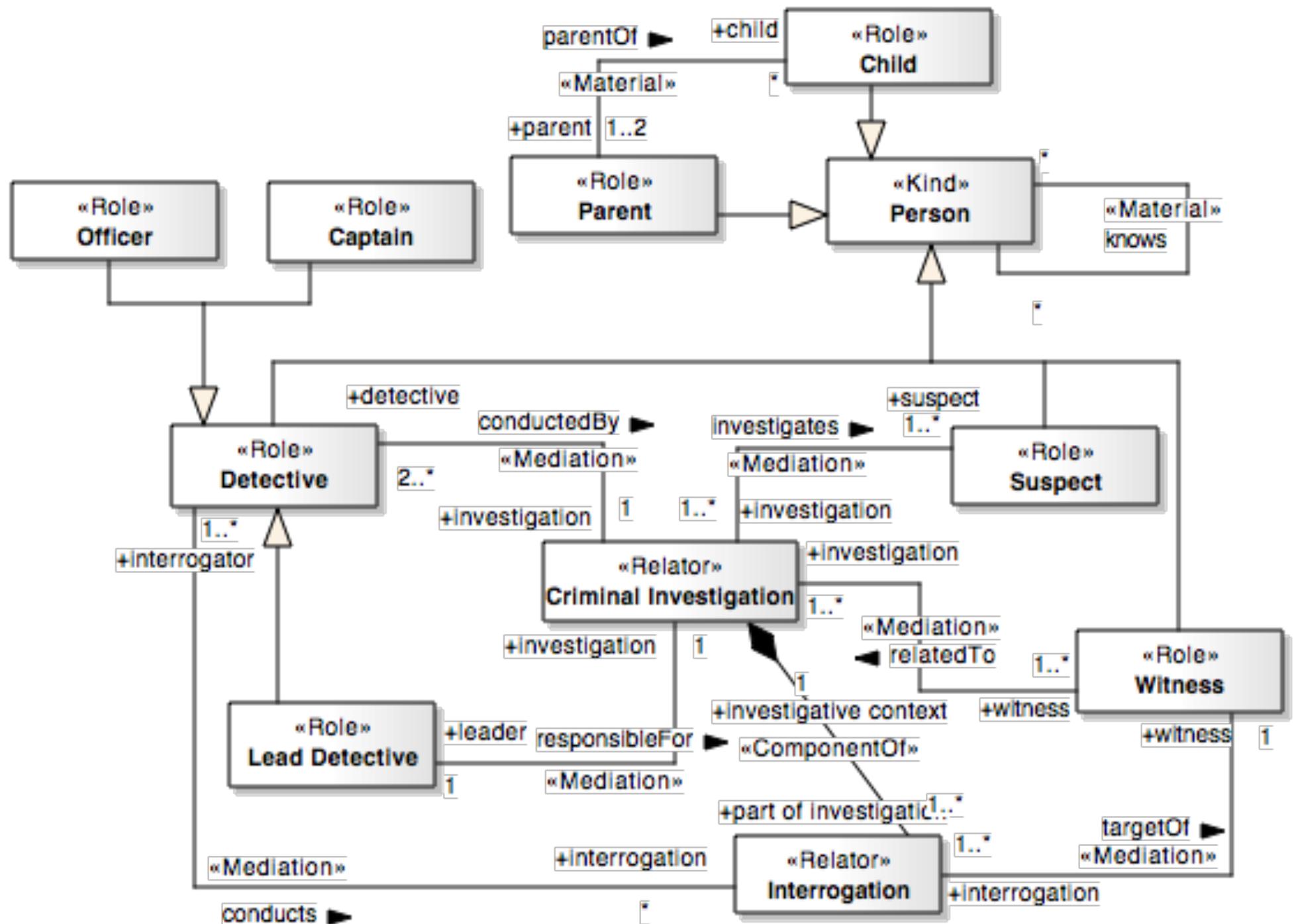
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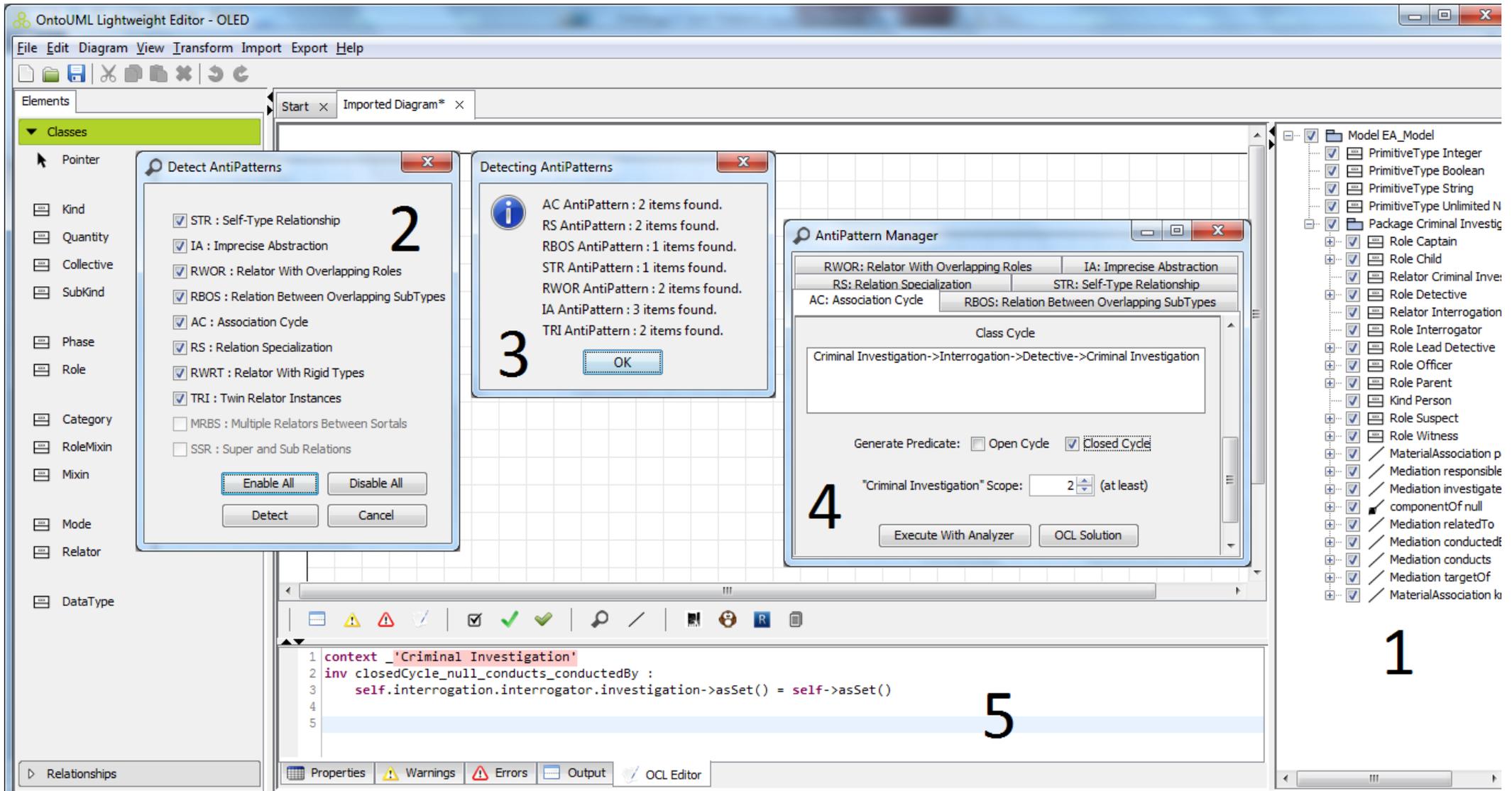
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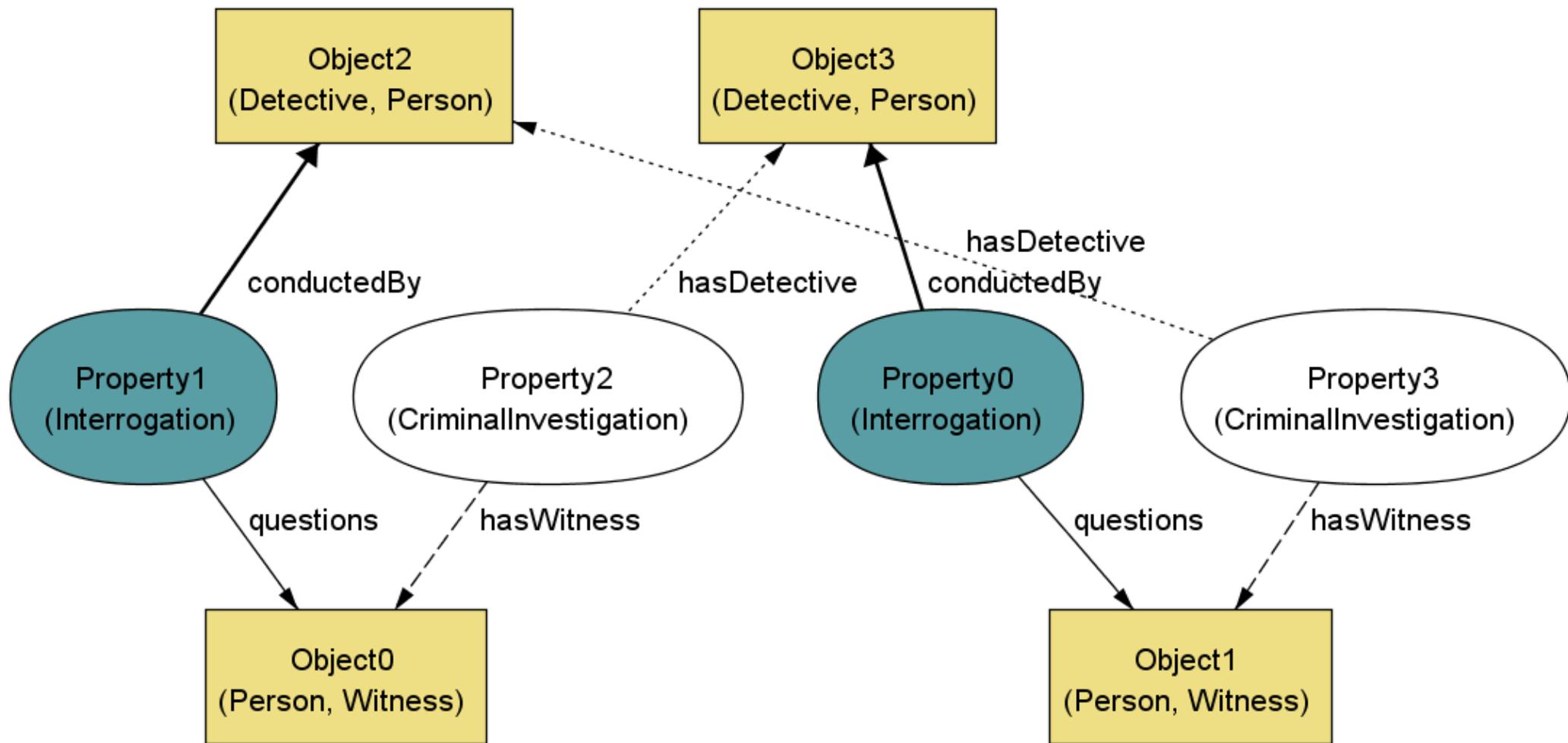
Anti-Pattern	#Occ.	#Error	#Error / #Occ.	#Refac. /#Error
RelSpec	315	279	88.6%	97.1%
RepRel	221	57	25.8%	84.2%
RelOver	124	70	56.5%	77.1%
BinOver	74	31	41.9%	74.2%
AssCyc	20	14	70.0%	71.4%
ImpAbs	125	11	8.8%	27.3%
Total	879	462	52.56%	88.53%

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AssCyc	20	14	70.0%	71.4%
ImpAbs	125	11	8.8%	27.3%
Total	879	462	52.56%	88.53%

OntoUML Criminal Investigation







Relator With Overlapping Roles

Relator:

Customizing Disjoints Roles:

Lead Detective	Witness	Detective	Suspect
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- Exclusive
- Exclusive from Table
- Overlapping
- Disjoint
- Disjoint from Table

"Criminal Investigation" Scope: (at least)

```
1 context _'Criminal Investigation'  
2 inv: self.witness.oclAsType(Person)->asSet()->intersection(self.detective.oclAsType(Person)->asSet()->size())=0  
3  
4 context _'Criminal Investigation'  
5 inv: self.witness.oclAsType(Person)->asSet()->intersection(self.suspect.oclAsType(Person)->asSet()->size())=0  
6  
7 context _'Detective'  
8 inv: not self.oclIsTypeOf(Suspect)  
9
```

“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)

The Humble **Modeler**

[What] I have chosen to stress in this talk is the following.
We shall do a much better **modeling** job in the future, provided
that we approach the task with a full appreciation of its
tremendous complexity,...,provided we respect the intrinsic
limitations of the human mind and approach the task a Very
Humble **Modelers**

(paraphrasing Dijkstra's Humble Programmer, 1972)

For a primer into UFO and OntoUML...

- GUIZZARDI, G., Ontological Patterns, Anti-Patterns and Pattern Languages for Next-Generation Conceptual Modeling, 33rd International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER 2014), Atlanta, USA.
- GUIZZARDI, G., WAGNER, G., ALMEIDA, J.P.A., GUIZZARDI, R.S.S., Towards Ontological Foundations for Conceptual Modeling: The Unified Foundational Ontology (UFO) Story, Applied Ontology, IOS Press, 2015.

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