The Wittgenstein Ontology Project

Jakub Gomułka, AGH, Faculty of Humanities

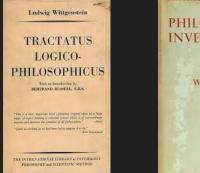


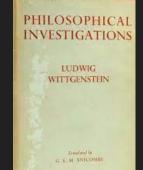
Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951)

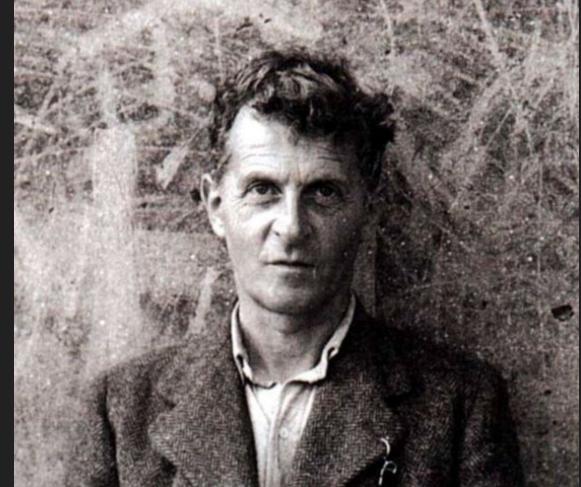
Austrian-British philosopher

Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus (1921)

Philosophical Investigations (1953)







Wittgenstein's *Nachlass*

Notebooks, manuscripts, typescripts, dictations left by Wittgenstein to his literary heirs: Rush Rhees, G.E.M. Anscombe, and Georg Henrik von Wright

Around 20k pages catalogued by von Wright in his 1969 *Philosophical Review* article "The Wittgenstein Papers"

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The Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB)

Institution affiliated to the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Bergen

Founded in 1990

Stores, publishes, and shares paper and digital copies of Wittgenstein's *Nachlass*

🔒 wab.uib.no

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The Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB)



QUICKLINKS: -wittgensteinonline -nachlass -incoming visits -projects -secondary sources -NWR -Wittgenstein course

The Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB)

The Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB) was funded in 1990 and is a research infrastructure and projects platform bringing together philosophy, editorial philology and text technology. It is a meeting place for intellectuals, technicians, scholars and students from many different research fields and geographical areas around the world (see incoming visits). The research infrastructure includes digital and paper copies as well as transcriptions of Wittgenstein's Nachlass as it was catalogued by his trustee G.H. von Wright in his 1969 article «The Wittgenstein Papers». It also includes a hand library with Wittgenstein primary and secondary literature in a number of different languages. NB: Please note that WAB does not possess any Wittgenstein originals.

WAB is probably best known for the publication of «Wittgenstein's Nachlass. The Bergen Electronic Edition» (BEE, Oxford University Press 2000) and its more recent initiatives to publish the Nachlass open access. BEE offers on six CDs facsimile as well as normalized and diplomatic text editions of the manuscripts and typescripts of **Wittgenstein's philosophical Nachlass**. The edition is equipped with a range of search and analysis functions. Since 2014, WAB is producing a new digital facsimile of the Wittgenstein Nachlass which is made available open access on the Wittgenstein Source site. Moreover, WAB gives since 2016 interactive open access to all its transcriptions of the Wittgenstein Nachlass on the interactive dynamic presentation (IDP) site. On the semantic faceted search and browsing (SFB) site, WAB offers in addition semantic faceted search and browsing of Wittgenstein metadata, again with a focus on Wittgenstein's philosophical Nachlass. And finally, WAB offers with WITTFind, a cooperation with the Centrum für Informations- und Sprachverarbeitung an der Ludwig Maximilians Universität München, advanced tools for Nachlass text search.

WAB has a role central place in the Nordic Wittgenstein Society. It has had a leading role in both the creation of the Nordic Wittgenstein Review (NWR) and the creation of the book series Nordic Wittgenstein Studies which continues WAB's earlier series Publications from the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen. WAB is also engaged in building a repository of research literature and materials secondary sources.

There is a long tradition of <u>Wittgenstein research</u> at the Philosophy Department at the University of Bergen that continues today with ongoing work being done both in the scholarly interpretation of Wittgenstein's

WAB's main achievements

- Wittgenstein's Nachlass. The Bergen Electronic Edition (BEE), Oxford
 University Press 2000
 - include facsimile as well as normalized and diplomatic text editions of the manuscripts and typescripts on six CD-ROMs
- Wittgenstein Source (<u>www.wittgensteinsource.org</u>, 2014-ongoing) facsimile in open access
- Interactive Dynamic Presentation (<u>wab.uib.no/transform/wab.php</u> 2016-ongoing) normalized and diplomatic text editions
- WiTTFind (<u>wittfind.cis.uni-muenchen.de</u> 2018-ongoing) advanced Nachlass text search
- Semantic faceted search and browsing of Nachlass metadata (wab.uib.no/sfb/ 2012-ongoing)

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| Prototractatus Tools (PTT) | Prototractatus] (Bodl, MS. | | Ms-105,1[1] | | |
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The Wittgenstein Nachlass in Interactive Dynamic Presentation (IDP) (2016-)

Read me (last changed 7.11.2023)

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Vittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB) under the direction of Alois Pichler and the Center for Information and Language Processing at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich (CIS) under the direction of Max Hadersbeck.

Studentresearch within our project is supported from LEHRE@LMU



Beispiele

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| Contents Mathematical notation (176) Logical notation (135) Graphic (21) Canguages German (961) | Ms-105,32[2] Image: Ms-105,32[2] (19290801?-19290831?) Image: Ms-105,32[2] (19290801?-19290831?) Ts-208,54r[5] (19300315?-19300415?) Ts-209,74[1] (19300501?-19301130?) Image: Ms-105,32[2] Im | | |

The history of Wittgenstein ontology

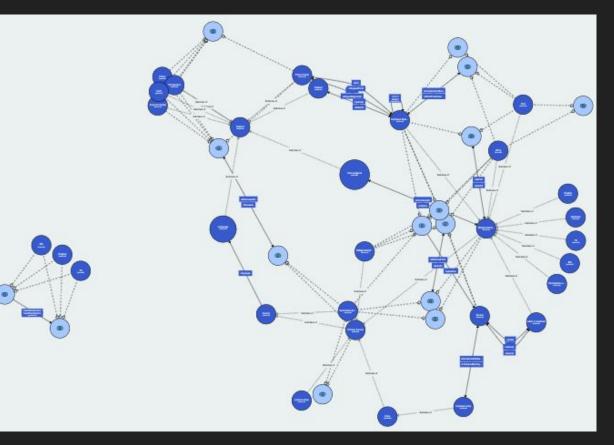
2006-2009: EU Discovery project – first version of Wittgenstein ontology

2008-2011: NordForsk JNU VWAB project – further development

2011-2013: EU Agora project

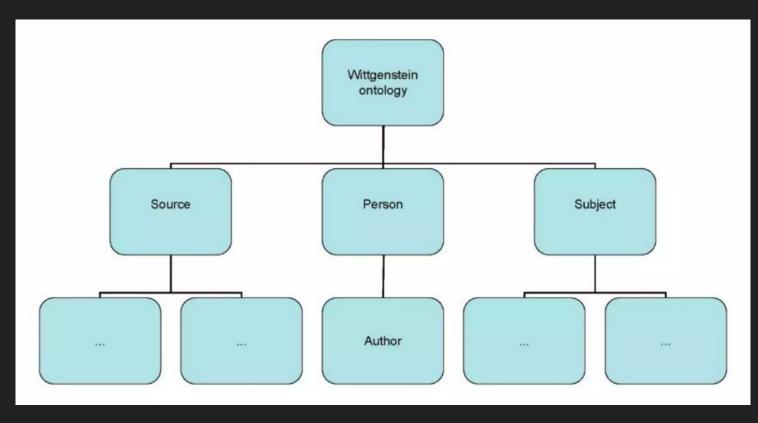
2012-2014: EC Digitised Manuscripts to Europeana (DM2E) project

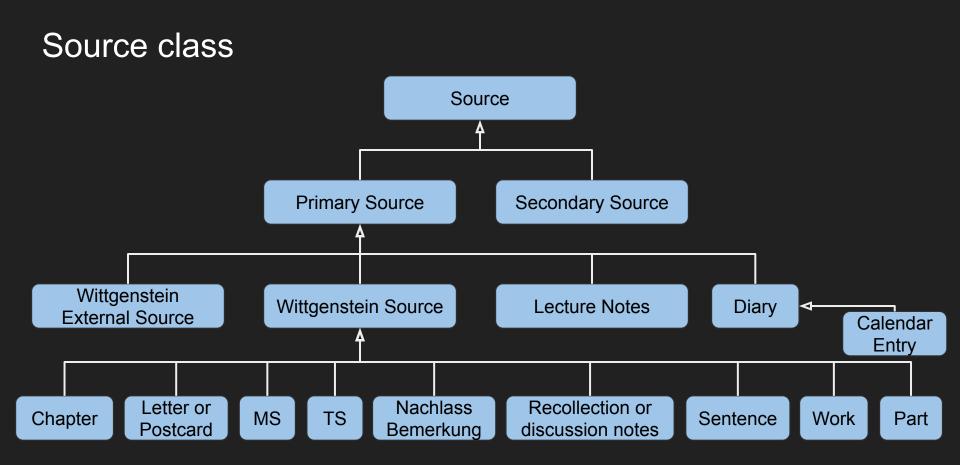
2012-2013: Norwegian National Library DIGITALE FULLTEKSTARKIV project



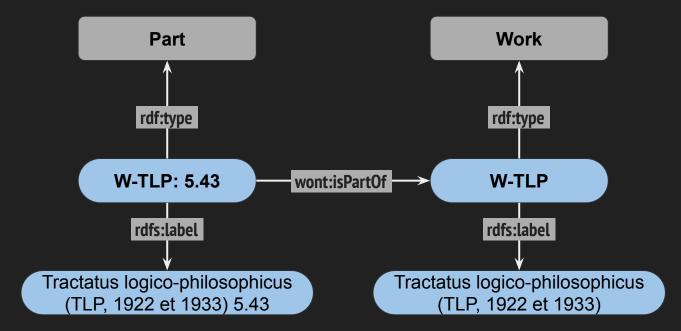
WebVOWL visualisation of Wittgenstein ontology (Alois Pichler and Øyvind Liland Gjesdal)

Wittgenstein ontology main classes

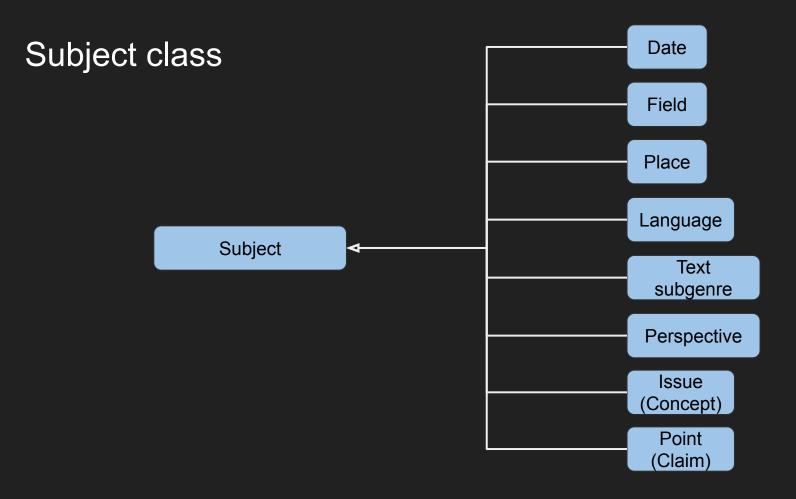




Examples of Source related triples



PREFIX wont: http://purl.org/wittgensteinsource/ont/



A failed attempt to map the content of the *Tractatus*

Pichler, Zöllner-Weber, 'Utilizing OWL for Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*' (2007)



Creating a structure of classes based on concepts that appear in the Tractatus

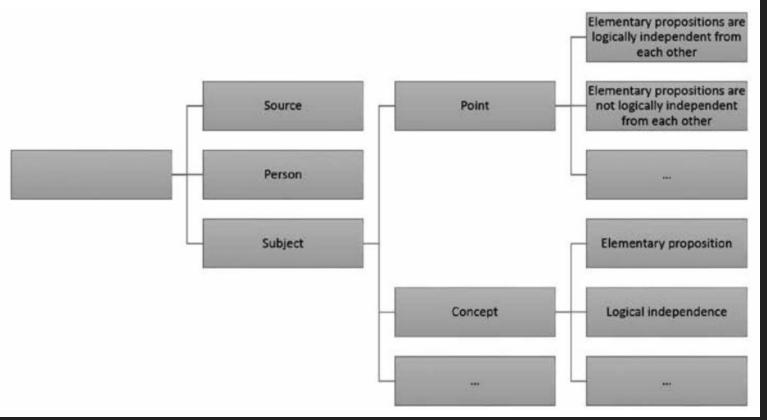
Problems:

- inconsistency of Tractarian conceptual structure
- philosophical conceptual structures do not meet the formal strictness requirements of first order calculus
- lack of instances
- problem of interpretation

Challenges in creating representation of subject-matter in philosophy

- Multi-perspective nature of philosophical theories
 - a single proposal admits a variety of readings
 - different scholars propose different interpretations
- Contextuality, vagueness and indefiniteness of conceptions in philosophy
 - \circ no ultimate interpretation that can be reached
 - structural openness to complementing conceptions with new content
 - concepts with context-dependent meanings
- Problem of inconsistency
 - plain inconsistency (two contradictory claims), indirect inconsistency (through inference)
 - the notorious *Tractatus* 6.54 claiming that Tractarian theses as nonsensical
- Meta-theoreticality of philosophy
 - o categorisations in philosophy are partly implicit and informal

Point (Claim), Concept, Perspective: how should they be related?

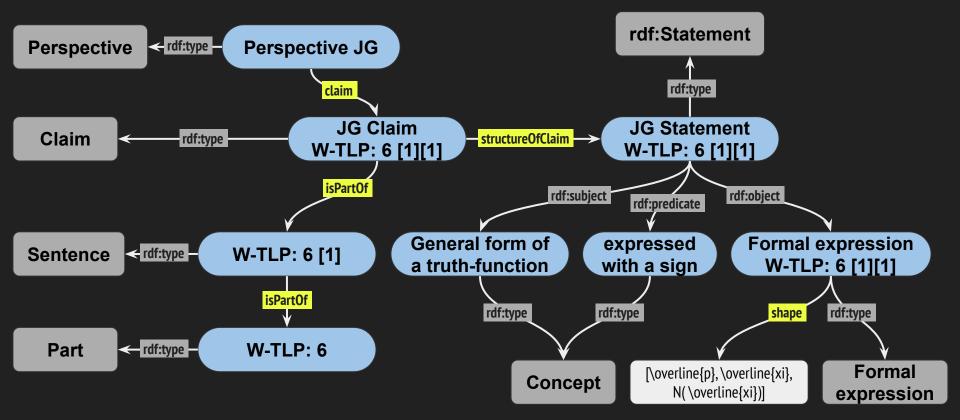


Pichler, Fielding, Gangopadhyay, Opdahl, *Crisscross ontology: Mapping concept dynamics, competing argument and multiperspectival knowledge in philosophy* (2021) p. 62

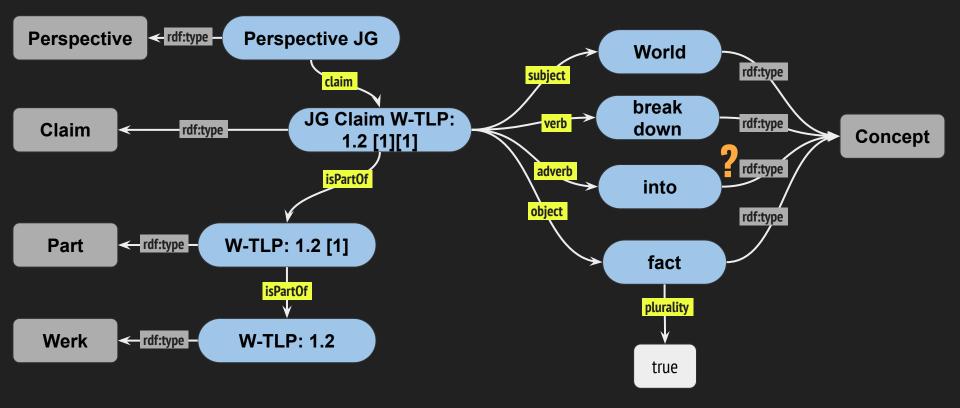
Point (Claim), Concept, Perspective: how should they be related?

Our task consists in, to put it as briefly as possible, developing a model of doing computational ontology that permits the integration of dynamic concepts, non-shared conceptualization, knowledge about knowledge, competing claims, contested arguments and ongoing debate into formal knowledge representation. In order to provide for adequate modelling of the dynamic and contentious contents of the humanities, we need first of all to revisit and revise the idea of computational ontology from a truly humanistic viewpoint and to design novel approaches to ontology design, so that these can fully integrate humanities and philosophy contents while at the same time still retain the traditional strengths and assets of ontology work such as formal precision, cognitive economy, maximum interoperability and explanatory power, as well as permitting standard querying and inference tasks.

A possible approach to the problem: logical analysis



Another possible approach to the problem: grammatical analysis



Grammatical vs. Logical approaches

Logical

- Requires plenty of non-trivial decisions
- Difficult to automate
- Potentially interesting philosophical results
- Automated reasoning more applicable

Grammatical

- Does not require translations
- Easy to automate
- Results would be philosophically mundane
- Automated reasoning less applicable

Thank you!

References

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