

Peter Hinkelmanns
Manuel Schwembacher
Miriam Landkammer
Isabella Nicka
Katharina Zeppezauer-Wachauer



ONTOLOGY
OF NARRATIVES
OF THE MIDDLE AGES

onama.sbg.ac.at

dha go!es digital Day, 2020-09-25



MHD
BDB
Mittelhochdeutsche
Begriffsdatenbank

IMAREAL
realonline

.complement

ÖAW
ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AKADEMIE DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN

Preliminaries

- ✚ Narratives are connecting elements between textual and pictorial traditions of the Middle Ages
- ✚ The interdisciplinary joint venture **ONAMA** is based on the extensive corpora of the two long-term projects **MHDBDB** and **REALonline**

MHDBDB (Middle High German Conceptual Database)

- 📖 Founded in the 1970s and online since the mid–1990s
- 📖 An onomasiological dictionary of Middle High German, based on the Hallig/von Wartburg terminology system
- 📖 Over 650 digitized academic editions of Middle High German texts
- 📖 Around 40,000 dictionary articles

REALonline

- 🏰 Image database of the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Reality Studies (IMAREAL), since the 1970s
- 🏰 Research of the depicted objects / motifs and their meaning in the image discourse
- 🏰 Over 22,500 data sets on works of art and objects
- 🏰 Predominantly 13th to 16th century
- 🏰 Over 1.2 million semantic annotations

Project Goals

- 📖 Development of an **Ontology of Narratives (OWL)**
- 📖 **Semantic Annotation of a Corpus of Manuscripts and Images**, based on the Corpora of REALonline and MHDBDB (RDF)
- 📖 **Interlinking ONAMA with Recourses via the Semantic Web**
- 📖 **Web Frontend and GitHub Publication of the Ontology**

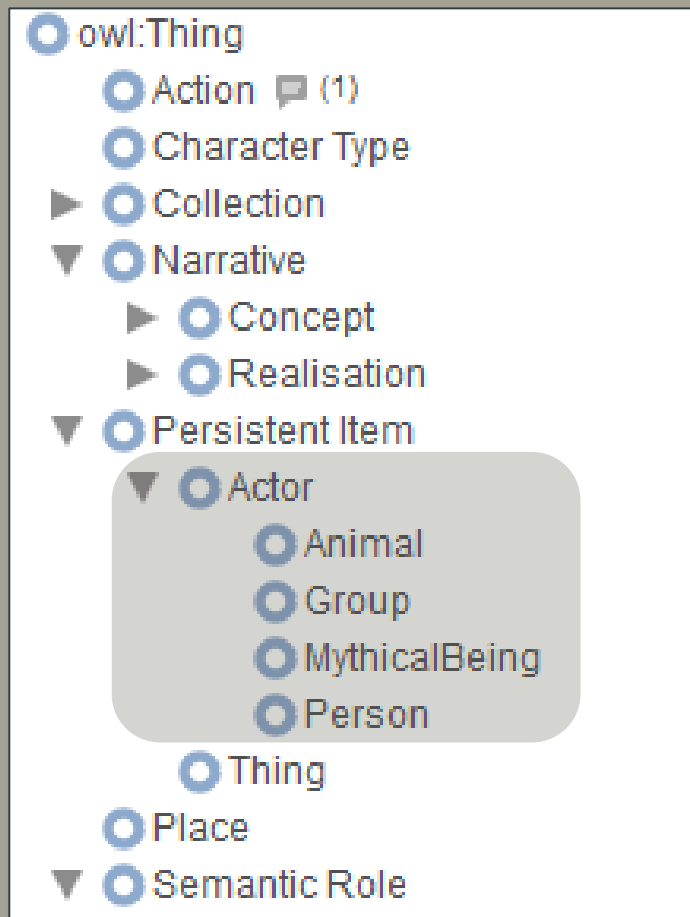
Our Definition of Narratives

- Narratives focus on actions and action sequences
- Essential is a change of state
- Narratives are independent of their media
- Narratives are mental Concepts and they can be articulated as specific Realisations – i.e. in texts and images

Research Questions

- 📖 How can medieval narratives be modelled in an ontology?
- 📖 How do medieval narratives develop and change?
- 📖 How are narratives realized in different media?
- 📖 What is the context of these realizations?

Classes of the ONAMA Ontology

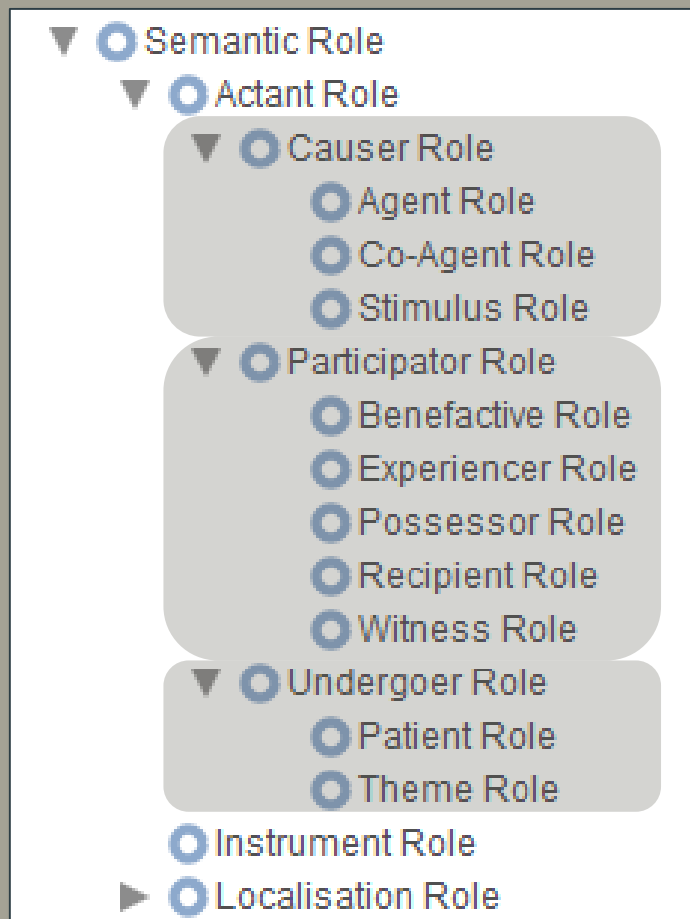


Classes define Blue Prints for Instances



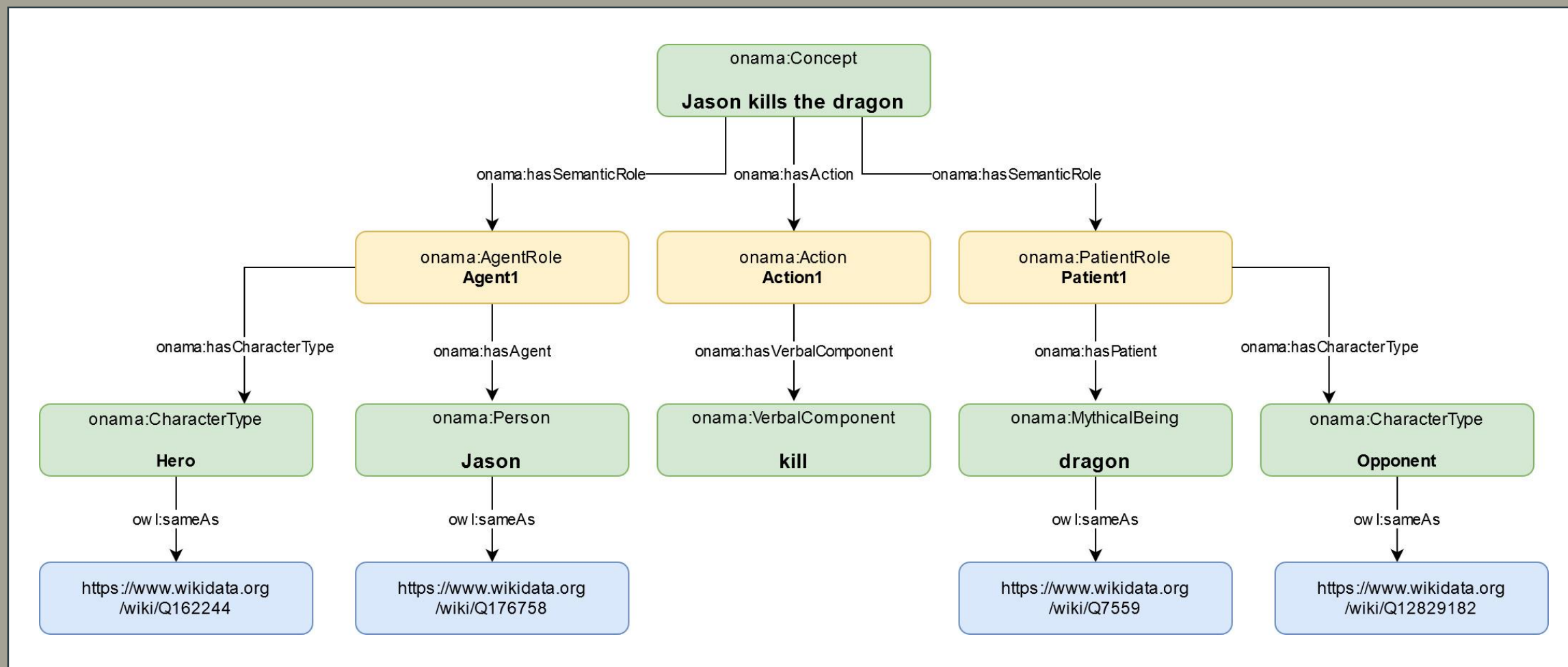
Where possible, ONAMA Classes are Subclasses of CIDOC CRM Classes

Semantic Roles



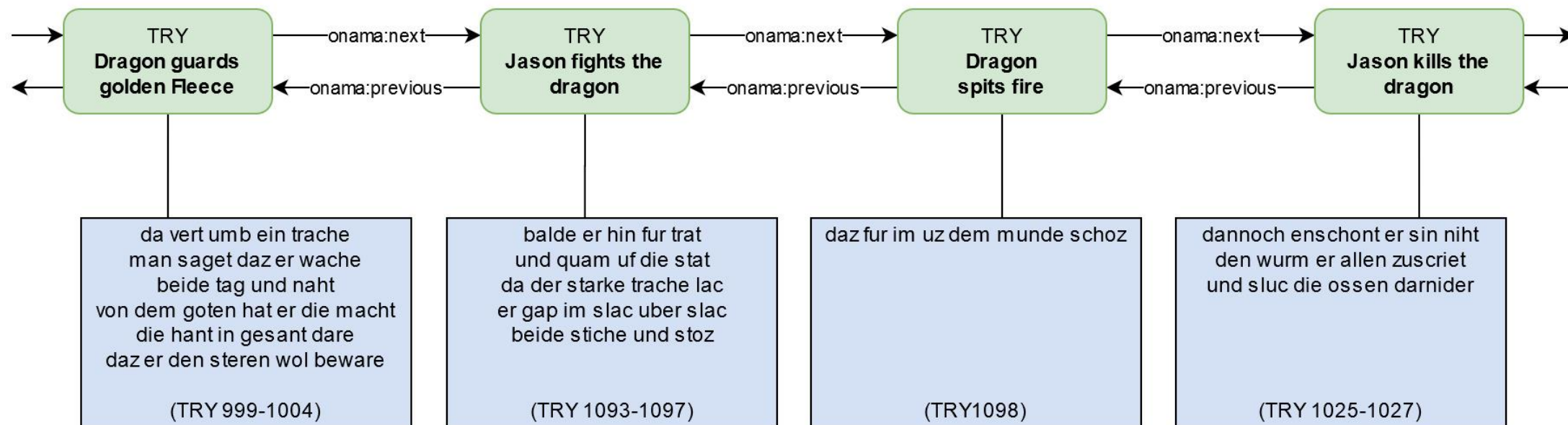
Specify the composition and nature of the relationships between actors, actions, objects and settings

Concept of a Narrative



Sequences of Realisations

TRY - **Liet von Troje** - Herbort von Fritslar (um 1190)



Use Case

- 📖 Finding Narratives in text and image sources of the Middle Ages with ONAMA
- 📖 “Search for narratives in which an animal brings something”



Ägidius Colonna
Trojanischer Krieg. ÖNB cod. 2773

Real-
isation

Eagle brings stolen Trojan sacrificial animal
to the altar of the Greeks



Concept

Eagle brings the Greek a stolen Trojan
sacrifice



Real-
isation

Eagle drops Trojan sacrifice on a Greek ship

Konrad von Würzburg
Der Trojanische Krieg



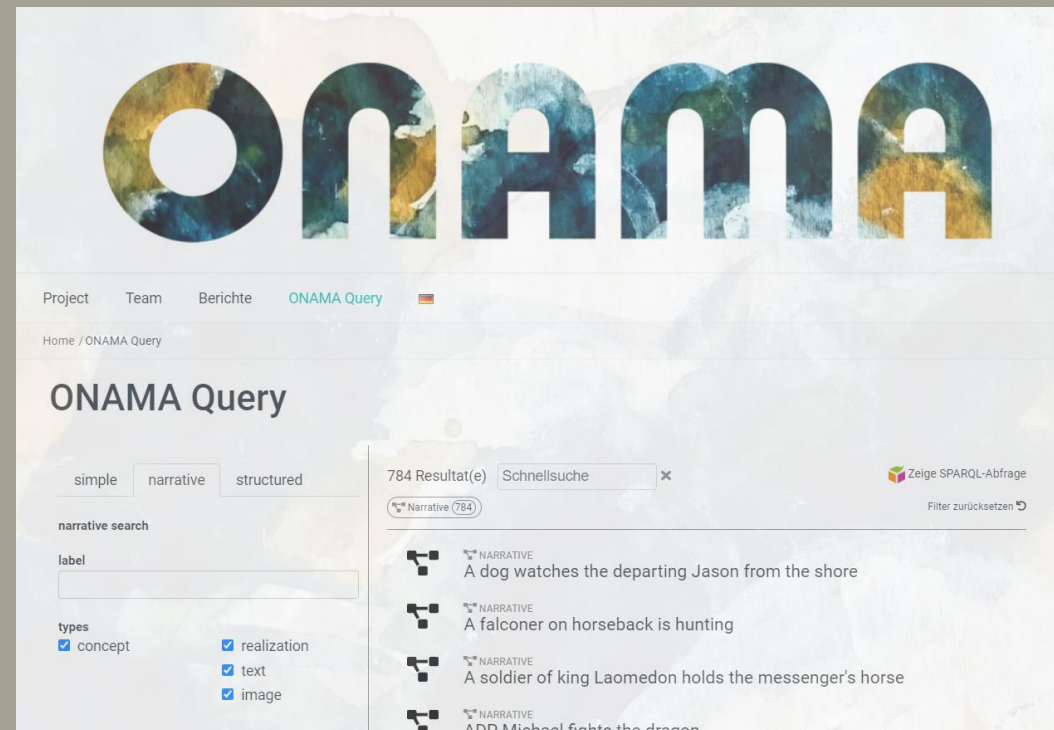
47505 ... und fuorte ez âne wer
47506 hin zuo den schiffen ûf daz mer
47507 und **liez ez under in allen**
47508 **in diu schif nider vallen**

ONAMA Frontend



🦅 Developed by www.complement.at

🦅 Generic RDF Viewer



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