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An Ontology for the Philosophy of Early Middle Ages
Meta-philosophical Perspectives and Methodological Approaches

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ABSTRACT

One of the main assumptions of *Open Culture* is to provide digital tools that might increase the opportunities to share information on cultural heritage. Philosophy, we claim, is an important part of such common background. In this context, the purpose of *OPhEMA* project is to develop an IT ontology that facilitates processes of browsing and searching annotated texts in order to define the meaning (if any) of *philosophy* in the Early Middle Ages. The poster is meant to show the preliminary steps of the project, namely: a literature review aimed at identifying the occurrences of "philosophia", the creation of a (Open Access) Google Sheets file systematizing all the occurrences, and the design of a IT ontology referred to the Philosophy of the Early Middle Ages which combines such data.

PAROLE CHIAVE

Philosophy of the Early Middle Ages, IT Ontology, Ontology of Philosophy, Latin Literature

1. OPhEMA

The aim of this poster is to present the methodology and some preliminary results of the project in Digital Humanities *OPhEMA* (Ontology for the Philosophy of Early Middle Ages), promoted by the FiTMU centre and the RAMUS doctoral school of the University of Salerno. The purpose of the project is to establish what is meant by *philosophy* in the Early Middle Ages [1], through the analysis of the literature produced between the II and the XII century [2, 3]. The main premise is that, in order to reconstruct any particular meta-philosophical view on the Philosophy of the Early Middle Ages, it is necessary to consider how the term "philosophia" (and related terms such as "philosophus", "philosophi", etc.) occurs in the literature. The idea is that a survey of the occurrences of "philosoph*" might help us to define the meaning of *philosophy* for a single author, in a specific period of time, and then – by tracking traces of any change of perspective and recurring definition – in the whole Early Middle Ages.

In order to do this, we plan to develop a specific IT ontology for the Philosophy of the Early Middle Ages [4, 5], which might be suitable to grasp the philosophical knowledge contained in the literature of the field. The scope of this tool is to make available ontologically annotated texts for a variety of scientifically relevant uses, going beyond the sole meta-philosophical browsing: for example, the ontology might support the production of digital and critical editions [5].

The main methodological steps of this project are the following:

1. working on a literature review aimed at identifying the occurrences of "philosoph*", by starting from authors, such as Augustine of Hippo, Gregory the Great, Anselm of Canterbury, as representatives of the area of specialization of the research-team's members;
2. creating a shared Google Sheets file, within which all the occurrences of "philosoph*" are systematized by indicating authors, bibliographic data, translations, comments and URIs;
3. revising the structure of such a systematization so as to verify the functionality and completeness of the identified fields;
4. combining those data in an IT ontology of the Philosophy of the Early Middle Ages. This might facilitate processes of browsing and searching texts based on internal philosophical and meta-philosophical contents and knowledge.

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