

# DIVERSITY AS A FEATURE

FAUSTO GIUNCHIGLIA  
DISI, UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO

[HTTP://LIVINGKNOWLEDGE-PROJECT.EU/](http://livingknowledge-project.eu/)

**To be cited as: Fausto Giunchiglia, “Diversity as a feature”, keynote talk, ISWC 2009 Workshop on the “Living Web”, Washington, October 2009**

# Diversity as *local maximum*



**Thanks to Claudia!**

Diversity as *pervasive local maximum*

... in the *world descriptions*

... as well as

... *in the world*

# Diversity pervasive in the *world descriptions*

## In language

- How many names do you have for snow? (*the role of weather*)
- “Bug as disease” **vs.** “bug as food” (*the role of domains*)

## In data

- “Transportation is on foot” **vs.** “transportation is by plane” (*the role of time*)
- “The President is Obama” **vs.** “the President is Berlusconi” (*the role of space*)

## In knowledge

- “There are 2 types of music: traditional and modern” **vs.** “there are 50 types of music further refined in 100 types (pop, pop-country, ...)” (*the role of goals/needs/competence*)

## In opinions

- “Bugs are great food” **vs.** “how can you eat bugs?” (*the role of culture*)
- “Climate *is/ is not* an important issue” (*the role of schools of thought*)

... world descriptions which best fit the *world*  
*pervasive diversity!*



Cats?

The main cause of the *semantic gap* between our *globalized conceptualizations* of the world, expressed using *language*, and our *local experience* of the world, whose most direct representations are *media*,

# Handling Diversity

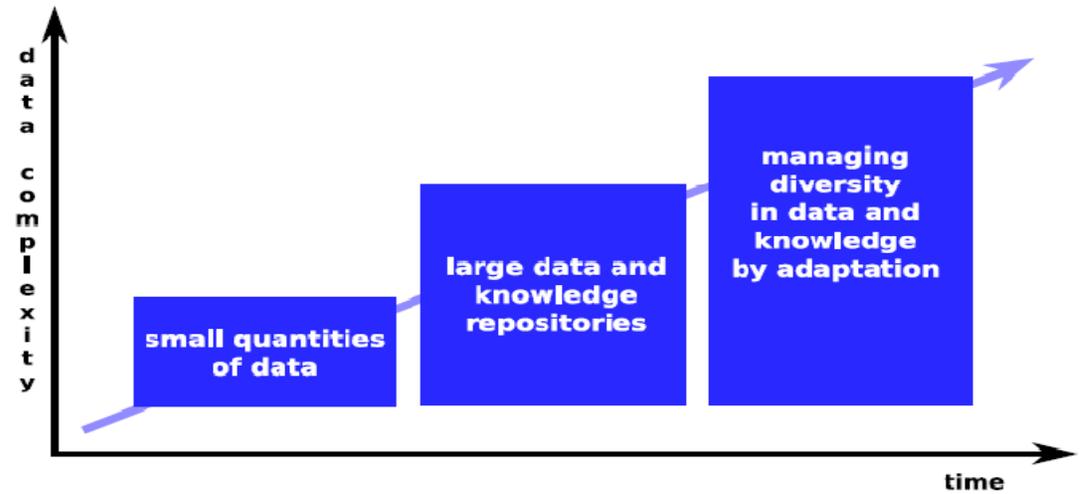


FIGURE 2. Increasing Complexity of Data over Time

**Diversity as a bug (up to the early Web).** *The current implementation of the web is an “implementational mistake”*: we can pretend it is like querying a centrally designed data base

**Diversity as a must (the Semantic Web).** *Diversity is unavoidable, it is the reason for diverging viewpoints and conflicts*: we need semantics in order to “absorbe” diversity and reduce it to the centrally designed data base approach

**Diversity as a feature.** *Diversity is a local maximum*: we should make it *traceable, understandable, and use it* to develop better technology, e.g., diversity aware classification, navigation and search in large scale, long living (eternal), heterogeneous multimedia datasets (e.g., the Web of to day)

## The LIVING WEB

## *Handling diversity: the vision*

The world, our experience about the world, our data and knowledge about the world are strongly influenced by **diversity** in, e.g., geographical contexts, weather and time of the day, cultural backgrounds, schools of thought, ... and many others.

**Time** and **evolution** add a further dimension making diversity an even further intrinsic and unavoidable property of the world, and our data and knowledge of the world.

### ***Diversity is a local optimum!***

We envisage a future where **data and knowledge management tools** (implementing, e.g., **search, navigation, reasoning, ...**) will trace, understand, exploit diversity in **very large multimedia datasets** (in particular, the Web itself) and, therefore, will produce more insightful, better organized, easier-to-understand output.

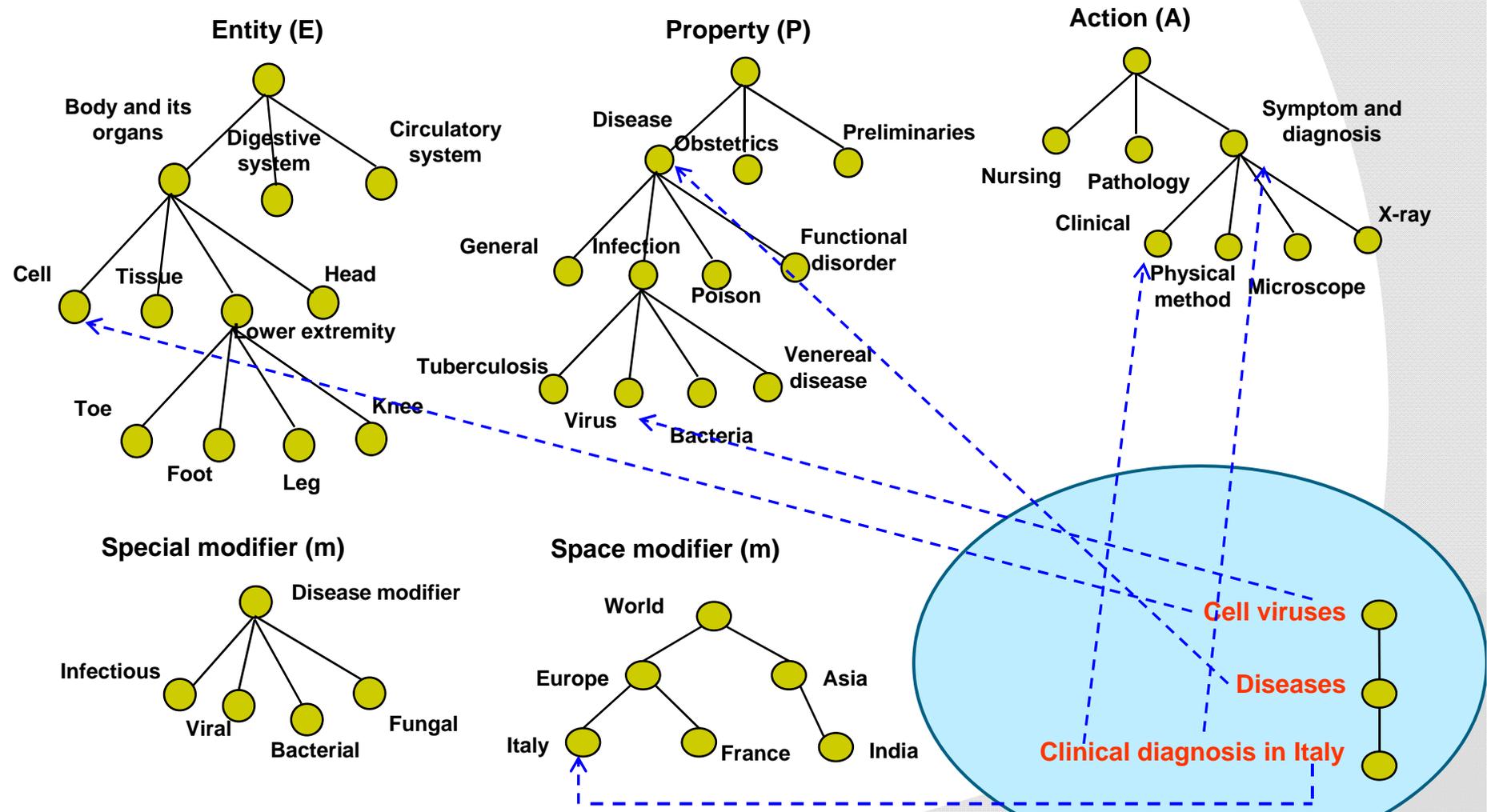
## ***... How to implement the vision?***

*From decomposable, localizable global language and knowledge ...*

*... to the local experience (data and media) of the local world (data being expressed in the global language)*

*... and back!*

# Handling diversity in language: Background knowledge, domains, facets



**Localization = context dependent application of  
the mechano property on global domains and facets**

# Handling diversity in data, knowledge and opinions: Context

Global Knowledge = combination of multiple ***diverse local theories (contexts)*** of the world, also of the same world phenomena

A ***context*** is a 4- tuple:

***< URL, Cxt, M, IA >***

- ◎ ***Cxt***: Context – it codifies, in a ***local language*** the ***local knowledge*** of the world
- ◎ ***M***: a set of mappings – they codify the ***semantic relations*** existing between (elements of) contexts.
- ◎ ***IA***: a finite but unbound set of assertions, which allow for the representation of ***implicit assumptions***

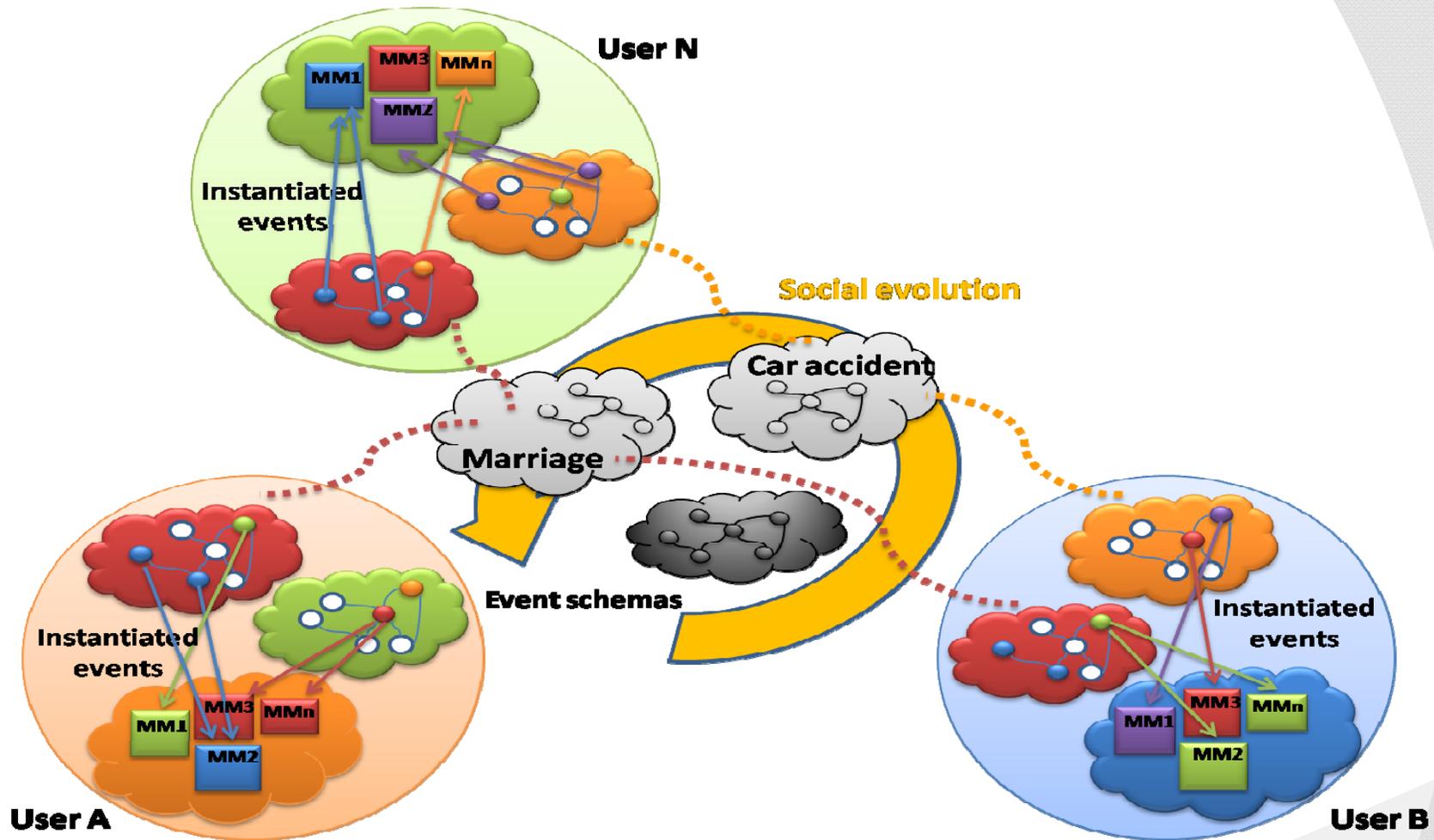
# A real world example: Partial agreement between catalogs

- [-] Top
  - [-] Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Machinery and Accessories
    - [+] Lapidary machinery and equipment
    - [+] Leatherworking repairing machinery and equipment
    - [-] Industrial process machinery and equipment and supplies
      - [+] Separation machinery and equipment
      - [-] Cutting tools
        - ..... Drills
        - ..... Reamer cutting tool
        - ..... Form tools or toolbits
        - ..... Taps or dies
        - ..... Broach cutting tool
        - ..... Gear cutting tools
        - ..... Rotary burrs
        - ..... Regrind or reclaim or coating services for cutting tools
        - ..... Countersink tool or counterbore tool
        - ..... Machinery cutting knives or knife assemblies
      - [+] Assembly machines
      - [+] Paint systems
    - [+] Foundry machines and equipment and supplies
    - [+] Workshop machinery and equipment and supplies

- [-] Top
  - [-] Machine, apparatus
    - [+] Heat exchanger
    - [+] Boiler, furnace
    - [+] Sterilizer
    - [+] Cleaning installation
    - [+] Sound damper, pulsation damper
    - [-] Cutting machine
      - [+] Plasma cutting machine
      - [-] Cutting machine (other)
        - ..... shears (manufacturing of glass)
        - ..... melt machine (manufacturing of glass)
      - [+] Cutting machine (parts)
      - [+] Cutting mach. (maint., serv.)
      - [+] Cutting mach. (repair)
    - [+] Textile machine
    - [+] Pressure machine

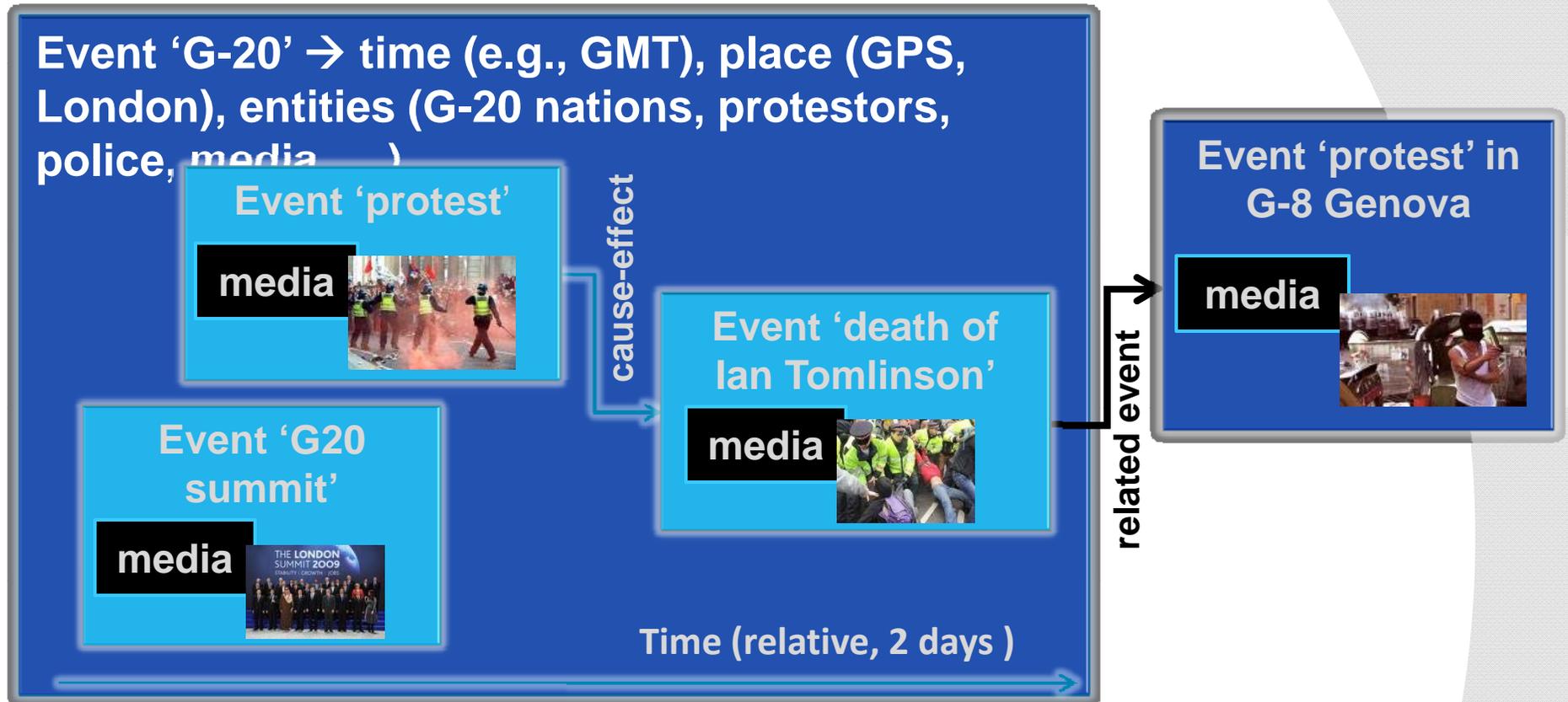
Ex.: <Id, Drills, Cutting machine (other), subsumes>

# Handling diversity in media: Events



Events: from global concepts to local diversity in media

## An example: G-20 Summit London (April 2, 2009)

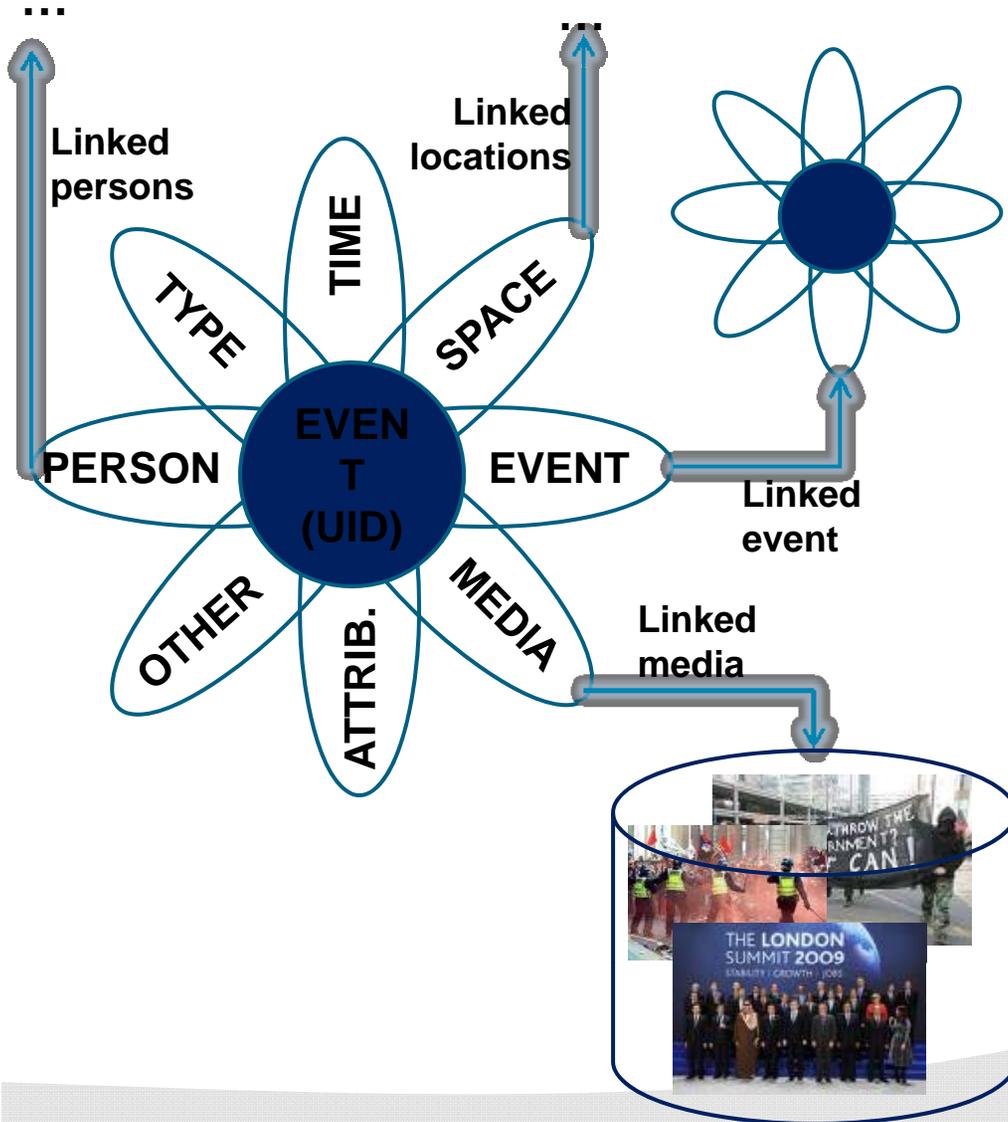


**Event driven media creation (global → local):** retrieve event structure and instantiate it with media (*experience enrichment*) and entities / metadata (attributes) about entities (*knowledge enrichment*)

**Media global dynamics (Wisdom of the crowds: local → global → local):** publication, e.g., in a blog, of a (partially) instantiated event structure and media, enrichment (add media, entities, entity attributes) by others who participated to the same event (*collective event*) or did not (add entity tag to photo), link to related events and concepts

**Media local dynamics (Event and media life cycle: local → local):** Same enrichment as above, in time, "me on my data" (*user in the loop*)

# Events as the primary means for organizing and indexing media



Events are entities with attributes and relational attributes (links) to other entities (e.g., events, locations, people, *media*)

## Related events (event network):

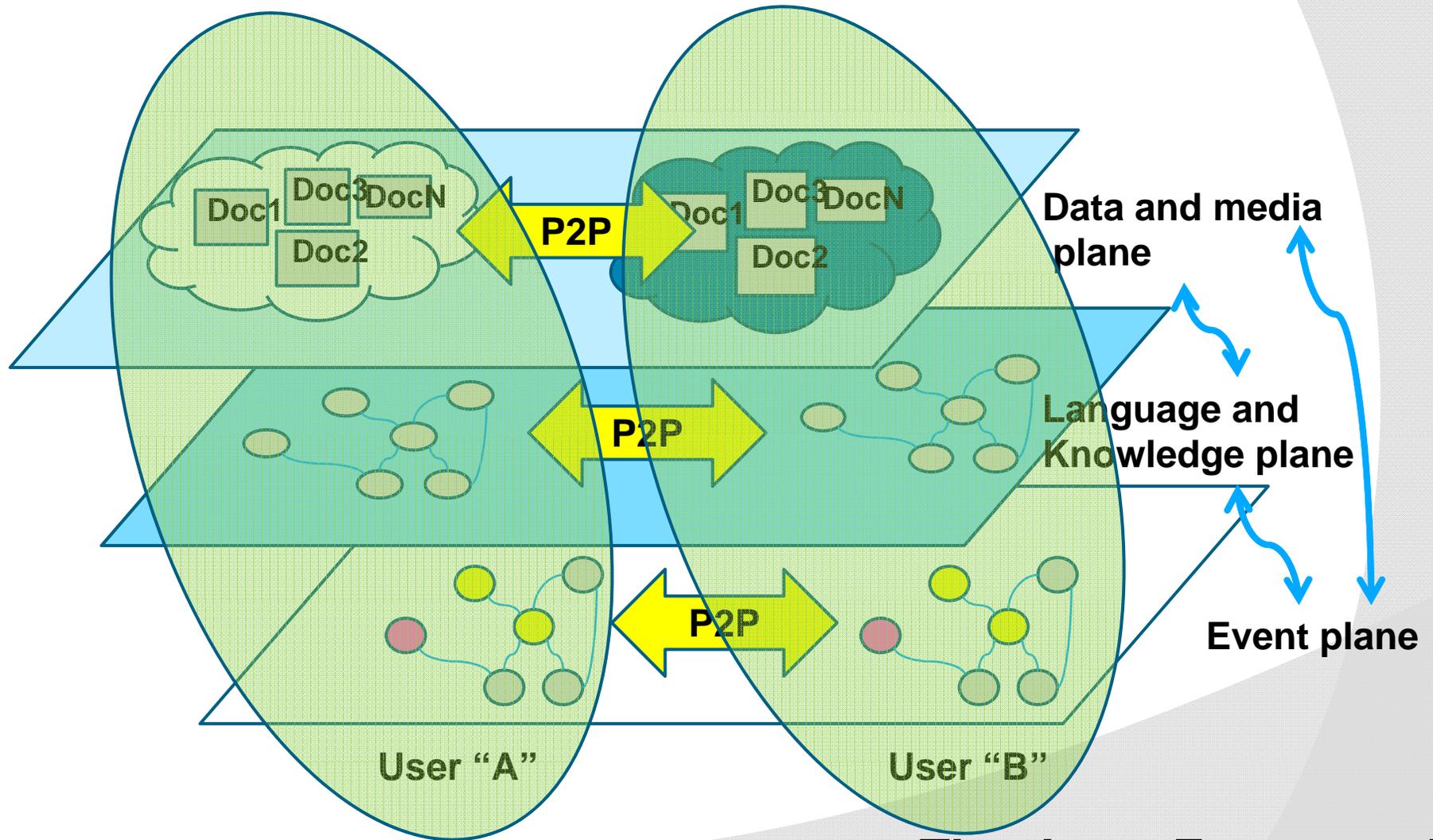
- Sub-event relationship (granularity)
- Cause-effect relationship (causality)
- Temporal relationship (continuity)
- ...

## Media populate events:

- Events contextualize media (experiential dimension)
- Many-to-many relationship (viewpoints):
  - One media linked to many events
  - One event linked to many media

***... The big picture***

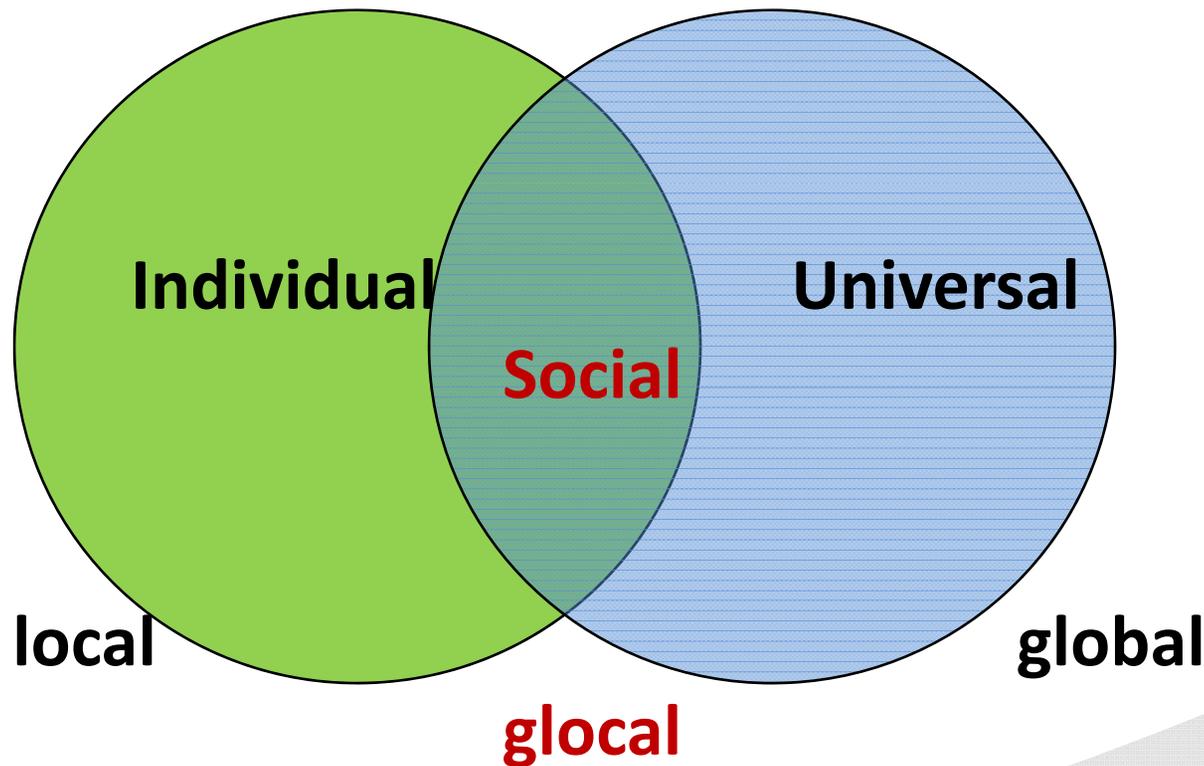
# Managing diversity as *logical peer-to-peer* knowledge management



*Thanks to Francesco!*

# From *logical peer to peer* to *Social* Knowledge Management

Individual, from/to Social from/to Universal Knowledge



# References

- F. Giunchiglia**, “Contextual reasoning”, *Epistemologia - Special Issue on I Linguaggi e le Macchine*, 1993.
- C. Ghidini, F. Giunchiglia**: Local models semantics, or contextual reasoning = locality + compatibility. *Artificial Intelligence Journal*, 127(3), 2001.
- F. Giunchiglia, I. Zaihrayeu**: Making peer databases interact – a vision for an architecture supporting data coordination. CIA’02
- P. Bernstein, F. Giunchiglia, A. Kementsietsidis, J. Mylopoulos, L. Serafini, and I. Zaihrayeu**: Data management for Peer-to-Peer Computing, WebDB’02
- Bouquet, F. Giunchiglia, F. van Harmelen, L. Serafini, H. Stuckenschmidt**: C-OWL: Contextualizing Ontologies, ISWC 2003.
- M. Bonifacio, F. Giunchiglia, I. Zaihrayeu**: Peer-to-Peer Knowledge Management, I-KNOW 2005
- F. Giunchiglia**, “Managing Diversity in Knowledge”, Invited talk, Proceedings ECAI 2006. Presentation available on line.
- Giulia Boato, Claudio Fontanari, Fausto Giunchiglia, Francesco De Natale**, Glocal Search, DISI Technical Report, 2008

# THE *LIVING WEB* TESTBED

[HTTP://LIVINGKNOWLEDGE-PROJECT.EU/](http://LIVINGKNOWLEDGE-PROJECT.EU/)