

# Preface

## - The 3rd Workshop on Ontology Patterns - WOP 2012

During the past two years, the notion of Ontology Patterns has clearly become more mainstream within the Semantic Web field. We have for instance noted that in last years ISWC one full paper session, entitled Ontologies and Patterns, was devoted almost entirely to patterns. This emerging role of patterns is also evident from the number of paper submissions for this years edition of WOP (see further below), which has broken all previous records.

Since the beginning of the Semantic Web initiative, ontologies have been referred to as the key tool for implementing the Semantic Web vision. However, with the success of Linked Data as a highly data-focused movement, ontologies are now challenged to respond to new needs, such as handling big and noisy data. Ontologies are also often built to reflect the reality in data, rather than the other way around. Ontology Patterns, and their related technologies, hold the potential for bridging the gap between linked data and ontologies, because they are conceived with simplicity, scalability, and modularity, as well as contributions from, and usage by, the masses in mind, without giving up the inheritance from Artificial Intelligence and philosophical ontologies. Hence, we envision Ontology Patterns as a necessary facilitator in the upcoming breakthrough for the Semantic Web on the larger social Web arena.

The aim of WOP is to give researchers and practitioners a forum for sharing their latest findings and emerging issues, as well as building a common language of Ontology Patterns. Furthermore, the WOP community is supported by the [ontologydesignpatterns.org](http://ontologydesignpatterns.org) initiative, and uses it as its main mean of communication, e.g. for pattern submission, reviewing and discussion outside the workshop schedule. This support gives the workshop a continuity and a platform for discussion that few others have.

This years WOP instance is the third in the series. We received 14 full research paper submissions and 5 additional pattern submissions. The members of the Program Committee acknowledge the very high quality of many of these submissions, as 10 of them were recommended for acceptance. As this year the workshop was selected for only a half-day slot, the chairs then decided to also accept a number of papers for poster presentation. In total 6 papers were accepted for oral presentation (a 43% acceptance rate), and 4 for poster presentation. In the pattern track, 3 out of 5 submissions were accepted for presentation as pattern posters. The pattern submissions consisted of both an extended abstract and an actual pattern uploaded on the [ontologydesignpatterns.org](http://ontologydesignpatterns.org) portal.

Further information about the Workshop on Ontology Patterns can be found at: <http://ontologydesignpatterns.org/wiki/WOP:2012>.

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### **WOP Paper Chairs**

**Aldo Gangemi and Eva Blomqvist**

### **WOP Pattern Chairs**

**Mari Carmen Suárez-Figueroa and Karl Hammar**

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