

**Call for Papers**  
**FOIS-2004**  
**International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems**  
<http://www.fois.org>



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**November 4-6, 2004, Torino (Italy)**

Just as ontology developed over the centuries as part of philosophy, so in recent years ontology has become intertwined with the development of the information sciences. Researchers in such areas as artificial intelligence, formal and computational linguistics, biomedical informatics, conceptual modeling, knowledge engineering and information retrieval have come to realize that a solid foundation for their research calls for serious work in ontology, understood as a general theory of the types of entities and relations that make up their respective domains of inquiry. In all these areas, attention has started to focus on the *content* of information rather than on just the formats and languages in terms of which information is represented. The clearest example of this development is provided by the many initiatives growing up around the project of the Semantic Web. And as the need for integrating research in these different fields arises, so does the realization that strong principles for building well-founded ontologies might provide significant advantages over ad hoc, case-based solutions. The tools of Formal Ontology address precisely these needs, but a real effort is required in order to apply such philosophical tools to the domain of Information Systems. Reciprocally, research in the information science raises specific ontological questions which call for further philosophical investigations. The purpose of FOIS is to provide a forum for genuine interdisciplinary exchange in the spirit of a unified ontological analysis effort. Although the primary focus of the conference is on theoretical issues, methodological proposals as well as papers dealing with concrete applications from a well-founded theoretical perspective are welcome.

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### Invited Speakers

Peter Gärdenfors, Lund University Cognitive Science, Sweden

Amie Thomasson, Department of Philosophy, University of Miami, USA

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### Deadlines and Further Information

**Abstracts submissions May 3, 2004**

**Paper submissions May 7, 2004**

Acceptance Notification: June 25, 2004

Submission of camera-ready paper: July 30, 2004

Proceedings will be published by IOS Press and available at the conference.

Submission is a two-step procedure: first abstracts, then full papers. Submitted papers must not exceed 5000 words (including bibliography). Abstracts should be less than 300 words. Electronic submission via the website is strongly preferred; if unavailable, submission via email or postal mail is possible. For details see: <http://www.fois.org>.

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### Conference Chair

Nicola Guarino (ISTC-CNR, Trento, Italy)  
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### Program Chairs

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### Local Chairs

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### Publicity Chair

Jos Lehmann (ISTC-CNR, Rome, Italy)  
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## Topics

We seek high-quality papers on a wide range of topics. While authors may focus on fairly narrow and specific issues, all papers should emphasize the relevance of the work described to formal ontology and to information systems. Papers that completely ignore one or the other of these aspects will be considered as lying outside the scope of the meeting. Topic areas of particular interest to the conference are:

### Foundational Issues

- Kinds of entity: particulars vs. universals, continuants vs. occurrents, abstracta vs. concreta, dependent vs. independent, natural vs. artificial
- Formal relations: parthood, identity, connection, dependence, constitution, subsumption, instantiation
- Vagueness and granularity
- Identity and change
- Formal comparison among ontologies
- Ontology of physical reality (matter, space, time, motion, ...)
- Ontology of biological reality (genes, proteins, cells, organisms, ...)
- Ontology of mental reality and agency (beliefs, intentions and other mental attitudes; emotions, ...)
- Ontology of social reality (institutions, organizations, norms, social relationships, artistic expressions, ...)
- Ontology of the information society (information, communication, meaning negotiation, ...)
- Ontology and Natural Language Semantics, Ontology and Cognition

### Methodologies and Applications

- Top-level vs. application ontologies
- Ontology integration and alignment; role of reference ontologies
- Ontology-driven information systems design
- Requirements engineering
- Knowledge engineering
- Knowledge management and organization
- Knowledge representation; Qualitative modeling
- Computational lexica; Terminology
- Information retrieval; Question-answering
- Semantic web; Web services; Grid computing
- Domain-specific ontologies, especially for: Linguistics, Geography, Law, Library science, Biomedical science, E-business, Enterprise integration, ...

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## Programme Committee

**Bill Andersen**, OntologyWorks, USA

**Nicholas Asher**, Dept of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin, USA

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