



Ontology is Overrated by Clay Shirky 🗣️

- Audio 🗣️
- Text & Illustrations 🗣️
- This Mindmap by Peter Duke
- Website 🗣️
- Email 🗣️

Does the world make sense?

- If so, then anyone that tries to make sense of the world, differently than you, presents a situation that needs to be reconciled formally
- If you get it wrong, you get it wrong about the real world

Do we make sense of the world?

- Don't privilege one top level version of sense-making over the other, try to find ways of individual sense-making can roll-up in value, in aggregate

Ontological

- The study or delineation of entities and their relations
- Explicit specification of a conceptualization
 - what
 - how
- What is in that domain, and how do they relate to one another?
- The ontological goal is a misallocation of categorization resources Prone to contextual error
- What is the Essence?
 - The Intellectual Aspect
 - Don't confuse the container for the thing contained
 - "is-ness"
- Collapsing or Thesauri-sizing vocabularies assumes there is no signal in the contextual difference of terms (keywords or tags)
- Signal loss comes from compression around a single point-of-view

Organic (user-developed) categorization

- Links & Tags**
 - Any number of links can be in any number of hierarchies
 - Robust link structure obviates the need for hierarchy
 - Start with the links and build the categories around them, deriving the categories from the links Don't start with the categories and fill in with the links!
- Merged from links**
 - Overlap is probabilistic
- User & Time are core attributes**
 - inclusion / exclusion
 - decay
- Individual Motivation = Group Value**
 - Group = World | User
 - Tags are unique links (url / uri)
 - Post-hoc filtering - the editor is everyone - if people don't point to it, people won't see it
 - User Semantics not System Semantics
 - Overlap is in the System
 - Semantics are in the Users
- Signal loss from expression - multiplicity of points-of-view