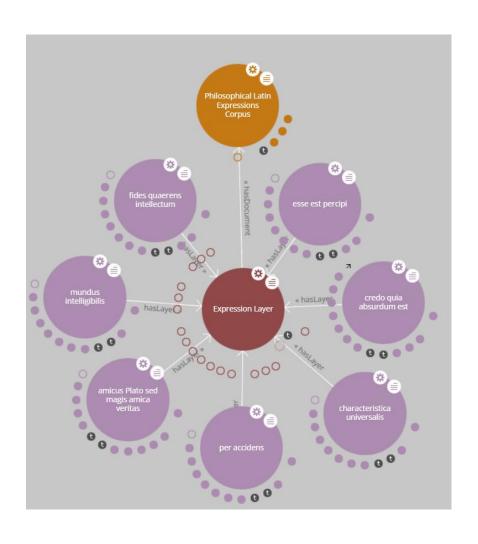
# Linking Latin Philosophical Expressions

Giovanna Tonazzo



## Agenda

Motivation
Methodology
Results

## Motivation

## Latin philosophical expressions

Latin expressions like "cogito ergo sum" or "homo homini lupus" are found in nearly every philosophy manual. These expressions are often:

- Central to a philosopher's worldview
- Full phrases or sentences, not just isolated words
- Rarely covered comprehensively in standard dictionaries

Philosophy students sometimes lack a strong background in Latin, making it difficult to:

- Grasp literal meanings of these expressions
- Understand their grammatical structures
- Connect their linguistic form with philosophical content

This project is inspired by a <u>resource</u> created by Prof. James Lesher – a curated collection of Latin philosophical expressions. Each expression in the collection includes:

- A literal translation into English
- Linguistic analysis (parts of speech, case, syntax)
- A philosophical explanation, often linked to thinkers like Aristotle, Descartes, or Kant
- Examples and context from historical texts

#### Examples of Latin expressions from the collection

A posteriori: preposition + the ablative neuter singular of the comparative adjective posterior/posteriorus (literally: 'from the later thing'): things known a posteriori are known on the basis of experience (e.g. 'We can know only a posteriori that all swans are white').

A priori: preposition + the ablative neuter singular of the comparative adjective prior/prius (literally: 'from the earlier thing'): what is known to be true a priori can be known independently of (or prior to) empirical investigation or confirmation (e.g. 'Kant held that we can know a priori that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points.')

Amicus Plato sed magis amica veritas: 'Plato is a friend but truth is a greater friend', based loosely on Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics 1096a.

## Can this resource be improved?

This resource is very useful for students, but it has some limitations:



It gives a short definition of each expression, but many of them have been interpreted in different ways by different thinkers. Expanding the entries to indicate key philosophical interpretations would help student develop a critical understanding of concepts.



When philosophers are mentioned, it does not provide direct links or references to their works or biographical information. Adding these connections would make it easier for students to place the terms in their proper philosophical context.



Some entries are related (i.e "a priori" and "a posteriori") but these relationships are not explicitly indicated in the document. Making these connections visible would help students understand the logical and conceptual relationships among terms.

## Can this resource be improved?



This resource exists in a relatively **isolated** form. Publishing it as **linked data** by integrating it with existing ontologies or connecting entries to structured resources like Wikidata would significantly enrich its role as a resource for philosophical study.



This would allow students to situate each term within a broader conceptual and historical **network**, and to **explore** philosophical concepts across languages and interpretations more effectively.



Linking terms, expressions, and philosopher names to external sources would transform the resource from a static glossary into a dynamic, **interoperable** tool for philosophical study and research.

## Methodology

## Steps taken to enrich the resource (1)

- Converted the original textual content into a structured format (CSV).
- Added additional expressions (e.g., homo homini lupus); the final version is not fully aligned with Prof. Lesher's original collection.
- Provided more extensive definitions (with the help of ChatGPT see notebook) to clarify the general philosophical concepts.
- Classified expressions by branch of philosophy (e.g., epistemology, ethics, logic).
- Included alternative interpretations from different philosophers.

## Steps taken to enrich the resource (2)

- Linked expressions, philosophers, and philosophical branches to external resources (Wikidata).
- Created internal links between related expressions (e.g., a priori and a posteriori, res cogitans and res extensa).
- Performed grammatical analysis (tokenization, part of speech tagging, morphological features, dependency relations) following the Universal Dependencies framework.
- Linked Latin lemmas to the LiLa "Linking Latin" knowledge base.
- Published as linguistic linked data (triplestore in Turtle format).

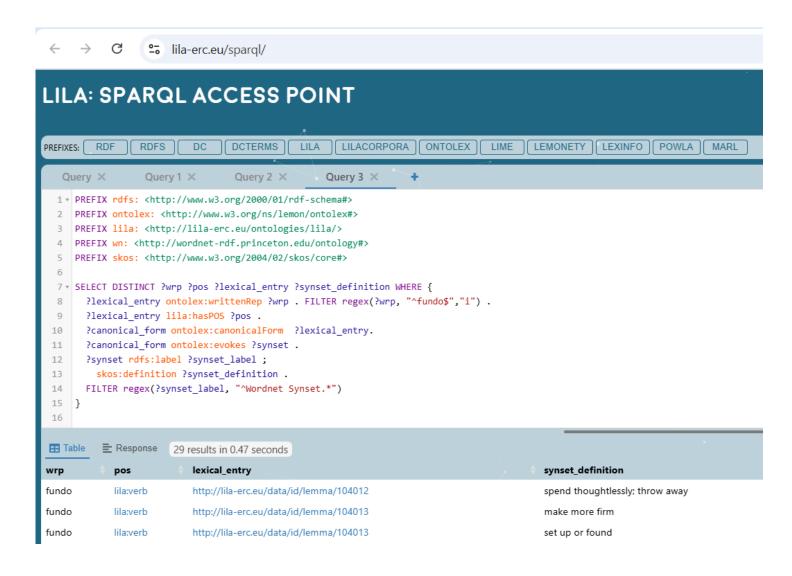
#### Tools used

- OpenRefine for reconciliation with Wikidata page of entry, philosopher, branch of philosophy.
- Custom Python procedures
  - to call LiLa TextLinker (see <a href="notebook">notebook</a>).
  - to call UDPipe API for annotation.
  - to generate the triplestore using RDFLib (see <u>notebook</u>).
- Apache Jena Fuseki and LodLive for visualization.
- Basic **SPARQL** queries for analysis.

#### Linking to LiLa

#### Problems:

- No matches: solved by manual search in Lemma Bank query interface
- More than one match: ambiguity resolved with a SPARQL query to go from lemma to Wordnet Synset to clarify meaning



## Input data for Turtle file

- CSV files for entries and interpretations
- JSON file for LiLa links
- Manually curated list of linked concepts
- Response in CoNLL-U format returned by UDPipe (using model "latin-evalatin24-240520")

## Modeling

I considered the resource both as a corpus and as a lexical resource.

Considering it as a corpus, I modeled it using **POWLA**. This allowed a modular approach that made possible to distinguish between content layers and annotation layers.

#### **Content layers**:

- Each expression is a root that belongs to the Expression Layer
- The tokens are terminals in the Document Layer

#### **Annotation layers**:

- Dependency Annotation Layer contains the syntactic dependency relations
- UD Annotation Layer contains POS and morphological features
- Semantic Annotation Layer to connect entry to its general meaning

## Modeling

Considering the collection as a lexical resource, I modeled it using **ONTOLEX.** 

#### LIME lexicons

- Separate LIME lexicons for Latin and English
- Each Latin expression is a lexical entry in the Latin lexicon
- The corresponding English translation is an entry in the English lexicon

#### **VARTRANS** translation

- The translation is a relation between Latin and English lexical entries
- The relation is reified and it is of category "philosophy"

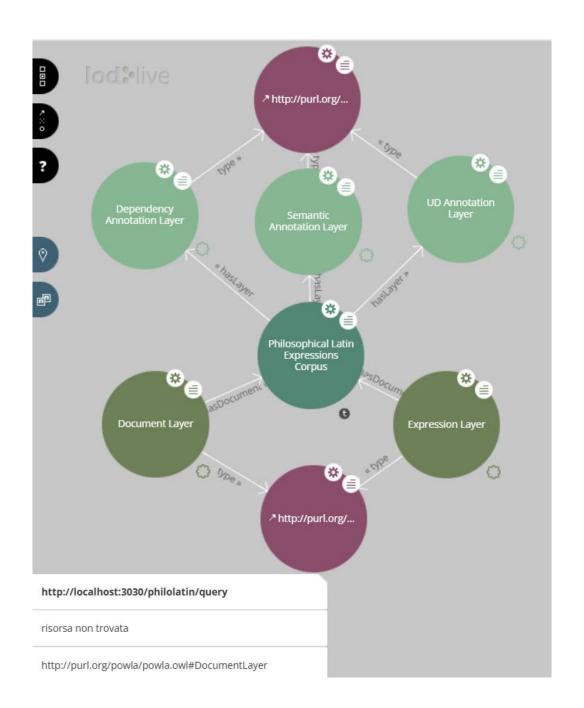
## Modeling

#### **Semantics**

- General concept modeled as lexical concept evoked by the lexical entry (both Latin and English lexical entry evoke the same concept)
- The lexical concept has a SKOS definition and link to Wikidata page
- Branch of philosophy linked to lexical concept as broader concept
- Relations between expressions (i.e. "a priori" and "a posteriori") as relations between lexical concepts
- Specific interpretations by different philosophers as different senses, linked to the general concept via SKOS narrower relation
- Philosopher are connected to the sense and to the lexical concept as dc:creator

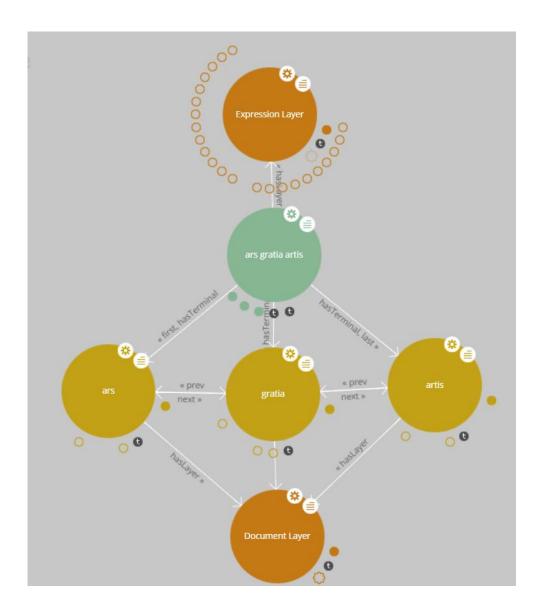
#### POWLA corpus

- Content Layers
- Annotation Layers



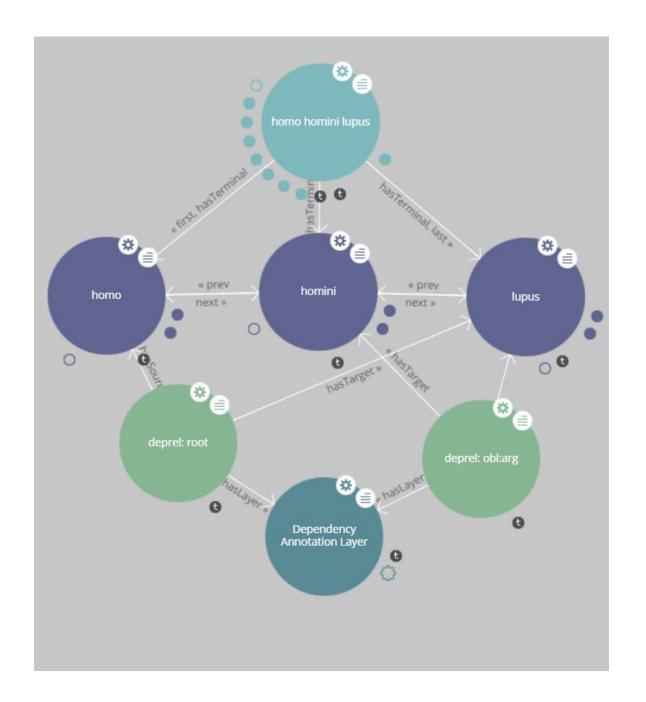
#### Content Layers

- Expression Layer: expressions as POWLA roots
- Document Layer: tokens as POWLA terminals, prev-next for ordering



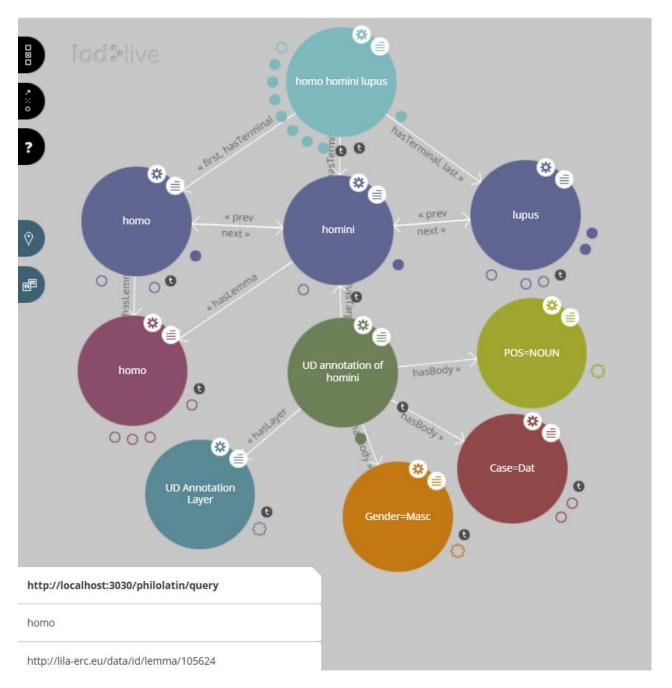
#### Syntax

- Dependency Annotation Layer
- Each node is a deprel that connects source (head) to target (dependent)



#### Syntax

- UD Annotation Layer
- Each note has the token as target and the POS/ morphological features as body
- POS and features are linked to UD definition page
- Each token has a lemma connected to LiLa lemma



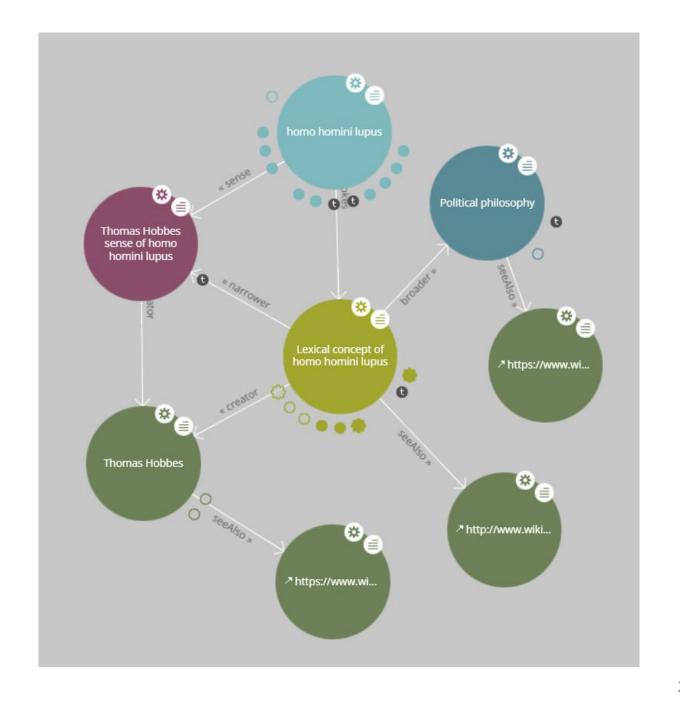
#### ONTOLEX

- Each expression is a LexicalEntry of a lexicon
- Latin lexicon and English lexicon
- Translation as LexicalRel between lexical entries
- Translation is reified and it is of category "philosophy"



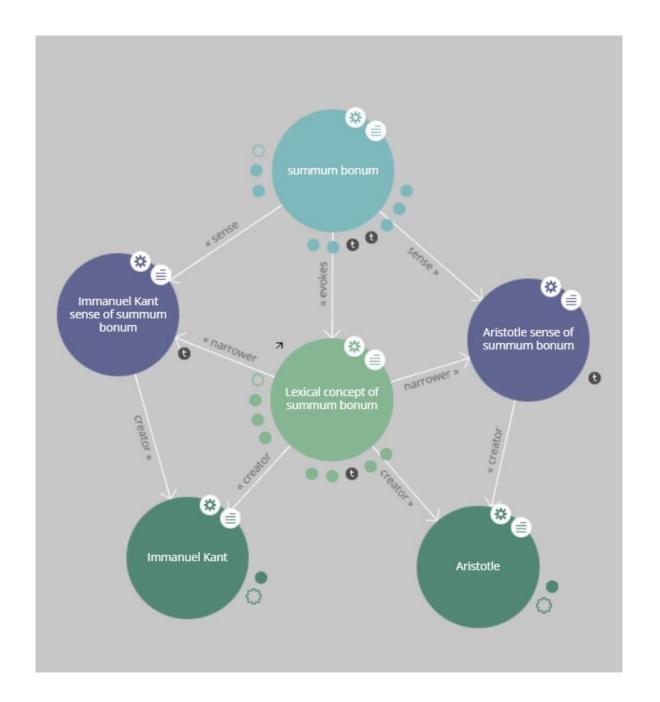
#### **Semantics**

- Lexical Entry evokes a Lexical Concept
- Branch of philosophy as broader concept
- Links to entry, philosopher and branch in Wikidata
- Interpretations by philosophers are lexical senses



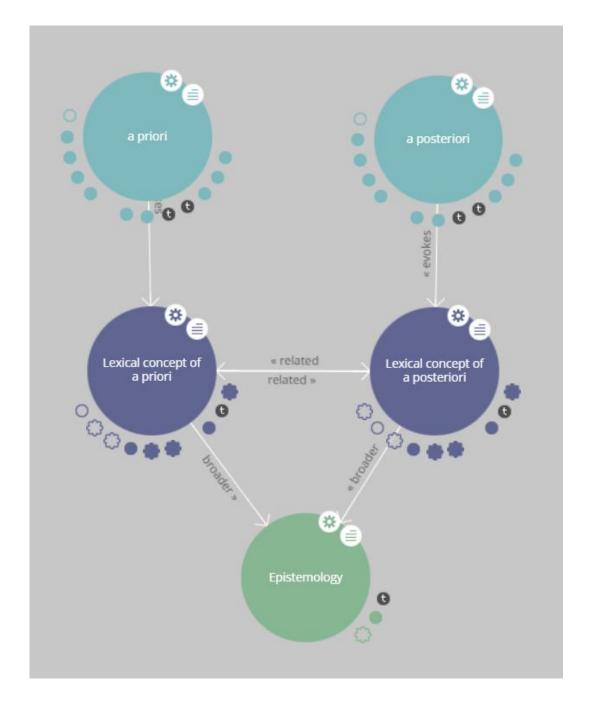
#### Interpretations

- Different intepretations by philosophers as lexical senses
- Narrower concepts of lexical concept
- Philosopher as dc:creator



#### Related concepts

SKOS:related



## Results

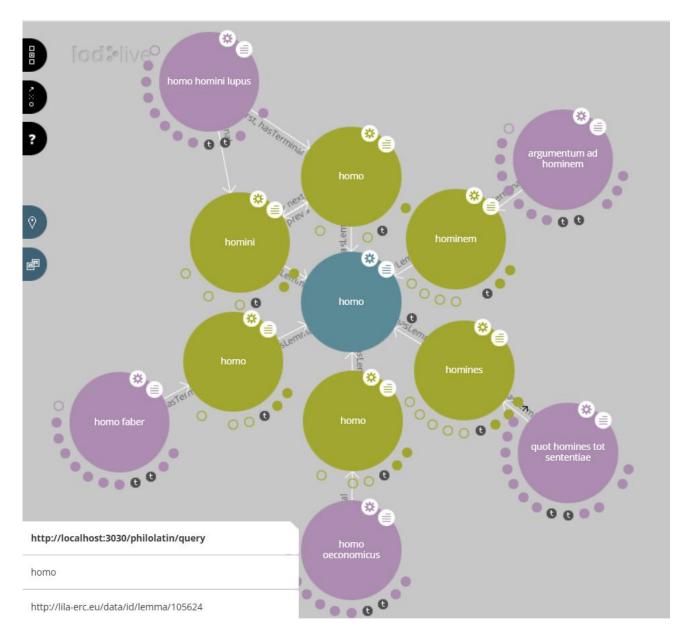
## Quantitative results

	#	SPARQL Query
Number of expressions in each lexicon	153	SELECT ?lexicon (COUNT(?philoexprid) AS ?expr_count) WHERE { ?philoexprid rdf:type ontolex:LexicalEntry;
Number of triples	18 220	SELECT ?subject ?predicate ?object WHERE { ?subject ?predicate ?object }
Number of philosophers	109	SELECT (COUNT(DISTINCT ?philosopherid) AS ?philosophers) WHERE { ?senseid a ontolex:LexicalSense;
Number of senses	614	SELECT (COUNT(?senseid) AS ?senses) WHERE { ?senseid a ontolex:LexicalSense . }

## Examples of analysis: From LiLa to philosophy

```
7 SELECT DISTINCT ?wrp ?philoexpr ?expression wiki ?philosopher ?philosopher wiki
 8 ▼ WHERE {
             SERVICE <a href="https://lila-erc.eu/sparql/lila_knowledge_base/sparql">https://lila-erc.eu/sparql/lila_knowledge_base/sparql</a> {
                   ?lilalemma ontolex:writtenRep ?wrp . FILTER regex(?wrp, "^homo$","i") .
10
11
12
             ?terminal lila:hasLemma ?lilalemma.
             ?expression powla:hasTerminal ?terminal ;
14
                              rdfs:label ?philoexpr .
15
             ?expression ontolex:evokes ?concept.
16
             ?concept dct:creator ?creator ;
17
                          rdfs:seeAlso ?expression_wiki.
18
             ?creator rdfs:label ?philosopher ;
19
                          rdfs:seeAlso ?philosopher wiki.
20
21 ORDER BY ?philoexpr
22
23
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             Simple view ☐ Ellipse ✓ Fil
              philoexpr
                                                                                 expression_wiki
                                                                                                                                                          philosopher
                                                                                                                                                                                                       philosopher_wiki
     wrp
  1"homo"@la
                                "argumentum ad hominem"@la
                                                                               <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q189183">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q189183></a>
                                                                                                                                                         "Aristotle"@en
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q84473023">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q84473023</a>
 2"homo"@la
                                                                              <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q189183">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q189183></a>
                                "argumentum ad hominem"@la
                                                                                                                                                         "David Hume"@en
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q37160">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q37160">
 3"homo"<sup>@la</sup>
                                "argumentum ad hominem"@la
                                                                                                                                                         "Immanuel Kant"@en
                                                                              <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q189183">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q189183></a>
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q9312">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q9312</a>
 4"homo"@la
                                "argumentum ad hominem"@la
                                                                               <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q189183">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q189183></a>
                                                                                                                                                        "John Stuart Mill"@en
                                                                                                                                                                                                       <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q50020">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q50020">
 5"homo"@la
                                "homo faber"@la
                                                                                                                                                        "Hannah Arendt"@en
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q60025">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q60025">
                                                                                <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q422282">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q422282">
  6"homo"@la
                                "homo faber"@la
                                                                                                                                                        "Karl Marx"@en
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q9061">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q9061">
                                                                                <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q422282">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q422282">
 7"homo"@la
                                "homo faber"@la
                                                                                <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q422282">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q422282</a>>
                                                                                                                                                        "Martin Heidegger"@en
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q48301">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q48301">
  8"homo"@la
                                "homo faber"@la
                                                                                                                                                         "Simone de Beauvoir"@en
                                                                                <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q422282">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q422282">
                                                                                                                                                                                                       <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q7197">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q7197">
 9"homo"@la
                                "homo homini lupus"@la
                                                                                <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q284809">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q284809">
                                                                                                                                                        "Hannah Arendt"@en
                                                                                                                                                                                                       <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q60025">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q60025">
10"homo"@la
                                "homo homini lupus"@la
                                                                                                                                                         "Jean-Paul Sartre"@en
                                                                                <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q284809">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q284809">
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q9364">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q9364">
```

## Expressions containing "homo"



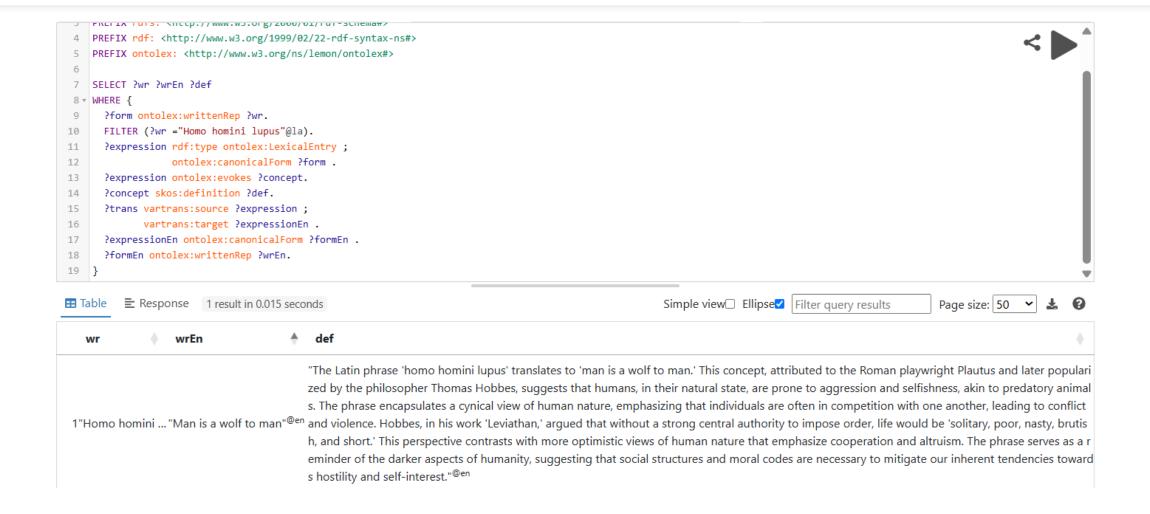
## Interpretations of "Summum bonum"

```
FILE IN TUI. NICCP.//WWW.WJ.OI g/ 1555/02/22-101-5911CAX-115#
    PREFIX skos: <a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#>
 5 PREFIX rdfs: <a href="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema">http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema">
    PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
    PREFIX ontolex: <http://www.w3.org/ns/lemon/ontolex#>
    SELECT ?philosopher ?definition
       ?form ontolex:writtenRep ?wr.
       FILTER (?wr ="Summum bonum"@la).
       ?expression rdf:type ontolex:LexicalEntry;
14
                    ontolex:canonicalForm ?form .
15
       ?expression ontolex:sense ?sense.
       ?sense skos:definition ?definition ;
17
               dct:creator ?creator .
18
         ?creator rdfs:label ?philosopher .
19 }

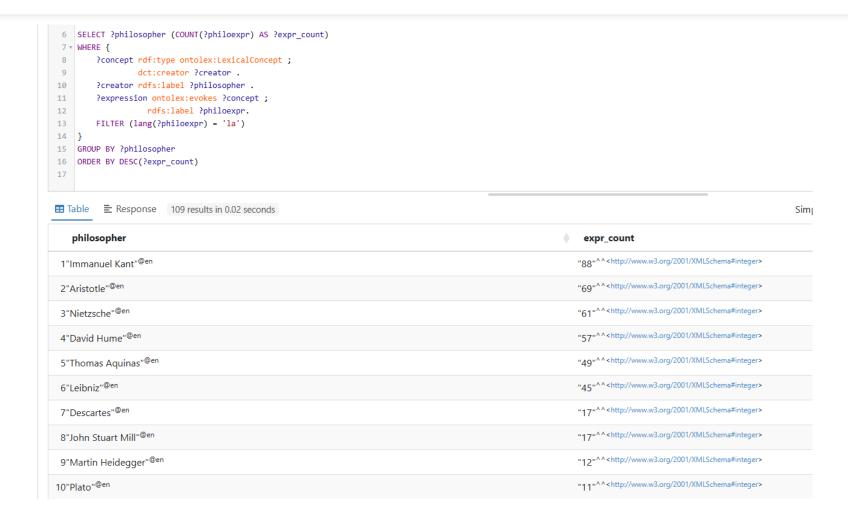
    ■ Response 4 results in 0.012 seconds

   philosopher
                          definition
 1"Immanuel Kant" "Kant interprets 'summum bonum' as the highest good, which combines both virtue and happiness. He posits that moral actions should lead to ha
2"Nietzsche"@en
                        "Nietzsche challenges traditional notions of 'summum bonum', arguing that the concept is a construct of slave morality that suppresses individual
3"Aristotle"@en
                         "For Aristotle, the 'summum bonum' is the ultimate goal of human life, which he identifies as eudaimonia, often translated as 'happiness' or 'flouri:
                         "Utilitarian philosophers like Bentham and Mill interpret 'summum bonum' as the greatest happiness principle. They argue that the moral worth of
4"Utilitarianism"<sup>@en</sup>
```

## Translation and definition of "Homo homini lupus"



## Philosophers connected to most expressions

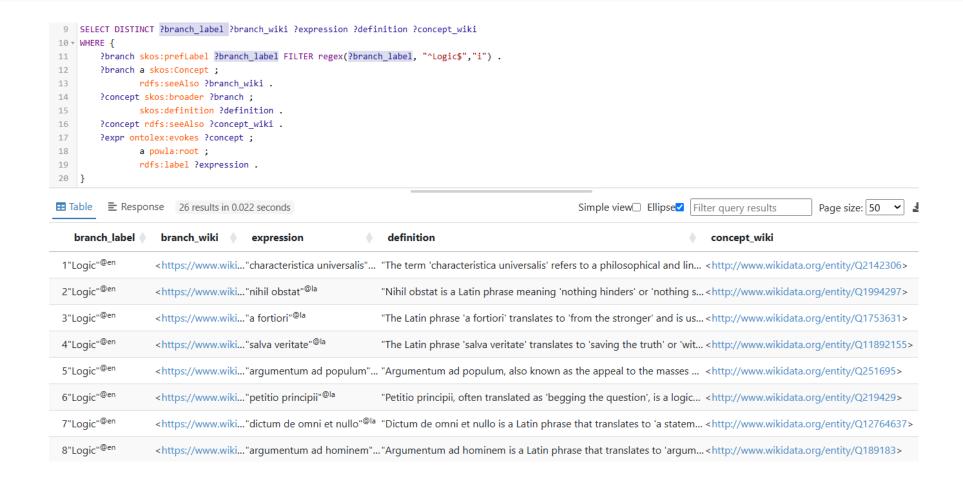


## Expressions connected to Aristotle

```
9 SELECT ?philosopher ?philoexpr
10 v WHERE {
         ?concept rdf:type ontolex:LexicalConcept;
11
12
                      dct:creator ?creator .
13
         ?creator rdfs:label ?philosopher FILTER regex(?philosopher, "^Aristotle$","i") .
14
         ?expression ontolex:evokes ?concept ;
15
                     rdfs:label ?philoexpr.
16
        FILTER (lang(?philoexpr) = 'la')
17 }
18 ORDER BY ?philoexpr
19

    ■ Table    ■ Response    69 results in 0.012 seconds
   philosopher
                                                     philoexpr
 1"Aristotle"@en
                                                    "a dicto secundum quid ad dictum simpliciter"@la
 2"Aristotle"@en
                                                    "a dicto simpliciter ad dictum secundum quid"@la
 3"Aristotle"@en
                                                    "a fortiori"@la
                                                    "a necesse ad esse valet consequentia" @la
 4"Aristotle"@en
                                                    "ab esse ad posse valet consequentia" @la
 5"Aristotle"@en
 6"Aristotle"@en
                                                    "ab ovo"<sup>@la</sup>
                                                   "actus purus"<sup>@la</sup>
 7"Aristotle"@en
 8"Aristotle"@en
                                                    "ad hoc"@la
                                                    "ad infinitum"@la
 9"Aristotle"@en
10"Aristotle"@en
                                                    "amicus Plato sed magis amica veritas"@la
```

## Expressions belonging to "Logic"



## Linked concepts

8 SELECT ?philoexpr1 ?philoexpr2

```
9 ▼ WHERE {
10
         ?concept1 rdf:type ontolex:LexicalConcept .
         ?concept2 rdf:type ontolex:LexicalConcept .
12
         ?concept1 skos:related ?concept2 .
13
         ?expression1 ontolex:evokes ?concept1;
14
                    rdfs:label ?philoexpr1.
15
         ?expression2 ontolex:evokes ?concept2;
16
                     rdfs:label ?philoexpr2.
17
        FILTER (lang(?philoexpr1) = 'la')
18
         FILTER (lang(?philoexpr2) = 'la')
19 }
20
philoexpr1
                                                                             philoexpr2
1"tabula rasa"@la
                                                                            "nihil in intellectu nisi prius in sensu"@la
2"mundus sensibilis"@la
                                                                            "mundus intelligibilis"@la
3"bellum omnium contra omnes"@la
                                                                            "homo homini lupus"<sup>@la</sup>
4"a fortiori"<sup>@la</sup>
                                                                            "a priori"<sup>@la</sup>
5"a fortiori"<sup>@la</sup>
                                                                            "a posteriori"@la
6"per se"@la
                                                                            "per accidens"@la
7"per accidens"@la
                                                                            "per se"@la
8"argumentum ad populum"@la
                                                                            "argumentum ad hominem"<sup>@la</sup>
                                                                            "argumentum ad baculum"@la
9"argumentum ad populum"@la
10"de jure"<sup>@la</sup>
                                                                            "de re"<sup>@la</sup>
```

## Most frequent POS and Nouns

pos_id	token_count	
1POS=NOUN	"148"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	
2POS=ADP	"60"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	
3POS=VERB	"58"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	
4POS=ADJ	"57"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	
5POS=PRON	"29"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	
6POS=DET	"19"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	
7POS=ADV	"16"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	
8POS=AUX	"15"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	
9POS=PART	"11"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	
10POS=SCONJ	"6"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>	

■ Table ■ Response 95 results in 0.021 seconds

lemma	occurences
1homo	"6"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>
2res	"6"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>
3causa	"5"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>
4intellectus	"5"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>
5dictum	"4"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>
6ens	"4"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>
7argumentum	"3"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>
8modus	"3"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>
9mundus	"3"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>
10natura	"3"^^ <http: 2001="" www.w3.org="" xmlschema#integer=""></http:>

#### **UD** annotations

```
8 SELECT ?token ?deprel ?deprel ?deptoken (GROUP CONCAT(CONCAT(?feat); separator="|") AS ?feats)
9 ▼ WHERE {
     ?form ontolex:writtenRep ?wr.
     FILTER (?wr ="Homo homini lupus"@la).
12
     ?root rdf:type powla:root;
           ontolex:canonicalForm ?form .
13
     ?root powla:hasTerminal ?tokenid .
14
     ?tokenid rdfs:label ?token .
15
16 -
     OPTIONAL {
17
       ?deprelid powla:hasSource ?tokenid ;
18
                 powla:hasTarget ?deptokenid ;
19
                 rdfs:label ?deprel .
20
       ?deptokenid rdfs:label ?deptoken
21
22
      ?annotid oa:hasTarget ?tokenid;
23
              oa:hasBody ?featid .
     ?featid rdfs:label ?feat .
24
25 }
26 GROUP BY ?tokenid ?token ?deprel ?deptoken
27 ORDER BY ?tokenid ?feat
```

#### ■ Table ■ Response 3 results in 0.014 seconds

token	deprel	deptoken	feats
1"homo" <sup>@la</sup>	deprel: root	"lupus" <sup>@la</sup>	Number=Sing POS=NOUN Case=Nom Gender=Masc
2"homini" <sup>@la</sup>			Case=Dat Number=Sing POS=NOUN Gender=Masc
3"lupus" <sup>@la</sup>	deprel: obl:arg	"homini" <sup>@la</sup>	Number=Sing POS=NOUN Case=Nom Gender=Masc

```
7 SELECT ?token ?feat ?udfeatid
8 ▼ WHERE {
      ?form ontolex:writtenRep ?wr.
     FILTER (?wr ="Homo homini lupus"@la).
     ?root rdf:type powla:root;
           ontolex:canonicalForm ?form ;
13
           powla:hasTerminal ?tokenid .
     ?tokenid rdfs:label ?token .
      ?annotid oa:hasTarget ?tokenid ;
16
              oa:hasBody ?featid .
     ?featid rdfs:label ?feat;
18
             rdf:type ?udfeatid .
19 }
20 ORDER BY ?tokenid ?feat
21
```

#### 

token	♦ feat	♦ udfeatid
1"homo" <sup>@la</sup>	Case=Nom	<a href="https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Case#Nom">https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Case#Nom</a>
2"homo" <sup>@la</sup>	Gender=Masc	<a href="https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Gender#Masc">https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Gender#Masc</a>
3"homo" <sup>@la</sup>	Number=Sing	<a href="https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Number#Sing">https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Number#Sing&gt;</a>
4"homo" <sup>@la</sup>	POS=NOUN	<a href="https://universaldependencies.org/u/pos/NOUN">https://universaldependencies.org/u/pos/NOUN&gt;</a>
5"homini" <sup>@la</sup>	Case=Dat	<a href="https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Case#Dat">https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Case#Dat</a>
6"homini" <sup>@la</sup>	Gender=Masc	<a href="https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Gender#Masc">https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Gender#Masc</a>
7"homini" <sup>@la</sup>	Number=Sing	<a href="https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Number#Sing">https://universaldependencies.org/u/feat/Number#Sing</a>
8"homini" <sup>@la</sup>	POS=NOUN	<a href="https://universaldependencies.org/u/pos/NOUN">https://universaldependencies.org/u/pos/NOUN&gt;</a>

## Conclusion

## Thank you



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