



The Curious Identity of Michael Field

and its Implications for Humanities Research with the Semantic Web

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&

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Growth of Linked Open Data

- ❖ CKAN Data Hub

2007: 12

2011: 295

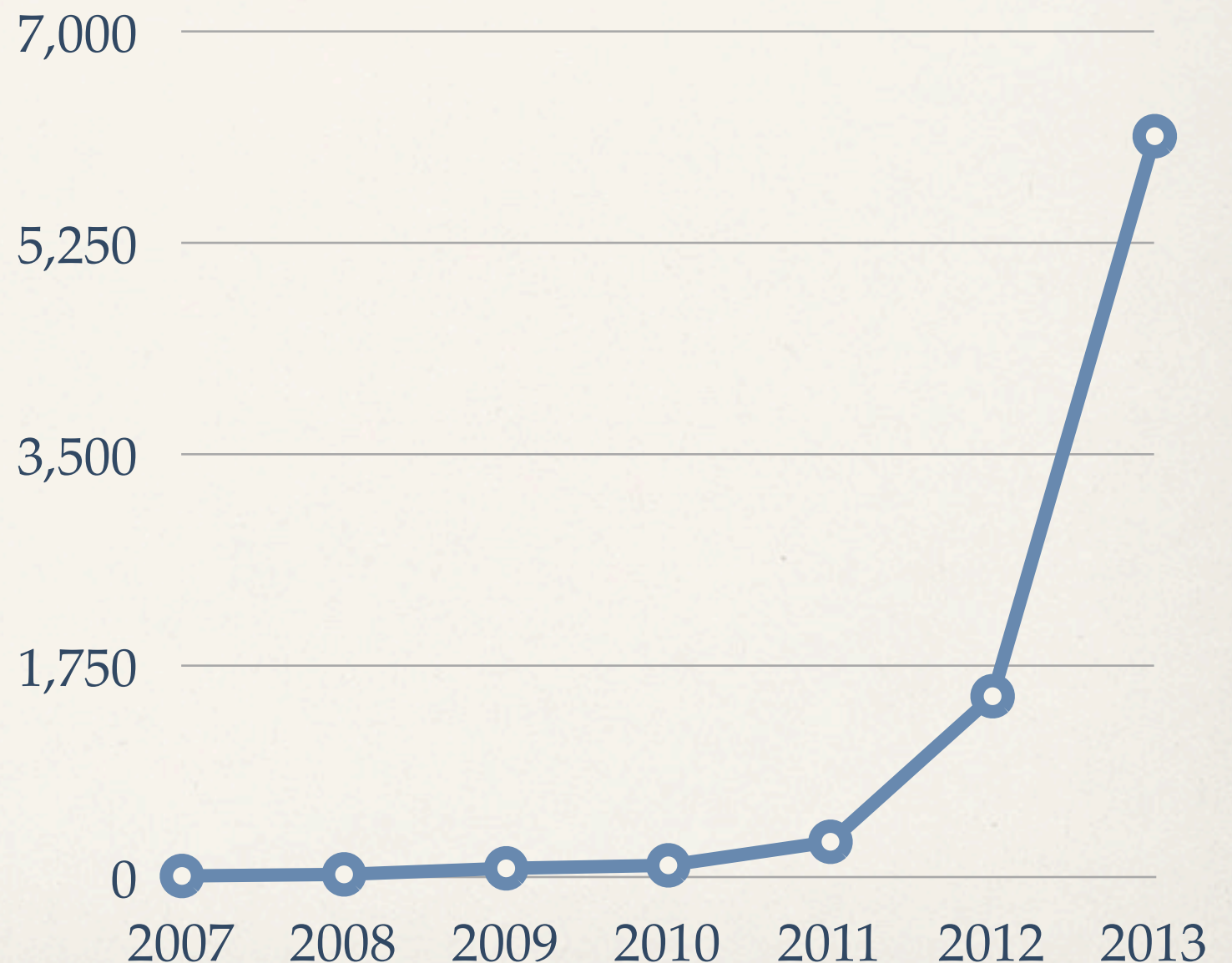
2013: 6,136

- ❖ Swoogle, August 2013

1.9M error free SW docs

- ❖ NJVR, June 2012

15.9M error free SW docs



LOD & SW Humanities Projects

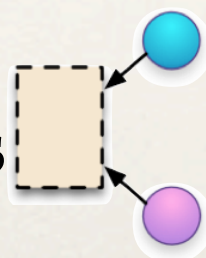
❖ Aggregators



❖ Domain Specialty



❖ General Tools



Shared Canvas

Pundit 



The Goals of Scholarly Tools/Archives

Find all—*and only*—relevant information

Find information that we would not otherwise have

Orlando: Women's Writing in the British Isles

Online cultural history generated from the lives and works of **over 1200 writers**, and for readers with an interest in literature, women's writing, or cultural history more generally. With over **eight million words of text**, it is full of interpretive information on women, writing, and culture. Orlando currently features **1025 British women writers**--listed twice in cases of multiple, shifting, or contested nationality--; **13,607 free-standing chronology entries**; **26,278 bibliographical listings**; **2,499,869 tags**; **8,075,869 words (exclusive of tags)**

<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/orlando/>

Information Jukeboxing

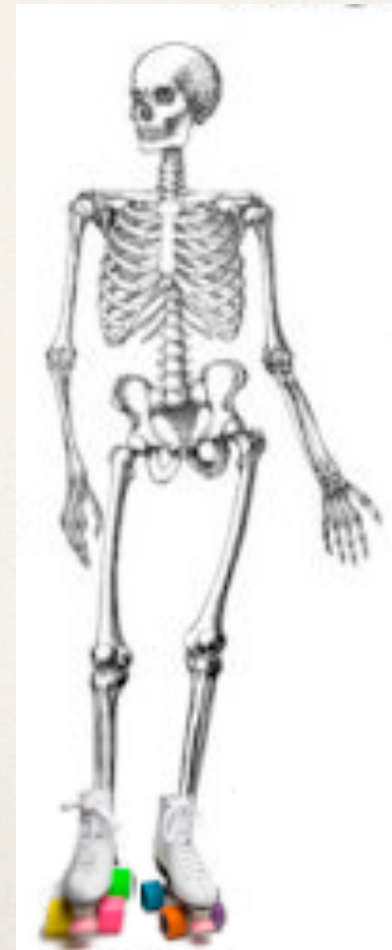
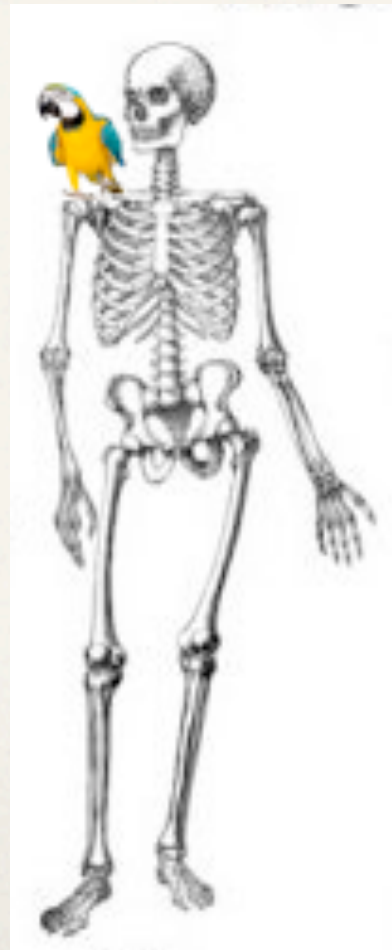
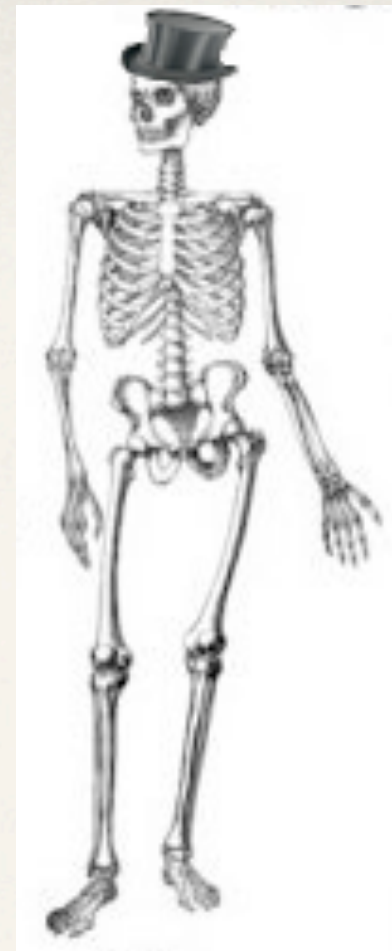
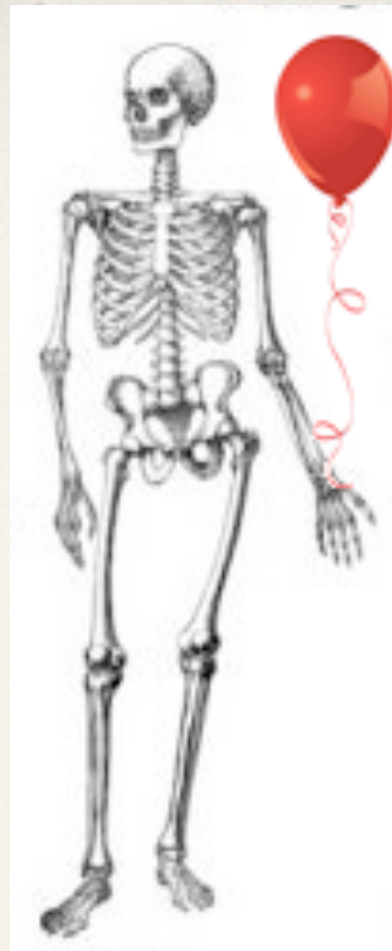
“[M]any linked data points lack the quality to be more than basic information jukeboxes that, in turn, support applications with limited usefulness and shelf life. In short, the current cultural heritage linked data movement, concentrating on access (a fundamental objective), may have ignored some of reasons for establishing networks of knowledge in the first place.”

~Dominic Oldman



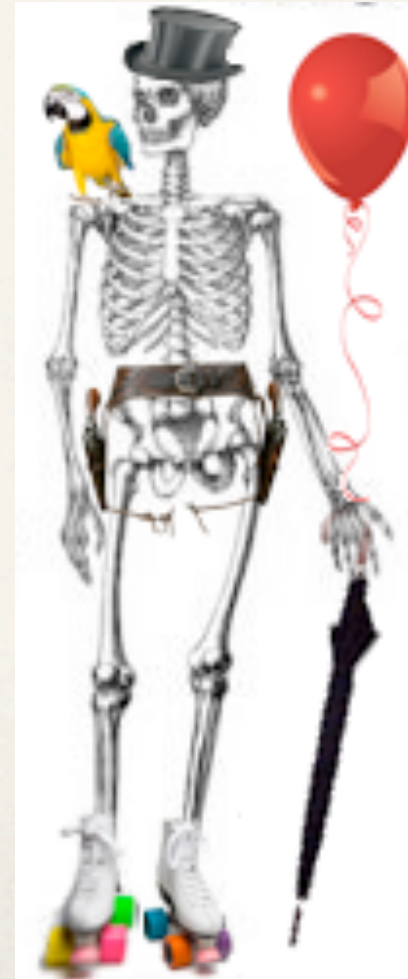
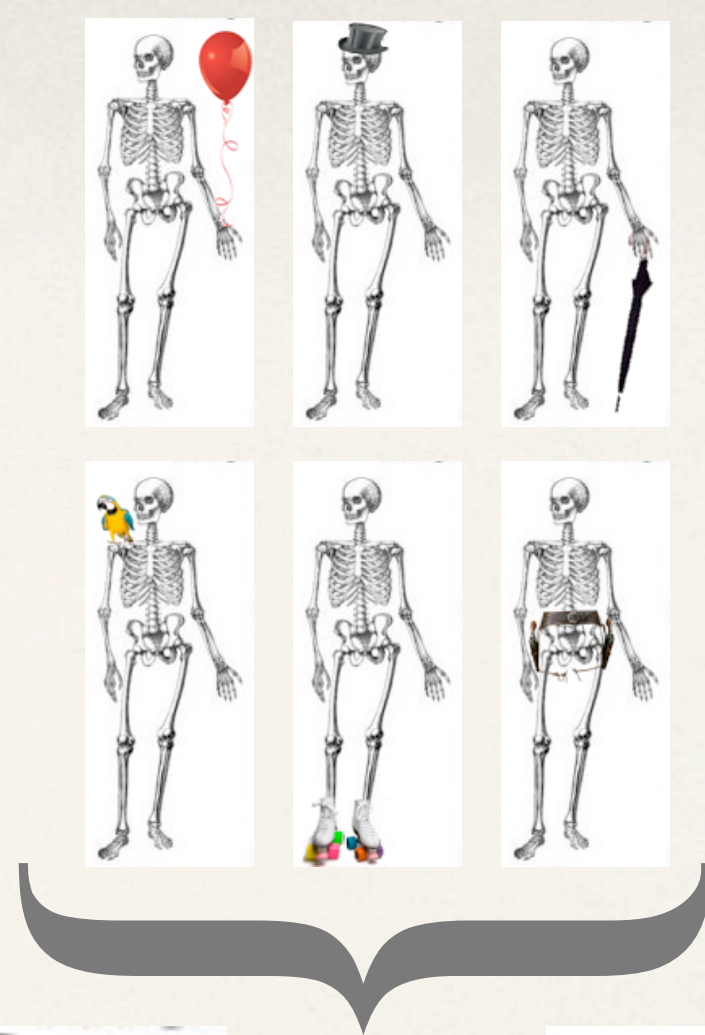
Difference is...

- ❖ distinctions of particularity, specificity, and locality of meaning
- ❖ deviations from the norm: the marginalization and anomalousness associated with categories such as race, gender, or nation are registers of difference
- ❖ key to understanding how literature, culture, and ideas develop.

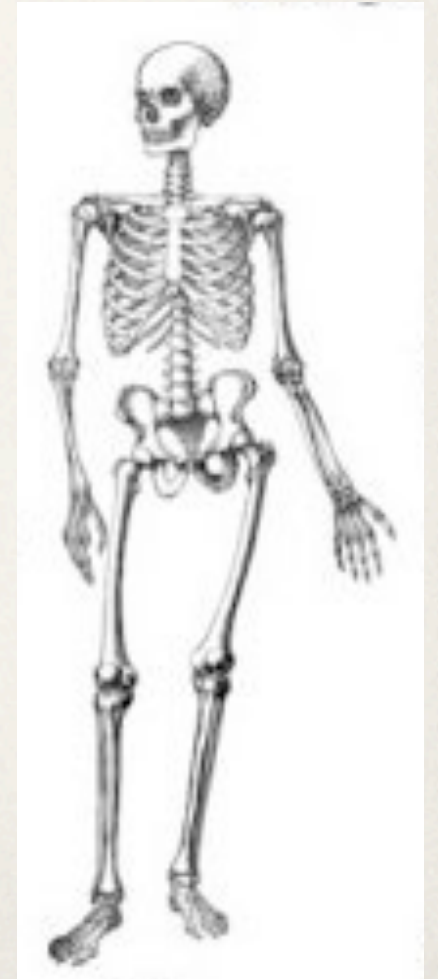


Capturing Difference?

- ❖ By stripping details we lose what is valuable to humanists (ex. Aggregator Projects)
- ❖ By taking everything / anything we lose the precision that the semantic web should support (ex. FOAF)
- ❖ By limiting categories we enforce (strange) normalizations (ex. DCMI)



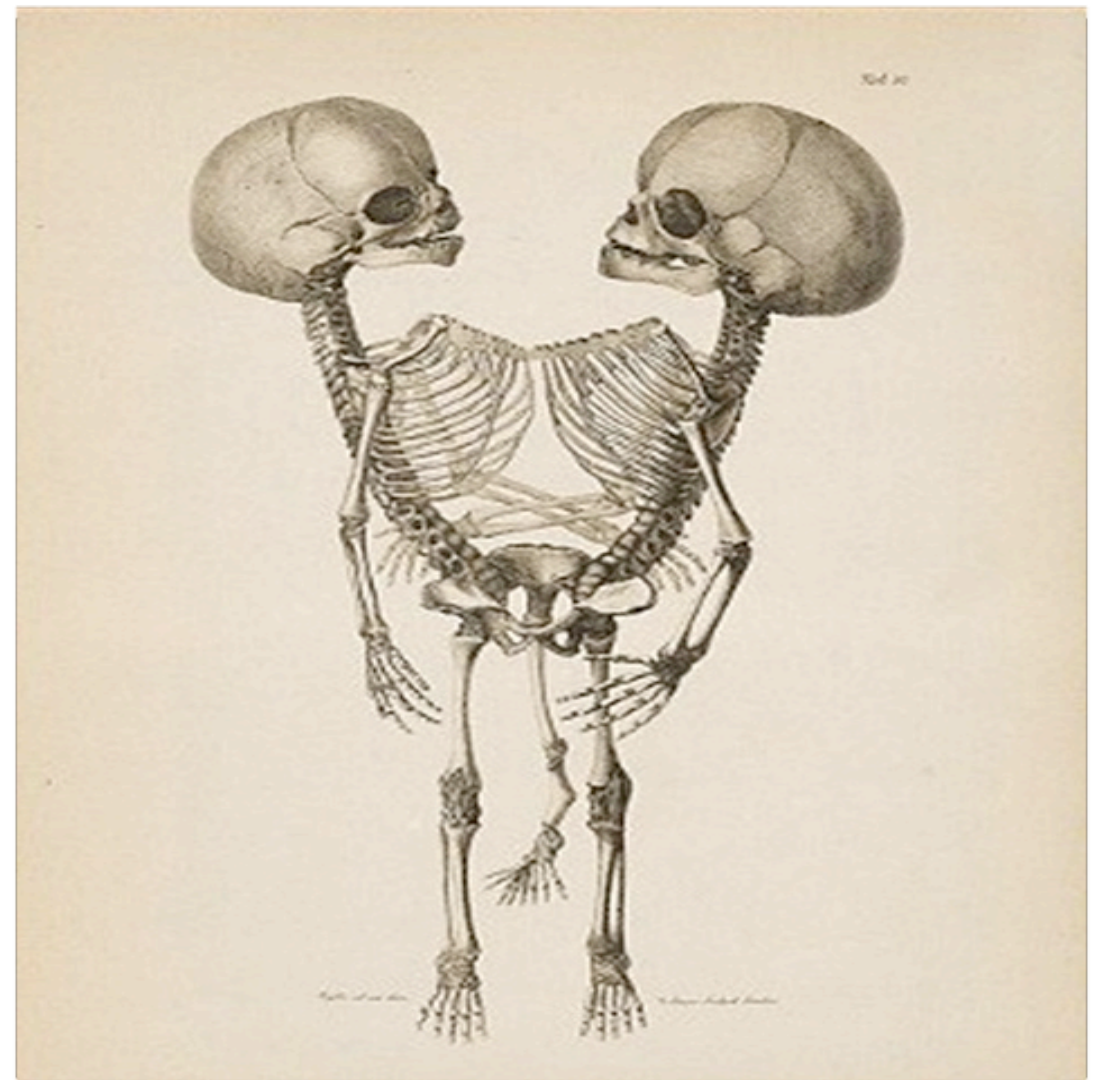
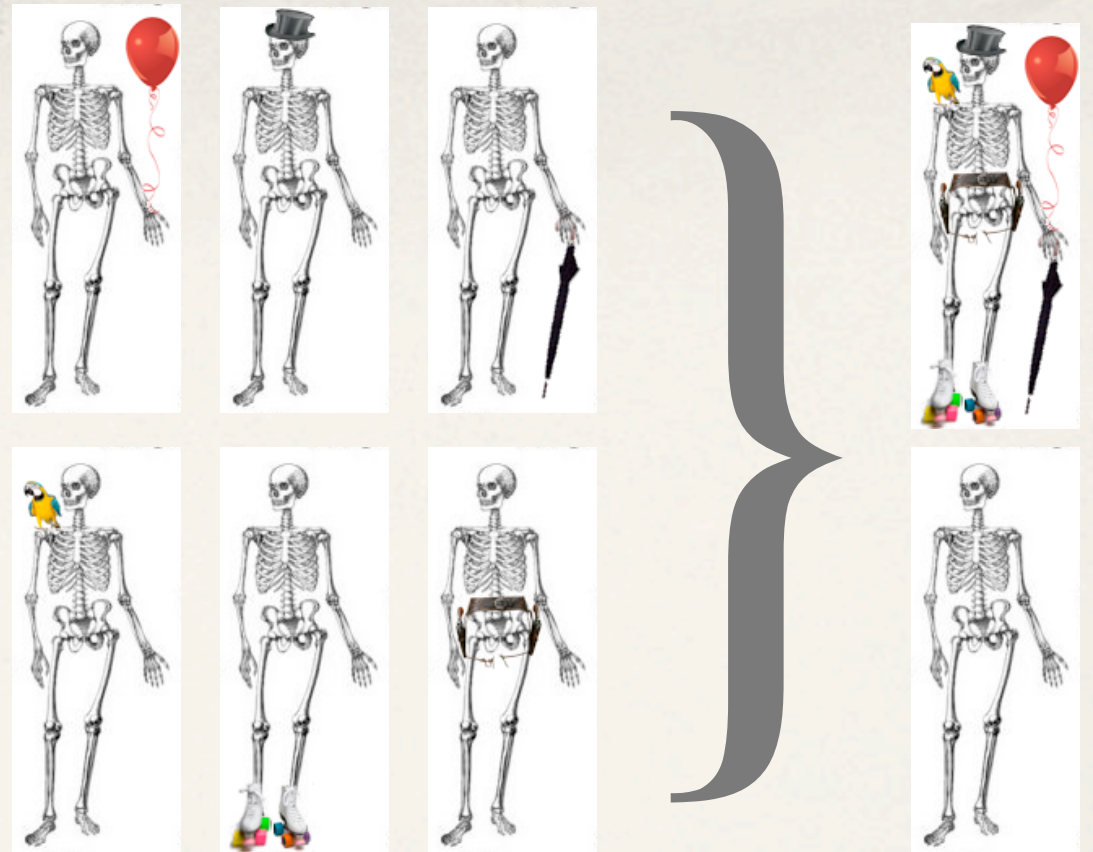
OR



Disregarding Difference

If we unthinkingly construct the semantic web and LOD then we'll accept frameworks that disregard difference of the sort that truly challenges our everyday norms, norms that silently disregard gender, age, species, ability / disability.

But this is exactly what we are doing.



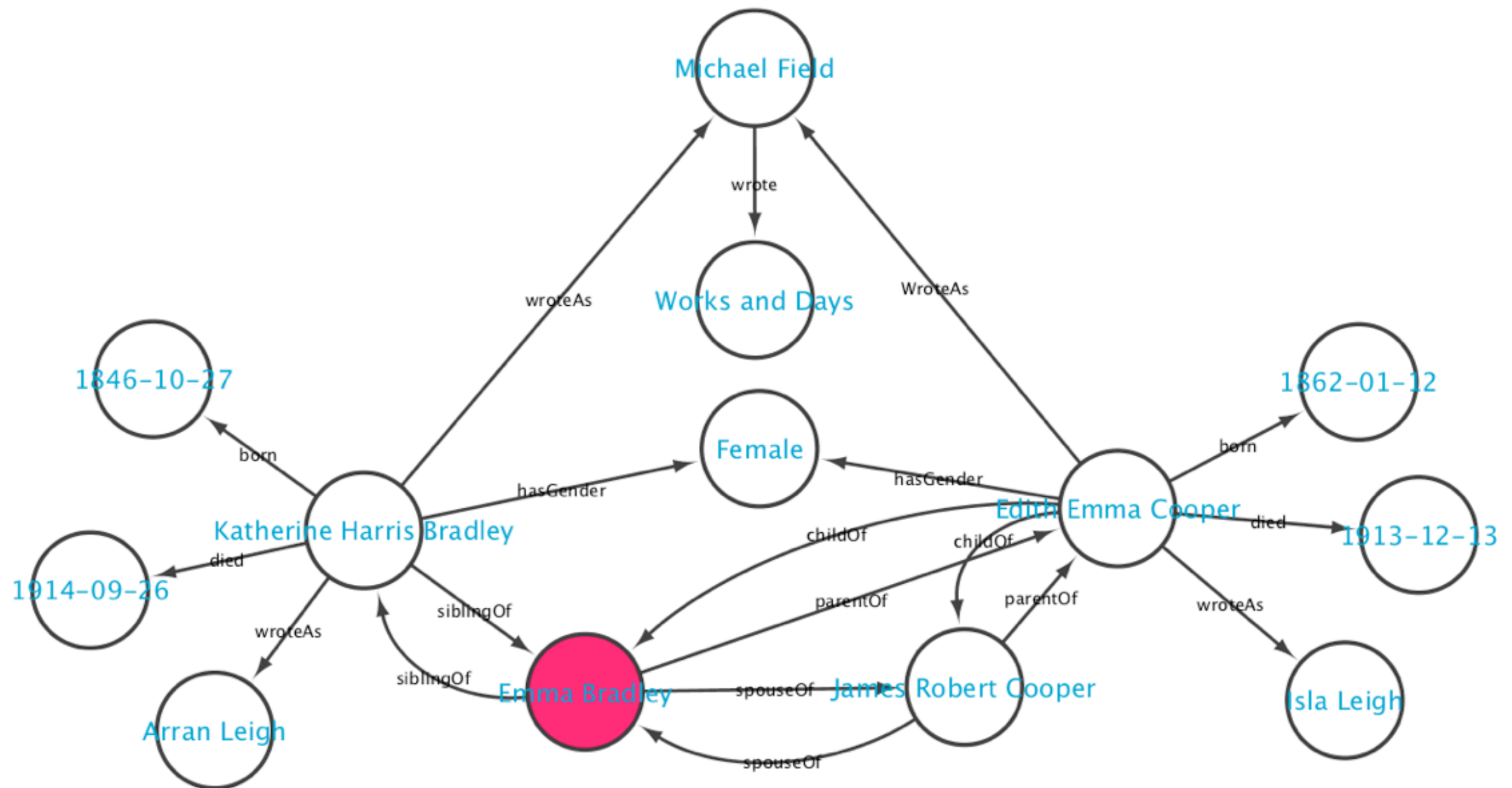
Michael Field

On the surface the author Michael Field was the product of an artistic collaboration between Katherine Harris Bradley and Edith Emma Cooper during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

But beneath the surface...



MF is Complex



MF in DBpedia

Katherine Harris Bradley

OWL:sameAs

DBpedia: Michael Field

Newnham College, Cambridge

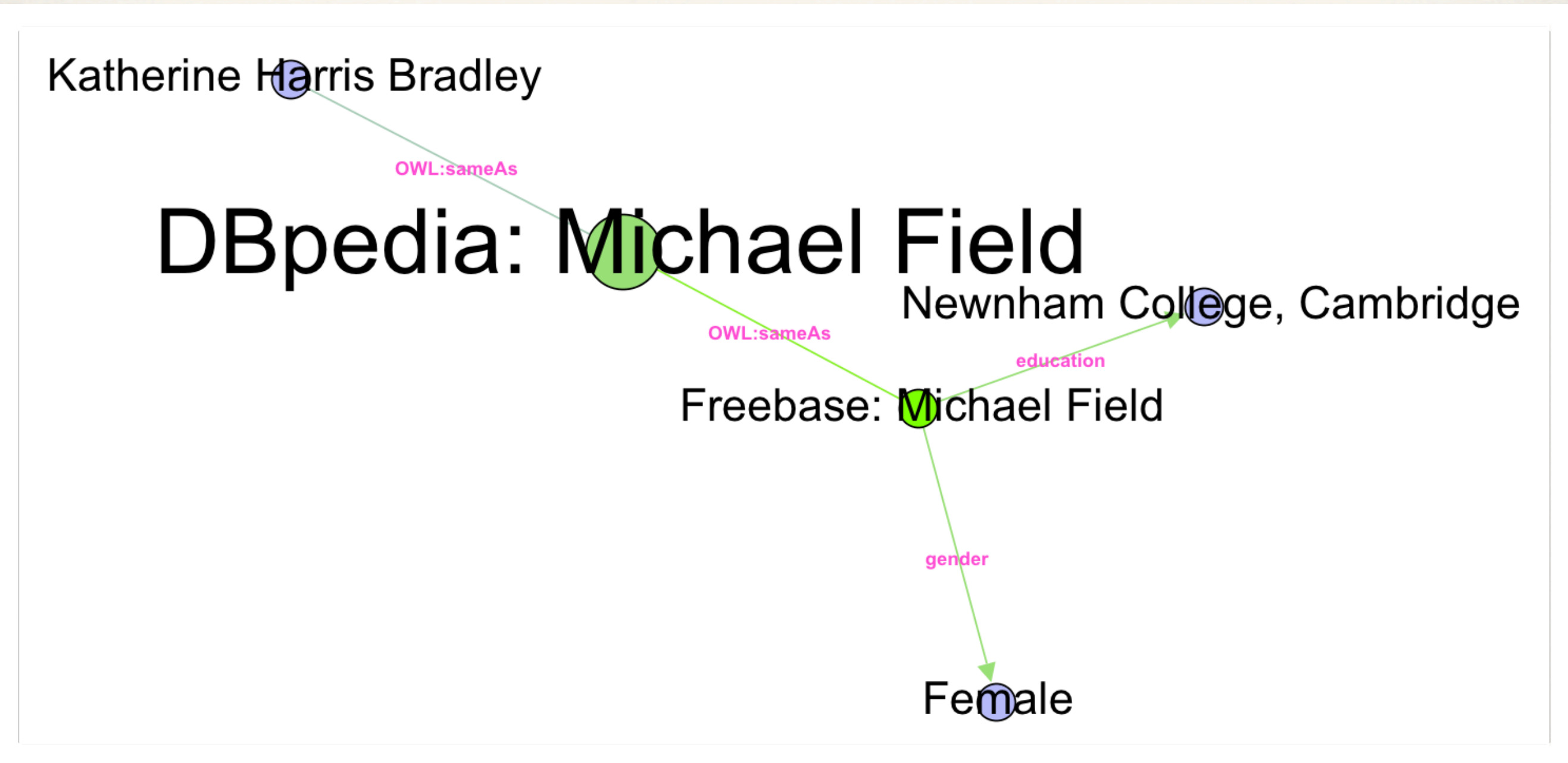
OWL:sameAs

education

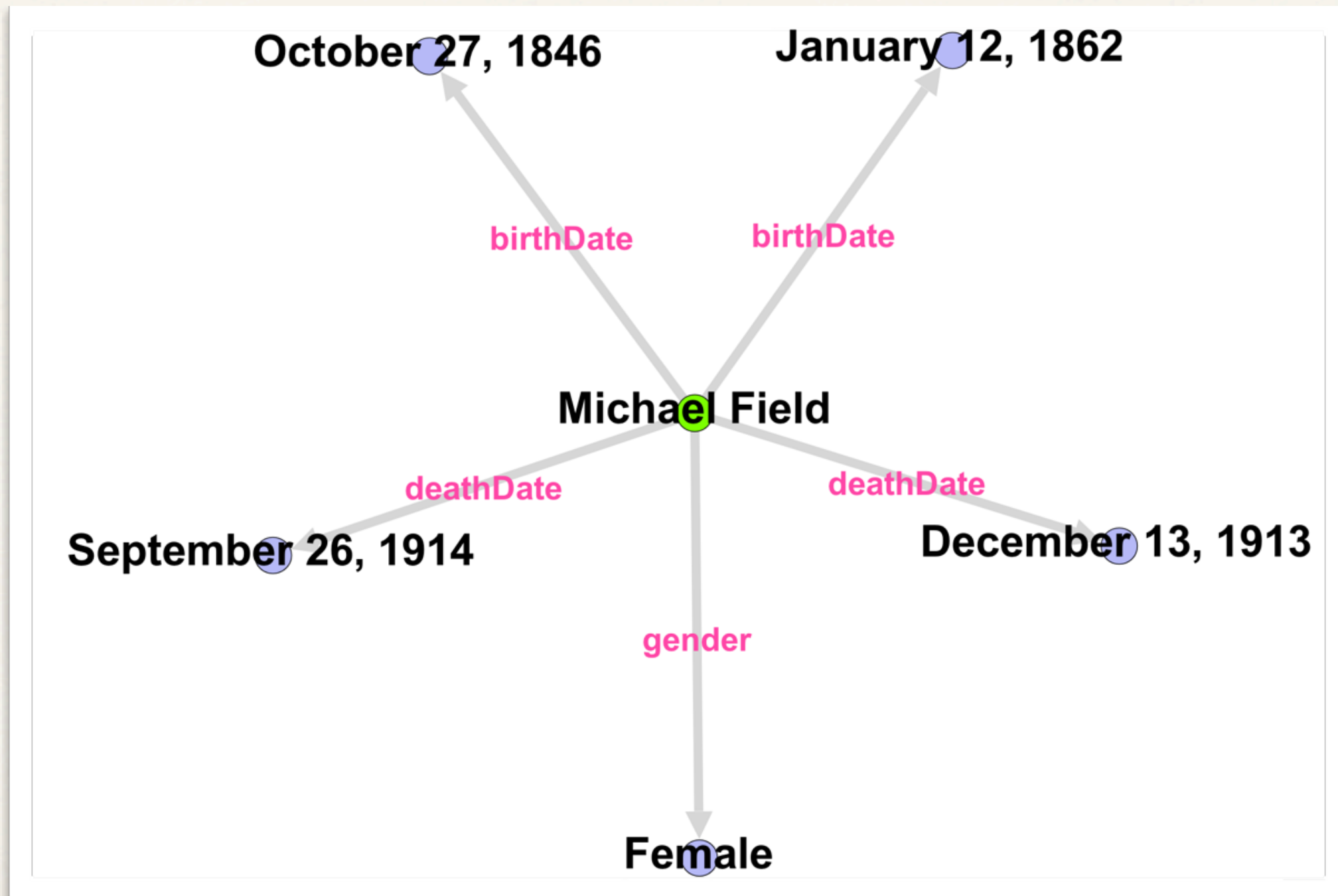
Freebase: Michael Field

gender

Female



MF in Orlando



MF, So What?

“Field is the ontological equivalent of approaching the speed of light, a fringe case beyond everyday experience, indicating that our common sense understandings and knowledge may not be as perfect as we treat them as being...”

Now What?

As a community we must:

1. **Construct more custom ontologies directed at capturing humanities-relevant information** rather than adopting those built by other communities for other purposes;
2. **Pursue the ontology integration techniques already developed** to address the challenges of integration, *despite their complexity and the real possibility that they will not work*;
3. **Design inference engines specifically for humanities research.**