What is an adequate philosophy for knowledge management for an ontologist working in information science? I will contend that the relevant part of knowledge management, namely the theory of knowledge representation, lacks proper foundations. In particular, I will criticize the traditional philosophical approach to knowledge representation, which I call pragmatist conceptualism. I argue on the one hand that its emphasis on pragmatism falls short of providing a reflective and principled methodology, and that on the other hand conceptualism is doomed by its neglect of reality. This paper outlines and defends a clear standpoint of philosophical realism together with a commensurate methodology for the task of the knowledge engineer.

**Theses 1**

To become familiar with the shadows is the beginning of all knowledge and its management.

**Buzzwords**
- real processes, e.g. business processes

**Theses 2**

However, Plato refers to the fact that a theory of the shadows always remains a shadow theory: Not the reorganization of the representation brings us knowledge, but the uncovering of the intrinsic structures of the underlying reality. We are not talking about the restructuring of texts. We are talking about the necessity of strengthening the position of the objects.

**Buzzwords**
- The objects of knowledge vs. Texts
- knowledge as beliefs that are formulated, true and proven
Theses 3
But nevertheless: It is not the reorganization of the representations that brings knowledge but a more in Maieutike (intellectual midwife technique). The implicit knowledge (embodied/tacit knowledge) must be uncovered and made available in formal structures. We are talking about the necessity of strengthening the position of the subjects.

Buzzwords
• The subjects of knowledge
• Virtual knowledge

Papers:

The World Through Manager’s Goals:
A Phenomenological Account of the Etymologies of Data and Information

Fernando M. Ilharco

Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon, Portugal
fmi@fcee.ucp.pt

The notion, concept, word of information is at the centre of much knowledge management research and practice. This paper offers a fresh approach to this central notion by questioning the often taken for granted linear relationship from data-to-information-to-knowledge. Relying on Heidegger’s work Being and Time, as ontological base of the investigation, the paper presents a phenomenological account of the etymologies of data and information, tracing back their origins and evolution, as a way into the phenomena themselves. It is argued that it is not meaning what distinguishes data from information but rather an ongoing course of action in which one always and already is involved. This analysis, hopefully, opens up a sound alternative route for research the phenomenon of knowledge.