



# How to Digitally Map Sex and Gender in Research Projects

Pitfalls and Solutions

Alexander Watzinger

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A Special Relationship? Gender on Medieval Mount Athos

# About the Speaker

Alexander Watzinger (Alex)



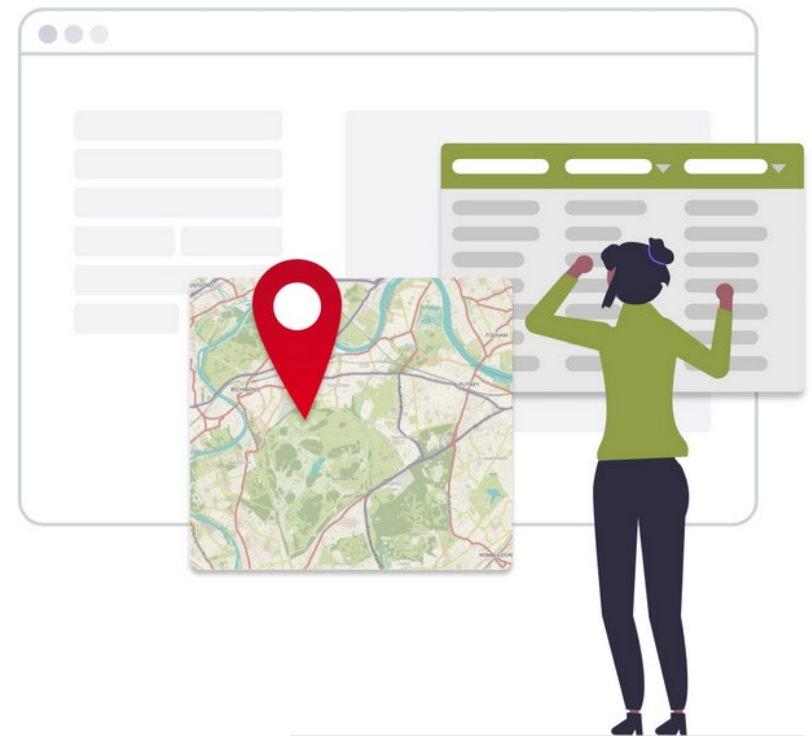
INDIGO workshop 2021

- Lead developer of OpenAtlas
- Works at the ACDH-CH, an institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Loves open source and scientific projects

# About OpenAtlas

<https://openatlas.eu>

- Open source, browser based database software
- Initiated 10 years ago by Stefan Eichert
- Acquire, edit and manage research data
- CIDOC CRM as model
- Cooperation with MAMEMS

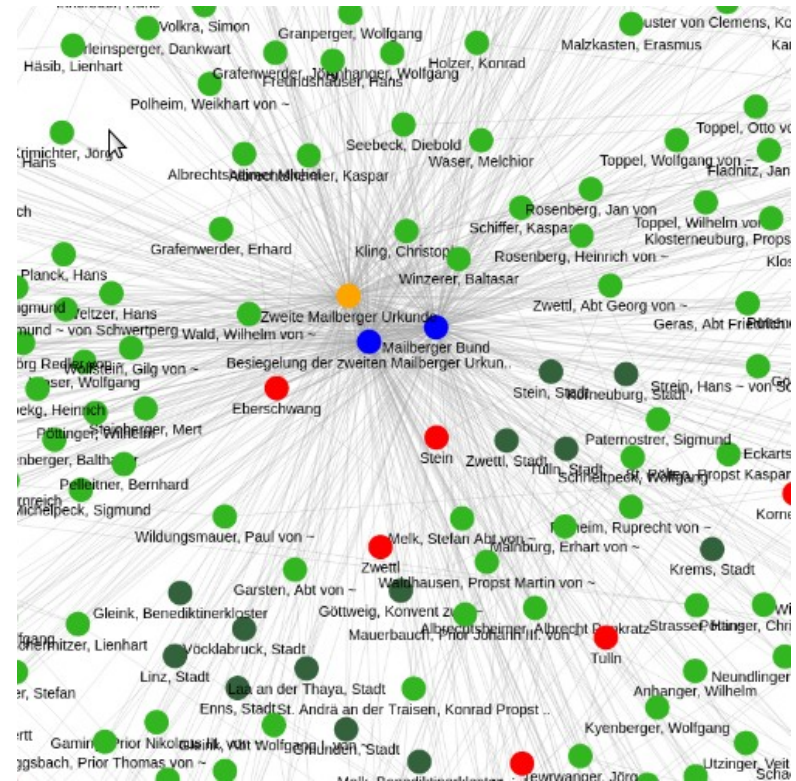


<https://openatlas.eu>

# Structuring Data

Structured data can be used to

- Search fast and easily
- Compare project data
- Merge project data
- Ask research questions
- Create complex visualizations

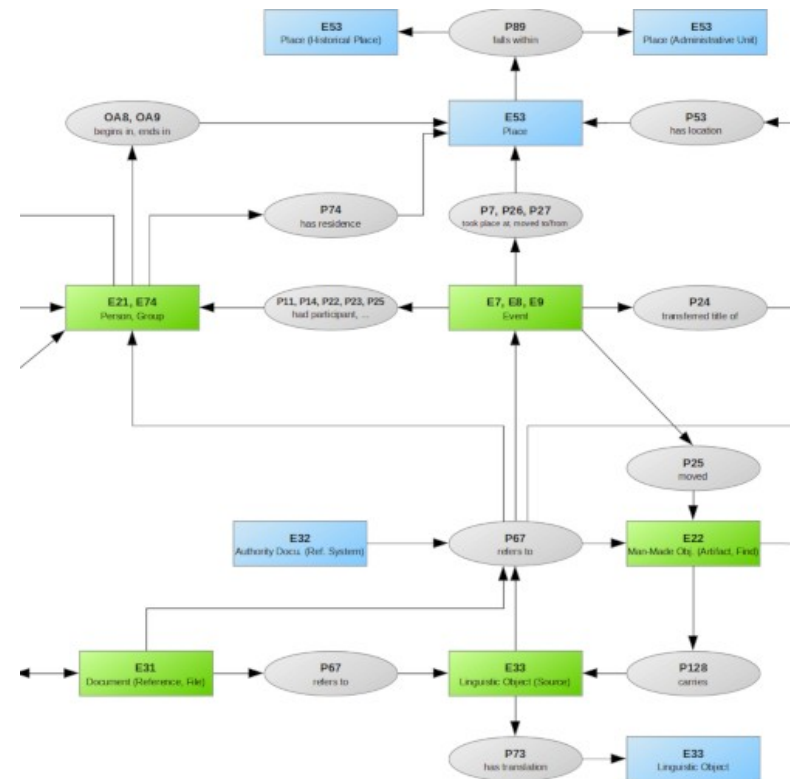


<https://demo.openatlas.eu/overview/network/>

# Structuring Data

## How to structure data

- Identify and classify entities
- Add attributes
- Link entities to create a network
- Balance simplification and need for detail



<https://demo.openatlas.eu/overview/model>

# Map Sex and Gender

A common but bad example

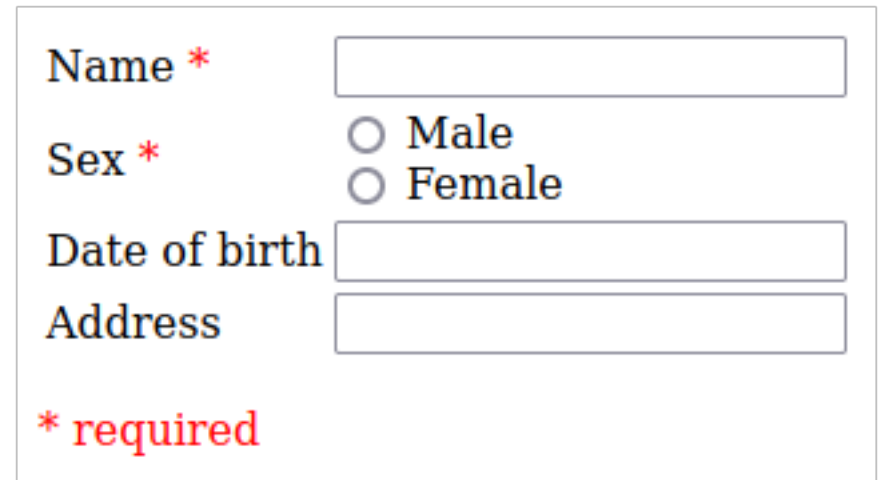
Name *	<input type="text"/>
Sex *	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
Date of birth	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>

\* required

# Map Sex and Gender

A common but bad example

- Very limited choices
- No option to add choices
- Required selection
- Resulting quality of data will be questionable at best



Name \*

Sex \*  Male  
 Female

Date of birth

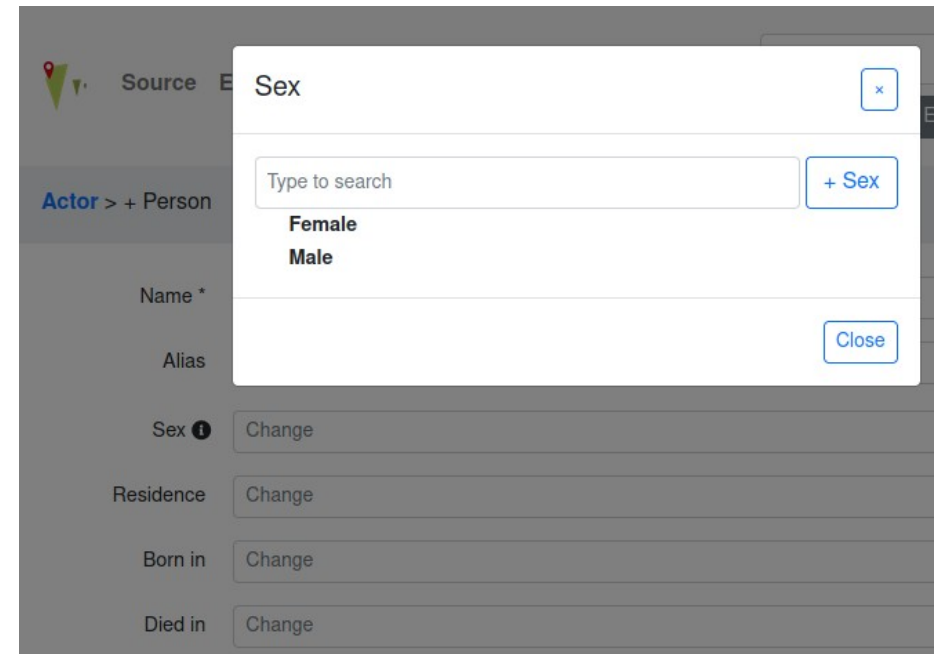
Address

\* required

# Map Sex and Gender

## OpenAtlas Example

- Possibility to add choices
- Option to structure choices
- Option to add new type hierarchies, e.g. gender
- Option to be single or multiple choice
- Not required (default)

A screenshot of the OpenAtlas web interface. The background shows a form for creating a 'Person' entity, with fields for 'Name \*', 'Alias', 'Sex', 'Residence', 'Born in', and 'Died in'. Each field has a 'Change' button. A modal window titled 'Sex' is open, displaying a search bar with the text 'Type to search' and a '+ Sex' button. Below the search bar, the options 'Female' and 'Male' are listed. A 'Close' button is located at the bottom right of the modal window.

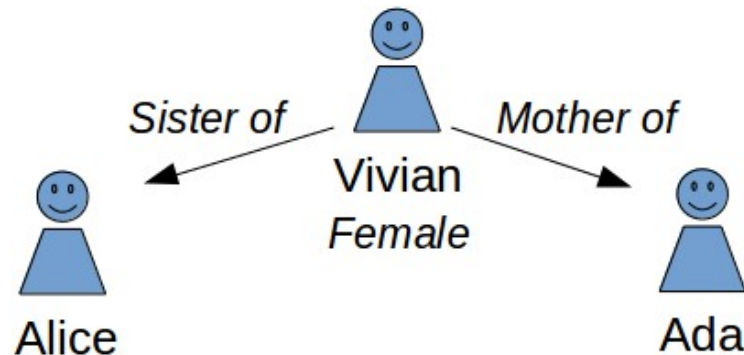
<https://demo.openatlas.eu/insert/person>



# Map Sex and Gender

Do not map sex and gender in relations

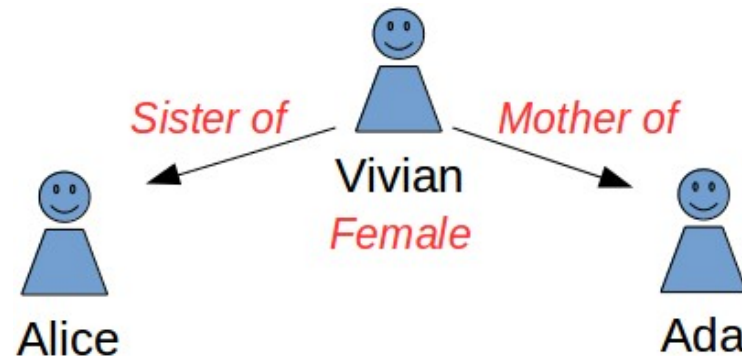
- Vivian is a person who is assumed to be female
- Vivian has a sister (Alice) and a daughter (Ada)
- A mapping might be done like this:



# Map Sex and Gender

Do not map sex and gender in relations

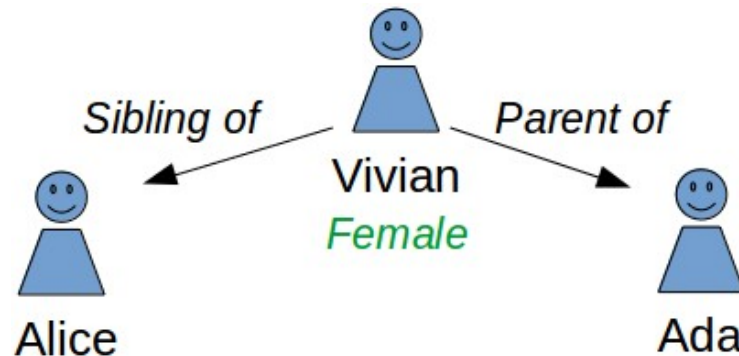
- The issue here is data duplication: the sex of Vivian is mapped as person attribute and also in relations
- Data duplication can lead to conflicting data (DRY)



# Map Sex and Gender

Do not map sex and gender in relations

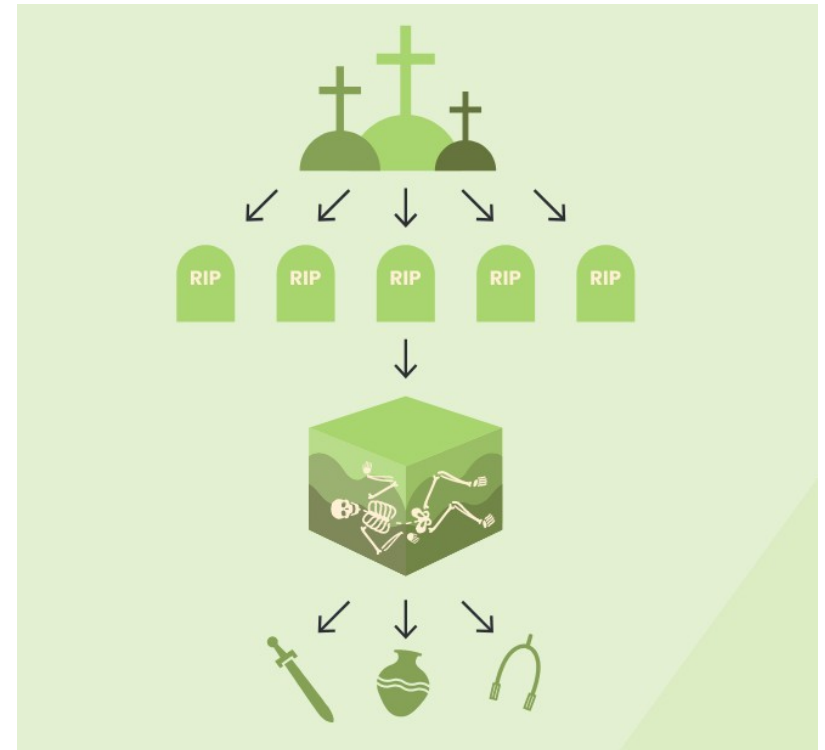
- Keeping person specific attributes out of relations avoids data duplication
- A mapping without data duplication:



# Sex Estimation in OpenAtlas

## Anthropological Analyses

- Anthropological sex estimation
- Published by Ferembach et al. 1979
- Assigning values to bones features
  - Female
  - Likely female
  - Indifferent
  - Likely male
  - Male
  - Not preserved



[https://manual.openatlas.eu/tools/anthropological\\_analyses.html](https://manual.openatlas.eu/tools/anthropological_analyses.html)

# Thank you for listening



<https://openatlas.eu>