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**Thomas Hotz** received his degree in mathematics from the University of Heidelberg, Germany in 2002. He then worked as a research associate at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Leicester, UK. Afterwards he held a position as Associate Statistician at the United Nations Statistics Division, New York, before he returned to Germany. In 2007 he received a PhD from the Institute for Mathematical Stochastics, University of Goettingen, Germany where he currently works as a postdoctoral research fellow. His research interests comprise mathematical and statistical methods in image analysis, as well as for the analysis of shapes; he combines both when studying fingerprints.