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Thomas Niesler obtained the B.Eng (1991) and M.Eng (1993) degrees in Electronic Engineering from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa and a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, England, in 1998.

He joined the Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge, as a lecturer in 1998 and subsequently the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Stellenbosch, in 2000, where he has been Professor since 2012. His research interests lie in the areas of signal processing, pattern recognition and machine learning.