

# Avant-propos

The short title clearly indicates that this book is about  $t$ -motifs. I have tried to come up with a title that would capture slightly more of the contents of this book, but all considered alternatives either did injustice to one or more parts of the text, or were simply too long to be entered into a library catalogue. The reader will easily be able to get an idea of what themes are treated from the table of contents and the introduction. I believe that, despite the range of topics, the present text is reasonably consistent and self-contained. It should be accessible to most mathematicians interested in this subject, even if they have had little or no prior experience with it. It is my hope that also those who have studied  $t$ -motifs during many years of active research will find something new and interesting in it.

Whereas the book owes a lot to the scrutiny of the assessment committee, it would not have existed if it were not for my supervisors Marius van der Put and Jaap Top. I am exceedingly grateful for their guidance, for our brain-storming sessions, for their insistence upon examples and accessible exposition, for accepting me as a full member of our research group. It is a pleasure to thank Jan Van Geel for having introduced me to Dutch Mathematics, and to thank the Algebrists, Geometers, and Number Theorists in the Netherlands and in Groningen in particular for having made me feel at home.

To write a thesis is to produce a manuscript on an unfamiliar subject in a given number of years. To make this into a pleasure instead of a burden requires more than love for Mathematics and an enjoyable working

environment. It demands the warmth and support I have found with my parents, my sister, and with my friends. In particular, these beautiful years would have been unthinkable without Dimitry and Eleonora. This book is for them.

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