Stefan Zaefferer studied physical metallurgy and metal physics at the Technical University Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany, in the famous texture lab headed by Prof. H.J. Bunge. He received his PhD from the same place for a work on transmission electron microscopy on Tialloys. He then spend three years as a researcher at the University Paris XII in Paris, France, and two years at Kyoto University, Japan. Since 2000 he leads the group "Microscopy and Diffraction" at the Max-Planck-Institute for Iron Research in Düsseldorf, Germany, and is lecturer for materials characterization at RWTH Aachen University. He also teaches regularly at Vienna University and is, since shortly, guest professor at IIT Madras in Chennai, India. At all his research positions Dr. Zaefferer was involved with the development and application of techniques for individual orientation determination and lattice defect characterization, first by TEM techniques and then, most prominently, by SEM techniques. Besides development of diffraction techniques his research interests are the mechanisms of microstructure formation in metals and other materials, including deformation, recrystallization and phase transformation. Stefan Zaefferer is author or co-author of about 150 journal papers. He is author. together with Olaf Engler and Valerie Randle, of the 3rd edition of the book "Introduction to Texture Analysis" published in 2024.

