Helmut Riedl is Assistant Professor in Surface Engineering at the Technische Univeristät Wien, Austria. He earned his Ph.D. in 2015 at the TU Wien and is currently in the final phase of his habilitation in 'Thin Film Materials Science'. He leads a dynamic research group dedicated to advancing the understanding of novel coating materials grown through plasma-assisted vapor deposition techniques. Their primary emphasis is on the scientific exploration of ceramic-based coating materials, both experimental and theoretical, with a particular focus on surface protection for highly stressed components. This has broad applications, including aviation, the automotive industry, and energy production, enabling innovative technological approaches. Helmut's research relies heavily on structural and morphological analysis, employing X-ray diffraction (XRD) and electron microscopy (EM) techniques to characterize these cutting-edge coating materials.