Preface

The idea for writing this book emerged in 2009 when Ralf Gerstner from Springer approached us after the *Seventh International Conference on Business Process Management* (BPM'09) in Ulm with the idea of writing a book on process flexibility. There we had given a tutorial on dynamic life cycle support for flexible processes.

Since both of us have been actively collaborating in this research area for many years and have been working on a variety of aspects related to flexible business processes, we were immediately enthusiastic about the idea of writing a book about the state of the art. In addition, we saw the opportunity to present our own work in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

However, we also wanted to write a book that provides a good overview of the area as a whole and as such also covers a considerable amount of new material recently contributed by other researchers. We tried our best to provide a comprehensive, representative, and fair account of relevant work on flexible business process and we hope that we succeeded with this at least to some degree.

Writing a book like this would not have been possible without the help of many others. First of all we would like to thank Ralf Gerstner for motivating us to write a book on flexible processes and for providing guidance throughout this process.

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