

Student project available: *Plastics in the Anthropocene: tracking the sediment record*

Recent studies identify sediment and soil as a major sink for plastic debris in the environment, characteristics such as increasing flux with time, wide dissemination, slow accumulation and long residence time point to plastic as a key marker of the Anthropocene. Key markers could be physical, chemical or biological, but of anthropogenic origin, e.g. novel material, artificial radionuclides, organic and inorganic chemical species. The aim is to work on the sediment record of plastic focusing on a well-recorded, plastic hotspot: municipal landfills.

In order to build this record, we are looking for a student to be involved in the analysis of plastic samples from an excavated municipal landfill dated 1962-1964. The project will be a combination of lab and field work, and sample analysis includes microscopy, mineral analysis, FT-IR, and microbial cultivation.

The project framework could be framed as a PUK, BSc, or MSc and starting date is negotiable accordingly.

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