



Silke Merchel received her diploma in chemistry and PhD at the University of Cologne. She is currently working at the VERA (Vienna Environmental Research Accelerator) facility of the University of Vienna to improve and facilitate the chemical separation of long-lived radionuclides. The resulting data, measured by accelerator mass spectrometry, give quantitative insights into Earth and Planetary Research topics like astrophysics, climate and ocean sciences, cosmochemistry and geomorphology. Silke is addicted to "big machines" like particle accelerators, neutron sources and synchrotron facilities for analytical purposes. She has always been a research nomad - finding herself the most interesting research topics, excellent laboratory working opportunities and nicest colleagues. She worked, e.g., at Forschungszentrum Jülich, University of Cologne, Purdue University, Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry Mainz, Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing Berlin, CEREGE Aix-en-Provence, Helmholtz Institute Freiberg for Resource Technology, Australian National University and Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf. Dr. Merchel is member of the Advisory Editorial Board of "Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research B", the Advisory Board of "MethodsX", the Scientific Advisory Board of the "International Conference on AMS", elected member of the Committee "Erforschung kondensierter Materie mit nuklearen Sonden und Ionenstrahlen" (KFSI) and the Council of the European Association of Geochemistry (EAG).