



**April 24, 2014: Albert Maucher Prize 2013**

Prize winner Kathryn E. Fitzsimmons leads the working group for Luminescence Dating within the Department of Human Evolution at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

Dr. Kathryn E. Fitzsimmons is the winner of the 2013 Albert Maucher Prize in Geoscience of the DFG (German Research Foundation). She has been working in the Department of Human Evolution at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig since 2010. Her research interests concern aspects of environmental change and human-environment interactions. The prize, worth 10,000 euros, was donated by Munich geologist Albert Maucher, who himself received DFG funding at the beginning of his scientific research career. According to Maucher's wishes, the prize expressly recognizes unconventional research approaches and methods. Dr. Fitzsimmons will be awarded the Prize on 23 September 2014.

Kathryn Fitzsimmons studies landscape and environmental change in arid and loess areas over the past 2.6 Million years, during the so-called Quaternary period. She conducts field research and laboratory analysis to better understand the history of environmental change and its impact on humans, with a particular focus on luminescence dating. Fitzsimmons' studies take her to the dunefields of the Australian deserts, the Willandra Lakes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Australia, and to the Eurasian loess steppe in Romania and Kazakhstan. A native Australian, Fitzsimmons graduated from the University of Melbourne with dual Bachelor degrees in Geoscience and German studies. Following an Honours thesis in Geosciences she completed her PhD at the Australian National University in Canberra, where she also worked as a postdoc. She has been working at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, since 2010.