starting September 2017 at the Collaborative Research Center 806 “Our Way to Europe – Culture-Environment Interaction and Human Mobility in the Late Quaternary” at the University of Cologne (subject to the positive decision of the German Research Foundation). The initial contract will be funded for 2 years with a weekly working time of 39.83 hours (100% position) (plus 2 years extension option). Payment is based on the German TV-L E13 scale if terms and conditions under collective bargaining law are fulfilled.

Position:
Radiocarbon analysis is an important dating tool in geological, environmental, and archaeological sciences. If applied to samples containing carbon from different sources or including contaminants from the depositional environment, radiocarbon ages may, however, be biased. Such problems can be circumvented if source-specific organic compounds are isolated from complex samples such as sedimentary organic matter or bones for compound-specific radiocarbon analysis. Within the framework of the DFG-funded CRC 806, we seek a motivated postdoctoral candidate to establish and improve chromatographic analytical methods including preparative LC/DAD and LC/MS for the isolation of different biomarkers including amino acids from bone samples and (phospholipid-) fatty acids from sediments. The position is based in the Geochemistry & Radiocarbon group (www.geologie.uni-koeln.de/1850.html) and will be part of the interdisciplinary cosmogenic nuclide-dating center CologneAMS.

Tasks:
• Establishment of LC/DAD and LC/MS-based preparative separation and isolation techniques for compound-specific AMS 14C analysis including blank C tests
• Conversion of samples to AMS-amenable CO2 and graphite cathodes
• Contribution to developments of micro-scale sample analysis with ultra-small graphitization as well as gas ion source AMS
• Publication of results in peer-reviewed scientific journals

Requirements:
• PhD-level degree in chemistry, environmental chemistry, geosciences, or related subjects with excellent grades
• Practical experience in liquid chromatography
• Preferably experience in (carbon) isotope analytical methods
• Strong interest in technical and analytical work (method development and application)
• Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English

The University of Cologne is an equal opportunities employer. Applications would be particularly welcome from disabled people who may meet the job requirements and will be preferred under provision of equal qualification. Female scientists are strongly encouraged to apply and will be preferred in the case of equally well-qualified candidates.

Application:

www.uni-koeln.de
Please send your documents as a single pdf document (letter of motivation, CV, certificates, names of 1-2 referees) by email to janet.rethemeyer@uni-koeln.de until 30. June 2017.