



Job advertisement

Postdoc position at the Geoscience Department, University of Tübingen

The Micropalaeontology group at the Department for Geosciences at the University of Tübingen (Germany) seeks applicants to fill a **Postdoc position for two years** with a background in isotope geochemistry, modelling, and/or hydrology.

Project: A major challenge in paleo-anthropology is to understand the impact of climatic changes on human evolution. The Hominin Sites and Paleolakes Drilling Project (HSPDP) is currently meeting that challenge by providing records that cover the last ~3.7 Ma of palaeoenvironmental changes all located in close proximity to key paleo-anthropological findings in East Africa. One of the cored climatic archives comes from the Chew Bahir basin in southern Ethiopia, where duplicate sediment cores provide valuable insights about East African environmental variability during the last 550 ka. The lake basins of the East African Rift System including Chew Bahir today contain mainly shallow and alkaline lakes. However, paleo-shorelines in the form of wave cut notches, shell beds, and beach ridges are common morphological evidences for deep freshwater lakes that have filled the basins up to a known overflow level during pronounced humid episodes, such as the African Humid Period (15-5 ka). Unfortunately, further back in time, many of those morphological features disappear due to erosion and the estimation of paleo-water depths depend merely on qualitative proxies from core analyses. The research project aims at providing quantitative information about how wet the region could get by reconstructing freshwater episodes and paleo-lake levels of paleo-lake Chew Bahir, their variability and water provenance, by using a trans-disciplinary approach of geomorphology, isotope geochemistry (strontium, carbon, oxygen), micropalaeontology, hydrology, mass-balance modelling, and paleoclimatology.

The *ideal* applicant should have a background in quaternary geology, paleolimnology and isotope geochemistry with experience in hydro-balance or mass-balance modelling, and a general interest in working on topics regarding human evolution and palaeoenvironmental reconstructions and fieldwork in Ethiopia. The position is available from 1 May, 2017, on and will be open until filled. Salary will be according to the German public service (100% of TVL E13). In case of equal qualification and experience physically challenged applicants are given preference. The University of Tübingen aims at increasing the share of women in research and teaching and encourage female scientists to apply. Please send your application (including application letter, statement of research interests, CV, publication list, certificates) until March, 15, 2017, referring to the announcement code '*micropal-2017-jpp-project*' by email (**one PDF file only!**) to:

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