

Obituary



Christian Blodau passed away in Münster, Germany on July 28, 2016, aged 45. He was a Professor in the Department of Ecohydrology and Biogeochemistry, Institute of Landscape Ecology, at the University of Münster.

Christian was a student at the Universities of Bonn and Bayreuth, Germany, and the University of Indiana, USA and completed his Ph.D. at McGill in 2001 on *Carbon biogeochemistry in northern peatlands: regulation by environmental and biogeochemical factors*. He then returned to the University of Bayreuth, became a Canada Research Chair at the University of Guelph in 2009 and took a prestigious position at the University of Münster in 2011, close to his birth place in Osnabrück.

At McGill, his research involved Mer Bleue and other peatland sites across Canada. His curiosity to further understand the diversity of Canadian peatlands inspired current research projects at Mer Bleue, Luther bog in Ontario and sites in northern Alberta. He has made contributions to our fundamental understanding of how peatlands 'function', through careful analysis of their biogeochemistry and dynamics, resulting in over 80 publications, which have received over 2000 citations.

Moreover, he was generous with his time and expertise for others, and was able to combine a passion for 'science' with a fine sense of humour. He liked Canada and its diversity and loved what Tim Horton's had to offer.

He will be sorely missed and his friends and colleagues at McGill University offer their condolences to his parents and brother and partner Jurga.