

Christina Birkel is an Assistant Professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University and holds a joint position (“Kooperationsprofessur”) at the Technische Universität Darmstadt. Her group focuses on the (non-conventional) synthesis of functional layered and two-dimensional materials, particularly carbides and nitrides. Prior to her appointment at ASU, she was a Junior Research Group Leader – and one of the first Athene Young Investigators – at the Technische Universität Darmstadt, where she completed her *Habilitation* in the field of inorganic chemistry on *Non-conventional syntheses of energy-relevant materials* (2018). For her Postdoctoral project, she worked at the University of California, Santa Barbara with Galen Stucky and Ram Seshadri (2011 – 2013). In 2010, she successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis (*summa cum laude*) with a double degree from the Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz and Seoul National University. She received several awards and fellowships, such as the Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, a Ph.D. Fellowship in the Graduate School of Excellence (MATERIALS Science IN MainZ) and the Mainz Award granted for an outstanding Ph.D. thesis.

