



Karen Edler

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Professor Karen Edler is Professor of Soft Matter in the Department of Chemistry, at the University of Bath. As an undergraduate she studied Science and Law at Sydney University, graduating with a University Medal in Physical Chemistry. She has worked on mesoporous materials since starting her PhD in Chemistry at the Australian National University, with Prof John White, where she studied the synthesis and characterisation of the surfactant templated silicate, MCM-41, using neutron and X-ray scattering. In mid-1997 she moved to Cornell University (NY, USA), at the Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics for a postdoctoral position in the Biophysics Group of Prof Sol Gruner, working on L3 phase surfactant templated silicas. In 1999 she moved to the UK to work on a joint project on secondary templating of mesophase silica with Dr Steve Roser (University of Bath) and Prof Stephen Mann (University of Bristol). In 2000 she was awarded a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellowship which enabled her to start her independent research group at the University of Bath. Since this time, her research group has carried out a range of work on surfactant-templated silicas, titanias, and polymer-based materials focusing on formation mechanisms and growth of free-standing films. She makes extensive use of synchrotron X-ray and neutron scattering techniques to study surfactant interactions in solution with other species, and to follow in-situ self-assembly processes in many materials, across length scales from nanometres to microns. In 2012 she was also appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Physical Chemistry Division, at Lund University in Sweden.