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Dr. Kleinsteuber is Head of the MicAS Group (Microbiology of Anaerobic Systems) at the UFZ Department of Environmental Microbiology. She studied Biology at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany), where she obtained her doctoral degree in 1994. From 1995 to 1999 she was a postdoctoral researcher at the UFZ, and since 1999 she has been working as senior scientist at the UFZ Department of Environmental Microbiology.

Dr. Kleinsteuber's group studies the ecology and physiology of anaerobic microbiota in natural and engineered environments in order to identify microbial key players and their functions and to elucidate carbon and energy flows as well as microbial interactions. The research aims at the biotechnological application of anaerobic microbiota, a deeper understanding of their functions in microbial ecosystems, and novel insights into the ecophysiology of not yet cultured microbes.