



a place of mind

# Simon Goring

University of Wisconsin, Department of Geography

## ***Turning technical challenges into interdisciplinary success: Understanding interactions between climate, vegetation and land use change***



Simon Goring has had a varied academic career: a forest tech, with a diploma from Sir Sandford Fleming and a stint in the woods of northern Manitoba, a canoe guide, and a plant biologist with a B.Sc from UNBC. He finished his Ph.D with Rolf Mathewes in Biology at SFU, using fossil pollen to understand climate and vegetation change in British Columbia. His paleoecology work brought him to a postdoc at the University of Wisconsin in the department of Geography, where he is now an Assistant Scientist, working as the Technical Lead of the Neotoma Paleocological Database, and a member of the Leadership Council for the EarthCube program.

**Abstract:** Recent advances in the data sciences have provided us with a number of new tools for dealing with the scientific "data deluge", however, scientific data are often noisy, poorly collated, and often wrong. This results in solutions that require both technical knowledge and deep disciplinary knowledge. The PALEON project brought together paleoecologists, climate and ecosystem modelers, statisticians and historical ecologists to begin to help improve climate forecasts by constraining slow ecosystem processes using historical data. This talk will review some of the challenges, solutions, and results of this data intensive project, in particular, highlighting the significant impact of EuroAmerican settlement on species distributions and climate relationships in the American Midwest.

◆ Thurs Sept 7, 2017 ◆ 12:30-1:30pm ◆ AERL 120

**IRES Seminar Series – Faculty Lecture**