

# CURRICULUM VITAE

MICHAEL JAMES LETZRING

4385 Driftwood Court  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
Cel.: (252) 412-1059  
mjletzring@gmail.com

## ACADEMIC TRAINING

- PhD**, Interdisciplinary, Historical Geography **2017-2022**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Dissertation: *Cartography, Territory and Empire, Mapping the Alaska Boundary Dispute, 1821-1903*.  
Defended: May 11, 2022  
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Mary Ehrlander
- MSc**, Geography, Major-Geographic Information Science **2014-2017**  
East Carolina University  
Thesis Project: *Mapping historical topography using structure-from-motion methods and archival de-classified satellite imagery*.  
Defended: July 20, 2017  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Thad Wasklewicz
- MA**, Arctic and Northern Studies, Northern History **2009-2012**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Thesis: *Allesandro Malaspina and the Voyage of Disenchantment*  
Defended: May 4, 2012  
Committee Chairperson: Dr. Carol Gold
- BA**, Media, Film and Media Production, **1983-1986**  
Brooks Institute, Santa Barbara California

**Languages:** English (native), Portuguese (conversational)

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Early modern history, nineteenth and twentieth century history of the circumpolar north, history of cartography and geodesy, historical geography. Cartographic design, applied and theoretical geographic information science and instruction, remote sensing, geospatial analysis, historical geography.

## REGIONAL EXPERTISE:

Alaska and the Circumpolar North

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### History

My 2017 MSc Thesis project explores appropriating military reconnaissance products from the cold-war era and re-purposing this archival data for detecting geomorphic change and infrastructure risk in remote and understudied circumpolar regions. Further application of applied interdisciplinary spatial analysis methods was a project for the National Park Service in coastal North Carolina (through East Carolina University) to capture, analyze and visualize threatened historical sites and buildings in 3D for preservation and documentation. My 2012 Ma. Thesis examined colonial Spanish science and exploration embodied in the Malaspina expedition to Alaska in 1789-1794 through a study of the cartographic output of a long-suppressed expedition report. Current in-process projects include an article examining the first U.S. government map of the Alaska territory that would go on to form the basis of United States arguments in the 1903 boundary dispute with Great Britain, and a project studying the development of colonial European toponyms in pre-1867 Russian America.

### Cartography

A parallel and related research interest involves cartography, and research in cartographic history with an emphasis on critical geographic analysis supported by spatial analysis of archival maps using geographic information science-based methodology. Critical historical cartography and geography research topics have included coastal mapping of North Carolina in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, World War II battlefield analysis in the Pacific theatre based on combinations of documentary and cartographic sources and government stereographic aerial mapping technology and methods with relation to the positional uncertainty of military and USGS topographic maps, and colonial cartography of the Northwest Coast.

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

Leonard and Marjorie Wright Endowment scholarship.	2019
Leonard and Marjorie Wright Endowment scholarship.	2018
G. Herbert Stout Award for Innovation Student Papers in GIS.	2017

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Geographers	Member
American Geophysical Union	Member
International Cartographic Association	Member

**ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE****Term Assistant Professor****2024-2025**

Department of History  
 University of Alaska Fairbanks  
 Fairbanks, Alaska

**Teacher-Assistantship****2017-2019**

Department of Arctic and Northern Studies  
 University of Alaska Fairbanks  
 Fairbanks, Alaska  
 Supervisor: Dr. Mary Ehrlander

**Research-Assistantship****2015-2017**

Department of Geography  
 East Carolina University  
 Greenville, North Carolina  
 Supervisor: Dr. Thad Wasklewicz

**Research-Assistantship****2014-2015**

Department of Coastal Resource Management  
 East Carolina University  
 Greenville, North Carolina  
 Supervisor: Dr. Jennifer McKinnon

**NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE****Historian****10/2023-5/2024**

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
 Office of History and Archeology  
*Historical Research and Review, NHA compliance and NHP nominations, BGN nominations*  
*(37.5 hours weekly)*

**Geospatial Analyst****6/2019-8/2023**

Arctic Coastal Geoscience Laboratory  
 University of Alaska Fairbanks  
*GIS, Cartography*  
*(20 hours weekly except field work)*

*Non-academic professional experience contd.***Interpretive Ranger/Media Specialist****5/2010-8/2013**

National Park Service  
 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve  
 Fairbanks, Alaska  
*Interpretive Media Production*  
*(STEP 20 hours weekly except field work)*

**Producer, Director****5/2004-11/2009**

University of Alaska Fairbanks, KUAC Public Broadcasting  
 Fairbanks, Alaska  
*Documentary Television Production*  
*(exempt 40+ hours weekly)*

**Producer, Director****1/1999-3/2004**

Alaska Public Telecommunications Inc., KAKM Public Broadcasting  
 Anchorage, Alaska  
*Documentary Television Production*  
*(exempt 40+ hours weekly)*

**Assistant Director****1/1987-12/1998**

Freelance and Contract  
 Vancouver, British Columbia Canada  
*Film and Video Production*  
*(seasonal contract 40+ hours weekly)*

**Commercial Fisher****6/1987-8/1999**

Alaska, Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, and Prince William Sound Districts  
 Drift Gill Net and Purse Seine Salmon Fishing  
*(seasonal 40+ hours weekly)*

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECTS**

**Analysis of shoreline changes and trends in the coastal  
 community of Dillingham, Alaska: an application  
 of digital shoreline analysis system (DSAS).**

**2022**

*Virtually presented at the 14th WAISC*  
 (Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference and Forum)  
 Co-Author

*Publications and Projects contd.*

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Dillingham Coastal Hazard Report</b><br>Alaska Coastal Geoscience Laboratory<br>Co-Author                                                                                                                      | <b>2022</b> |
| <b>Mapping the Allen Expedition</b><br><i>Presentation and Poster</i><br>American Association of Geographers<br>Co-Author                                                                                         | <b>2019</b> |
| <b>Han Ethnography-Cartographic Analysis</b><br>National Park Service, Astrolabe Geomatic Services<br><i>Cartographic analysis, Geodatabase creation</i><br>GIS Analyst                                           | <b>2019</b> |
| <b>Exploring Coal Creek</b><br>National Park Service, Alaska Interpretive Services<br><i>Virtual Tour and Interpretive Media</i><br>Camera, Editor, Web Author                                                    | <b>2015</b> |
| <b>Monitoring Glaciers in Alaska's National Parks</b><br>National Park Service, East Carolina University<br><i>Interpretive ESRI Storymap with associated media</i><br>Camera, Editor, Web Author, GIS technician | <b>2015</b> |
| <b>'Wolf Research in Northern Alaska'</b><br>National Park Service<br><i>webcast media</i><br>Writer, Director, Editor                                                                                            | <b>2012</b> |
| <b>'Dall's Sheep Population Survey in Arctic Alaska'</b><br>National Park Service<br><i>webcast interpretive media</i><br>Director, Editor                                                                        | <b>2011</b> |
| <b>'Mr. Alaska, Bob Bartlett goes to Washington'</b><br>University of Alaska/ KUAC Public Broadcasting<br><i>Broadcast documentary</i><br>Writer, Director                                                        | <b>2009</b> |
| <b>'STEEP, Saint Elias Plate Tectonics Research Project'</b><br>University of Alaska Fairbanks/KUAC Public Broadcasting<br><i>webcast documentary</i><br>Writer, Director, Editor                                 | <b>2008</b> |

*Publications and Projects contd.*

**'The 49th Star, Creating Alaska'**

**2007**

University of Alaska/KUAC Public Broadcasting

*Broadcast Documentary*

Writer, Director, Editor