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Willem J.D. van Leeuwen received B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Soil Science from the Wageningen University for Life Sciences, the Netherlands in 1985 and 1987 respectively, and a Ph.D. from the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science, University of Arizona, Tucson in 1995. He is the director of the Arizona Remote Sensing Center. Dr. van Leeuwen is an Associate Professor in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment & the School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona, Tucson, where he teaches geographical Field Methods, Biogeography, and Remote Sensing for the Study of Planet Earth. He was part of the MODIS land science team, and worked for 10 years on global spectral vegetation index and albedo product and algorithm development in the US and France. His current research interests focus on the development of tools and methods for characterizing and monitoring habitat, post wildfire vegetation recovery, land degradation, urban and regional land use and land cover classification, and land surface phenology in response to climate variability and human impacts, employing remote sensing (e.g. multi-resolution spectral, and lidar) and geospatial tools. He also works on agriculture and natural resource monitoring and assessment applications in the America's, Central Asia, Africa and Europe. <http://www.snr.arizona.edu/person/vanleeuwen>