



An Invited Lecture

on

“A full-plate tectonic reconstruction of the last billion years - a critical step in understanding how the deep earth controls earth surface systems”

Speaker:

Prof. Alan Collins, FGSAus FAIG

Professor, School of Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences

University of Adelaide

Australia

Date: 28th Aug, 2025

Time: 04:00 P.M.

Venue: MITHAL HALL, DES

Prof. Alan Collins is an ARC Laureate and the Douglas Mawson Professor of Earth Sciences at The University of Adelaide. He is a tectonic geologist who is interested in how the deep earth evolution of the planet has controlled and governed earth surface systems (atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere). He has a BSc (Hons.) degree from the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, The University of London (1993), and PhD from The University of Edinburgh (1997), that examined the tectonics of SW Turkey. This work identified multiple stages of thrust-sheet movement, foreland basin formation and subsequent consumption in the ophiolite-bearing Lycian nappes along the Aegean and Mediterranean coast of Turkey. After completing this, Prof. Alan went down in the crust and back in time to work on the Ediacaran-Cambrian amalgamation of Gondwana, working initially in Madagascar, and later in East Africa, India, Western Australia and East Antarctica. Using tectono-stratigraphic techniques, he has helped unravel much of the East African Orogen to produce a model for the collision of Neoproterozoic India with the central Africa. This work began in Leicester University, UK, and continued in the Tectonics Special Research Centre in Curtin University and The University of Western Australia.

Prof. Collins commenced at The University of Adelaide as a Senior Lecturer in 2005, was promoted to Associate Professor in 2009, and Professor in 2014. His research draws on palaeomagnetism, structural geology, geochronology and sedimentology to answer fundamental geological questions. Over the course of his career, he has received numerous honours, including the Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship (2024) for sustained leadership and mentoring in building Australia's internationally competitive research capacity, the Douglas Mawson Professorship in Earth Science (2024), Fellowship of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (2024), the S.W. Carey Medal of the Geological Society of Australia (2021) for distinction in tectonics research, Fellowship of the Geological Society of Australia (2020), the Research Leadership Award from the University of Adelaide (2018), an ARC Future Fellowship (2012–2016), the Edward A. Flinn Award from the International Lithosphere Program (2007) for outstanding contribution to lithosphere knowledge, the ARC Australian Postdoctoral Award (2000–2003), the ARC International Research Exchange Fellowship (1999–2000), and the Geological Society of London Fermor Fellowship (1997–1999)

Prof. Alan Collins leads the Tectonics and Earth Systems Group (TES) in Adelaide and is always interested in talking to potential students and post docs who share his vision of building a collaborative and supportive environment to learn about this wonderful planet of ours.

