Dr. Alan Whittington  
**EB Branson Professor and Chair of Geological Sciences, University of Missouri, Columbia, USA**

Alan Whittington was born in Edinburgh but grew up in the old glass-making town of Nailsea, just outside Bristol. He received a B.A. (Hons.) in Geological Sciences from the University of Cambridge, and a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from the Open University, where he studied active mountain building processes in the western Himalaya. He learned about glasses, liquids, and rheology as a postdoc at the Institut de Physique du Globe in Paris, and at the CNRS high-temperature lab in Orléans, then studied orogenic processes in Brazil as a postdoc at the University of Illinois. He has been at the University of Missouri since 2002, where he set up experimental facilities for rheology and calorimetry, and is now Professor and Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences. He and his students tackle research questions through a combination of field, laboratory, and theoretical approaches. His interests include the thermal and rheological evolution of solids and liquids, and feedback relations between them, on scales ranging from circumstellar dust grains to lava flows to orogenic belts.