

**Dr. Graeme Smith**  
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Graeme Smith is a senior fellow and associate professor at the Department of Pacific Affairs in the College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University. He is the head of the Department's geopolitics cluster. His team's research focuses on PRC investment, migration, military engagement, policing, technology, and aid in the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Prior to joining the Department of Pacific Affairs, Dr. Smith was a China specialist, having lived in China for seven years, including study and research at Peking University's Department of Political Science and Tsinghua University's School of Environmental Science and Engineering. His doctoral research focused on how Chinese local government did (and more often did not) work, working within a county government. With the changing political climate in the PRC, his research in rural Anhui into sensitive issues such as land and inter-departmental rivalry became risky for his co-researchers in China. A short period of house arrest in a three-star hotel confirmed it was also risky for him.

His first research project in the Pacific looked at China's largest investment in the region, the \$2 billion Ramu Nickel Mine in northern Papua New Guinea. He is the co-author of *The China Alternative: Changing Regional Order in the Pacific Islands* (ANU Press 2021) with the University of Hawaii's Terence Wesley-Smith. His work is published in *The Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Regulation and Governance*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, *Pacific Affairs*, and *The China Journal*. He is the winner of best article prizes in *The Journal of Pacific History* and *The China Quarterly*.

He teaches a master's course on the politics of aid and development in the Pacific. His current and former doctoral students include an Australian Army colonel, a former Chinese diplomat, and a Taiwanese policing expert. He is the co-host of the awarding-winning Little Red Podcast and has just stepped down as the editor of *The China Story*.

He has worked with the U.S. State Department on two projects: one mapped PRC construction companies in the Pacific, and a current project examines the phenomenon of China's "patriotic criminals" in the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

*Dr. Smith has not previously testified before the Commission.*