

Oceania rising: changing regional order and the role of China.

Wednesday 15 July 6pm – 7.30pm

Speakers

Terrence Wesley-Smith

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University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Location

Hedley Bull Lecture Theatre 2

Hedley Bull Centre, Building #130,
Cnr Garran Rd & Liversidge St, ANU

Registration required

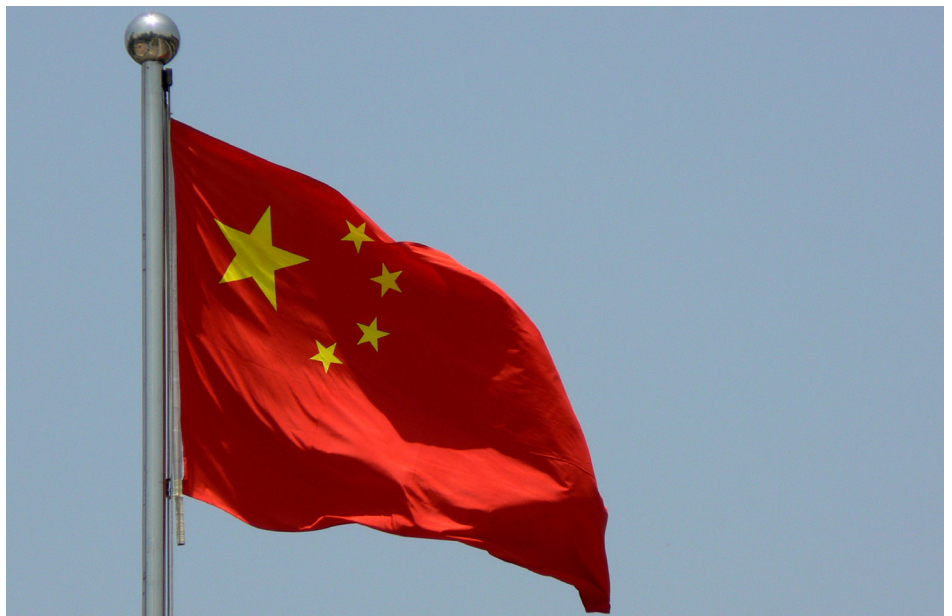
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This lecture is free and open to the public



The foundations of international relations in the Pacific Islands are undergoing profound changes as new alliances challenge a regional order established a quarter of a century ago. Key symptoms of the new dynamics are the growing influence of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the formation of the Pacific Islands Development Forum, the increased salience of south-south relations, and the marginalization of the Pacific Islands Forum. The relative influence of external actors is also changing as traditional allies like Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, compete with new regional trade and development partners, particularly China. The lecture investigates the role of China in the new regional politics. It argues that China's rise in the region has opened up important new economic and political possibilities for Pacific Islands states, and helped facilitate a new assertiveness on the part of island leaders intent on exercising more control over the regional agenda.

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