

# “We like democracy, but elections ruined it’: Thoughts on Democratization in Afghanistan after 2014”

Mr. Scott Smith

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Scott Smith is the Director for Afghanistan and Central Asia Programs at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington D.C. Between 1998 and 2011 he worked for the United Nations, mostly covering Afghanistan, in both the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In 2009 and 2010 he was the Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the United Nations based in Kabul. He first started working in Afghanistan in 1994, for a French NGO providing humanitarian assistance during the civil war. In addition to working on Afghanistan, Mr. Smith has experience working with the United Nations in other conflict zones, including Bougainville, Papua New Guinea (2000), Lebanon (2005), and Cote d'Ivoire (2006). He is the author of *Afghanistan's Troubled Transition: Peacekeeping, Politics, and the 2004 Presidential Election* (Lynne Reinner, 2011), co-editor of *Getting it Right in Afghanistan* (USIP Press, 2013), as well as numerous articles on Afghanistan. He is an adjunct professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Mr. Smith received his Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University (1991) and his Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University's School for International and Public Affairs (1998).

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**Breckinridge Auditorium**

**2076 South Street, MCB Quantico**

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