



The Solomon Islands after the “Switch”: how a major battleground in WW II has once again been turned into a geopolitical hotspot

Patrick Zoll (NZZ)

November 23, 2023 | ONLINE (open to all) - ON-SITE (only for students enrolled in the class: **International Politics of the Asia Pacific: China, Taiwan, US, Japan**)

10:15 - 12:00 (Zurich time)

ABOUT THE LECTURE:

Solomon Islands and China (PRC) established official diplomatic relations in 2019. Prior to this, Solomon Islands entertained diplomatic relations with the ROC (Taiwan). In March 2022 China and the Solomons signed a security pact that allows Beijing to send military personnel to the country, should they request so, to assist in maintaining social order and stability. Concerns over such developments have been voiced by several countries such as Australia and the United States, worried about China's increasing military and security presence in the Pacific.

This lecture provides an overview regarding the growing geopolitical importance of the region (for the USA and Australia) and China's interests in it. The lecture will also address why the switch from Taiwan to China happened and why it is so relevant, by focusing on the tug of war between the US and China and how it affects the Solomon Islands.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Patrick Zoll studied international relations in Geneva and Moscow and later earned a Masters of Advanced Studies in Corporate Communications in Lucerne. From 2012 he worked as NZZ East Asia correspondent based in Tokyo and in 2016 he moved to Australia as Oceania Correspondent. From 2018 onward, in Zurich, he worked as foreign editor responsible for Asia and the Pacific. In September 2022 he relocated to Taipei to report on geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific and in particular the rivalry between China and the USA.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

<https://www.aoi.uzh.ch/de/institut/events/registration.html> Contact: Dr. Simona Grano (simona.grano@aoi.uzh.ch)

