

## Erec Smith Short Bio

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For the Oversight and Accountability Committee: Health Care and Financial Services  
Subcommittee

U.S. House of Representatives

“Sacrificing Excellence for Ideology: The Real Cost of DEI”

June 25, 2025

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Erec Smith is a former Associate Professor of Rhetoric at York College of Pennsylvania and a research fellow at the Cato Institute, where he does research in “Politics and Society.” He is also the co-founder of *Free Black Thought*, a website dedicated to highlighting viewpoint diversity within the African American population. Although he has eclectic scholarly interests, Smith’s primary work focuses on the rhetorics of anti-racist activism, theory, and pedagogy. Smith’s recent writings include several op-eds as well as his books, *A Critique of Anti-Racism in Rhetoric and Composition: The Semblance of Empowerment* (2020) and *The Lure of Disempowerment: Reclaiming Agency in the Age of CRT* (2022).