



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

JULY 15, 2020

RESEARCHER CHARGED WITH ILLEGALLY USING U.S. GRANT FUNDS TO DEVELOP SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE FOR CHINA

U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation | July 9, 2020

A rheumatology professor and researcher with strong ties to China has been ordered held without bond to face a charge of grant fraud for not disclosing that he was engaged in a sophisticated scheme to use approximately \$4.1 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop China's expertise in the areas of rheumatology and immunology. He is also charged with making false statements about maintaining employment in China at the same time he was employed at universities in the United States, including The Ohio State University. Song Guo Zheng, 57, was arrested Friday, May 22, 2020, after he arrived in Anchorage, Alaska, aboard a charter flight and as he prepared to board another charter flight to China. When he was arrested, he was carrying three large bags, one small suitcase and a briefcase containing two laptops, three cellular telephones, several USB drives, several silver bars, expired Chinese passports for his family, deeds for property in China and other items.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA VOWS TO RETALIATE AFTER TRUMP SIGNS HONG KONG SANCTIONS BILL

Steven Lee Myers | The New York Times | July 15, 2020

China on Wednesday sharply criticized President Trump's moves to strip Hong Kong of its preferential trading status with the United States and clear the way for new sanctions on officials and companies there, vowing to retaliate with punitive measures of its own. The response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing promised to continue a pattern of tit-for-tat punishments that have accompanied the sharp downward turn in relations between the two countries on a variety of fronts, from trade to technology to human rights. China was swift to criticize Mr. Trump's latest actions, which he announced at a rambling White House news conference on Tuesday. Those moves, along with his remarks, underscored the extent to which relations with Beijing have become intertwined with the American presidential election.

Read the full article [here](#).



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

U.S. REVERSES STUDENT VISA CURBS AFTER HARVARD, MIT FIGHT

Claire Roth, Janelle Lawrence, and Janet Lorin | Bloomberg | July 14, 2020

Dr. Black and Dr. Keiser discuss how the NIH and NSF are ensuring the security of federally-funded research, while maintaining international cooperation. They also discuss how the NIH and NSF are helping U.S. universities and the U.S. research community adapt to new threats, including foreign talent programs and undue foreign government influence. The briefing highlights how stakeholders across the U.S. research and scientific community are working together toward solutions to address these new challenges. For further background, please see the Department of State's website on Military-Civil Fusion (MCF) policy.

Read the full article [here](#).

RESEARCH SECURITY BRIEFING

Dr. Jodi Back, Deputy Director, Office of Extramural Research, National Institutes of Health; and Dr. Rebecca Keiser, Chief of Research Security Strategy and Policy, National Science Foundation U.S. Department of State Foreign Press Center | July 8, 2020

Dr. Black and Dr. Keiser discuss how the NIH and NSF are ensuring the security of federally-funded research, while maintaining international cooperation. They also discuss how the NIH and NSF are helping U.S. universities and the U.S. research community adapt to new threats, including foreign talent programs and undue foreign government influence. The briefing highlights how stakeholders across the U.S. research and scientific community are working together toward solutions to address these new challenges. For further background, please see the Department of State's website on Military-Civil Fusion (MCF) policy.

Read the full briefing [here](#).

EXCLUSIVE: US NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION REVEALS FIRST DETAILS ON FOREIGN-INFLUENCE INVESTIGATIONS

Andrew Silver | Nature | July 7, 2020

The US National Science Foundation (NSF) has for the first time released figures on the actions it has taken against researchers found to have violated rules on the disclosure of foreign ties. Since 2018, the agency has reassigned, suspended or terminated grants, forced institutions to return funds or barred researchers from applying for future funding in 16–20 cases in which rules weren't followed, according to Rebecca Keiser, the agency's first chief of research security strategy and policy. All of these were cases in which the NSF's Office of Inspector General, an independent body responsible for oversight of the agency and its grant recipients, had investigated and made recommendations on how to handle sanctions. Separately, the inspector-general referred an undisclosed number of criminal and civil cases involving fraud and nondisclosure to the US Department of Justice.

Read the full article [here](#).



SENATORS PROPOSE TO OVERHAUL US RESEARCH SECURITY POLICIES

Mitch Ambrose | American Institute of Physics | July 7, 2020

Visa screening procedures and grant disclosure requirements would be tightened under new research security legislation introduced last month by Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Tom Carper (D-DE). Titled the Safeguarding American Innovation Act, the bill is presented as a systematic approach to guarding against rival governments exploiting the U.S. research system. With 10 Republican and six Democratic cosponsors, the bill stands out amid a pack of other pending research security measures, many of which are backed only by Republicans. It is based in part on a bipartisan staff report released in November by the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee's investigations subcommittee, which Portman and Carper lead.

Read the full article [here](#).

NSF'S HANDFUL OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE CASES MAY BE DUE TO HOW IT INVESTIGATES THEM

Jeffrey Mervis | Science | July 14, 2020

Last week, Ohio State University (OSU), Columbus, immunologist Song Guo Zheng became the latest addition to a growing roster of U.S. academic scientists accused of helping China illegally harvest the fruits of federally funded research. Like Zheng, who has been charged by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) with grant fraud, almost all the cases involve scientists funded by the \$42 billion National Institutes of Health (NIH), which in the past 2 years has aggressively investigated grantees it believes have failed to disclose support from foreign governments. In contrast, scientists with grants from the \$8 billion National Science Foundation (NSF), the nation's second largest funder of academic research, have rarely made the news. That silence correlates with newly released data showing the tiny number of NSF-funded scientists who the agency determined had violated its policies.

Read the full article [here](#).

U.S. WARNS CITIZENS OF HEIGHTENED DETENTION RISKS IN CHINA

Lusha Zhang, Yen Lun Tian, Se Young Lee, and Toby Chopra | Reuters | July 11, 2020

The U.S. State Department warned American citizens on Saturday to "exercise increased caution" in China due to heightened risk of arbitrary law enforcement including detention and a ban from exiting the country. "U.S. citizens may be detained without access to U.S. consular services or information about their alleged crime," the State Department said in a security alert issued to its citizens in China, adding that U.S. citizens may face "prolonged interrogations and extended detention" for reasons related to state security. "Security personnel may detain and/or deport U.S. citizens for sending private electronic messages critical of the Chinese government," it added, without citing specific examples. The state department also did not say what prompted the security alert.

Read the full article [here](#).



ADDING UNCERTAINTY ON TOP OF UNCERTAINTY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

M. Peter McPherson | Forbes | July 7, 2020

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced new guidance Monday allowing the federal government to expel international higher education students if their university campuses are forced to transition to entirely online courses due to COVID-19. Even for international students already living in the United States, a transition to fully remote learning mid-semester could mean they're forced to travel home amid a global pandemic. With many students expecting to start their semester in a matter of weeks, the new guidance may upend students' plans. In the spring the administration rightly granted colleges and universities flexibility in how they may serve international students given the pandemic. They were right to do it then, and would be right to extend that flexibility to give students and institutions what is needed to prioritize health and safety while preserving access to high-quality education. At a moment of uncertainty, this new guidance leaves little flexibility for universities to determine the best approach for delivering high-quality instruction during the pandemic.

Read the full article [here](#).

SCIENTISTS IN CHINA SAY US GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN IS HARMING COLLABORATIONS

Andrew Silver | Nature | July 8, 2020

Scientists in China have told Nature that they are reluctant to travel to the United States for conferences or other research activities even when pandemic travel restrictions lift. They fear being caught up in the US government's crackdown on foreign interference in science and ongoing political tensions between the two nations. The scrutiny has also led some researchers in China to dial back on collaborations with US colleagues and form new partnerships with teams in Europe or Japan. Researchers in both countries say that US policies, such as increasingly onerous visa restrictions on Chinese scientists and students, and tightened export controls, are also having a chilling effect on bilateral research partnerships.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA THEFT OF U.S. INFORMATION, IP ONE OF LARGEST WEALTH TRANSFERS IN HISTORY: FBI CHIEF

Russell Flannery | Forbes | July 7, 2020

China is engaged in a "generational" fight to surpass the U.S. economically and technologically, FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a hard-hitting speech to the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday. To that end, Americans have become victims of information and intellectual property theft that represents "one of the largest transfers of wealth in human history," he said. "The Chinese government is engaged in a broad, diverse campaign of theft and malign influence, and it can execute that campaign with authoritarian efficiency," Wray said. "They're calculating. They're persistent. They're patient. And they're not subject to the righteous constraints of an open, democratic society or the rule of law."

Read the full article [here](#).



'DEFINITELY NO,' I'M NOT A SPY: STUDENT DESCRIBES TOLL OF VISA BAN TARGETING CHINA TECH THEFT

Chris Fuchs | NBC News | July 9, 2020

A Trump administration directive aimed at reining in what it identifies as China's theft of American technology and trade secrets has Chinese students and researchers on edge, including one who described the move to suspend and revoke visas for some as a "nightmare" scenario. "I spend my money, I spend my time and I work very hard," said the student, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing fears of possibly being targeted by the Chinese and U.S. governments if identified. "And now there's a risk that everything will go ... and I'd have to go back to China. It is a nightmare." The proclamation, which took effect June 1, targets an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 individuals with affiliations to universities or entities in China that seek to acquire foreign technology to benefit the Chinese military.

Read the full article [here](#).

STANFORD ACCEPTS \$58 MILLION IN CHINESE CASH WHILE PUSHING GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Christian Schneider | The College Fix | July 2, 2020

At a San Francisco gala in March 2014, Stanford University President John Hennessy accepted an award for the school's "Advancement in U.S.-China Relations." The award was granted by the Committee of 100, a group of Chinese Americans in business, government, academia and the arts, and the school boasted about it on its website. Stanford began accepting Chinese graduate students back in the 1970s. In 2009, the school signed a contract to open a Chinese government-funded Confucius Institute, with the goal of promoting Chinese culture and language. In 2012, under Hennessy's oversight, the Stanford Center at Peking University opened, billed as a "hub" for Stanford students in China.

Read the full article [here](#).

PROFESSOR, CHINESE UNIVERSITY CONSPIRED TO STEAL TRADE SECRETS

Today's General Counsel | July 10, 2020

The DOJ announced the conviction of Professor Zhang Hao, a Chinese national who stole trade secrets from two U.S. tech companies. He worked with China's Tianjin University, and a firm he and a co-defendant started, to unfairly compete in the multi-billion-dollar market for radio frequency filters on electronic devices. Zhang stole trade secrets from Silicon Valley-based Avago, where he was employed and Massachusetts-based Skyworks. He launched a business in China while he was working for Avago and his accomplice, Pang Wei was employed by Skyworks. Both later became professors at Tianjin University and worked with the school to form another company, Novana, using information they stole from the U.S. companies. Zhang patented the stolen trade secrets. He was arrested in Los Angeles during a trip he was making to Phoenix for the international microwave symposium, in 2015. Zhang's sentencing hearing is scheduled for Aug. 31. He faces up to 15 years in prison for economic espionage and 10 years for theft of trade secrets.

Read the full article [here](#).



GRASSLEY ON CHINA TARGETING U.S. RESEARCH

Prepared Floor Remarks by U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley | June 29, 2020

In June of last year, I held an oversight hearing about foreign threats to taxpayer funded research. My goal is to ensure that the government is doing its job to detect and deter these threats. Since COVID, America's greatest minds are working hard to develop a vaccine. Their research will impact the health of Americans and the world. According to the FBI, China has targeted our COVID research to potentially steal our work product. Our government and private sector must guard and fight back against these malicious attacks by the Chinese Communist government. The health of our people and the world depend on it.

Watch the full remarks [here](#).

DOE SPECIFIES 'FOREIGN ADVERSARIES' FOR TRUMP BPS EQUIPMENT BAN

Sonal Patel | Power | July 9, 2020

Taking its first major step to act on President Trump's May 1 executive order (EO) to limit foreign bulk power equipment transactions in the U.S., the Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a definitive list of six foreign "adversaries" that pose threats to the U.S. bulk power system (BPS): China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Venezuela. The list is just one part of a detailed request for information (RFI) the DOE Office of Electricity published in the Federal Register on July 8. While the RFI action is part of a formal effort to identify and understand vulnerabilities in current energy industry practices, it hints at possible next steps the federal government may take to execute President Trump's sweeping May 1-issued Executive Order 13920.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA'S REPUTATION IN THE WEST IS CRUMBLING

P.K. Komnenos | Modern Diplomacy | July 11, 2020

During the past two decades China's steep economic growth and investments in Europe and the United States have failed to produce an image of the country that would at least correlate with that growing influence. With projects ranging from airport and seaport investments to infrastructure construction, China claimed its rightful place as a global player in world economy. We should, however, point out the two major reasons behind China's weakness to cultivate a positive appearance on western world. First and most important factor is China herself. Despite admirable efforts such as the Confucius Institute, the increasingly generous scholarships given to foreign students to study in China's top universities and collaborations on fields of arts and culture; despite the rich history and the influence it will forever exert upon the minds of intellectuals, ranging from military tradition to philosophy and religion; and despite the rapidly growing influence through modern works that become worldwide success in the fields of literature and cinema, the Asian giant hinders its own efforts to create a positive image by failing in the most important field. The field of politics and political influence.

Read the full article [here](#).



THOUSAND TALENTS PROGRAM'S CHINESE SCIENTIST ARRESTED ON THE RUN

Christopher Burgess | ClearanceJobs | July 10, 2020

Chinese Scientist, Song Gou Zheng was confronted in early May by one of his U.S. employers, The Ohio State University, regarding his foreign affiliations and failure to comply with rules surrounding National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grants. In other words, Zheng's Chinese affiliations were benefiting from more than \$4.1 million in NIH funded research at Ohio State. Like many participants in China's Thousand Talent Program, they are rewarded handsomely by China for sharing and advancing China's knowledge in their area of specialization. Zheng's expertise was in the areas of rheumatology and immunology. Zheng was arrested in Anchorage, AK on his way to China on May 22, and his case was unsealed on July 9.

Read the full article [here](#).

5G WILL CHANGE THE WORLD. CHINA WANTS TO LEAD THE WAY

Marguerite Reardon | C|Net | July 10, 2020

China is moving full steam ahead on 5G, barely slowed down by a pandemic that has ravaged the world. This is setting up a race between the nation and the US, which led the way with 4G cellular technology and wants to keep its pole position in this next generation. 5G is the next generation of wireless technology rolling out across the world, promising to deliver much faster wireless service and a more responsive network. It's ability to connect more devices and offer real-time feedback is expected to spark a sea change in how we live and work, ushering in new advances like self-driving cars to advanced augmented reality experiences.

Read the full article [here](#).

COUNTERING RUSSIAN & CHINESE INFLUENCE ACTIVITIES

Heather A. Conley, Rachel Ellehuus, Timothy Kostelancik, Jeffrey Mankoff, Cyrus Newlin, Amy Searight, & Devin Stewart | Center for Strategic & International Studies

The impact of Russian and Chinese malign influence activities within democratic states has come into sharp focus in recent years. In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has created new opportunities for Moscow and Beijing to advance geopolitical goals through disinformation and other influence activities. Despite greater public awareness of the challenge, governments have struggled to respond. The "3 Cs" framework, coined by former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, defines "malign" influence activities as covert, coercive, or corrupting. These influence activities disrupt the normal democratic political processes in a targeted country by:

1. Manipulating public discourse;
2. Discrediting the electoral system;
3. Biasing the development of policy; or
4. Disrupting markets for the purpose of advancing a political or strategic goal.

Read the full article [here](#).



RUNDOWN OF CHINA'S SPY AGENCIES WILL MAKE UNCOMFORTABLE READING FOR SOME

Peter Hartcher | The Sydney Morning Herald | July 14, 2020

You know about the CIA. And the FBI. The whole world knows that James Bond worked for MI6. Everyone knows the name of the Soviet Union's notorious foreign espionage service, the KGB, the training ground for today's Russian President, Vladimir Putin. Most people have heard of the ruthlessly efficient Israeli Mossad. Most Australians have heard of the domestic spy agency ASIO. And a few will know of Australia's overseas spy agency, ASIS. But can you name one of China's intelligence services? Just one? We've heard in recent years that Chinese spying and hacking in Australia is so rife that it's overwhelming our own intelligence agencies. The federal government in 2018 even introduced new laws to try to limit Chinese spying and interference. But we can't name the agencies doing it. Is it because they are so small and insignificant? Today, China has more people engaged in its spying effort than any other country, according to the 2019 book *Chinese Communist Espionage: An Intelligence Primer* by Americans Peter Mattis and Matthew Brazil.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE US-CHINA COLD WAR HAS ALREADY STARTED

Alan Dupont | The Diplomat | July 8, 2020

The rift between the United States and China threatens to become a chasm. Barely a day passes without some tit-for-tat exchange of barbs, accusations, or actions designed to make life difficult for the other country or to trumpet the superiority of their respective political systems. The United States has castigated China for the forced sterilization of Uyghur women; lobbied Europe to ban Chinese security screening firm Nuctech; imposed visa restrictions on Chinese officials held responsible for Hong Kong's new national security law; and placed 90-day limits on work visas for Chinese journalists.

Read the full article [here](#).

REMINDER: LAWS COMPELLING CHINESE COMPANIES TO ASSIST IN CHINA'S NATIONAL SECURITY EFFORTS

National Counterintelligence and Security Center | LinkedIn | July 13, 2020

Below is a reminder of the laws compelling Chinese companies to assist in China's national security efforts. It is important to note that every Chinese technology firm is required by Chinese law to provide information they obtain or information stored on their networks to China's state security apparatus, if requested to do so. U.S. businesses and consumers should be aware of these legal mandates on Chinese companies.

Read the full post [here](#).



THE TROUBLES WITH TIKTOK

Kevin Hulbert | LinkedIn | July 13, 2020

TikTok is a hugely popular social networking app on which users share short videos of usually lighthearted content such as comedy sketches, dances, and lip-syncing performances. The app has been downloaded two billion times and has 800 million daily active users and if you have children who are teenagers, the chances are very high they spend hours a day on TikTok watching countless short videos, most of them 15-60 seconds in length. But, there have been international concerns raised about the app and how TikTok handles user information and privacy. In late June, the Indian government banned TikTok from being used or downloaded on any devices in India. Earlier in the year, the Australian Defense Department and the US Department of Defense independently banned TikTok from being downloaded or used on any government device. Additionally, the US Committee on Foreign Investment (CFIUS) has launched a national security investigation into TikTok, and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated this month that a complete US ban of TikTok was under consideration. Pompeo commented that people should only use TikTok, "...if you want your private information in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party."

Read the full article [here](#).

UK BANS HUAWEI FROM ITS 5G NETWORK IN RAPID ABOUT-FACE

Hadas Gold | CNN Business | July 14, 2020

The United Kingdom has banned Huawei from its 5G telecom network, reversing a January decision to allow the embattled Chinese tech company a limited role in building the country's super-fast wireless infrastructure. Operators such as BT (BTGOF) and Vodafone (VOD) have been given until 2027 to remove existing Huawei equipment from their 5G networks, the UK government announced on Tuesday. Digital and Culture Minister Oliver Dowden said new US sanctions imposed on the company in May had "significantly changed" the landscape. "Given the uncertainty this creates around Huawei's supply chain, the UK can no longer be confident it will be able to guarantee the security of future Huawei 5G equipment," Dowden said.

Read the full article [here](#).

OZ REPORT REVEALS CHINA 'WINNING OVER' KEY INDIVIDUALS WORLDWIDE

DefenceNews | July 12, 2020

A study published by the Canberra-based Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), which is a defence and strategic policy think tank, has made alarming claims that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is controlling and installing influential individuals in community, business and media across the world to strengthen and spread its influence. The study titled "The party speaks for you-Foreign interference and the Chinese Communist Party's united front system", has found that representatives of ethnic minority groups, religious movements, and business, science and political groups in China and overseas are being "won" over by the CCP.

Read the full article [here](#).



DR. SHERY WELSH ACCEPTS POSITION AS DIRECTOR, AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Russ Nelson | The University of Alabama in Huntsville | June 9, 2020

University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) alumna, Dr. Shery Welsh, who earned her PhD in Materials Sciences, has been tapped as Director, Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) in Arlington, Virginia. Dr. Welsh will oversee a staff of 200 scientists, engineers and administrators, not only in the U.S., but also foreign technology offices in London, Tokyo, and Santiago, Chile, while managing a yearly basic research portfolio of nearly half a billion dollars. The goal of this organization is to locate and transition cutting-edge basic research to the Air Force Research Laboratory and other Department of Defense (DoD) elements.

Read the full article [here](#).

PROFESSOR CHARGED OVER SCHEME TO USE \$4M IN US GRANT MONEY TO CONDUCT RESEARCH FOR CHINA

Bradford Betz | Fox News | July 10, 2020

An Ohio State University professor with ties to China is charged with using more than \$4 million in U.S. grant money to develop rheumatology and immunology expertise for the Chinese government, according to an indictment unsealed Thursday. Song Guo Zheng, 57, was arrested on May 22 at an airport in Anchorage, Alaska while preparing to board a charter flight to China, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a press release. At the time of his arrest, Zheng was carrying three large bags, filed electronic devices, expired Chinese passports for his family, deeds for a property in China, among other items, the DOJ said. Thursday's indictment charges Zheng with grant fraud for not disclosing that he was engaged in a scheme to use approximately \$4.1 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to help the Chinese government. He has been ordered held without bond because a judge determined he is a flight risk.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINESE PROFESSOR FOUND GUILTY IN US OF ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE

The Straits Times | June 27, 2020

A Chinese professor was found guilty by a judge of trade-secret theft and an even more serious and rarer charge of economic espionage, marking the latest conviction in the Trump administration's pursuit of Chinese scientists and engineers. At an unusual in-person courtroom hearing on Friday (June 26) during the coronavirus pandemic, a federal judge in San Jose, California, announced the verdict against Hao Zhang. Arrested in 2015 when he flew to Los Angeles for a conference, Zhang was accused of conspiring with a colleague from the University of Southern California to steal and sell American secrets to the Chinese government and military through a shell company in the Cayman Islands. Zhang was charged during an aggressive US crackdown on Chinese theft of intellectual property that began under former President Barack Obama and has continued under the Trump administration, which has applied heavy scrutiny to Chinese scientists doing research in the US.

Read the full article [here](#).



EXCLUSIVE: MASSIVE SPYING ON USERS OF GOOGLE'S CHROME SHOWS NEW SECURITY WEAKNESS

Joseph Menn | Reuters | June 18, 2020

A newly discovered spyware effort attacked users through 32 million downloads of extensions to Google's market-leading Chrome web browser, researchers at Awake Security told Reuters, highlighting the tech industry's failure to protect browsers as they are used more for email, payroll and other sensitive functions. Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL.O) Google said it removed more than 70 of the malicious add-ons from its official Chrome Web Store after being alerted by the researchers last month. "When we are alerted of extensions in the Web Store that violate our policies, we take action and use those incidents as training material to improve our automated and manual analyses," Google spokesman Scott Westover told Reuters.

Read the full article [here](#).

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