



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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IF YOU WANT TO KEEP TALENT OUT OF CHINA, INVEST AT HOME

Ryan Fedasiuk | Foreign Policy | September 17, 2020

Many Americans first heard about China's Thousand Talents Plan when FBI agents led Charles Lieber out of his Harvard office in handcuffs earlier this year. The world's leading chemist, Lieber mentored hundreds of students and chaired Harvard's Chemistry Department while allegedly deceiving the university about his connections to the Wuhan Institute of Technology and Thousand Talents. Lieber's arrest alerted the U.S. public to China's long-standing efforts to recruit overseas scientists. By itself, participating in a talent recruitment program does not constitute a crime—but some participants concealed their affiliations with Chinese universities and double-dipped into the purses of American research institutions. Facing heightened scrutiny, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) issued a gag order on any references to the Thousand Talents Plan, its largest and most infamous talent recruitment initiative, before rebranding it entirely in 2018. But China's recruitment efforts have only expanded and grown more sophisticated since the reinvention of Thousand Talents.

Read the full article [here](#).

RUSSIA'S LIMITS ON CRITICAL THINKING ARE HITTING ITS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Katarzyna Kaczmarek and Dmitry Dubrovsky | The World University Rankings | September 13, 2020

Recent months have seen heated debates in Russia about the limits of faculty and students' rights to undertake public speaking and engage in political activism. Lecturers at the prestigious Higher School of Economics (HSE), once considered Russia's most liberal university, have spent the summer worrying that their criticisms of the political status quo might put an end to their teaching careers. A master's programme was apparently shut down when the university's management realised that Yegor Zhukov – a prominent blogger and participant in the 2019 protests against fraudulent practices in the elections for the Moscow city parliament – was among the newly admitted cohort. He was also badly beaten just hours after he posted a video on YouTube explaining that he had been enrolled and then, less than two hours later, was crossed off a list of students admitted. It has proved contentious for scholars to speak out in public and for students to engage in political activity at least since the 2019 protests.

Read the full article [here](#).



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

FBI FIGHTS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THEFT FROM UNIVERSITY OFFICES

Mariam Baksh | Nextgov | September 17, 2020

The academic sector is becoming more cooperative in efforts to combat intellectual property theft from China with some universities shifting attitudes toward the FBI's presence on campus, Director Christopher Wray said while testifying about worldwide threats to the homeland. "Frankly, this is one of the bright spots over the last couple of years," Wray said before the House Homeland Security and Government Affairs committee Thursday. "I'm struck by the number of ... universities that, a few years ago wouldn't have wanted an FBI office anywhere near campus, [are] some that now have office space set aside for our people." Wray said investigations related to China now represent the vast majority of the bureau's counterintelligence portfolio. On Wednesday, during an annual event hosted by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Wray announced what he said was a new strategy to stem intellectual property theft and all manner of cyber crime by imposing risks and consequences.

Read the full article [here](#).

RACIAL PROFILING CONCERNS AMID CRACKDOWN ON SCHOLARS' CHINA TIES

Diana Kwon | The Scientist | September 17, 2020

As the United States government's efforts to curb China's attempts at economic espionage have ramped up in recent years, so have concerns that these investigations are unfairly targeting individuals of Chinese descent. The case against Franklin (Feng) Tao, a professor of chemical engineering at Kansas University, has been criticized by organizations who say this is the latest in a series of government inquiries that involve racial profiling. Tao was indicted last August on federal charges brought against him for allegedly hiding a relationship with Fuzhou University in China while being employed at the University of Kansas (KU) and thus unlawfully receiving US government funding. According to the indictment, Tao signed a contract with Fuzhou under a Chinese government-sponsored talent program known as the Changjiang Professorship—which posed a conflict of interest to his position at KU—but failed to report this to the university.

Read the full article [here](#).

IS THERE A RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND KNOWLEDGE?

Alan Ruby | University World News | September 19, 2020

Reading the recent claims that 1,000 United States student visas had been revoked or not renewed, I was reminded of my first trip to Beijing over 30 years ago. The aim of the visit was to facilitate the processing of student visa applications to Australia. Thousands had piled up in the Australian embassy and its courtyard. The main concerns were the applicants' health and their capacity to pay. The first was a tuberculosis check which created a bustling covert market in chest X-rays. The second involved furnishing bank statements with healthy balances, at least on the day of printing. Statecraft, security possibilities of espionage or intellectual property theft were at best minor interests. The short game of economic return and cash flow elbowed out strategic and geopolitical concerns. This was the case even though Tiananmen Square had happened just a few months before. Looking back, those early years of the boom in international student mobility now seem innocent, naïve even. Governments have spied on each other for centuries. Entrepreneurs and adventurers have long stolen ideas, machines and breeding stock.

Read the full article [here](#).



INSIDE CHINA'S MASS SURVEILLANCE FOR SECRETS AND SCANDAL

Andrew Probyn and Matthew Doran | RNZ | September 14, 2020

A Chinese company with links to Beijing's military and intelligence networks has been amassing a vast database of personal information, including on Australians and New Zealanders, and prominent and influential figures. A database of 2.4 million people, including more than 35,000 Australians, has been leaked from the Shenzhen company Zhenhua Data which is believed to be used by China's intelligence service, the Ministry of State Security. Zhenhua has the People's Liberation Army and the Chinese Communist Party among its main clients. Information collected includes dates of birth, addresses, marital status, along with photographs, political associations, relatives and social media IDs. It collates Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and even TikTok accounts, as well as news stories, criminal records and corporate misdemeanours. While much of the information has been "scraped" from open-source material, some profiles have information which appears to have been sourced from confidential bank records, job applications and psychological profiles.

Read the full article [here](#).

STUDENTS STUDYING REMOTELY FROM CHINA FACE SECURITY RISKS, WARNS UW PROF

CBC | September 15, 2020

A University of Waterloo professor says he's concerned about security risks for international students who are taking classes remotely from home in China. "During the pandemic, with probably a good number of students in China, what risks to those students are being introduced by presenting certain content, or even having online discussions that might be monitored by Chinese authorities?" asked Emmett MacFarlane, an associate professor of political science at University of Waterloo. MacFarlane also has concerns about the university's use of a VPN service through the Chinese tech company Alibaba. The university started using the virtual private network in the spring. It is intended to give students in China faster access to certain pre-approved online learning websites. But it doesn't lift restrictions on resources that aren't generally available in China, including YouTube and access to certain newspapers and magazines.

Read the full article [here](#).

US REVOKES 1,000 CHINESE STUDENT AND RESEARCHER VISAS

Brendan O'Malley | University World News | September 19, 2020

The United States has revoked more than 1,000 visas for Chinese nationals under a 29 May proclamation by President Donald Trump, suspending entry of students and researchers from China, according to the US State Department. "As of September 8, 2020, the department has revoked more than 1,000 visas of PRC [People's Republic of China] nationals who were found to be subject to Presidential Proclamation 10043 and therefore ineligible for a visa," a US State Department spokesman said. In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry accused the US of "naked" political persecution and racial discrimination and threatened to "make a further response on this issue", according to a 15 September Reuters report. Dozens of Chinese students enrolled in US universities said they found out about their visa being blocked by email notices from the US embassy or consulates in China on 9 September, Reuters reported. They were advised to seek new visas.

Read the full article [here](#).



US CHARGES 5 CHINESE CITIZENS IN GLOBAL HACKING CAMPAIGN

Eric Tucker | WIS News | September 16, 2020

The Justice Department has charged five Chinese citizens with hacks targeting more than 100 companies and institutions in the United States and abroad, including social media and video game companies as well as universities and telecommunications providers, officials said Wednesday. The five defendants remain fugitives, but prosecutors say two Malaysian businessmen charged with conspiring with the alleged hackers to profit off the attacks on the billion-dollar video game industry were arrested in Malaysia this week and now face extradition proceedings. The indictments are part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to call out cybercrimes by China. In July, prosecutors accused hackers of working with the Chinese government to target companies developing vaccines for the coronavirus and of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of intellectual property and trade secrets from companies across the world.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE STATE OF U.S.-CHINA QUANTUM DATA SECURITY COMPETITION

Tom Stefanick | Brookings University Tech Stream | September 18, 2020

In 2019, a team of Chinese technicians, engineers, and scientists sent pairs of photons from a single satellite called Micius to two ground stations in China separated by over 1,120 kilometers. The photons were prepared in such a way that they carried information that remained perfectly correlated in spite of the distance between them. In addition, the two receiving stations in China were able to ensure that the two receivers could not be disrupted or deceived by any third party. The experiment demonstrated the ability to share secret cryptographic keys between the two locations in China, with no known means for a third party to covertly observe or copy them. Although the rate of the key exchange was too low for practical use, the achievement represented a step toward secret communications guaranteed by the laws of physics. Several countries have spent decades trying to find ways of moving data that are both cost-effective and secure by investing in quantum communication technology. The surge in China's work in the field dates to 2013, when the release of classified information by Edward Snowden detailing U.S. intelligence capabilities caused deep concern in Beijing.

Read the full article [here](#).

BANNED CHINESE SCHOLAR SAYS GUILTY OF EMOJIS, NOT SECURITY RISK IN AUSTRALIA

Kirsty Needham | Reuters | September 14, 2020

A Chinese scholar banned from Australia on security grounds says he has become critical of Canberra in recent years but is no security risk, adding his biggest contribution to a WeChat group at the centre of a security investigation was usually an emoji. A decision by Australia's national security agency to cancel the visas of two Chinese academics of Australian literature has embroiled Canberra's oldest soft power programme in China in a bitter diplomatic dispute. One of the banned academics, Chen Hong, had drawn recent attention for criticising the Australian government in the Chinese newspaper The Global Times. Chen told Reuters in an interview that he became critical of Australia after 2017, when Canberra began a "heatbreaking" noisy political debate about Chinese influence. "I don't think Australia is a country that should be clamping down on voices," Chen said. "In my classroom my students all know that I am an 'Australianist'," he said. Chen teaches Australian culture at the East China Normal University in Shanghai, where he is director of the Australian Studies Centre.

Read the full article [here](#).



SALE OF RESEARCH TO CHINA NEEDS TO BE HALTED: ACADEMICS

Wu Po-hsuan, Lin Hsiao-yun, and William Hetherington | Taipei Times | September 20, 2020

Academics have called on the government to crack down on researchers selling their work to China, saying that most research is funded by taxpayers and should belong to the private institutions where the researchers are employed. Those who run for leadership roles in public universities should be honest and upright, but cases such as the last presidential election at National Taiwan University (NTU) and most recently at his own university showed that this is often not the case, Liu Chih-cheng (劉志成), a chemical engineering professor at National Taiwan University of Science and Technology in Taipei, said on Wednesday. Those who take on part-time appointments, or participate in China's Changjiang Scholars or Thousand Talents programs might contravene the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area (台灣地區與大陸地區人民關係條例) or Article 34 of the Act Governing the Appointment of Educators (教育人員任用條例). Through the two programs, China aims to attract international academic talent, including from Taiwan, and this allows it to purchase Taiwanese research for a comparatively small sum, Liu said, adding that the government subsidized that research for a decade or more using taxpayers' money.

Read the full article [here](#).

US ISSUES SWEEPING NEW TRAVEL WARNING FOR CHINA, HONG KONG

In Homeland Security | September 15, 2020

The U.S. on Tuesday issued a sweeping new advisory warning against travel to mainland China and Hong Kong, citing the risk of "arbitrary detention" and "arbitrary enforcement of local laws." The advisory is likely to heighten tensions between the sides that have spiked since Beijing's imposition on Hong Kong of a strict new national security law in June that has already been met with a series of U.S. punitive actions. The statement warned U.S. citizens that China imposes "arbitrary detention and exit bans" to compel cooperation with investigations, pressure family members to return to China from abroad, influence civil disputes and "gain bargaining leverage over foreign governments." "U.S. citizens traveling or residing in China or Hong Kong, may be detained without access to U.S. consular services or information about their alleged crime. U.S. citizens may be subjected to prolonged interrogations and extended detention without due process of law," the advisory said.

Read the full article [here](#).

US SOCIETY AT RISK AS IT DECOUPLES FROM CHINA IN SCIENCE AND TECH

Yuki Okoshi and Yuki Misumi | Nikkei Asian Review | September 20, 2020

The U.S. government is starting to exclude Chinese students and researchers, while the Chinese government is going its own way when it comes to developing science and technology, trends that academics say will hollow out the institutions America has come to rely on to maintain its global competitiveness. Researchers from the hegemon are used to collaborating and in many cases have become interdependent, but the U.S.-China decoupling in scientific research puts American science and technology advances at risk. "I thought studying in Japan would be better than in the U.S.," said Wang Yuchen, who is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Tokyo. Wang graduated from Peking University in 2016, having majored in physics. Accepted by Princeton University, he chose not to go.

Read the full article [here](#).



WHEN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS POSE A VERY REAL RISK

Ayumi Teraoka | *The Japan Times* | September 20, 2020

As tensions between the United States and China intensify, the former's moves to decouple the two nations appear to extend beyond the economic realm of goods, services and the financial sector. Washington has now tightened regulation on people-to-people exchanges between the two countries that have served to consolidate the foundation of bilateral friendship for the past half a century. The U.S. government decided to ban the entry of Chinese graduate students and researchers with links to the Chinese People's Liberation Army and cancel the visas of such people already in the U.S., effective June 1. The ban is said to have affected at least 3,000 people. Similarly, Republican senators introduced draft legislation in May that would bar Chinese nationals from receiving student or research visas for the U.S. for graduate or postgraduate studies in science, technology, engineering or mathematics fields.

Read the full article [here](#).

EXPERTS CALL ON CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES TO CLOSE OFF CHINA'S ACCESS TO SENSITIVE RESEARCH

Evan Dyer | *CBC* | September 15, 2020

The U.S. State Department revealed last week that, over the past three months, it has expelled more than a thousand Chinese "high-risk graduate students and research scholars" who were working at American universities. The State Department said their visas were revoked under Presidential Proclamation 10043, issued by President Donald Trump at the end of May to counter "a wide-ranging and heavily resourced campaign to acquire sensitive United States technologies and intellectual property, in part to bolster the modernization and capability of its military, the People's Liberation Army." The individuals whose visas were revoked represent only a small fraction of the 370,000 Chinese nationals studying in the U.S. — and a big escalation in Washington's conflict with China over the control of the world's most coveted technologies. Washington is not alone in suggesting that the Chinese military has encouraged or even enlisted academics to collaborate with counterparts in the West, in person or remotely, while masking their affiliations with the People's Liberation Army [PLA] or its institutes of learning, such as the National University of Defence Technology.

Read the full article [here](#).

AFTER TRUMP'S TIKTOK BAN, CHINA READIES BLACKLIST OF FOREIGN COMPANIES

Keith Bradsher and Raymond Zhong | *The New York Times* | September 19, 2020

As the United States and China trade blows over technology, Beijing on Saturday moved to create a blacklist of foreign companies seen as threatening its national security or acting against Chinese business interests. The plan for a blacklist, which was short on details and included no companies' names, appeared to be retaliation for the Trump administration's decision to ban the Chinese-owned apps TikTok and WeChat from American app stores starting at midnight on Sunday. Tensions between Beijing and Washington have intensified in recent months, accelerating a downward spiral in economic and diplomatic relations. The confrontation now encompasses the two countries' policies on trade and technology, as well as on Taiwan, Hong Kong, human rights and other issues. Many recent actions by the United States have prompted countermoves by China. The People's Liberation Army sent 19 fighter jets and bombers into the Taiwan Strait on Saturday and 18 the previous day to protest a visit to the island democracy, which China claims as its territory, by a senior State Department official.

Read the full article [here](#).



U.S. BANS CHINESE APPS TIKTOK AND WECHAT, CITING SECURITY CONCERNS

Katy Stech Ferek and John D. McKinnon | The Wall Street Journal | September 18, 2020

The Trump administration will begin banning downloads and use of popular Chinese-owned apps TikTok and WeChat late Sunday, in a move U.S. officials said was driven by national-security concerns but which drew objections for impinging on free-speech rights. The Commerce Department issued regulations Friday to bar U.S. companies from providing downloads or updates for the TikTok and WeChat apps after 11:59 p.m. Sunday. Companies will also be banned from providing data-hosting services for WeChat at that time. "Each collects vast swaths of data from users, including network activity, location data, and browsing and search histories," the Commerce Department said.

Read the full article [here](#).

INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WARN AGAINST CHINA'S TALENTS PLAN

Nathan Greenfield | University World News | September 12, 2020

On Boxing Day 2019 Professor Barry Sanders of Canada's University of Calgary woke up to discover that his name had been featured in a Washington Post article detailing the links between Dr Pan Jian-Wei, who heads China's quantum technology programme, and the Chinese defence establishment. As a member of China's Thousand Talents Plan (TTP), Sanders, a physicist who works on quantum computing, spends several months each year working in a laboratory directed by Pan. Sanders was unimpressed with the article's reliance on the Quantum Dragon Report issued by the Washington DC-based Strider Technologies, which he called "a start-up company that writes reports used by the CIA [Central Intelligence Agency] to make decisions".

Read the full article [here](#).

GUIDELINES TO COUNTER FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN HE UNVEILED

Brendan O'Malley | University World News | November 14, 2019

The Australian government has unveiled best practice guidelines to counter foreign interference in the Australian university sector and "ensure that our students and research are protected". The guidelines, which have been developed in collaboration with universities and national security agencies working in a University Foreign Interference Taskforce, set out practical steps universities can take to preserve the integrity of the higher education system. Minister for Education Dan Tehan said the guidelines would ensure that universities had the policies, frameworks and strategies in place to protect against foreign interference while maintaining their autonomy.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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