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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**October 14, 2020**

## **ON TRANSPARENCY AND FOREIGN FUNDING OF U.S. THINK TANKS**

*U.S. Department of State Press Statement from Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State | October 13, 2020*

The Department of State maintains close ties with the academic community, think tanks, and various external sources of expertise in foreign affairs to advance the interests of the United States. We welcome diverse views when doing so. We are mindful, however, that some foreign governments, such as those of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Russian Federation, seek to exert influence over U.S. foreign policy through lobbyists, external experts, and think tanks. The unique role of think tanks in the conduct of foreign affairs makes transparency regarding foreign funding more important than ever. To protect the integrity of civil society institutions, the Department requests henceforth that think tanks and other foreign policy organizations that wish to engage with the Department disclose prominently on their websites funding they receive from foreign governments, including state-owned or state-operated subsidiary entities.

Read the full statement [here](#).

## **ESTIMATING THE NUMBER OF CHINESE STEM STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES**

*Jacob Feldgoise and Remco Zwetsloot | Center for Security and Emerging Technology | October 2020*

This issue brief assesses how many Chinese students are enrolled in U.S. universities across field, degree level, and time. We combine and analyze data from the National Science Board's Science and Engineering Indicators (SEI), the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and the Institute of International Education (IIE). The results speak to ongoing policy conversations about the risks and benefits of Chinese students enrolled in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs at U.S. universities. These conversations have been hampered by a lack of granular data on the number of enrolled Chinese students by field and degree level. This paper seeks to provide such data and to identify remaining data gaps that should be filled. Because there is no single database of domestic and international students in the United States that includes all the relevant information, analysts have had to produce estimates using several different data sources. These sources often count slightly different things over possibly different periods, complicating the analysis and increasing the risk of inadvertent errors. Our findings on Chinese graduate students differ from widely-cited estimates in a 2018 Defense Innovation Unit report.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **ENHANCING THE INTEGRITY OF AMERICA’S RESEARCH ENTERPRISE**

*Richard Buangan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Dr. Ted Mitchell, President of the American Council on Education; and Dr. Sandra Brown, Vice Chancellor for Research and Distinguished Professor, University of California San Diego | U.S. Department of State Foreign Press Center Briefing | October 6, 2020*

Okay. Good afternoon and welcome. My name is Jen McAndrew, and I’m a media relations officer with the Washington Foreign Press Center and the moderator for today’s on-the-record briefing on “Enhancing the Integrity of America’s Research Enterprise.” First I will introduce our briefers, and then I will give the ground rules. Today’s briefing will discuss U.S. policy on enhancing U.S. research security and the steps U.S. higher education stakeholders are taking to address these risks, while maintaining an open and collaborative enterprise. Our first briefer, Richard Buangan, is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of State. He will discuss the threats to the research integrity posed by China’s Military-Civil Fusion Strategy, and how the State Department is engaging with universities and stakeholders to address these risks. Our second briefer, Dr. Ted Mitchell, is the President of the American Council on Education. He will describe the efforts of the Council in encouraging higher education institutions to review their relationships with China, and ensure they are protecting their institutions. Our third briefer, Dr. Sandra Brown, is the Vice Chancellor for Research and Distinguished Professor at the University of California San Diego. She will share examples of how UC San Diego has combatted undue foreign government influence on campus, and the University of California’s leadership on addressing – upon addressing the risks of foreign talent recruitment programs.

Read or watch the full briefing [here](#).

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## **LETTER TO PRESIDENTS OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND AFFILIATES**

*Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education; and Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education | October 9, 2020*

At the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, we share a mission to advocate for American values, including the important principle of academic freedom. U.S. institutions of higher education are an invaluable partner in that mission. It is in the spirit of this shared mission that we write to you about a real and growing threat: the malign influence of the authoritarian government of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) on our nation’s campuses.

Read the full letter [here](#).

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## **CHINA PREPARING NEW EXPORT CONTROL LAW IN RESPONSE TO US ENTITY LIST**

*Eric Chang | Taiwan News | October 13, 2020*

Beijing is preparing a new export control law that would prohibit Chinese companies from doing business with foreign firms on national security grounds. According to Nikkei Asia, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) is set to discuss the proposed law designed to protect national interests in a session beginning today (Oct. 13). The new legislation could go into effect as early as 2021, the report said. The bill employs the same national security language the U.S. Department of Commerce has used with its Entity List to blacklist Chinese tech companies like Huawei, according to the report.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **OVERSEAS CHINESE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS IN CHINA'S DRIVE FOR INNOVATION**

*U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission | October 7, 2020*

The report examines Beijing's ecosystem of programs and incentives designed to exploit the expertise of Chinese students and scholars studying in STEM fields at universities in the United States and other advanced countries. This ecosystem leverages the scientific and technical knowledge Chinese researchers acquire while abroad to benefit China's commercial and defense sectors. Much of this research is "fundamental" and not subject to controls, but both countries recognize its strategic value and potential. China's programs are designed to encourage it to be commercialized or applied in China first, depriving the United States of an early mover advantage in developing this technology despite funding the research, in many cases, in the first place. China's activities raise concerning economic and national security implications for the United States.

Read the full report [here](#).

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## **COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

*Jenna Mittelmeier and Heather Cockayne | University World News | October 10, 2020*

International students' experiences with discrimination and racism during the coronavirus pandemic have been widely reported, particularly for students from China or East Asian countries. This has led to calls for universities to combat rising Sinophobia. In recent months, international students have been increasingly politicised through framings of COVID-19 as a "China virus" and public assumptions about their role in its global spread. Such perspectives are often divided across political lines, building on the rhetoric of hostile environments for immigrants more broadly and political tensions with countries such as China. In many popular host countries, this builds on growing public polarisation about the presence of international students in local communities. For example, a survey conducted by Universities UK showed nearly one-fifth (19%) of the public wished for universities to recruit fewer international students.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WHO COME TO THE US TO STUDY ARE A HUGE BOOST FOR THE COUNTRY AND OUR ECONOMY. BUT THEIR FATE IS ON THE BALLOT THIS NOVEMBER.**

*Taif Jany | Business Insider | October 10, 2020*

It's been 12 years since I arrived in the United States as an international student. The move was my ticket to escape after 16 years of living under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, surviving the devastation of the 2003 war, and being a refugee in Damascus, Syria. At that time, nothing mattered to me more than going to college. It was the only path I had, as a young Iraqi man, to build a better future for myself and my family. After spending many sleepless nights studying English and anxiously waiting for my Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam results, my dream had come true: I received my acceptance letter from Union College in upstate New York. While I can't vote in this election, I want to tell those of you who can: not only are the dreams and livelihoods of people like me on the ballot in 2020, but so is the economic global competitiveness of the United States. Over the years, international students like myself have understood the immense benefits we were receiving from pursuing a US college education.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **CHINA EXPLOITS STUDENTS ABROAD TO STEAL AMERICAN TECH, NEW REPORT SAYS**

*Jack Beyrer | Washington Free Beacon | October 9, 2020*

The Chinese Communist Party has developed a complex network to coerce students abroad into stealing American technology, according to a new congressional report. For years, China has tried to strengthen its military by stealing American science and technology research, and "has built a sprawling ecosystem of structures, programs, and incentives to coopt and exploit Chinese students and scholars for the [science and technology] they acquire abroad," the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission reported Wednesday. Since 2006, the number of Chinese students in America has increased by a factor of five, and a significant minority of these students, who primarily study in scientific and mathematical fields, pose a security threat to the United States for theft of American research. China often requires its students to engage in operations that benefit the Chinese Communist Party as a condition of their study abroad program, according to the report.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **SINGAPOREAN JAILED FOR 14 MONTHS IN US FOR SPYING FOR CHINA**

*Agence France-Presse | Rappler | October 10, 2020*

A Singaporean academic who recruited US officials to provide classified political and defense information to China was sentenced to 14 months in prison by a US court Friday, October 9. Working with Chinese intelligence since 2015, Jun Wei Yeo, also called Dickson Yeo, set up a political consultancy in Washington which he used to identify Americans with high-level security clearances that he sought to pay for classified information. The 39-year-old was arrested at an airport in November 2019 and pleaded guilty in July to one count of operating illegally as a foreign agent, which can bring up to 10 years in prison. But he was given a relatively light sentence and credited for 11 months already spent in prison based on his cooperation with US authorities and also due to the threat of contracting COVID-19 in jail, said Washington federal judge Tanya Chutkan. The sentence means he could be released and expelled from the United States by January.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **EMBATTLED CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR CHARLES LIEBER SUES HARVARD, ALLEGING UNIVERSITY REQUIRED TO RECOUP LEGAL COSTS**

*Kevin R. Chen and Andy Z. Wang | The Harvard Crimson | October 13, 2020*

University Professor Charles M. Lieber filed a complaint against Harvard in Middlesex County Superior Court Friday morning, alleging that the University broke its contract by refusing to indemnify him for his criminal defense. In January, Lieber was arrested on federal charges of making fraudulent statements to U.S. government officials who were investigating his funding sources. Federal officials alleged he misrepresented his affiliation with the Thousand Talents Program and failed to disclose funding from the Chinese government. A federal grand jury indicted Lieber in June for making false statements; he pled not guilty. He was later charged in a superseding indictment with tax offenses related to the income he allegedly received from Chinese sources. The lawsuit cites Harvard's indemnification policy, which states, according to the complaint, that the "University shall indemnify a Qualified Person acting in a Covered Role ... provided that no indemnification shall be provided under this policy with respect to any matter, act or omission determined to be outside of the scope of a Covered Role."

Read the full article [here](#).



## US SEES 'MALIGN INFLUENCE' IN CHINA-BACKED SCHOOL PROGRAM

Collin Binkley | AP News | October 9, 2020

The Trump administration on Friday encouraged U.S. schools and colleges to rethink their ties to the Confucius Institute, a program that brings Chinese language classes to America but, according to federal officials, also invites a "malign influence" from China. In letters to universities and state education officials, the State Department and Education Department said the program gives China a foothold on U.S. soil and poses a threat to free speech. Schools are being advised to examine the program's activities and "take action to safeguard your educational environments." "The presence of this authoritarian influence on our campuses has never been more concerning, nor more consequential," officials wrote in the letters, which were signed by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. More than 60 U.S. universities host Confucius Institute through partnerships with an affiliate of China's Ministry of Education.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINA SEES U.S. LOCAL OFFICIALS AS 'WEAK LINK,' POMPEO SAYS

Free Pressers | October 9, 2020

In its relentless pursuit of influence in the United States, the communist Chinese government has targeted America's state and local governments, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. Chinese supreme leader Xi Jinping "thinks local leaders may well be the weak link," Pompeo said during a speech at the Wisconsin state Senate late last month that was the subject of reports by WorldTribune.com and The Washington Times. "The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) views itself as the true vanguard of Marxist-Leninist thought, which proposes that communist countries like theirs must struggle and prevail against capitalist nations like ours," Pompeo said. "It's why we have to have a conversation in our state legislatures about this China and this China challenge." During the address, Pompeo revealed that Wisconsin state Sen. Roger Roth received an email from a woman at the Chinese Consulate in Chicago named Wu Ting. The email included a draft resolution China wanted passed by the Wisconsin Legislature praising Beijing's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## INSIDE THE US CAMPAIGN TO CUT CHINA OUT OF THE TECH SUPPLY CHAIN

Lauly Li and Cheng Ting-Fang | Nikkei Asia | October 7, 2020

It was a hot summer morning in Taipei when several officials from the American Institute in Taiwan, the de facto U.S. embassy, visited the top management of a major tech company, a key supplier to Apple. It was immediately apparent that this was unlike previous courtesy visits, where U.S. officials stop in from time to time to hear what's happening in the industry. This time, they cut the chitchat and threw out a blunt question soon after they sat down: "Why aren't you moving more of your production capacity outside of China?" they asked. "Why aren't you moving faster?" Participants described the conversation as "serious and unsettling." "We felt uneasy," said one. "They asked many questions that we didn't know if we could answer. The answers would have involved unreported strategies about ourselves and our clients." But the message was unambiguous: The U.S. government was directly appealing to his company to cut its ties to China, he said. The American officials also met with several top Taiwanese chipmakers -- companies whose products are used by Huawei Technologies, the Chinese telecoms equipment supplier that Washington accuses of spying for Beijing.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **US BANS COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS FROM IMMIGRATION**

*Kelly Ho | Hong Kong Free Press | October 5, 2020*

Washington has decided to bar Communist Party members from immigrating into the country, according to new policy guidance issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) last Friday. The USCIS announced that anyone who is or has been a member of or affiliated with a Communist or totalitarian party cannot immigrate to America. The agency said the policy was part of a broader set of laws passed by the Congress to address threats to the safety and security of the country. "Membership in or affiliation with the Communist Party or any other totalitarian party is inconsistent and incompatible with the Naturalisation Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America, which includes pledging to 'support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States'," the USCIS wrote in a statement, which did not explicitly name the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The move came amid heightened tensions between Washington and Beijing, as US President Donald Trump sought to block Chinese-owned apps including TikTok and WeChat, citing security fears. China has also condemned the US for imposing "barbarous and rude" sanctions against Hong Kong officials, following the enactment of controversial national security legislation in the city.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE UNDER FIRE IN U.S.**

*Associated Press | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | October 9, 2020*

The Trump administration on Friday encouraged U.S. schools and colleges to rethink their ties to the Confucius Institute, a program that brings Chinese language classes to America but, according to federal officials, also invites a "malign influence" from China. In letters to universities and state education officials, the State Department and Education Department said the program gives China a foothold on U.S. soil and poses a threat to free speech. Schools are being advised to examine the program's activities and "take action to safeguard your educational environments." "The presence of this authoritarian influence on our campuses has never been more concerning, nor more consequential," officials wrote in the letters, which were signed by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. More than 60 U.S. universities host Confucius Institute through partnerships with an affiliate of China's Ministry of Education. China provides teachers and textbooks and typically splits the cost with the university. The program also brings Chinese language classes to about 500 elementary and secondary classrooms.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **US LAWS ILL EQUIPPED TO HALT SUSPECTED CHINESE STATE-SPONSORED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, SAYS CONGRESSIONAL GROUP**

*Robert Delaney and Owen Churchill | South China Morning Post | October 8, 2020*

A US congressional body warned on Wednesday that the US laws are ill equipped to halt an alleged flow of Chinese state-sponsored technology transfer that has improved Beijing's military capabilities at the expense of American businesses and academic institutions, a concern that has led to scores of charges against Chinese researchers over the past year. "US law permitting the legal transfer of [scientific and technical] knowledge is predicated on potentially outdated assumptions that do not consider the increasingly close involvement of both US and Chinese academia in sensitive research," the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) said in a report.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **FBI: CHINESE HAVE HACKED DATA ON NEARLY HALF OF U.S. POPULATION**

*Bill Gertz | The Washington Times | September 21, 2020*

China is engaged in massive data mining in the United States and likely has stolen personal information on nearly half of the entire U.S. population, FBI Director Christopher Wray told a congressional hearing last week. While media attention focused on Mr. Wray's comments on the threat of domestic terrorism and foreign interference in the upcoming election, the FBI director also offered fresh details on the scale of Chinese hacking efforts, such as the 2017 theft of financial information on 150 million people from the credit bureau Equifax. Mr. Wray disclosed to lawmakers that the FBI now estimates that Chinese hackers have obtained compromised information on "nearly half of the American population and most American adults." "If you are an American adult, it is more likely than not that China has stolen your personal data," Mr. Wray told the House Homeland Security Committee on Thursday, adding the theft is "on a scale so massive that it represents one of the largest transfers of wealth in human history." Other Chinese data hacks over the past five years involved gaining access to more than 60 million records from the health care provider Anthem and more than 22 million records from the federal government's Office of Personnel Management, including very sensitive data gathered as part of security clearance probes.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CYBER AWARE: ANATOMY OF A HACK COURSE MODULES**

*Office of the Director of National Intelligence National Counterintelligence and Security Center*

Oh! Hi! Get this; You've probably witnessed this scene before... the Hollywood hacker sits in front of a computer typing frantically, and breaks into this top secret system in less than a minute. Well, it's a bit more complicated than that. There's prep work and a process to follow... It all depends on the skill set of the hacker, and the type of data the hacker is trying to obtain, but this stuff is real. No kidding. So, I heard you're going through a series of cyber courses. Good. It's needed, and it will make my job a lot easier. So, what did you learn? All about hardware? Operating systems? Applications? Vulnerabilities that lie within networks and counter security measures? It's a lot to take in, I know... but welcome to my world. Now that you understand what I go through every day... maybe you'll ease up on me a bit, right? Right.

View the Course Web site [here](#).

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## **UNIVERSITIES ARE FORGING TIES WITH THE FBI AS US CRACKS DOWN ON FOREIGN INFLUENCE**

*Nidhi Subbaraman | Nature | March 12, 2020*

US universities are forging closer ties with FBI agents, encouraging scientists to disclose foreign sources of research funding, and tightening restrictions on researchers' travel, according to administrators contacted by Nature. The new measures follow an unprecedented sweep that began over a year ago, after the US government alleged that certain countries, particularly China, were exploiting the openness of US science for economic gain. Nature asked research vice-presidents at various public universities — who oversee hundreds of millions of dollars of federally funded science and are key to enforcing relevant policies — what steps their institutes were taking to respond to the government concerns. The ten responses received reveal broad cooperation with the FBI, including regular meetings and, in one case, hiring a former agent.

Read the full article [here](#).



## U.S. SENATE HOLDS HEARING ON CHINESE TALENT RECRUITMENT PLANS

Dave Kovaleski | Homeland Preparedness | November 21, 2019

The U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing on a report on a Chinese program that captures U.S. Intellectual property. Through its “talent recruitment plans” launched in the 1990s, China began recruiting U.S.-based scientists and researchers and providing incentives for them to transfer U.S. intellectual property to China. The subcommittee investigated China’s most prominent talent recruitment plan, the Thousand Talents Plan (TTP), which was launched in 2008. The TTP incentivizes individuals engaged in research and development to transmit the knowledge and research they gain in the United States to China in exchange for salaries, research funding, lab space, and other incentives. The hearing, entitled, “Securing the U.S. Research Enterprise from China’s Talent Recruitment Plans,” reviewed the programs and efforts to stop them.

Read the full article [here](#).

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