



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

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QIAN XUESEN: THE MAN THE US DEPORTED - WHO THEN HELPED CHINA INTO SPACE

BBC News | October 27, 2020

A Chinese scientist helped not one but two superpowers reach the moon, writes Kavita Puri, but his story is remembered in only one of them. In Shanghai there is an entire museum containing 70,000 artefacts dedicated to one man, "the people's scientist" Qian Xuesen. Qian is the father of China's missile and space programme. His research helped develop the rockets that fired China's first satellite into space, and missiles that became part of its nuclear arsenal, and he is revered as a national hero. But in another superpower, where he studied and worked for more than a decade, his significant contributions are rarely remembered at all. Qian was born in 1911, as China's last imperial dynasty was about to be replaced by a republic. His parents were both well-educated and his father, after working in Japan, established China's national education system. It was evident from an early age that Qian was gifted, and he eventually graduated top of his class at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, winning a rare scholarship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE MARCH OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY THROUGH WESTERN UNIVERSITIES

Dominic Stanford | Global Vision | October 22, 2020

The last few months have been awash with reports of state interference, intimidation and indoctrination from hostile Chinese actors in an array of western institutions, but most noticeably, in our universities. CANZUK cooperation on this front would strengthen our resilience and offer freedom-loving democracies a template for protection from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Led by Tom Tugendhat MP, a vocal critic of the UK Government's approach to the threat posed by China to democracy around the world, the Foreign Affairs Committee published a report in November 2019 focused on the influence of autocracies on academic freedom in British universities. The report found that China is chief amongst those using financial, political or diplomatic pressure to shape the agendas and curricula of UK higher education institutions. The report presented several examples of how influence on Chinese students takes shape through supposedly independent Chinese bodies, including intimidation and surveillance of Chinese students studying in the UK by the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA).

Read the full article [here](#).



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PROSECUTORS SAY THEY'RE SPIES, BUT CHARGES TELL A DIFFERENT STORY

Christian Berthelsen and Joel Rosenblatt | Bloomberg | October 22, 2020

When U.S. prosecutors sought last month to throw a Chinese scientist in jail until her trial for visa fraud, a judge refused, saying they had sought to paint her as a "foreign spy" without backing up the claim. "The government suggests that this court should treat this case as one involving espionage charges, even though no such charges have been filed," wrote U.S. District Judge John Mendez in Sacramento of the indictment against University of California at Davis researcher Juan Tang. In July, when the U.S. announced charges against Tang and three other researchers who were working in American university labs, the top U.S. Department of Justice official responsible for national security said their presence in America was "part of the Chinese Communist Party's plan to take advantage of our open society." But the other scientists aren't charged with spying, either, and they too face more prosaic charges.

Read the full article [here](#).

CANADIAN PROFESSOR'S WEBSITE HELPS RUSSIA SPREAD DISINFORMATION, SAYS U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

Thomas Daigle | CBC News | October 21, 2020

As U.S. authorities guard against dirty tricks from foreign adversaries in the run-up to the Nov. 3 presidential election, an unlikely source has come under new scrutiny as a major conduit of Russian-linked disinformation: a Montreal-based website run by a retired University of Ottawa professor. The platform, Global Research, features a Canadian domain name and offers an ever-expanding collection of conspiracy theories, such as the myth that the 9/11 attacks and COVID-19 pandemic were both planned in order to control the population. The website also hosts articles experts have attributed to a Russian spy agency. With more than 275,000 Facebook followers and a potential readership in excess of 350,000 per article, the site has the biggest reach among "Kremlin-aligned" disinformation sites, according to the U.S. State Department. "This is part of a larger effort to sow disarray and distrust within Western democracies," said James Andrew Lewis, a senior researcher at the Washington, D.C.-based think-tank Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW AUSTRALIAN HE IS CREATING ITS OWN 'CHINA PROBLEM'

Angela Lehmann | University World News | October 21, 2020

Australia is creating its own 'China problem' by not adequately funding research, cultural and language training and by not taking seriously the national security implications of underfunding support for international students. Research collaborations have been under the spotlight, with questions raised about the potential for Chinese researchers to gather intelligence and intellectual property from collaborative projects and academic exchange. The role of Confucius Institutes and their relationship to Australian schools and universities have also been questioned as alleged sites of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) influence and coercion. In addition, CCP-affiliated Chinese student associations are alleged to be problematic sites of surveillance and control for students in Australian classrooms. Australian universities, as a result, are the backdrop for much of the current geopolitical to-ing and fro-ing, without being political actors in their own right. This has led to moves to regulate research collaborations and agreements with public universities, to close Confucius Institutes and to challenge the implications of having Chinese international students on campuses on freedom of speech.

Read the full article [here](#).



53% OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PONDERING DELAY OR SWITCH

University World News | October 24, 2020

More than 50% of prospective international students are considering changing their plans by, for instance, postponing their studies or studying in a different country, according to a new survey conducted by international student recruitment platform [educations.com](#). Some 78% of prospective students surveyed this October plan to begin studying in the next two years, indicating a strong desire to study in future, despite the coronavirus pandemic. Only a very small percentage of prospective students (3.9%) plan to cancel their future study plans altogether in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Nevertheless, most students are considering alternative options such as postponing their studies (39%) and studying in a different country (14%). The proportion planning to postpone is only slightly lower than the 42% of prospective students surveyed in March-April. The proportion of students who answer: "I don't know yet", has increased to 15% in October from 10% in March-April, highlighting increasing uncertainty about study plans.

Read the full article [here](#).

EUROPEAN MINISTERS ADOPT DECLARATION ON RESEARCH FREEDOM

Brendan O'Malley | University World News | October 23, 2020

Ministers from the European Research Area have adopted a declaration asserting the "relevance of the freedom of scientific research for the progress of our societies". The declaration, which was adopted at the Ministerial Conference on the European Research Area on 20 October, says: "The freedom of scientific research is a universal right and public good." It says it is a core principle of the European Union, anchored in the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the EU. It is also protected by the United Nations' International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ratified by more than 170 states and has constitutional or legal status in most EU member states. "The freedom of scientific research applies to all types of research organisations and scholarship and to all academic disciplines," the declaration says. It adds that freedom of thought and intellectual creativity requires also freedom and security of individuals. "Freedom of scientific research stands for openness, exchange, excellence, internationalism, diversity, equality, integrity, curiosity, responsibility and reflexivity," the declaration says.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE 5 FACES OF CHINESE ESPIONAGE: THE WORLD'S FIRST 'DIGITAL AUTHORITARIAN STATE'

Nicholas Eftimiades | Breaking Defense | October 22, 2020

Chinese spies are different from those of most other wealthy and developed countries where the majority of spies are highly trained, with some serving under diplomatic cover and others operating under what the US Intelligence Community calls Non Official Cover (NOC). Chinese intelligence operations are the first in modern times to use, as a foundation, the whole of society. Because of this, China's espionage tactics are sometimes artless, operating with little in the way of standard spy-fare, (encrypted communication, dead drops, etc.) instead relying on an overwhelming volume of espionage operations conducted by all manner of citizen and a sort of impunity inherent in the lack of substantive penalty for when a Chinese agent is discovered, a study I recently published analyzing 595 cases of intelligence collection efforts sanctioned and abetted by the Chinese Communist Party. Beijing has evolved to become the world's first 'digital authoritarian state'.

Read the full article [here](#).



HOMELAND SECURITY WILL PULL 1,100 OPT PERMITS FROM INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Bianca Quilantan | Politico | October 21, 2020

More than 1,100 Optional Practical Training program work permits will either be revoked or not renewed over the next few months following a crackdown on the program, the Department of Homeland Security said Wednesday. USCIS sent 700 letters to OPT recipients this week to alert them that their permits will be revoked. The permits of another 400 international students will not be renewed when they expire over the next few months. The permits allow international students to work in their field of study while in the U.S. on a student visa. In all, more than 220,000 international students are in OPT programs, but DHS said the 1,100 in question involve fraud. The fraud could involve working in a position that doesn't relate to a student's field of study, officials said. Immigration and Customs Enforcement also said Wednesday that it arrested "15 nonimmigrant students who claimed to be employed by companies that don't exist."

Read the full article [here](#).

TRADE GROUPS, UNIVERSITIES FILE SUIT AGAINST H-1B VISA CHANGES

University World News | October 24, 2020

A group of United States businesses, trade groups and universities has filed suit to stop the Trump administration's overhaul of the H-1B visa programme for international guest workers. Two new rules would limit the number of foreign workers allowed under the programme and require US companies to pay them higher salaries, writes Nancy Marshall-Genzer for Marketplace. One of the new rules from the Labor Department would require US companies to pay foreign workers on H-1B visas 35% to 200% more, according to the complaint. "The cost to employers will be US\$198 billion over 10 years," said Linda Kelly, general counsel for the National Association of Manufacturers, one of the trade groups behind the lawsuit. Another rule limits the jobs that H-1B workers can fill. Kelly says all kinds of businesses would be affected – including those employing researchers, chemists and doctors. Like ARUP Laboratories in Salt Lake City, which, among other things, does coronavirus testing.

Read the full article [here](#).

SECURITY MEASURES FOR SAFEGUARDING THE BIOECONOMY

Matthew Welsh and William Streilein | Health Security | August 19, 2020

The national academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) recently released the report, Safeguarding the Bioeconomy.¹ The report appropriately acknowledges that the strength and value of the US bioeconomy ("the bioeconomy") is derived, in part, from its maturity, compared to those of other nations. In this context, 2 major concerns are presented: (1) the bioeconomy loses its competitive edge to foreign bioeconomies and (2) illicit interference within the bioeconomy creates harm. Similarly, the report conveys the importance in continued investment in the bioeconomy and promotion of technological innovation to protect against these concerns. The Committee on Safeguarding the Bioeconomy: Finding Strategies for Understanding, Evaluating, and Protecting the Bioeconomy While Sustaining Innovation and Growth was tasked specifically with exploring cybersecurity across the bioeconomy, and detailed discussion in the report focused on how this particular facet of protection could be employed to protect the bioeconomy.

Read the full publication [here](#).



FOREIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS DON'T NEED TO SUCCEED TO BE EFFECTIVE

Darren Linvill and Patrick Warren | Lawfare | October 23, 2020

The danger posed by foreign-backed influence operations is real, particularly to the open Western democracies most susceptible to these attacks. Such operations are sometimes sensationalized and overhyped by politicians and others to distract and confuse the public for their own political ends—but the threat persists and must be taken seriously. Counterintuitively, the success of such operations should not be conflated with the full seriousness of their effects. To be effective, foreign operations don't have to be successful in whatever overt goal they may have—they simply have to exist. As with terrorism, the bomb that fails to detonate still creates fear. It seems that every couple of weeks, another set of foreign-run social media accounts is identified and shut down or another attempt to hack a campaign is thwarted—and while stopping such activity is necessary and important, the foreign operators can find success in the doubt and distrust that their efforts created.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHANGES TO INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH DISCLOSURE PRACTICES IN THE ERA OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Council on Governmental Relations | October 21, 2020

Panel discussion moderated by Kristin West (Director, Research Ethics and Compliance) with panelists Dr. Allison Griffin-Ratterman (Director, Office of Research Integrity, University of Louisville), Dr. Max Weber (Vice President & Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center), and Maggie Newell (Director, Institutional Compliance Programs, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center).

Read the full presentation [here](#).

IT'S NOT JUST CHARLES LIEBER: NIH'S ONGOING INVESTIGATION HAS SWEEPED UP 54 SCIENTISTS WHO VIOLATED RULES ABOUT FOREIGN TIES

Amber Tong | End Point News | June 16, 2020

The NIH's working group for foreign influences on research integrity has opened cases against 189 scientists suspected of violations related to overseas ties since launching an ongoing, sweeping investigation almost two years ago, newly available statistics showed, leading to the terminations and resignations of 54 scientists. Of those who have been investigated, 41% have also been removed from the NIH system, barred from seeking further grants. Michael Lauer, NIH's head of extramural research, presented a comprehensive set of these and other numbers in a virtual update on Friday, just a day after Charles Lieber — the former head of Harvard's chemistry department — was indicted in federal court for lying about his Chinese connections.

Read the full article [here](#).

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