



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**February 10, 2021**

## **FORMER UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA RESEARCHER INDICTED FOR SCHEME TO DEFRAUD NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH AND UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

*U.S. Department of Justice | February 3, 2021*

A former University of Florida (UF) professor and researcher and resident of China has been indicted for fraudulently obtaining \$1.75 million in federal grant money from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by concealing support he received from the Chinese government and a company that he founded in China to profit from that research. Lin Yang, 43, who resided in Tampa, Florida, at the time of the offenses, is charged with six counts of wire fraud and four counts of making false statements to an agency of the United States. The indictment, returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 15, 2020, was unsealed today. "Transparency about foreign funding sources allows federal agencies to allocate finite resources fairly. Transparency about foreign government affiliations, like business affiliations, allows the research community and the American people to assess any impact on the integrity of the research," said Assistant Attorney General John C. Demers for the Justice Department's National Security Division.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **CASE STUDIES IN PRC FOREIGN TECH TRANSFERS KUANG-CHI GROUP: A PRC TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION PLATFORM**

*Point Bello | February 2021*

Kuang-Chi Group was founded in 2010 by Liu Ruopeng and focuses on leveraging metamaterials to improve critical technologies. Its products have been extensively used by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and state security forces. The company was founded on U.S. Air Force-funded metamaterials research conducted by Liu when he was a doctorate student at Duke University. Liu also passed critical technological data and provided access to Duke's lab to researchers at Southeast University in Nanjing. Since its founding, Kuang-Chi has remained heavily involved in People's Republic of China (PRC) military production; as one reporter at The Economic Observer—a weekly PRC economic newspaper that was founded by Shandong Sanlian Group Co., Ltd., a company tied to the Shandong government—in December 2018 noted while at the 12th Annual China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition, stating that among the aircraft featured—including the Chengdu J-10 and J-20 fighter jets and the K-8 light attack aircraft—"there is no shortage of military projects Kuang-Chi has participated or is participating in."

Read the full article [here](#).



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## **LIBERAL SENATOR LOOKING FOR 'HEROES' NOT JUST 'VILLAINS' AT INQUIRY INTO UNIVERSITIES' FOREIGN LINKS**

*Daniel Hurst | The Guardian | February 5, 2021*

An inquiry into foreign interference in higher education will investigate concerns about research links with China and look for “heroes” not just “villains” among Australian universities. The newly appointed head of the parliament’s intelligence committee, James Paterson, also said he hoped to spare universities from the “blunt instrument” of tougher regulations if they could show they were proactively managing security risks. Paterson, a China hawk and Victorian Liberal party senator, was influential in pushing for the government to launch the inquiry last year, amid concerns on the Coalition backbench about the Chinese government’s academic recruitment programs. With Paterson appointed as head of the committee on Thursday, he now will be responsible for overseeing an inquiry that universities fear could be used as a means to stifle important international research collaboration. Paterson used an interview with Guardian Australia to lay down some markers on how he planned to conduct the inquiry and to seek to allay some of the university sector’s concerns.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **COLLECTIVELY COUNTERING CHINA’S INFLUENCE OPERATIONS**

*Taehwa Hong | Asia Times | February 6, 2021*

With the great-power competition between the US and China intensifying, much attention is on the military dimension of the rivalry. For example, the Quad was purportedly designed to spread out Chinese military assets thinly across the Indo-Pacific region. However, China is well aware that an overt military action would invite retaliation. Washington should encourage its allies to contribute to regional security in areas beyond the traditional military aspect. Chinese operations aimed at influencing foreign governments in particular pose threats as grave as its military might – the US and its allies need to collaborate to counter them collectively. The allies could deepen and expand areas of cooperation including intelligence sharing, cyberattacks defense, artificial intelligence and machine learning. A network of US partners could cooperate with specializations based on each of their strengths and weaknesses. The Five Eyes consisting of the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada in recent years has renewed a focus on countering China. The group should extend collaboration with key allies across the globe.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **OP-ED: CRACKING DOWN ON CHINA’S SHADY SHELL COMPANIES**

*Sens. Mark R. Warner and Mike Rounds | CNBC | February 4, 2021*

When you think of anonymous shell companies, you might you might think of illicit activity being done by shady criminal groups, or tax cheats trying to hide their money, or crooked foreign officials trying to swindle populations. But there’s one other thing you should think of: the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). While it hasn’t gotten nearly as much attention as some other topics regarding the Chinese government, anonymous shell companies have proven a key component of the country’s recent rise. More importantly, these shell companies – which prevent investigators from successfully tracking financial flows – have proven to be key tools in both the CCP’s corrupt and tightening grip on the country and its expansionist efforts abroad, all aimed at increasing the influence of the People’s Republic of China and eroding American power and American interests. For instance, look at Beijing’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). While the CCP spins the initiative as mere economic expansion, and global integration, further examination reveals far more suspect, and far more corrupt, dealings – often with anonymous shell companies at the core.

Read the full article [here](#).



## TIME TO DIAL DOWN RACIST RHETORIC TARGETED AT AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

Jocelyn Chey | Pearls and Irritations | February 1, 2021

Racial profiling characterises some submissions to the Senate inquiry into universities, and the Australian Chinese community is again being targeted. Meanwhile, President Biden is instructing agencies to avoid xenophobic rhetoric, a wise strategy for Australia. Australian universities have strong management systems governing research receiving outside funding or collaboration with other institutions to ensure there are no security issues, especially against espionage and data theft. Despite this, a number of submissions to the Senate joint committee on intelligence and security have alleged that the People's Republic of China is trying to steal intellectual property and subvert Australian values through financial incentives and underhand agreements and by planting spies in research institutions. These include submissions from former PRC diplomat Yonglin Chen, who defected to Australia in 2005, the quasi-religious cult Falun Gong, which is banned in the PRC, and Alex Joske, a China analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI).

Read the full article [here](#).

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## IS ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN DANGER IN FRANCE?

TRT World | February 2, 2021

There are some worrying signs coming from France, which seeks to limit academic freedom in the name of defending national interests and preventing foreign interference. France, a Western European democracy, which has long championed free speech and academic freedom, appears to have increased restrictions on universities. As Paris aims to monitor intellectual activism, its policies are interestingly supported by many of its academics as they want to go after dissident voices across French universities. The fodder to such hostilities is provided by the country's political institutions that have increased its pressure over its Muslim population after French teacher Samuel Paty's brutal beheading by a Chechen-origin perpetrator. To suppress academic freedom, they appear to have found a new scapegoat, "Islamism", a term insidiously designed to portray Muslim academics and French leftists in a bad light. The French President Emmanuel Macron has already labelled 'Islamism' as a dangerous ideology, and described it as an enemy of the state by identifying it with terrorism.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## UNI LOBBY CALLS CRITICS FOR INCONSISTENT CRITICISM OF CHINA-TIES

Campus Morning Mail | February 1, 2021

There is "a double-standard in some instances when it comes to views on the higher education sector," the IRU argues in a brief addressing submissions to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security inquiry into security risks in universities. "Many industries considered essential to our economy depend on China at a much higher rate than education – yet do not attract anything like the same level of rhetoric and concern from politicians and other interested commentators," the IRU argues. The lobby points to minex and agriculture exports to Chinese markets being worth three and four times the ten per cent of universities' revenue "China provides." And it contrasts other exports with the overall benefits Australia enjoys from education. "Rather than simply shipping a product offshore, international education attracts students from over 150 countries to come here and contribute to Australian society, sharing their cultures, languages and histories with Australians. We gain far more than money as a result."

Read the full article [here](#).



## WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR EUROPE'S UNIVERSITIES?

Thomas Jorgensen and Anna-Lena Claeys-Kulik | *University World News* | February 6, 2021

In the midst of the pandemic, Europe's universities are looking ahead to define their priorities for the next 10 years. Europe and the world are facing immense challenges: finding a sustainable equilibrium between ecological, economic and social concerns, the digital transition and (geo)political uncertainty, to name some of the most important ones. We are at a tipping point, a time of transformation for society and universities; it is important to take a step back and reflect about the future strategically. How do we want Europe's universities to look in 10 years' time? What should be their role in society and how should their missions evolve? What are the core values and key conditions we need to retain?

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHARGES AGAINST MIT PROFESSOR UNDERSCORE GEOPOLITICAL RISKS OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Karin Fischer | *The Chronicle of Higher Education* | February 4, 2021

The arrest and charging of a prominent Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor for allegedly concealing his affiliations with China is underscoring the tensions inherent in the increasingly global nature of university research — particularly when it involves China. In recent decades, institutions like MIT have set their sights across borders, striking ambitious academic partnerships and finding financial support for their research around the globe. But that strategy of international engagement is under strain as relations between the United States and China have entered a new, more conflicted era. Research and innovation, prized by both nations in today's knowledge economy, are at the center of that clash. Professors are pushing back, saying that federal prosecutions of Gang Chen, a professor of mechanical engineering, and other researchers could chill collaborative partnerships and hurt American science and education.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## JAPAN TO SET UP MASSIVE FUND FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Suvendrini Kakuchi | *University World News* | February 3, 2021

Japan is setting up a massive new fund to increase public financing for scientific research, even as the country is struggling to contain the third wave of COVID-19 infections, according to an announcement last month. The pandemic has exposed the country's lack of long-term and stable funding of research, experts said. Referred to as the University Fund, the endowment fund is projected by the government to reach JPY10 trillion (US\$95 billion) over time, which, if achieved, would make it one of the world's largest endowment funds to support science research. It is expected to start investing in 2022. The government said the new fund under the Japan Science and Technology Agency, but professionally managed to achieve gains from the stock and bond markets, would invest in internationally competitive research and shared facilities for universities, increased R&D infrastructure for universities to scale up research, and a national innovation ecosystem. It will help halt a slide in Japan's research performance and in international university rankings.

Read the full article [here](#).

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