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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**February 24, 2021**

## **BEAT CHINA: TARGETED DECOUPLING AND THE ECONOMIC LONG WAR**

*Senator Tom Cotton | February 2021*

The Trump administration's most consequential policy will prove to be, in my opinion, a tougher stance against the People's Republic of China. Since the 1980s, presidential candidates of both parties have run as tough on China, only to soften their positions once elected. But President Trump was the exception to this rule, and his administration pursued a campaign to harden our defenses against China's aggressive behavior, and to sound the diplomatic alarm around the world. This approach deserves praise, and it ought to form the starting point for a long-term, bipartisan national strategy. The ultimate objective of that strategy should be, to quote the document that launched this country's ultimately successful strategy against the Soviet Union, the "breakup or the gradual mellowing" of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) power. Our strategy must take seriously the critical military, diplomatic, intelligence, and propaganda challenges posed by Beijing. And it must identify and account for the novel characteristics of strategic competition with an adversary such as the CCP in a nuclear and globalized age—especially the role played by economic policy. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Policy in the previous Congress, I convened two hearings on these matters in 2020, and directed my staff to conduct further research and outline a strategy for beating China within the economic dimension of our contest.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **FEDERAL CHARGES AGAINST STANFORD UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER EXPANDED**

*U.S. Department of Justice | February 19, 2021*

A federal grand jury issued a superseding indictment charging Chen Song with visa fraud, obstruction of justice, destruction of documents, and false statements in connection with a scheme to conceal and lie about her status as a member of the People's Republic of China's military forces while in the United States, the Justice Department announced yesterday. "We allege that while Chen Song worked as a researcher at Stanford University, she was secretly a member of China's military, the People's Liberation Army," said U.S. Attorney David L. Anderson for the Northern District of California. "When Song feared discovery, she destroyed documents in a failed attempt to conceal her true identity. This prosecution will help to protect elite institutions like Stanford from illicit foreign influences." "Members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army cannot lie on their visa applications and come to the United States to study without expecting the FBI and our partners to catch them." said Assistant Director Alan E. Kohler Jr. of the FBI's Counterintelligence Division.

Read the full article [here](#).



## 29% OF SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS HELD BY FOREIGN RESEARCHERS

Jan Petter Myklebust | *University World News* | February 19, 2021

Norway has a very healthy proportion of foreign researchers, according to new analysis published by the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU) and Statistics Norway. The new statistical overview of researchers and academic staff at Norwegian university colleges, universities, research institutes and health trusts who are foreign immigrants defines 'immigrant' as someone born outside Norway and having two non-Norwegian parents, write Hebe Gunnes and Frøydis Sæbø Steine. Most immigrants in research, therefore, are international researchers who move to Norway to work in a variety of research positions. These findings are also presented on the NIFU web pages in a form that makes it possible for the readers to carry out analysis with the raw data for the four years 2007, 2010, 2014 and 2018. The findings were also reported in English in Kifinfo, the newsletter of the Committee for Gender Balance and Diversity in Research. In 2018, the number of researchers and academic staff at Norwegian universities, university colleges, health trusts and research institutes totalled 36,608 – and of these 29% were international (10,633 people). The numbers and percentage have increased significantly since 2007 when the 4,850 immigrants accounted for 18% of the academic staff at Norwegian institutions.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINA'S COLLECTION OF GENOMIC AND OTHER HEALTHCARE DATA FROM AMERICA: RISKS TO PRIVACY AND U.S. ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY

*The National Counterintelligence and Security Center* | February 2021

Would you want your DNA or other healthcare data going to an authoritarian regime with a record of exploiting DNA for repression and surveillance? For years, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has collected large healthcare data sets from the U.S. and nations around the globe, through both legal and illegal means, for purposes only it can control. While no one begrudges a nation conducting research to improve medical treatments, the PRC's mass collection of DNA at home has helped it carry out human rights abuses against domestic minority groups and support state surveillance. The PRC's collection of healthcare data from America poses equally serious risks, not only to the privacy of Americans, but also to the economic and national security of the U.S.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINESE TALENT PROGRAM TRACKER

*Emily Weinstein* | *Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology* | November 2020

The Chinese Talent Program Tracker is a catalogue of Chinese Party-State-sponsored initiatives aimed at cultivating China's domestic talent pool in support of China's strategic civilian and military goals. Viewed by Beijing as vital to Chinese economic and social development, talent programs aim to recruit everyone from experts to students of both Chinese and non-Chinese citizenship to fill positions across government, industry, defense, and academia to drive the innovation and growth of the Chinese economy. These programs provide various incentives—monetary and otherwise—to convince individuals to serve Chinese goals from within the Mainland and overseas in ways that promote the theft and exchange of critical information. According to a 2019 Senate report, these talent programs violate US research values and target US basic research, thereby severely impacting US competitiveness and the US economy.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **STRANDED STUDENTS FEEL SHAME, PRESSURE TO GIVE UP STUDY**

*Angela Lehmann | University World News | February 19, 2021*

A petition from more than 17,000 international students asking for exemptions to the border closure was presented to the Australian parliament last week. The latest available figures show about 20% of Australia's enrolled international students are stranded offshore. Of the 92,191 in this position, 70% were Chinese. We worked with Chinese international students to collect 28 written accounts of what their life has been like over the past year. Those that responded were male and female at varying stages of their studies. The stories we collected in our ongoing research paint a picture of anxiety, embarrassment and shame. Many feel the burden of placing financial pressure on their parents. Some female students are under pressure to give up their study plans and focus on traditional gendered expectations to earn money and get married before their late 20s.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S GRIP THREATENS ACADEMIC COOPERATION**

*Queenie KH Lam | University World News | February 20, 2021*

'China' has become the elephant in the room that we, in the field of international higher education, can no longer ignore. What exactly this elephant looks like is still in dispute between those who prefer to 'engage' with the rising superpower in the East and those who propose to 'contain' an emerging adversary that challenges established Western norms. The debate about engagement versus containment has been going on for, at least, 20 years in the United States, since the time when I was an exchange student in Washington DC and felt at first hand the impact of Sino-US geopolitical conflict on international students. The 'China Threat' school is not new. What is new is that the China Threat is not just a fear promulgated by the so-called China bashers or alarmists, but by all those threatened for criticising China or interfering with the internal affairs of the 'One Country' (Taiwan and Hong Kong included). The 'peaceful rise of China' globally has come 27 years earlier than expected if we take 2047 as the year that the United Kingdom imagined Hong Kong and China would be harmoniously unified as One Country in the wake of the 'superior' Western system demonstrated in the case of Hong Kong.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **EU SAYS IT CAN EXCLUDE CHINA FROM EU RESEARCH PROJECTS**

*Yojana Sharma | University World News | February 17, 2021*

The European Commission says it can exclude Chinese participation in Horizon Europe and other sensitive research projects using new powers to exclude third countries that do not share 'EU values'. Maria Cristina Russo, director for international cooperation in research and innovation at the European Commission in Brussels, said the principles of science and research cooperation were being negotiated with China based on the European Union's policy of being "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" – a phrase often used in the management of data information. "The Commission has designated China as an economic competitor, cooperation and negotiating partner, but also a 'systemic rival' and that has guided our actions," Russo said during an online discussion on China organised by the League of European Research Universities (LERU). "We will build on the new provisions that have been inserted in the Horizon Europe regulation, article 22.5, which in fact will allow us to limit participation in the programme," Russo said at the online event on 11 February.

Read the full article [here](#).



## THE LONG HACK: HOW CHINA EXPLOITED A U.S. TECH SUPPLIER

Jordan Robertson and Michael Riley | Bloomberg | February 12, 2021

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Defense found thousands of its computer servers sending military network data to China—the result of code hidden in chips that handled the machines' startup process. In 2014, Intel Corp. discovered that an elite Chinese hacking group breached its network through a single server that downloaded malware from a supplier's update site. And in 2015, the Federal Bureau of Investigation warned multiple companies that Chinese operatives had concealed an extra chip loaded with backdoor code in one manufacturer's servers. Each of these distinct attacks had two things in common: China and Super Micro Computer Inc., a computer hardware maker in San Jose, California. They shared one other trait; U.S. spymasters discovered the manipulations but kept them largely secret as they tried to counter each one and learn more about China's capabilities. China's exploitation of products made by Supermicro, as the U.S. company is known, has been under federal scrutiny for much of the past decade, according to 14 former law enforcement and intelligence officials familiar with the matter. That included an FBI counterintelligence investigation that began around 2012, when agents started monitoring the communications of a small group of Supermicro workers, using warrants obtained under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, according to five of the officials.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## NEW MIGRATION LAW SET TO 'DRIVE FOREIGN RESEARCHERS AWAY'

Jan Petter Myklebust | University World News | February 18, 2021

The Swedish Association of University Teachers and Researchers (SULF) has told the government that stricter requirements for permanent residence permits in the proposed new migration act may make it more difficult for Sweden to retain foreign researchers. This may be an unintentional consequence of the proposed law. On 15 September 2020, the parliamentary migration committee presented its proposal for a new 'long-term, sustainable migration policy'. The proposal was circulated for consultation to key stakeholders, including SULF, with a deadline to comment by 10 January. The proposal and responses are now being reviewed by the government, before it submits a bill with proposals for legislative amendments to parliament, which will then decide on the matter. The new law will be effective as of 20 July 2021. SULF, in its comments, writes that the latest available statistics show that 40% of newly-admitted doctoral students in Sweden in 2019 had an international background.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STRATEGIES MUST CHANGE, SAYS ACE

Mary Beth Marklein | University World News | February 14, 2021

A new report from the American Council on Education (ACE) calls on United States college and university leaders to fundamentally rethink their approach to international students, arguing that "a gap between rhetoric and reality" not only raises concern about the quality of the international student experience but also misses an opportunity to nurture more meaningful global engagement on campus. Drawing on a wide swathe of research, the report notes numerous shortcomings associated with the education of international students and lays out an ambitious framework for change that centres on building "lifelong relationships between students and institutions from the first point of contact to their postgraduate careers". "There's cultural change that needs to take place," says co-author Chris Glass, an associate professor of education at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and editor-in-chief of the Journal of International Students.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **SURGE IN STUDENTS APPLYING TO BRITISH UNIVERSITIES**

*South China Morning Post | University World News | February 20, 2021*

Official statistics reveal that the number of students from Hong Kong and mainland China applying for British universities rose to its highest in more than a decade, after rising by about 10% and 20% year on year respectively, writes Chan Ho-him for the South China Morning Post. Analysts believe a spike of Hong Kong applicants was mainly because of a new visa for residents holding British National (Overseas) passports which started last month, while more people from the mainland could be applying because of tense United States-China relations and the coronavirus pandemic. Latest figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) showed that of the 85,610 applications received from outside Europe, about 6,400 were from Hong Kong, up more than 9% compared to 5,870 last year. The statistics, released last Thursday and taken from the January deadline by which the vast majority of applications are submitted, also showed the number of applicants from across the border rose to 25,810 this year, a 21% increase from 21,250 last year.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **RESEARCH SECURITY SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON PROTECTING AMERICA'S INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL**

*Elisa Smith | University of California | February 17, 2021*

How do we protect the nation's research from getting into the wrong hands? When should a potential conflict of interest be disclosed? How can universities foster international collaboration while protecting their intellectual property? All of these timely questions were raised at the Research Security Virtual Symposium, hosted by the University of California, in close collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in late January. "We cannot meet 21st-century security challenges in isolation," UC President Michael V. Drake said during the symposium's opening remarks. "With research universities, federal agencies, law enforcement and industry associations working together, we can best position ourselves to protect our research and core principles of academic freedom while advancing scientific and technological discoveries." UC's systemwide Office of Ethics, Compliance and Audit Services convened the research security conference, in which more than 1,800 higher education leaders, federal law enforcement officials, the National Science Foundation and other funding agency representatives, policy experts, and U.S. government staff engaged in a robust exchange on critical national issues.

Read the full article [here](#).

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*The Academic Security and Counter Exploitation Program is coordinated by The Texas A&M University System Research Security Office as a service to the academic community.*

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