



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**March 31, 2021**

## **UNIVERSITIES COMPLAIN ABOUT TOO MUCH SECURITY LEGISLATION**

*University World News | March 27, 2021*

Australian universities have seen a sea change in national security concerns in recent years and are worried that too many regulations will make it hard to police any breaches, according to vice-chancellors, writes Jenny Sinclair for Research Professional News. At a parliamentary inquiry into national security on 19 March, several vice-chancellors said that concerns on security had widened in recent years: whereas they used to be about limiting access to sensitive and military research, they now include broader concerns about social and political influence by foreign powers on university campuses. The hearings, run by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, also uncovered more detail about five Australian Research Council grant applications that were rejected last year on security grounds. Major research universities and education bodies told the hearings that the plethora of regulations could have a counterproductive effect on their attempts to eliminate foreign interference.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO THE US: CHINA'S GOAL IS NOT TO REPLACE UNITED STATES**

*Henry Hullah and Arnaud Siad | CNN | March 26, 2021*

China's goal is not to replace the United States as the world's leading country, the Chinese Ambassador to the US said Thursday. "Our goal is to meet the growing aspiration of the Chinese people for better life. Our goal is not to compete with, or replace any other country," Cui Tiankai told CNN's Christiane Amanpour in an exclusive interview. "This has never been our national strategy," Cui added. The Chinese Ambassador was responding to comments made earlier on Thursday by US President Joe Biden, who said that China had "an overall goal of becoming the leading country in the world, the wealthiest country in the world and the most powerful country in the world." "It's not going to happen on my watch," added Biden, who spoke at length about his administration's goals with China during his first presidential news conference on Thursday. Biden's remarks followed an acrimonious first face-to-face meeting between US and Chinese officials in Anchorage, Alaska last week, where US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's statement that the Biden administration would bring up "deep concerns" about some of China's actions around the world was met with immediate pushback from Chinese counterparts.

Read the full article [here](#).



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## **SUPPLY CHAIN RISK MANAGEMENT: REDUCING THREATS TO KEY U.S. SUPPLY CHAINS**

*National Counterintelligence and Security Center*

The National Counterintelligence Strategy of the United States 2020-2022 strategic objective for supply chain security is to: "Reduce threats to key U.S. supply chains to prevent foreign attempts to compromise the integrity, trustworthiness, and authenticity of products and services purchased and integrated into the operations of the U.S. Government, the Defense Industrial Base, and the private sector. The exploitation of key supply chains by foreign adversaries—especially when executed in concert with cyber intrusions and insider threat activities—represents a complex and growing threat to strategically important U.S. economic sectors and critical infrastructure. Foreign adversaries are attempting to access our nation's key supply chains at multiple points—from concept to design, manufacture, integration, deployment, and maintenance—by inserting malware into important information technology networks and communications systems. The increasing reliance on foreign-owned or controlled hardware, software, or services as well as the proliferation of networking technologies, including those associated with the Internet of Things, creates vulnerabilities in our nation's supply chains.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **IF DOD WANTS AI IN ITS FUTURE, IT MUST START NOW, OFFICIAL SAYS**

*C. Todd Lopez | U.S. Department of Defense News | March 23, 2021*

Now is the time for decision makers, commanders and policymakers within the Defense Department to get on board with fully implementing artificial intelligence, the director of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center said. Right now, said Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Michael Groen, AI is being used in many places across the department — but not at scale. "I think you know you can see 1,000 flowers blooming across the Department of Defense and that's really powerful — it's a step in the right direction," he said, speaking at the National Defense Industrial Association. "But we need to start building on it. This is a truism that I think bears repeating again and again: If we want artificial intelligence to be our future, then we have to start building it in the present." Accomplishing that will mean a lot of change and work within the department, he said. "We have to do this comprehensively," he said. "Transformation has to be wholesale if it's going to be effective. The magic really starts happening when you connect automated processes.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **SEMICONDUCTOR SCANDAL A CONCERNING BACKDROP TO XI'S PURSUIT OF "CORE TECHNOLOGIES"**

*Elizabeth Chen | The Jamestown Foundation | March 26, 2021*

China's leadership has signaled the country's dedication towards pursuing self-sufficiency in "core technologies" including integrated circuits. During the Fifth Plenum last fall, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) reinforced its belief in innovation being the core driver of China's continuing development and pursuing a high-tech transformation of the manufacturing sector. The impetus for this structural transformation of the economy was first established in the 2006 Medium and Long Term Plan for Science and Technology and emphasized in the 13th Five Year Plan (2016-2020). The 14th Five Year Plan (FYP) (2021-2025), unveiled on March 5 during the annual legislative Two Sessions meetings, described technology innovation as a matter of national security, not just economic development, for the first time.

Read the full article [here](#).



## TUFTS ANNOUNCES DECISION TO CLOSE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Emily Thompson | *The Tufts Daily* | March 30, 2021

James Glaser, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Diana Chigas, senior international officer and associate provost, announced the decision to close the Confucius Institute at Tufts University (CITU) in a statement released on March 17. The CITU was launched in 2015 and its partnership with Tufts was renewed for two more years in 2019. The statement explained its purpose. “[CITU was established] to provide support for supplemental, not-for-credit Chinese language and culture instruction and programming, and to facilitate educational and cultural exchange and cooperation between Tufts and Beijing Normal University (BNU),” the statement said. In the statement, Glaser and Chigas highlighted the reasons for the decision and the future of Chinese language and culture learning at Tufts, noting that moving on from the CITU will allow the university to expand its relationship with BNU.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINA FIGHTS BACK WITH SANCTIONS ON ACADEMICS, INSTITUTE

Yojana Sharma | *University World News* | March 25, 2021

The imposition of tit-for-tat sanctions on researchers by China after the European Union imposed bans on Chinese officials, has ratcheted up pressure on academics, particularly those whose research involves topics deemed sensitive to China. Experts said the sanctions further narrow the space for China research and increase fears in the academic community that China could target more overseas academics in future because of their China-linked work. On Friday China announced sanctions against four organisations and nine individuals in the UK, mainly parliamentarians but also including Joanne Smith Finley, a reader in Chinese studies at Newcastle University, for what the Chinese foreign ministry called “maliciously spreading lies and information” about Xinjiang. Smith Finley said on Friday: “It seems I am to be sanctioned by the PRC [People’s Republic of China] government for speaking the truth about the Uyghur tragedy in Xinjiang, and for having a conscience. Well so be it. I have no regrets for speaking out and I will not be silenced.”

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES INSTRUCTED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM FOREIGN ESPIONAGE AND INTERFERENCE

Eanna Kelly | *Science Business* | March 25, 2021

Canada issued security guidelines on foreign espionage and interference to universities on Wednesday, as the government warned of a “real threat” to knowledge, data and intellectual property. The government asked members of a universities working group to develop risk guidelines, to integrate national security considerations into the evaluation and funding of research projects and partnerships. The security guidelines build on work already under way to bolster security policies and procedures in research councils and the Canada Foundation for Innovation. “Espionage and foreign interference activities by both human and cyber actors pose real threats to Canadian research integrity, intellectual property and business interests,” the government said. “Canadian research organisations should remain vigilant and ensure that they are applying best practices for securing their research and intellectual property, including employing strong cybersecurity and physical security protocols.” Extra precautions should be taken by any lab involved in COVID-19 research, the government said. Canada’s move follows similar efforts in countries including the UK and Australia to strengthen research defences, amid fears that espionage attempts are rising.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **SAFEGUARDING OUR FUTURE SERIES: VIRTUAL TELEWORK PLATFORMS – PROTECT YOUR COMPANY INFORMATION**

*The National Counterintelligence and Security Center | July 2020*

These unclassified, one-page "Safeguarding Our Future " bulletins provide a brief overview of a specific foreign intelligence threat, as well as impacts of that threat and steps for mitigation.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CONCERNS RAISED AS CORNELL CONSIDERS DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM WITH CHINA'S PEKING UNIVERSITY**

*Joseph Silverstein | The College Fix | March 23, 2021*

As Cornell University considers establishing a dual-degree program with China's Peking University, some are voicing concerns that the Ivy League institution should not partner with the communist regime. In interviews with The College Fix, several members of the Cornell campus community said that the university should not lend its reputation and support to a country that engages in extreme human rights violations as well as espionage against the United States. Peking University is based in Beijing, China's capital. "A joint degree program with Peking University creates issues of academic and personal freedom not raised by mere exchange programs or visiting students," Cornell Law School Professor William Jacobson said to The College Fix in an email. "This would be a degree to which Cornell is lending its name and credibility, and Cornell has an obligation to ensure that academic and personal freedoms are respected," he said. The program is being advanced by Alex Susskind, the associate dean of Cornell's School of Hotel Administration. He did not respond to a request for comment. Susskind presented the dual-degree program to the Faculty Senate on February 24. Multiple professors raised concerns about academic freedom and the human rights violations occurring in China, according to the meeting's minutes. When asked about academic freedom for Chinese students, Susskind said, "I would prefer not to get involved in talking about these bigger picture political-cultural things."

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **THE LATEST ON BIDEN'S SCIENCE TEAM: FORMER SENATOR TO LEAD NASA**

*Nidhi Subbaraman, Jeff Tollefson, Giuliana Viglione and Alexandra Witze | Nature | March 19, 2021*

After winning the US presidential election, Democrat Joe Biden moved quickly to begin naming the experts who will advise him on a range of issues — including science. He immediately announced a task force of public-health specialists who counseled him on a strategy to curtail the coronavirus pandemic, and he created new positions — a US coordinator and an international envoy — devoted to climate change. Scientists have welcomed Biden's swift actions in picking advisers with strong backgrounds in research and evidence-based policy. His predecessor, former Republican president Donald Trump, appointed multiple climate-change sceptics to top positions in key US science agencies. Many of Biden's nominees have now been confirmed by the US Senate — but some are still waiting. In the meantime, Nature is tracking some of the president's most important selections for science.

Read the full article [here](#).



## 8 TYPES OF PHISHING ATTACKS AND HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM

Fahmida Y. Rashid | CSO | November 24, 2020

Every data breach and online attack seems to involve some kind of phishing attempt to steal password credentials, to launch fraudulent transactions, or to trick someone into downloading malware. Indeed, Verizon's 2020 Data Breach Investigations Report finds that phishing is the top threat action associated with breaches. Enterprises regularly remind users to beware of phishing attacks, but many users don't really know how to recognize them. And humans tend to be bad at recognizing scams. According to Proofpoint's 2020 State of the Phish report, 65% of US organizations experienced a successful phishing attack in 2019. This speaks to both the sophistication of attackers and the need for equally sophisticated security awareness training. Add in the fact that not all phishing scams work the same way—some are generic email blasts while others are carefully crafted to target a very specific type of person—and it gets harder to train users to know when a message is suspect. Let's look at the different types of phishing attacks and how to recognize them.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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