



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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THE NEXT 75 YEARS OF US SCIENCE AND INNOVATION POLICY: AN INTRODUCTION

Robert W. Conn, Michael M. Crow, Cynthia A. Friend, and Marcia McNutt | Issues in Science and Technology | July 12, 2021

Since the end of World War II, a particular conception of the relationship between scientific research and societal benefits has dominated US science and technology policy. As laid out in Vannevar Bush's seminal 1945 report, *Science, the Endless Frontier*, the federal government, by funding basic research at the nation's universities and independent research institutions, would generate both new scientific knowledge and the skilled practitioners needed to apply that knowledge to societal problems, thereby ensuring "our health, prosperity, and security as a nation in the modern world." The vision at the heart of *Science, the Endless Frontier*—that society would benefit from new knowledge and should therefore support the generation of that knowledge—has been abundantly realized. Research conducted by America's universities and independent research institutions on behalf of the federal government has opened pathways to improved living standards, public health, and national security not only in the United States but around the world. However, science and the broader society in which science is embedded have changed radically over the past three-quarters of a century.

Read the full article [here](#).

SEEING THROUGH CHINA'S LENS: THE ORIGINS AND MANIFESTATIONS OF CHINA'S WORLDVIEW

Viola Tian and Alison Zihan Pang | NATO Association of Canada | September 2021

While few would disagree that China is an emerging global economic superpower, interpretations of its ascendance are divided. China's controversial stance on issues including sovereignty, democracy, and human rights has become a core site of debate. It is convenient to simplify the intentions behind China's foreign policy into its supposed ambition to eclipse the United States' status as world leader. Yet, China's increasingly assertive and nationalist characteristics demand more complex explanations. It is crucial to accurately characterize the Chinese official worldviews while gauging influential non-state actors' attitudes. Exploring the underlying logic of such a complex worldview and its influence on foreign policy is equally urgent.

Read the full article [here](#).



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

FEDERAL JUDGE ACQUITS TENNESSEE PROFESSOR WITH TIES TO CHINA

The Associated Press | Bloomberg | September 10, 2021

A federal judge on Thursday threw out all charges against a University of Tennessee professor accused of hiding his relationship with a Chinese university while receiving research grants from NASA. Anming Hu was arrested in February 2020 and charged with three counts of wire fraud and three counts of making false statements. The arrest was part of a broader Justice Department crackdown under then-President Donald Trump's administration against university researchers who conceal their ties to Chinese institutions. A jury in June deadlocked after three days of deliberation and U.S. District Judge Thomas Varlan declared a mistrial. Last month, prosecutors filed a notice that they intended to retry the case. Varlan ruled to acquit on all charges on Thursday, responding to a motion Hu's attorney made at trial that Varlan had declined to immediately rule on. A spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Rachele Barnes, said on Friday the office had no comment on the case.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW MANY CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES ARE IN THE UNITED STATES?

National Association of Scholars | September 8, 2021

his list, originally published in March 2018, will be updated periodically. If you know of additional Confucius Institutes that have opened or closed, please let us know at peter@nas.org. Since 2004, the Chinese government has sponsored Confucius Institutes on college and university campuses around the world, providing teachers, textbooks, and operating funds. Until recently, an agency of the Chinese Ministry of Education, the Hanban, oversaw Confucius Institutes. In the wake of widespread criticism, the Chinese government has reorganized Confucius Institutes under a new organization, the Chinese International Education Foundation. In April 2017, the National Association of Scholars released *Outsourced to China: Confucius Institutes and Soft Power in American Higher Education*, a comprehensive report on the way the Chinese government infiltrates American colleges and universities to enhance its own image. At that time, we counted 103 Confucius Institutes in the United States.

Read the full article [here](#).

FIND AND REPORT ANY CCP ACTIVITY: AUSTRALIA IS GOING TO EDUCATE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ABOUT CHINESE INCURSIONS ON CAMPUS

Abhyoday Sisodia | TFI Global | September 8, 2021

The Chinese Communist Party has used the education sector and the intelligentsia to infiltrate countries and increase their influence. This way of handling diplomacy is called hard power, a mix of soft power and coercion. However, Australia a country which has been facing this for quite a long time has decided that it has had enough. Under recently proposed laws, Australian university personnel and students would be taught how to spot foreign influence concerns on campus and report them to authorities. The fact that Australia is no longer willing to entertain even an ounce of interference from China is an open book and it is willing to go to any lengths to make sure that the influence of Chinese Communist Party members and sympathizers are dealt with. According to an earlier investigation, Chinese pro-democracy students in Australia face intimidation and fear of repercussions if they speak out on controversial matters vis a vis China and its Chinese Communist Party. Human Rights Watch discovered that such pupils in Australia felt watched, forcing them to self-censor in class.

Read the full article [here](#).



AG ROKITA: I WILL KEEP STANDING UP TO CHINA

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita | WTCA | September 6, 2021

When I ran for Attorney General, I promised Hoosiers I would hold China accountable for their many abuses, including stealing our intellectual property, committing human rights violations, and unleashing a deadly virus on the world, which they unsuccessfully tried to cover up. I continue keeping my end of the bargain to Hoosiers. Just weeks ago, the Office of the Indiana Attorney General started an investigation into Valparaiso University's affiliation with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) through its Confucius Institute. These organizations operate to spread propaganda and circulate the mantra of the CCP at both the university and in several K-12 schools in Indiana. Valparaiso alone has received at least \$1.1 million from the CCP to operate its institute. Three weeks after I announced the investigation, the university did the right thing by stating it intends to finally end its relationship with its Confucius Institute in six months. After March 1, 2022, there will no longer be any Confucius Institutes in the state of Indiana, but 38 still remain throughout the country. As a result of public scrutiny, Valparaiso has agreed to terminate its relationship with the CCP and has stated that the university will no longer receive CCP or other funding to hire CCP-blessed professors and staff from China through these partnerships.

Read the full article [here](#).

SHOULD THE US FEAR RISING NUMBER OF STEM PHDS IN CHINA?

Yojana Sharma | University World News | September 10, 2021

Concern is growing in some quarters in the United States that China is rapidly catching up with the number of PhDs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) it produces compared to the US, which could have an impact on the US lead in certain sectors of research that contribute to national security. But others say that while PhD-level expertise is a national priority for both the US and China, overly focusing on numbers does not necessarily indicate a country's research prowess on a global level. A new report by Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET) in the US released in August said that currently Chinese universities graduate roughly three STEM PhDs for every two graduated by US universities each year. By 2025, the report predicts that China will produce roughly twice as many STEM PhDs as the US. "Based on current enrolment patterns, we project that by 2025 Chinese universities will produce more than 77,000 STEM PhD graduates per year compared to approximately 40,000 in the United States.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINESE ACADEMIC ACCUSES AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OF NOT BEING TRANSPARENT OVER VISA CANCELLATION

ABC News | September 11, 2021

A prominent Chinese academic who had his visa cancelled on national security grounds has accused the Australian government of not being transparent about his case by refusing to respond to a letter of complaint. Chen Hong, a professor of Australian Studies at East China Normal University in Shanghai, told the ABC he wrote back to the Department of Home Affairs in August last year after receiving a letter from the department revoking his visa in May 2020. "I wrote, 'I am always available for you to contact me, that is if you think there are any questions you might need clarification [on].'" "But so far, there has been no contact whatsoever. It is still unsolved, like a stone dropped into the sea. Professor Chen aired his ongoing grievance in a recent episode of Australia Live, a weekly live streaming program by ABC Chinese on Australia-China relations. In a three-page letter addressed to the department and dated August 19, 2020, Professor Chen said he was "shocked" that ASIO deemed he was a direct or indirect security risk.

Read the full article [here](#).



NEW SEMESTER SEES MANY FOREIGN STUDENTS STILL SHUT OUT

Suvendrini Kakuchi and Mimi Leung | *University World News* | September 9, 2021

As the new semester begins this month in Japan, China, Taiwan and South Korea, local and foreign students are facing continued online teaching and in some cases border restrictions for international students even as vaccine programmes get under way, adding to the uncertainty for students. In Japan, universities are scrambling to respond to the latest government emergency regulations aimed at reducing the latest wave of COVID-19 infections – its fourth wave which began just before the Tokyo Olympic games in July. Higher education management experts say it is a challenge to announce concrete study plans amid constant extensions to the national state of emergency. Universities outside Tokyo are also obliged to follow local municipal safety regulations, adding to variations in information to students, both local and international, about the new semester. With the new wave of infections linked to the more infectious Delta variant, Japan is grappling with an average of almost 2,000 cases across the country daily, which only began to drop in the first week of September.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA'S FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY WISH LIST

Ryan Fedasiuk, Emily Weinstein, and Anna Puglisi | *Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology* | May 2021

Within the People's Republic of China's broader strategy to acquire foreign technology, "science and technology diplomats" (科技外交官) act as brokers. Stationed in PRC embassies and consulates across 52 countries, S&T diplomats monitor host country technological breakthroughs, identify investment opportunities for Chinese firms, and serve as the overseas arm of the International Cooperation Department of China's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). S&T diplomats occupy a unique role in China's technology acquisition strategy, forming a bridge between foreign and domestic entities. At home, MOST personnel interface with Chinese firms and track the scientific bottlenecks holding back China's development. Abroad, they coordinate with overseas scientists, professional associations, diaspora guilds, and elements of the United Front Work Department in the countries where they are stationed, to identify opportunities where Chinese firms can grow relationships and invest.

Read the full article [here](#).

CRIMINALIZING CHINA

Margaret K. Lewis | *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* | Spring 2021

The Department of Justice launched the China Initiative in November 2018 to counter national security threats emanating from the People's Republic of China (PRC). By June 2020, the Federal Bureau of Investigation had approximately two thousand active investigations under the Initiative. People and entities with connections to the PRC's governing party-state structure have engaged in trade secret theft and other crimes under U.S. law. The Department of Justice is not making up a threat. It is, however, framing that threat in a problematic way. This Article argues that using "China" as the glue connecting cases prosecuted under the Initiative's umbrella creates an overinclusive conception of the threat and attaches a criminal taint to entities that possess "China-ness," based on PRC nationality, PRC national origin, Chinese ethnicity, or other expressions of connections with "China." The Article further contends that, when assessed in light of the goals of deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation, and retribution, it is worrisome that the prosecution and punishment of people and entities rests in part on a connection with "China." A better path is to discard the "China Initiative" framing, focus on cases' individual characteristics, and enhance the Department of Justice's interactions with nongovernmental experts.

Read the full article [here](#).



US-CHINA STEM TALENT “DECOUPLING”

Remco Zwetsloot | Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory | 2020

This paper is part of the “Measure Twice, Cut Once: Assessing Some China–US Technology Connections” research series sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. As competition has intensified between the United States and China, actions to disengage their technology establishments from one another have also intensified. The two countries’ systems for research and development, production, and sale of cutting-edge technologies have been substantially, though by no means uniformly, commingled. More recently, there have been concerted efforts by both nations’ governments to reverse some or all of that commingling. Policymakers’ priorities include perceived risks to national security, worry about economic disadvantage from proliferation, and concern about uses of technologies that intentionally or indifferently may harm civil liberties or the environment. To explore the advisability and potential consequences of decoupling, the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory commissioned papers from experts in specific technology areas.

Read the full article [here](#).

FEDERAL RESEARCH: AGENCIES NEED TO ENHANCE POLICIES TO ADDRESS FOREIGN INFLUENCE

United States Government Accountability Office | December 2020

U.S. research may be subject to undue foreign influence in cases where a researcher has a foreign conflict of interest (COI). Federal grant-making agencies can address this threat by implementing COI policies and requiring the disclosure of information that may indicate potential conflicts. GAO reviewed five agencies—which together accounted for almost 90 percent of all federal research and development expenditures at universities in fiscal year 2018—and found that three have agency-wide COI policies, while two do not (see figure). The three agencies with existing policies focus on financial interests but do not specifically address or define non-financial interests, such as multiple professional appointments. In the absence of agency-wide COI policies and definitions on non-financial interests, researchers may not fully understand what they need to report on their grant proposals, leaving agencies with incomplete information to assess the risk of foreign influence.

Read the full article [here](#).

FEDERAL FOCUS ON INAPPROPRIATE FOREIGN INFLUENCE ON RESEARCH: PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN DEVELOPING AN INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

Elizabeth Peloso, Robert Hardy, Allen DiPalma, Naomi Schrag, and Kris West | Council on Governmental Relations | August 18, 2021

Over the past several years there has been increasing concern about potential malign foreign influence and research security risk at U.S. research institutions. These concerns encompass a variety of activities such as: nondisclosure of foreign gifts to and contracts with U.S. academic institutions; recruitment of U.S. scientists to participate in foreign government-sponsored talent programs (FGTPs) that support the development of critical emerging technologies; and theft of intellectual property and/or diversion of intellectual capital developed with U.S. government funds at U.S. research institutions. While certain countries, including Russia, Iran, and others, have caused concern, the U.S. government’s primary focus has been on the People’s Republic of China (China), as illustrated by FBI Director Christopher Wray’s February 2018 address before the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee in which he stated that the academic sector was naïve to the China Threat.

Read the full article [here](#).



18 U.S.C. SECTION 951 AND THE NON-TRADITIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACTOR THREAT FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR TO THE PRESENT DAY

David Aaron | February 8, 2021

The United States has found itself under a subtle, non-violent attack by a rival foreign government. An unprecedented, sustained, and multipronged campaign of activity that does not constitute traditional military force or espionage threatens to exert a stealthy and nonattributable influence upon American attitudes toward international affairs at a moment of global crisis. Our adversary seeks to expand its geographical control and its worldwide influence at the expense of liberal democratic powers. Institutions at the very core of American democracy—the news media, lawfully assembled labor and advocacy organizations, and corporations—are at risk of becoming unwitting tools of this assault. The adversary similarly seeks to acquire American scientific and technical expertise and to use its economic power to affect American and Western European supply chains. It does so through agents and cooptees who endeavor to procure intellectual property and supplies without revealing the adversary's involvement. The year is 1915. The adversary that has so effectively identified modes of attack that exploit the inherent openness of democracy and free-market capitalism is Imperial Germany. The United States has detected the German influence campaign. No law exists, however, to support the investigation and disruption of foreign-directed activity that, if successful, could keep the United States out of the Great War and hand victory in Europe to the rising German Empire.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA'S APPROACH TO TECH TALENT COMPETITION: POLICIES, RESULTS, AND THE DEVELOPING GLOBAL RESPONSE

Remco Zwetsloot | *Global China* | April 2020

China sees talent as central to its technological advancement; President Xi Jinping has repeatedly called talent "the first resource" in China's push for "independent innovation." As part of this push, China has formulated a multi-pronged strategy for growing its science and technology talent pool: (1) improving domestic education, (2) attracting overseas Chinese talent, and (3) attracting foreign talent. Each of these three goals has recently seen significant policy reforms and investments. But while China's intentions are clear, its prospects for success are not. In many cases, plans that look impressive on paper have yielded mixed results in practice. Attracting high-quality talent from abroad has proved challenging, and significant barriers to success will likely remain in place for the foreseeable future. In responding to China's international talent push, other countries face dueling incentives. On the one hand, universities and businesses benefit greatly from the presence of international talent, and China is the world's biggest source of it. This reality has long pushed countries to compete in attracting Chinese talent. On the other hand, concerns about Chinese technology transfer and related talent policies are becoming increasingly widespread and acute. Countries have only just begun to navigate these trade-offs and challenges.

Read the full article [here](#).

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