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EYES WIDE OPEN: ETHICAL RISKS IN RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH CHINA

Glenn Tiffert and Jeffrey Stoff | Hoover Institution Press | December 15, 2021

This report presents a case study of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Automation (CASIA), a global leader in education and research on artificial intelligence, biometrics, and neuroscience. CASIA exemplifies a class of entities—common to authoritarian nations—that simultaneously pursue beneficial and reprehensible lines of research. While its subdivisions and commercial affiliates undertake projects that advance human welfare and the frontiers of knowledge in areas such as medicine, they also partner with public security organs on mass surveillance technologies associated with human rights violations, particularly in the Xinjiang region. US research institutions and companies collaborate extensively with CASIA. Yet the ethical and integrity risks of those collaborations receive insufficient scrutiny and may compromise democratic values as well as sanctions, export controls, and other policy measures adopted by the US government in response to repression by authoritarian regimes. The US research enterprise must develop nuanced knowledge and procedures for grappling with the dilemmas that collaboration with Janus-faced entities such as CASIA entails.

Read the full article [here](#).

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. INVESTMENTS IN CHINESE TECH COMPANIES WITH MILITARY OR SURVEILLANCE TIES

Ellen Nakashima and Jeanne Whalen | The Washington Post | December 16, 2021

Last year, a fast-rising artificial intelligence company in China won a little-noticed contract from a Chinese military academy to provide battlefield command software — technology that defense experts say could become part of the military's operational network. A few months later, Goldman Sachs invested in the Beijing-based company, helping it raise \$700 million, according to the company, 4Paradigm. So did Sequoia Capital China, a Chinese affiliate of the prominent Silicon Valley venture capital firm, which markets funds that draw investment from U.S. university endowments and charitable trusts. There was nothing illegal about those investments in 4Paradigm, a seven-year-old start-up whose foray into artificial intelligence has been so successful it is planning to go public in the coming weeks. That's because while U.S. policy bars exports of technology with military applications to China and also forbids investment in a limited list of largely publicly traded companies that the government says support China's military, Chinese companies not on the list are fair game for investors.

Read the full article [here](#).



CHINA IS USING U.S. UNIVERSITIES AGAINST AMERICA

James Jay Carafano and Chad Wolf | *The National Interest* | December 17, 2021

Here's What You Need To Remember: A 2014 study by the American Association of University Professors examined twelve Confucius Institutes, surveying their hiring policies, funding arrangements, contracts, and pressure on affiliated faculty. The report flagged four issues of concern: intellectual freedom; transparency; entanglement with Chinese State policies; concerns that institutes are instruments of propaganda. Americans are increasingly wary of Chinese Communist Party influence on U.S. universities—and rightly so. Despite the Ivory Tower's leftward slant, universities remain a wellspring of American scientific, technical, and engineering research and innovation. China's desire to tap that well is no secret. Its campus-based Confucius Institutes have received much attention of late, but that is just the ice cube on the tip of the iceberg. Several other Chinese programs also have the potential to influence and exploit American colleges and universities. Their activities—like those of the Confucius Institutes—are not fully known. But here is a snapshot of what we do know and why they are a problem.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA HAWKS DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SCIENCE ADVANCES

Dan Wang | *The Atlantic* | December 18, 2021

What do we mean, exactly, when we refer to a piece of technology? The answer will help determine whether the United States can maintain its technological superiority over China. Technology takes three distinct forms. It's an embodied tool, like the pots, pans, or oven in a kitchen. It's written instruction, like patents, blueprints, or a cake recipe. And it's process knowledge—the irreplaceable, hard-won practical experience that's too difficult to write down. Replicating Grandma's cheesecake is hard, even when you're working in her kitchen and following her exquisite notes. Unfortunately, in its competition with China, the U.S. is protecting its pots and recipes while putting legal pressure on the cheesecake experts within its own borders—thereby limiting the country's ability to create new intellectual property. This is a worrisome sign that U.S. authorities are failing to understand something important: The most useful technology is not intellectual property in the form of written documents, but the unwritten knowledge in people's heads. For decades, Washington has decried China's intellectual-property theft.

Read the full article [here](#).

FORMER DEFENSE CONTRACTOR ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTED ESPIONAGE

U.S. Department of Justice | December 16, 2021

A South Dakota man was arrested last night in Lead, South Dakota, on criminal charges related to his alleged espionage attempts. According to court documents, John Murray Rowe Jr., 63, of Lead, attempted to provide classified national defense information to the Russian government. According to the complaint, Rowe, who is originally from Massachusetts, was employed for nearly 40 years as a test engineer for multiple cleared defense contractors. In connection with his employment, Rowe held various national security clearances from SECRET to TOP SECRET//SCI (Sensitive Compartmented Information) and worked on matters relating to the U.S. Air Force's aerospace technology, among other things. After committing a number of security violations and revealing a fervent interest in Russian affairs, including whether he could obtain a security clearance from the Russian government, Rowe was identified as a potential insider threat and terminated from employment. Based on his conduct, FBI began an undercover operation to determine Rowe's willingness to communicate classified information to a foreign government.

Read the full article [here](#).



US TO IMPOSE LIMITS ON CHINA'S THOUSAND TALENTS PROGRAM

Rakesh | Community News | December 20, 2021

The US Congress is nearing consensus on new plans to limit foreign influence in academic research, and universities hope the final details will strike a balance between cautious protection and dangerous overreaction. The initiatives, which are part of draft science policy bills already passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate, target China's Thousand Talents program, which largely excludes participants in that or similar foreign funding initiatives from US government support. With the case before a House-Senate conference committee to resolve disputes before final entry into force, US universities support the underlying concept but hope for an approach that bans certain behaviors rather than bans entire programs. "The reality is that some of these programs probably aren't a problem at all," said Tobin Smith, vice president for policy at the Association of American Universities. "It's what they're promoting, the type of activity, that's what really matters."

Read the full article [here](#).

PROTECT YOUR ORGANIZATION FROM THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE THREAT

Michael J. Orlando | National Counterintelligence and Security Center

Today the global threat environment is more diverse and dynamic than ever. As spelled out in the latest Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC), a growing number of state actors and non-state actors are targeting the United States. They are no longer just interested in obtaining classified U.S. secrets but also are collecting information from almost all U.S. Government agencies and virtually every sector of the U.S. economy. Personal data, trade secrets, intellectual property, technology, and research and development are all being targeted by adversaries who have the capabilities, patience, and resources to get them. To achieve their objectives, foreign adversaries are employing a range of illegal techniques, including insider threats, cyber penetrations, supply chain attacks, and blended operations that combine some or all these methods. They are also using a variety of legal and quasi-legal methods, including mergers and acquisitions, investments, joint ventures, partnerships, and talent recruitment programs to acquire U.S. technology and innovation. Ultimately, they seek to degrade our economic power and national security, compromise our critical infrastructure, and undermine our democratic institutions and ideals.

Read the full article [here](#).

DOCUMENTS LINK HUAWEI TO CHINA'S SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS

Eva Dou | The Washington Post | December 14, 2021

The Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies has long brushed off questions about its role in China's state surveillance, saying it just sells general-purpose networking gear. A review by The Washington Post of more than 100 Huawei PowerPoint presentations, many marked "confidential," suggests that the company has had a broader role in tracking China's populace than it has acknowledged. These marketing presentations, posted to a public-facing Huawei website before the company removed them late last year, show Huawei pitching how its technologies can help government authorities identify individuals by voice, monitor political individuals of interest, manage ideological reeducation and labor schedules for prisoners, and help retailers track shoppers using facial recognition. "Huawei has no knowledge of the projects mentioned in the Washington Post report," the company said in a statement, after The Post shared some of the slides with Huawei representatives to seek comment. "Like all other major service providers, Huawei provides cloud platform services that comply with common industry standards."

Read the full article [here](#).



HARVARD CHEMIST ON TRIAL: A GUIDE TO THE CHARLES LIEBER CASE

Andrew Silver | Nature | December 14, 2021

A highly-anticipated trial began today for star nanotechnology researcher Charles Lieber, who stands accused by the US government of actions including lying about his involvement in a Chinese government talent-recruitment programme, and failing to disclose income from China on his tax returns. This is the second trial for an academic accused of hiding ties to China since the Department of Justice (DOJ) launched a controversial initiative in 2018 to prevent that country from using US resources for political gain — and legal experts say its verdict might influence the prosecution of future cases. Lieber, who is on leave as chair of Harvard University's chemistry and chemical biology department, has pleaded not guilty to all charges. A high-profile researcher known for developing nanomaterials for medicine and biology, he won the 2012 Wolf Prize in Chemistry and was listed as a potential Nobel Prize winner by Thomson Reuters in 2008. His arrest in January 2020 shocked scientists.

Read the full article [here](#).

HARVARD PROFESSOR'S TRIAL A TEST OF DOJ'S CHINA PROSECUTIONS

Philip Marcelo | ABC News | December 14, 2021

The trial of a Harvard University professor charged with hiding his ties to a Chinese-run recruitment program is the latest bellwether in the U.S. Justice Department's controversial effort to crackdown on economic espionage by China. Opening statements in the trial of Charles Lieber, the former chair of Harvard's department of chemistry and chemical biology, begin Wednesday after jury selection was completed Tuesday in Boston federal court. Lieber's trial is among the highest profile cases to come from the U.S. Department of Justice's so-called "China Initiative," which was launched in 2018 under former President Donald Trump but has faced criticism that it harms academic research and amounts to racial profiling of Chinese researchers. Federal prosecutors and Lieber's defense team didn't comment Tuesday, but in legal filings ahead of trial, prosecutors said they'll show Lieber deliberately made false statements about his participation in a Chinese university program to protect his reputation and career.

Read the full article [here](#).

WORLD'S 6,600 TOP CITED RESEARCHERS – CHINA CONTINUES TO GROW

Jan Petter Myklebust and Karen MacGregor | University World News | December 18, 2021

The big story of last month's global ranking of Highly Cited Researchers was the rise of China, with 935 out of the list of 6,602 researchers, although America still dominates. Then there are the interesting outliers – such as Dr Arridina Susan Silitonga of Indonesia – who produce outstanding science outside of the support of massive research systems. The Highly Cited Researchers' list is produced by bibliometric experts and data scientists at the Institute for Scientific Information at Clarivate Plc in London. The 2021 'who's who' lists influential researchers from 70 countries or regions, but 82.9% are from 10 leading research countries and 71.4% from the top five, "a remarkable concentration of top talent". The list identifies researchers who demonstrate significant influence in their fields by having published multiple highly cited papers during the last decade. This year 3,774 of the researchers have been recognised in in specific fields and 2,828 for cross-field impact.

Read the full article [here](#).



CHINA CONTINUES TO EXPLOIT US UNIVERSITIES TO BOLSTER MILITARY MODERNIZATION: REPORT

Asian News International | December 12, 2021

China continues to use the United States universities system to collect information to bolster its nuclear and cyber-espionage programs, according to a media report. A report released on Thursday by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank found that China is using its existing relationships with US universities to collect information and technological know-how "to achieve Chinese military dominance," Fox News reported. "China's civilian university system plays a major role in China's military-industrial complex, including its nuclear and cyber-espionage programs," the report found. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has "ordered" civilian universities and all students to comply with its military-civil fusion strategy to integrate military, civilian and commercial investments to "advance China's interest," Fox News reported.

Read the full article [here](#).

FBI STING EXPOSES DEFENSE CONTRACTOR'S ESPIONAGE AFTER FSO AND ISO IDENTIFIED AN INSIDER THREAT

Christopher Burgess | ClearanceJobs | December 17, 2021

John Rowe, an engineer with 40-plus years of cleared U.S. defense sector experience was arrested on December 16 for attempted espionage. An arrest which may not have ever occurred had it not been for the initiative of a facility security officer (FSO) and an information security officer (ISO). These individuals may have worked at separate companies, but their encounters with Rowe demonstrated he was an insider threat risk to their respective companies and their client – the United States Government. In mid-April 2017, the FSO at "Company-3" assessed Rowe to be an insider threat and reported him as such to the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA).

Read the full article [here](#).

THE HUAWEI MOMENT

Alex Rubin, Alan Omar Loera Martinez, Jake Dow, and Anna Puglisi | Center for Security and Emerging Technology | July 2021

For the first time, a Chinese company—Huawei—is set to lead the global transition from one key national security infrastructure technology to the next. How did Washington, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, fail to protect U.S. firms in this strategic technology and allow a geopolitical competitor to take a leadership position in a national security relevant critical infrastructure such as telecommunications? This policy brief highlights the characteristics of 5G development that China leveraged, exploited, and supported to take the lead in this key technology. The Huawei case study is in some ways the canary in the coal mine for emerging technologies and an illustration of what can happen to U.S. competitiveness when China's companies do not have to base decisions on market forces.

Read the full article [here](#).

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