



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

March 24, 2022

FIVE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED VARIOUSLY WITH STALKING, HARASSING AND SPYING ON U.S. RESIDENTS ON BEHALF OF THE PRC SECRET POLICE

U.S. Department of Justice | March 16, 2022

Two complaints were unsealed, and one amended complaint was authorized today in federal court charging five defendants with various crimes related to efforts by the secret police of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to stalk, harass and spy on Chinese nationals residing in Queens, New York, and elsewhere in the United States. Fan "Frank" Liu and Matthew Ziburis were arrested yesterday in the Eastern District of New York, while Shujun Wang was arrested this morning in the Eastern District of New York. Their initial appearances are scheduled this afternoon in Brooklyn before U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Cho. The other two defendants remain at large. According to court documents, all the defendants allegedly perpetrated transnational repression schemes to target U.S. residents whose political views and actions are disfavored by the PRC government, such as advocating for democracy in the PRC. In one of these schemes, the co-conspirators sought to interfere with federal elections by allegedly orchestrating a campaign to undermine the U.S. congressional candidacy of a U.S. military veteran who was a leader of the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing, PRC.

Read the full article [here](#).

AFTER THE CHINA INITIATIVE

Margaret Lewis | Lawfare | March 23, 2022

Last month, the Justice Department ended its China Initiative. The trial that began March 21 of Franklin (Feng) Tao, an academic prosecuted under the Initiative, is the first public test of what scrapping the name means. Created to support the "strategic priority of countering Chinese national security threats" with a focus on protecting intellectual property, the Trump-era program also fueled bias and spread a chilling effect among researchers in the STEM fields who have ties to China based on ethnicity and national origin. The Justice Department unflinchingly pushed back on these concerns, stressing that—despite the unprecedented grouping of cases based on having some nexus to China—decisions were driven purely by behavior, not ethnicity. Disproportionate effects alone do not prove discrimination, but the dramatically high percentage of ethnically Chinese defendants, the lack of a clear definition of what constitutes a China Initiative case, the emphasis on an expansive threat that includes some Chinese students and professors as "non-traditional collectors of intellectual property" and the crumbling of high-profile cases undermined the government's assurances.

Read the full article [here](#).



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

NOTICE OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON THE PUBLICATION OF “MADE IN CHINA 2025”

Center for Security and Emerging Technology | March 10, 2022

Read our original translation of "Made in China 2025." One of China's most important industrial policies, it sets milestones for China to reach by 2020 and 2025 in service of its goal of upgrading the PRC manufacturing sector. The following document is "Made in China 2025," one of China's most important industrial policies. Made in China 2025, formulated in 2015, sets milestones for China to reach by 2020 and 2025 in service of its goal of upgrading the PRC manufacturing sector. The Made in China 2025 strategy aims both to increase the competitiveness and global market share of the Chinese manufacturing industry and to reduce China's dependence on foreign manufactured goods.

Read the full article [here](#).

WILL CHINA SET GLOBAL TECH STANDARDS?

Graham Webster, Helen Toner, Jeffrey Ding, Blake Berger, Daniel R. Russel, Patrick Lozada, Tim Rühlig, and John Seaman | ChinaFile | March 22, 2022

In early February, the European Commission issued a sweeping strategy for setting global technology standards. Coming on the heels of Beijing's latest standards strategy, released in October, it reflects Europe's efforts to push back against China's mounting involvement in global standards setting. A Brookings report released last year contends that the government's work behind the scenes to influence and set international technology standards reflects Xi Jinping's aim for China to become a "cyber great power." The country's "strategies not only serve China's commercial interests, but also bolster its push for 'cyber sovereignty' instead of the free flow of ideas, information, and data," notes a recent Asia Society Policy Institute report. "State control of the internet and the Chinese approach to data governance restrict access to information and curtail free speech and other universal rights." International tech experts at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, however, argue that China often utilizes standards as "a lever for upgrading the country's industrial base." What are the implications of China becoming the standards bearer for international technology standards? What strategies might the U.S., Japan, EU, and other competing nations pursue to bolster their own interests?

Read the full article [here](#).

WHY NATIONAL SECURITY IS A SHARED BURDEN BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Klon Kitchen | The Dispatch | March 17, 2022

Technology's role in our daily lives is amazing. In many ways, we're experiencing a renaissance in innovation that is making the world more accessible, understandable, and enjoyable. Just check out this video as an example of what I'm talking about. But of course, it's not all puppies and unicorns. Technology is also fundamentally reshaping huge swaths of society and many of these changes even have national security implications. This raises the question: What's driving these changes and where are they likely to lead? Well, here are three trends I believe are especially important. First, we're innovating faster than we can secure. Every day we see new applications, new capabilities, and new technology businesses coming into existence and offering unparalleled opportunities for human thriving and economic growth. But, with many of these innovations comes new vulnerabilities and we're not accounting for them as quickly as we create them. For example, checkout these statistics from Cybersecurity Ventures' Cybersecurity Almanac: In 2021, cybercrime inflicted more than \$6 trillion in damages globally. If this were measured as a country, it'd be the world's third largest economy behind the United States and China.

Read the full article [here](#).



KU PROFESSOR ACCUSED OF FRAUD UNDER CHINA INITIATIVE GOES TO CRIMINAL TRIAL

Allison Kite | *Kansas Reflector* | March 21, 2022

The two and a half years since her husband, Franklin Tao, was arrested have been a waking nightmare for Hong Peng and the couple's two children. Peng said she is working three jobs while the family falls into debt from her husband's legal expenses — and his lost income. She said they risk losing their house. Their two teenage children are traumatized, and Tao is severely depressed because of the prosecution that Peng and fellow Asian Americans say is an example of racial profiling of professors by a now-defunct federal initiative. "The injustice against Franklin left our family in total fear, anxiety and desperation," Peng said. "We have exhausted our savings paying for legal fees and fighting to survive on my income alone." Franklin Tao was the first person arrested under the China Initiative, the brainchild of President Donald Trump's U.S. Department of Justice. The administration said economic spies with connections to China were stealing American intellectual property, NPR reported. The policy was scrapped by President Joe Biden's administration last month.

Read the full article [here](#).

US AND CHINA TENSIONS PUT AI COLLABORATION INTO REVERSE

Afiq Fitri | *Tech Monitor* | March 23, 2022

Despite growing geopolitical tensions and technological competition, collaboration between AI researchers in the US and China has grown over the past decade. But data from Stanford University's latest AI Index Report shows that in 2021, the number of AI papers co-authored by researchers in the US and China fell for the first time since at least 2010. This is likely the result of the US' controversial 'China Initiative', designed to protect scientific research from espionage, which was scrapped last month. As geopolitical tensions have mounted between the US and China in the last decade, technology has become a key focus of competition between the two great powers. But until recently, this had not dissuaded AI researchers from collaborating with their international peers, says Michael Sellitto, deputy director of the Stanford Institute for Human-centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI). "China and the US are two major sources of AI talent and naturally, there will be many Chinese researchers whom US researchers would want to work with, and vice versa as researchers would want to work with the best in the fields," he explains.

Read the full article [here](#).

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION UNDERMINES ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN WESTERN UNIVERSITIES

Mohamed Mandour | *University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts, Human Rights Program*
March 21, 2022

Luo Daiqing, a 20-year old Chinese student at the University of Minnesota, shared posts on his Twitter account while he was studying in the US. These tweets were later considered by a Chinese court as "denigrating a national leader's image and [containing] indecent pictures," which "created a negative social impact." The court sentenced Daiqing to six months in prison after he arrived in China. That tragic case confirmed two very serious issues. The first is the global reach of authoritarian regimes and the ways in which the impacts of their draconian laws go beyond borders to control students who are expressing their thoughts from 7,000 miles away. The second issue relates to the fact that Twitter is banned in China, meaning that those who reported Daiqing's tweets to the government are part of a larger effort to monitor and surveil their citizens abroad, making the Chinese government the world's leading perpetrator of attacks on dissidents abroad.

Read the full article [here](#).



A ROLE FOR FUNDERS IN FOSTERING CHINA'S RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Li Tang | Science | March 3, 2022

Given its sheer scale and growth, China's scientific research and development (R&D) enterprise can have tremendous effects across the global scientific community in terms of both research quality and research integrity. Although issues of research funding and integrity arise in countries around the globe, they are particularly salient in China given the major role of government funding in supporting research and the alarming number of scientific publications by authors affiliated with Chinese institutions that have been retracted. With its pivoting position in knowledge production, the Chinese science grant system is taking a greater role in curbing scientific misconduct and fostering research integrity. Despite this, several barriers remain. The Chinese science grant system plays a major role in supporting basic research, including a huge amount of false science as evidenced by journal retractions. Unlike many counterparts in other countries, many Chinese universities and research institutes are often reluctant to initiate and publicize misconduct investigations. As an emerging science power, Chinese attention toward spotting and stopping misconduct is a rather recent phenomenon.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE SECURITIZATION OF 'CHINESE INFLUENCE' IN AUSTRALIA

Andrew Chubb | Taylor & Francis Online | March 21, 2022

This article traces the emergence of 'Chinese influence' as a conceptual touchstone of Australia's public policy discourse in 2017–2018. The People's Republic of China's (PRC) efforts to influence politics abroad had been well documented since the 2000s and cannot explain the timing of their securitization from mid-2017. It was through the formation of a securitizing coalition of intelligence officials, politicians, and journalists that the PRC as a source of existential threats gained policy traction. But as the coalition expanded from security agencies to politicians and the media, the scope of the threat expanded from an initial concern with PRC party-state activity to the securitization of a much wider array of state and non-state activities under the ambiguous label 'Chinese influence.' On 5 December 2017 amid a crucial by-election campaign, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced the biggest shakeup of the country's national security laws since the Cold War in order to protect 'our way of life' and 'our democracy.'

Read the full article [here](#).

A COMPETITIVE ERA FOR CHINA'S UNIVERSITIES – HOW INCREASED FUNDING IS PAVING THE WAY

Ryan Fedasiuk, Alan Omar Loera Martinez, and Anna Puglisi | Center for Security and Emerging Technology | March 2022

This brief illuminates the scale of Chinese government funding for higher education, science, and technology by exploring budget and expense reports for key government organizations and 34 of China's most elite "Double First Class" universities. Chinese political leaders view elite universities as key components of the country's military modernization, economic growth, and soft power; a situation that presents security risks for international partners. In order to achieve its ambitious science and technology (S&T) development goals, the Chinese government has privileged a select group of universities with progressively larger amounts of funding over time. While China's focus on higher education, science, and technology is not new, the evolution of Chinese universities, from gutted and resource-starved institutions during the Cultural Revolution to centers of research and international collaboration today, is a success story of China's policies and programs.

Read the full article [here](#).



US DOJ FORMALLY ENDS THE CHINA INITIATIVE, BUT LEAVES THE UNDERLYING PROSECUTION PRIORITIES INTACT

Christopher Pelham and Brian A. Sun | Norton Rose Fulbright | March 2022

On February 23, 2022, Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen formally announced the end of the China Initiative, a policy initiative that the US Department of Justice created in 2018 in order to investigate and prosecute allegations of espionage, trade secret theft and other conduct committed by the Chinese government and those acting on its behalf. AAG Olsen further announced that, in place of the China Initiative, the DOJ National Security Division (NSD) would launch a Strategy for Countering Nation-State Threats, which will focus on countering threats to US national security and economic interests on the part of not only China, but “a range of hostile nation-states.” While the end of the China Initiative appears to mark a turning point in how DOJ handles China-related cases, it is also clear that DOJ will continue to focus on the same policy priorities under a different name – while broadening the approach to also include other countries such as Russia and Iran (Relevant Countries). Individuals, companies and groups who maintain close connections to the Relevant Countries (particularly in the areas of academic and research collaboration, technology and information sharing and supply chain sourcing) should continue to expect potential investigative attention from DOJ.

Read the full article [here](#).

SECURING AI – HOW TRADITIONAL VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE MUST ADAPT

Andrew Lohn and Wyatt Hoffman | Center for Security and Emerging Technology | March 2022

Like traditional software, vulnerabilities in machine learning software can lead to sabotage or information leakages. Also like traditional software, sharing information about vulnerabilities helps defenders protect their systems and helps attackers exploit them. This brief examines some of the key differences between vulnerabilities in traditional and machine learning systems and how those differences can affect the vulnerability disclosure and remediation processes. When a software developer, government, or independent researcher discovers a cyber vulnerability, they can turn to a broad set of policies, procedures, and informal norms governing responsible disclosure. These practices have evolved over the last 40 years and, in many cases, have helped shorten the period between vulnerability discovery and remediation. As machine learning applications become more widespread, attention has turned to their potential vulnerabilities.

Read the full article [here](#).

CLASH OF EMPIRES – FROM 'CHIMERICA' TO THE 'NEW COLD WAR'

Ho-fung Hung | Cambridge University Press | March 18, 2022

Many believe the recent deterioration in US–China relations represents a 'New Cold War' rooted in ideological differences. However, such differences did not prevent the two countries from pursuing economic integration and geopolitical cooperation in the 1990s and 2000s. Ho-fung Hung argues that what underlies the change in US–China relations is the changing relationship between US–China corporations. Following China's slowdown after 2010, state-backed Chinese corporations turned increasingly aggressive when they expanded in both domestic and global markets. This was at the expense of US corporations, who then halted their previously intense lobbying for China in Washington. Simultaneously, China's export of industrial overcapacity has provoked geopolitical competition with the United States. The resulting dynamic, Hung argues, resembles interimperial rivalry among the great powers at the turn of the twentieth century.

Read the full article [here](#).



THE UNITED STATES HAS BLACKLISTED CHINESE ENTITIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND THE USE OF MIND-CONTROL WEAPONS

The West News | December 18, 2021

According to the Biden administration, over 30 Chinese language research institutes and businesses have been sanctioned for human rights breaches and the claimed development of technologies like brain-control weapons that threaten US national security. China's Academy of Military Medical Sciences and 11 research institutes are accused of employing biotechnology "to help Chinese language navy finish makes use of and finish customers, to incorporate purported brain-control weaponry," according to a Federal Register notice. "The scientific pursuit of biotechnology and medical innovation can save lives. Sadly, the PRC is selecting to make use of these applied sciences to pursue management over its folks and its repression of members of ethnic and non secular minority teams," said US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo in a press release referring to the People's Republic of China and human rights abuses in Xinjiang, China's far-western region. The State Department has previously classified abuses against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang as "widespread, state-sponsored pressured labor" and "mass detention." Recent developments in Xinjiang and several human rights abuses prompted the White House to propose a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. Beijing denies abusing religious and ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.

Read the full article [here](#).

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