



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

May 4, 2022

FACT SHEET: PRESIDENT BIDEN ANNOUNCES TWO PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES ADVANCING QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES

The White House | May 04, 2022

Today, President Biden will sign two Presidential directives that will advance national initiatives in quantum information science (QIS), signaling the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to this critical and emerging technology. Together, the two directives lay the groundwork for continued American leadership in an enormously promising field of science and technology, while mitigating the risks that quantum computers pose to America's national and economic security. The United States has long been a global leader in the development of new technologies, like QIS. QIS is a broad field of science and engineering. Quantum computers, one of the many promising applications of QIS, are not a replacement to traditional computers. Rather, they are a fundamentally different kind of computer, with the ability to analyze information in ways that traditional computers cannot. While QIS itself is not new, recent breakthroughs in QIS have shown the potential to drive innovations across the American economy, from energy to medicine, through advancements in computation, networking and sensing.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW TO TACKLE THE DATA COLLECTION BEHIND CHINA'S AI AMBITIONS

Jessica Dawson and Tarah Wheeler | Brookings | April 29, 2022

The United States and China are increasingly engaged in a competition over who will dominate the strategic technologies of tomorrow. No technology is as important in that competition as artificial intelligence: Both the United States and China view global leadership in AI as a vital national interest, with China pledging to be the world leader by 2030. As a result, both Beijing and Washington have encouraged massive investment in AI research and development. Yet the competition over AI is not just about funding. In addition to investments in talent and computing power, high-performance AI also requires data—and lots of it. The competition for AI leadership cannot be won without procuring and compiling large-scale datasets. Although we have some insight into Chinese A.I. funding generally—see, for example, a recent report from the Center for Security and Emerging Technology on the People's Liberation Army's AI investments—we know far less about China's strategy for data collection and acquisition. Given China's interest in integrating cutting-edge AI into its intelligence and military enterprise, that oversight represents a profound vulnerability for U.S. national security.

Read the full article [here](#).



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CHINA'S BIOMEDICAL DATA HACKING THREAT: APPLYING BIG DATA ISN'T AS EASY AS IT SEEMS

Kathleen M. Vogel and Sonia Ben Ouagrham-Gormley | Texas National Security Review | Summer 2022

In January 2021, a former U.S. intelligence officer revealed that BGI, a Chinese DNA sequencing company suspected of having ties with the Chinese military and Chinese government, had attempted to collect American DNA under the guise of offering to build COVID-19 testing sites in six U.S. states, including California and New York. These states, along with their medical institutions, were warned against cooperating with BGI because it could give China the opportunity to harness this biomedical data and use it for economic and security purposes. This incident is only one of many recent examples that highlight the growing anxiety felt by the U.S. government and public about the increasing availability of big data, including biomedical data, and about how China might use this data. In June 2021, the Biden administration signed a new executive order regarding the threat posed by China to U.S. information technologies, systems, and digital data.

Read the full article [here](#).

DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENTS FOR ESPIONAGE AND FOREIGN INTERFERENCE THREATS

Protective Security Requirements | New Zealand Government | February 5, 2022

This guidance outlines potential Foreign Interference risks to New Zealand business, research, and investment. It has practical approaches to due diligence, including identifying and making informed decisions about potential risks. Due diligence is a systematic assessment of the risks associated with any business, research, or investment decision with a new partner or collaborator. Due diligence also applies throughout the lifecycle of an existing business relationship, partnership, or investment. In today's world of complex global relationships, we need to take care when doing due diligence. This care ensures that we encourage and keep harmless and innocent relationships. These relationships include economic, cultural, research, scientific, diplomatic, and political relationships. Foreign state actors target New Zealand businesses, organisations, and the research sector to steal personal data, research data, and intellectual property.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE CHINA INITIATIVE WASN'T RACIST

Arthur Bloom | The American Conservative | April 27, 2022

The Biden administration's Justice Department pulled the plug on the China Initiative this February, ending a fairly successful program aimed at countering the transfer of scientific research and intellectual property to China, the first time a country has been singled out in this way. Until the move to end it, the China Initiative had been a notable point of continuity between the Biden administration and its predecessor. There was a lot happening in 2018 when the China Initiative was announced by Jeff Sessions, less than a week before he was forced out as attorney general. Sessions pointedly noted that the DOJ had charged nobody with spying for China from 2013 to 2016. In April, the New York Times reported that deputy finance chairman of the RNC Elliott Broidy had worked on a convoluted scheme to force the exit from the United States of the Chinese dissident billionaire Guo Wengui via the United Arab Emirates. Broidy eventually pled guilty to acting as an unregistered foreign agent for China. In June, Reuters ran a story about several Silicon Valley venture capital firms that were backed by Chinese money, singling out Danhua Capital in particular.

Read the full article [here](#).



HISTORICAL TRENDS IN FEDERAL R&D

American Association For The Advancement Of Science | 2022

The below charts and tables present a range of federal R&D data series, including federal research budgets by agency, character and discipline, and some national totals. Most data come from annual AAAS R&D budget reports. Additionally, some charts below rely on data collected by the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and from the historical tables provided by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), via the President's budget request. Constant-dollar conversions (adjusting for inflation) use OMB's chained price index, found in historical table 10.1 from the most recent budget request. If you have any questions, or are looking for data you don't see below, contact us. For additional information and functionality, see the AAAS historical R&D budget dashboard.

Read the full article [here](#).

ANOTHER PROFESSOR FACES TRIAL UNDER DEFUNCT CHINA INITIATIVE

Lia Zhu | China Daily | April 26, 2022

As another Chinese American professor faces trial under the China Initiative, US academics are speaking out against the continuing impact of the canceled program. Mingqing Xiao, an applied mathematician at Southern Illinois University (SIU), Carbondale, faces charges of defrauding the US government by failing to disclose his ties to Chinese universities. He was scheduled to appear in a federal court in Benton, Illinois, on Monday. The trial is expected to last two weeks. Xiao, indicted a year ago, is the latest of some two dozen cases under the China Initiative, a controversial program launched by President Donald Trump in 2018 to fight economic espionage. Under pressure from critics who accused the program of racial profiling, the government discontinued the program in February. The prosecutors said Xiao obtained a 2019 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop new mathematical tools for analyzing high-dimensional data sets while failing to tell SIU and NSF about his ties to Shenzhen University and Guangdong University of Technology. Xiao earned a PhD from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1997, and has been a faculty member at SIU Carbondale since 2000. He became a US citizen in 2006, and a year later was promoted to full professor. In 2016, SIU named Xiao an outstanding scholar.

Read the full article [here](#).

TRIAL OF MATHEMATICIAN IS NEXT TEST OF U.S. PROSECUTION OF ACADEMICS UNDER CHINA INITIATIVE

Jeffrey Mervis | Science | April 19, 2022

Applied mathematician Mingqing Xiao will enter a federal courtroom in Benton, Illinois, next week to face charges that he defrauded the U.S. government by failing to disclose his ties to Chinese universities alleged to have supported his research. Several of his colleagues at Southern Illinois University (SIU), Carbondale, where Xiao has been a faculty member since 2000, also plan to be there when his trial opens on 25 April, wearing buttons proclaiming: "We stand with Mingqing Xiao." Their presence will be a rare public expression of support for the 60-year-old Xiao, whose indictment 1 year ago made him the most recent of some two dozen U.S. academics to be prosecuted under a controversial 2018 law enforcement effort called the China Initiative. That campaign, which has yielded a mixed record of guilty pleas, dropped cases, two trial convictions, and one notable acquittal, is aimed at preventing the Chinese government from stealing intellectual property.

Read the full article [here](#).



DISMOUNTING THE 'CHINA INITIATIVE' TIGER

Margaret K. Lewis | Seton Hall University | April 11, 2022

Biden administration sought to project that it was landing firmly on the ground ready to safeguard national security without the 'China Initiative' framing. Yet the announcement ending the China Initiative was followed by criticism that the dismount left the United States tumbling in the dirt. Some Republican members of Congress, in particular, immediately reacted that this was a dangerous softening in U.S. policy toward the PRC. I followed the China Initiative closely throughout its existence and, along with other critics, was deeply concerned about its potential to fuel bias and create a chilling effect among researchers with ties to the PRC based on ethnicity, nationality, or national origin. In short, framing the initiative in terms of "China" placed a cloud of suspicion over people connected therewith. This Reflection briefly explains the China Initiative (The Tiger) and its path up to its conclusion in late-February 2022 (The Ride). Finally, this Reflection encourages an offramp (The Dismount) that not only ends use of the 'China Initiative' title but also energizes a multifaceted effort to strengthen protection of IP and research integrity while mitigating bias.

Read the full article [here](#).

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