



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

June 29, 2022

READOUT OF DR. ALONDRA NELSON'S PARTICIPATION IN THE G7 SCIENCE MINISTERIAL: PROGRESS TOWARD A MORE OPEN AND EQUITABLE WORLD

The White House | June 21, 2022

From June 12-14, 2022, Dr. Alondra Nelson represented the United States and the Biden-Harris Administration as Head of Delegation at the Group of Seven (G7) Science Ministerial Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, where she joined science ministers from Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. The German G7 presidency established "Progress towards an equitable world" as its central goal — a theme that resonated with principles articulated in President Biden's very first Day One Executive Order on "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government." The ministerial, under the leadership of German Minister of Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger, chose to elevate four topics of critical importance to science and technology research, innovation, and policy, also aligned with Biden-Harris Administration priorities. Those topics were: Protection of the Freedom, Integrity, and Security of Science and Research; Removal of Carbon Dioxide from the Atmosphere; Synergistic Research for Biodiversity and Climate Change; and Post COVID-19 Condition, or Long COVID

Read the full article [here](#).

SUMMARY OF "CHINA'S STATE KEY LABORATORY SYSTEM: A VIEW INTO CHINA'S INNOVATION SYSTEM"

Center for Security and Emerging Technology | June 2022

Since the early 1980s, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has built a system of State Key Laboratories (SKLs) charged with driving innovation. SKLs conduct cutting-edge basic and applied research, attract and train domestic and foreign talent, and support academic exchanges globally. U.S. policymakers should have a clear-eyed understanding of the role that SKLs play in China's innovation ecosystem when working to manage the risks related to technology transfers and research security. This understanding is also critically important when navigating global technology competition vis-à-vis China. This report provides an overview of the structure, research focus, and goals of the SKL system, based on a CSET-curated dataset of 469 SKLs. It assesses a large sample of SKLs found in open-source materials, noting that China's Ministry of Science and Technology reported the existence of 515 SKLs as of 2019, and established a goal of achieving 700 SKLs by 2020.

Read the full article [here](#).



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WHAT THEY ARE SAYING: PRAISE FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN'S NOMINEE TO LEAD OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY DR. ARATI PRABHAKAR

The White House | June 22, 2022

President Biden's historic nomination of Dr. Arati Prabhakar to serve in his Cabinet and as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Chief Advisor for Science and Technology is winning praise from members of Congress, scientists, R&D advocates, and former OSTP Directors of both Democratic and Republic Administrations. The widespread support — from lawmakers in the House and Senate; scientists and engineers spanning the fields of cancer research, climate change, and national security; stakeholders across academia, industry, basic research, and government; advocates for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and leaders from the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community – cites Dr. Prabhakar's proven leadership and deep expertise leveraging science, technology, and innovation to solve our toughest challenges. Prabhakar garnered bipartisan praise from former OSTP directors in prior Democratic and Republican administrations, who called her "a natural leader" and "a visionary who makes things happen," respectively.

Read the full article [here](#).

CYBERSECURITY RESEARCHERS FACE REAL-LIFE THREATS

Andrada Fiscutean | CSO | June 21, 2022

Cybersecurity researchers work hard to keep the digital world safe, but every once in a while their own physical security is at risk. Anyone who has been in this field long enough has stumbled upon stories of infosec professionals receiving threats or has experienced incidents themselves. A security expert who wanted to remain anonymous to protect his family says that "several people focusing on cybercrime have received death threats" in the past few years, and some of them even decided to fly under the radar or move to do other things. They don't want to put their loved ones at risk "because dad is a security researcher and attracts bad guys," he says. On infosec Twitter and at conferences, researchers share incidents and talk about ways of protecting themselves in these situations. They say calling the police or the FBI hardly helps. "I want to tell you to go contact federal law enforcement, I want to tell you to go contact a local police department, but from what I've seen, it does nothing," says security expert Matt Smith of Citadel Lock Tools.

Read the full article [here](#).

US RESEARCHER CONVICTED OF ILLEGAL SECRET CHINA WORK

Arab News | April 8, 2022

A researcher was convicted on Thursday of illegally concealing work he was doing for China while employed at the University of Kansas. But US District Judge Julie Robinson continues to weigh a defense motion to dismiss the case against Feng "Franklin" Tao of Lawrence, Kansas. Robinson on Monday asked the attorneys to submit their arguments in writing, with the trial to proceed while she weighs the issue. Jurors found him guilty of three counts of wire fraud and one count of false statements for not disclosing on conflict of interest forms that he had been named to a Chinese talent program, the Changjiang Professorship, on grant applications. As part of that program he traveled to China to set up a laboratory and recruit staff for Fuzhou University, telling the University of Kansas he was in Germany instead. Prosecutor Adam Barry described it as "an elaborate lie" to defraud the university, the US Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

Read the full article [here](#).



ETHICS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ON CHINA

Björn Alpermann | Made in China Journal | June 27, 2022

Research ethics is an underdiscussed topic in Chinese studies that has only recently attracted more attention due to increasing geopolitical tensions and the concomitant anxieties about China's shifting global role. In this essay, I aim to reflect on often-overlooked aspects of research ethics in the study of contemporary China and consider the implications for the field going forward. My comments proceed in three steps, discussing professional, personal, and political ethics. This is a simple heuristic distinction and does not define clearly separated fields as, in practice, these dimensions overlap and interact in complex ways. Thus, my main argument is that, as with many other questions of empirical research, when considering research ethics, we are presented with trade-offs and must make difficult choices, often representing outcomes that are far from ideal. While different disciplines have their own understandings and standards for ensuring research ethics, approaches have become institutionalised over time.

Read the full article [here](#).

MITRE'S INSIDE-R PROTECT GOES DEEP INTO THE BEHAVIOR SIDE OF INSIDER THREATS

Christopher Burgess | CSO | June 23, 2022

Insider threat and risk management programs are the Achilles heel of every corporate and information security program, as many a CISO can attest to. The MITRE Inside-R Protect program is the organization's latest initiative to assist both public and private sector efforts in addressing the insider threat. The Inside-R program's bar for success is high. The focus of Inside-R is on evolving analytic capabilities focused on the behavior of the insider. To that end, MITRE invites the participation of government and private organizations to provide their historical insider incident data to the organization's corpora of information from which findings are derived. While at a nascent stage, the focus on human behavior across a wide swath of historical cases has long been sought and needed by corporate counterespionage programs. I spoke with Dr. Deanna Caputo, MITRE's chief scientist for behavioral sciences and cybersecurity, who emphasizes how the focus of the Insider-R is on the individual's behavior and is non-technical. Indeed, the invitation to industry and government to provide their raw investigative records no doubt will cause some to raise an eyebrow or two.

Read the full article [here](#).

IN HOUSE AND SENATE CHINA COMPETITION BILLS, DUELING THEORIES OF HOW INNOVATION HAPPENS—AND SOME AGREEMENT

Connor O'Brien and Kenan Fikri | Economic Innovation Group | June 23, 2022

A House and Senate conference committee has begun negotiations to unify two sprawling packages of competitiveness legislation. The House's COMPETES Act and the Senate's United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) goals are to boost America's science and technology ecosystems to out-compete China both militarily and economically. But reconciling different approaches in how to get there – how to address the challenge of speeding up technological and scientific progress in key strategic industries – and what else they try to accomplish along the way is the key challenge facing the Conferees. The Bipartisan Innovation Act that will emerge from the conference reflects a growing, bipartisan consensus that the United States needs to better tailor its research and development policy towards creating and commercializing new technologies. The need is evident from the decades-long slowdown in productivity growth, the concerning sclerosis plaguing many areas of federally-funded research, and the growing geopolitical need to compete with major strategic adversaries such as China.

Read the full article [here](#).



DEMOCRATS LOBBY FOR HIGH-TECH IMMIGRATION REFORMS IN INNOVATION BILL BEFORE CONGRESS

Jeffrey Mervis | Science | June 22, 2022

Democrats want to use the big innovation bill now moving through Congress to make it easier for foreign-born scientists and engineers to study and work in the United States. The long-standing maxim in Washington, D.C., that any immigration bill must provide a comprehensive solution to all aspects of the thorny issue has doomed piecemeal proposals in the past. But House lawmakers hope a bipartisan desire to better compete with China will break the logjam and see their limited provisions retained in the final bill. Immigrants to the United States have played an outsized role in fundamental science and in starting U.S. high-tech companies. So, making it easier to attract and retain them should be a no-brainer, argues Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), who introduced a separate bill last year to create an entrepreneurship visa. Her idea was folded into the House version of the innovation bill approved earlier this year. The new visa category would apply to persons who hold a significant stake in a high-tech startup in selected fields and key employees at those companies, taking them out of the general pool of nonimmigrant visa applicants. Their spouses and children would also be eligible for visas.

Read the full article [here](#).

EXPLORING RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT WITH CHINA

Fiona Quimbre, Peter Carlyon, Livia Dewaele, and Alexi Drew | RAND Corporation | June 21, 2022

Research collaboration with China and Chinese partners has always been complex for UK academics because of several barriers to entry including language, cultural and regulatory gaps. On top of these core difficulties, heightened national security concerns about potential transfer of dual-use technology and intellectual property theft through academic collaboration with Chinese partners are today rising to the fore and making research engagement with China even more challenging, if not uncertain as some political and industry figures call for the UK to disengage with China. Yet, UK-China joint research partnerships also bring significant economic, social and scientific benefits to the UK, China and beyond, making decoupling difficult. In this context, how can the UK government and academics navigate the complexities of research collaboration with Chinese partners and protect the UK interests? Once again, knowledge and evidence are key to inform policy decisions. Any decision on research engagement with China requires first and foremost an accurate reading of both its potential risks and rewards.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES QUANTUM.GOV AND QUANTUM FRONTIERS REPORT

HPCwire | October 7, 2020

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has announced the launch of Quantum.gov, the official website of the National Quantum Coordination Office, and the release of the Quantum Frontiers Report identifying key areas for continued quantum information science (QIS) research. "With the launch of Quantum.gov, the White House has created an online home for the National Quantum Coordination Office and a new digital hub for the growing quantum community to connect with wide-ranging activities underway across the Federal Government. The newly published Quantum Frontiers Report lays out critical research questions for the entire U.S. innovation ecosystem to tackle in the years ahead, and will serve as an important roadmap for researchers around the country," said Michael Kratsios, U.S. Chief Technology Officer. Quantum.gov will feature resources and news on QIS activities from across the Federal government, geared towards both the research community and the public.

Read the full article [here](#).



U.S. PLANS TO HELP UNIVERSITIES PROTECT SECURITY OF RESEARCH

Doug Lederman | Inside Higher Ed | June 29, 2022

The U.S. Department of Commerce on Tuesday announced a new effort aimed at working with universities to protect potentially sensitive research products from theft by foreign agents. The so-called Academic Outreach Initiative was announced by the Commerce Department's assistant secretary for export enforcement, Matthew S. Axelrod, in a speech at the annual meeting of the National Association of College and University Attorneys. "The challenges of keeping our academic research environments thriving and our controlled information secure from improper foreign acquisition are significant," Axelrod said in remarks prepared for delivery at the conference. "That's why I'm announcing today a new Export Enforcement initiative to help academic research institutions protect themselves from these threats." By working more closely with universities that conduct research with potential national security implications, the federal government "will empower colleges and universities to prevent unauthorized exports, including releases of controlled technology, and to make informed judgments about their future and ongoing partnerships with foreign universities and companies," Axelrod said in remarks prepared for delivery at the conference.

Read the full article [here](#).

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