



<https://asce.tamus.edu>

# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**June 23, 2021**

## **LAWMAKERS PUSH TO BLOCK FUNDS FROM RESEARCHERS COMPROMISED BY CHINA**

*Ryan Lovelace | The Washington Times | June 15, 2021*

A bipartisan group of House lawmakers is pushing a new effort to prevent taxpayer dollars from going to researchers allegedly compromised by China. The House Science, Space and Technology Committee advanced a bill Tuesday that lawmakers amended to prohibit researchers from getting National Science Foundation (NSF) grants if they have participated in malign foreign talent programs, such as China's Thousand Talents Plan. Foreign adversaries like China use talent recruitment programs to incentivize and influence U.S. government-funded researchers to act in the adversaries' interest. Rep. Randy Feenstra, Iowa Republican, introduced the amendment to the National Science Foundation for the Future Act that would ban NSF money for researchers who have participated in such talent programs or received a benefit in exchange for transferring knowledge and expertise to China and other countries of concern, including Iran, North Korea and Russia. "For years, Congress, federal research agencies, the national security agencies, and universities have been working to root out malign foreign talent recruitment. The time has come to simply prohibit them from receiving U.S. taxpayer dollars," Mr. Feenstra said at Tuesday's hearing.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **LINKEDIN ACCOUNTS OF SCHOLARS BLOCKED IN CHINA**

*Liza Lin | The Wall Street Journal | June 23, 2021*

Eyck Freymann, an Oxford University doctoral student, was surprised to get a notice from LinkedIn this month telling him his account had been blocked in China. The "Experience" section of his profile, which detailed his career history, contained "prohibited" content, he was informed. The social-networking site owned by Microsoft Corp. didn't explain more, but Mr. Freymann said he thought it was because he had included the words "Tiananmen Square massacre" in the entry for his two-year stint as a research assistant for a book in 2015. "LinkedIn is pulling people's material off without telling them why," he said. "It was surprising because I am just a graduate student. I didn't think I would have mattered." The academic is one of a spate of LinkedIn users whose profiles have been blocked in recent weeks. The Wall Street Journal identified at least 10 other individuals who had their profiles blocked or posts removed from the China version of LinkedIn since May, including researchers in Jerusalem and Tokyo, journalists, a U.S. congressional staffer and an editor based in Beijing who posted state media reports about elephants rampaging across China.

Read the full article [here](#).



## G7 RESEARCH COMPACT

As Open Societies with democratic values we believe in academic freedom. The freedom to pursue intellectual enquiry and to innovate allows us to make progress on shared issues and drive forward the frontiers of knowledge and discovery for the benefit of the entire world. We recognise that research and innovation are fundamentally global endeavours. Nations, citizens, institutions, and businesses have made huge strides forward, not otherwise possible, through open research collaboration across borders. Working together we will use our position as leading science nations to collaborate on global challenges, increase the transparency and integrity of research, and facilitate data free flow with trust to drive innovation and advance knowledge.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## CCP MISSES IMPORTANCE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

*Chan Hsun-ching | Taipei Times | June 23, 2021*

This month, Jiang Wen-hua (姜文華), a researcher who had studied abroad before returning to China and joining the faculty at Fudan University, slit the throat of Wang Yongzhen (王永珍), a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) secretary assigned to the university's mathematics department. The incident attracted the attention not only of foreign media, but also of Chinese studying overseas. Even though many universities in China can compete with those in Taiwan, Japan and South Korea in academic rankings, they cannot to shake the shadow of the CCP's influence. No matter how much money the CCP throws at its academic talent recruitment drive, it will never be able to establish the foundations for academic freedom at its universities. Stuffing the system with cash — like fattening a goose to harvest foie gras — is simply not in the interests of the recipient of this "generosity." Jiang obtained a doctorate from Rutgers in New Jersey.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## IMPORTANT CFIUS UPDATE FOR U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

*Michael Rosenberg | EisnerAmper | June 16, 2021*

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 ("Act") on April 21, 2021. This bipartisan action indicates continued congressional consensus to address China's global influence by helping U.S. companies with global supply chain diversification and management. The Act further states that it is U.S. policy to strengthen the domestic foundation by reinvesting in market-based economic growth, education, scientific and technological innovation, democratic institutions and other areas that improve the ability of the United States to pursue its vital economic, foreign policy, and national security interests. Section 138 of the Act: "Review by committee on foreign investment in the United States of certain foreign gifts to and contacts with institutions of higher education. Amendments to Defense Production Act of 1950," will utilize the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States ("CFIUS") to address two national security concerns: (1) access by foreign nationals or nations to critical technologies at U.S. universities or colleges; and (2) undue influence in academia. If passed, this section will allow CFIUS to review the national security concerns surrounding certain gifts or contracts to federally funded universities and colleges when (1) any gift to an institution of higher education from a foreign person, or the entry into a contract by such an institution with a foreign person, if the value of the gift or contract equals or exceeds \$1 million; or (2) the gift or contract relates to research, development or production of critical technologies and provides the foreign person potential access to any material nonpublic technical information.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **BIDEN IS TAKING TRUMP'S ARGUMENT AGAINST TIKTOK SERIOUSLY**

*Scott Nover | Quartz | June 22, 2021*

Joe Biden is taking a close look at whether TikTok, the popular social video app, is a national security threat, a move that acknowledges the concerns behind Donald Trump's failed attempt to ban the app last year. Biden appears to share his predecessor's concern that the ByteDance, TikTok's Chinese parent company, poses a threat to America's national security. "There's a concern about Chinese firms' access to US citizens' data and those firms could be pressured by the Chinese government to turn it over for espionage or other purposes," said Adam Segal, who directs the digital and cyberspace programs at the Council on Foreign Relations. Despite sharing this concern with the Trump administration, Biden is taking a very different approach. On June 9, Biden rescinded Trump's executive orders effectively banning TikTok and WeChat, the Chinese messaging app. He also ordered a Commerce Department-led review of software that is "designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by...a foreign adversary."

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## **ANTI-CHINA SENTIMENT IS BECOMING ANTI-CHINESE PREJUDICE IN CANADA**

*Paul Evans and Yuen Pau Woo | The Globe and Mail | June 21, 2021*

Emotions about China are raw in Canada, with no sign that the diplomatic crisis stemming from the arrest of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou and detention in China of Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor will end anytime soon. Ottawa is wrestling with how to respond to a more assertive and repressive China as it reformulates the engagement policy that has been Canada's approach for 50 years. It is doing so in an environment when the public discussion is becoming toxic. Two facts stand out: Anti-China sentiment is rising across the country, and so is anti-Asian hate. How are the two connected? There is plenty of room for disagreement about the right blend of co-operation and competition with Beijing and how to balance a range of priorities across the spectrum of trade, investment, geopolitical and human rights issues. The information landscape about China has shifted substantially as U.S.-China tensions have intensified and the issue of the two Michaels has festered. Voices critical of China are calling for a harder stance against Beijing, and Canadian media coverage on China is almost uniformly negative.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## **GOVT WILL REVIEW INTERNATIONAL OFFERINGS FROM AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES FOR POSSIBLE FOREIGN INTERFERENCE**

*Nation World News | June 18, 2021*

Australia's leading research-intensive universities have submitted more than 4,000 international revision arrangements as part of the Government's Foreign Relations Scheme (FRS). Under the scheme, the federal government is able to cancel international agreements deemed detrimental to Australia's foreign policy and national interest. The Group of Eight (Go8) universities said their submission of thousands of international arrangements for government review shows their commitment to supporting foreign policy. "The Go8, which represents Australia's leading research-intensive university and undertakes almost 70 per cent of Australian university research activity, takes the integrity of these arrangements extremely seriously. "Go8 universities are reviewing the arrangements carefully, focusing on issues of defense sensitivity, compliance with sanctions regimes, foreign influence and in the context of Australia's foreign policy," said Go8's chief executive. Vicki Thomson said.

Read the full article [here](#).



## HOUSE GOP LEADERS DEMAND ANSWERS FROM BIDEN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ABOUT COMBATING CCP INFLUENCE ON CAMPUS

*Jerry Dunleavy | Washington Examiner | June 16, 2021*

House Republican leaders demanded that the Biden Education Department say whether it intends to enforce the law related to foreign funding on campus and crackdown on Chinese Communist Party influence at U.S. colleges and campuses. Rep. Jim Banks, chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee, and Virginia Foxx, ranking member on the House Education Committee, sent a letter to Education Secretary Miguel Cardona on Wednesday “to express concern and request information regarding the Department of Education’s administration of Section 117 of the Higher Education Act, which requires higher education institutions to disclose large gifts and contracts from overseas sources to the Department” because “the American public deserves to know that their money is not being compromised by Communist China and other adversarial nations.”

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## OPEN RESEARCH, FOREIGN FINANCE, AND A UNIVERSITY’S MISSION

*Reid Whitten | SheppardMullin | June 14, 2021*

This past month, the U.S. Senate debated a provision in the Innovation and Competition Act that would require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to review any proposed gifts and contracts of \$1 million or more to U.S. research institutions from a foreign source. That would mean that the U.S. government would have a new level of oversight of such gifts, be required to investigate the ultimate source of the funds, and be able to impose mitigation measures on or prohibit such gifts. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States is an inter-agency committee of nine U.S. agencies that has jurisdiction to review any transaction that may result in foreign control of a U.S. company, and many non-controlling investments by foreign persons in U.S. businesses. Typically, CFIUS reviews transactions that may affect U.S. national security. To date, CFIUS has not been tasked with or appeared interested in investigating gifts to universities. Nevertheless, Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho), who serves on the Foreign Relations Committee, stated that the provision was designed to address concerns that the Chinese government uses its influence at large research institutions to monitor or steal U.S. technology.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## THE GLOBAL RANKING OF ACADEMIC JOURNALS’ IMPACT ON WECHAT ANNOUNCED

*Cactus Global | June 17, 2021*

Linkresearcher ([www.linkresearcher.com](http://www.linkresearcher.com)), an academic communication service platform under “Global Science,” the Chinese version of the “Scientific American,” collaborated with Impact Science, a Cactus Communications (CACTUS) brand that provides science communications strategy and tactics, to announce a ranking of academic journals based on new media influence. The Global Ranking of Academic Journals’ Impact for the first quarter of 2021 was released. It lists the 500 most prominent academic journals as well as the 50 most influential publishing brands around the world that demonstrated outstanding dissemination performance on the WeChat platform from January through March of 2021. The rankings provide insight on the dissemination power of journals in the fields of Chemistry, Material Science, Energy & Environment, Medicine, Biology, Agriculture, Forestry, Botany, Ecology, and other active academic disciplines.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **DECIPHERING CHINESE DETERRENCE SIGNALLING IN THE NEW ERA**

*Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga, Derek Grossman, Kristen Gunness, Michael S. Chase, Marigold Black, and Natalia D. Simmons-Thomas | Rand | 2021*

In Xi Jinping's 'new era', Chinese ambitions are increasingly global, its behaviour is increasingly aggressive, and its military is increasingly a leading edge of national power. China is also changing its approach to deterrence signalling in this 'new era' as it leverages growing military capabilities and the availability of new communication channels. This report is intended to help analysts and policymakers in Australia, the United States, and other countries better decipher Chinese deterrence signalling in this 'new era'. For China, deterrence (威慑, *weishe*) is not simply the objective of forestalling an adversary's undesired action, as in Western thinking—it also includes aspects of compellence, meaning that China often uses its military to coerce other countries to take actions Beijing desires. This report provides an analytic framework to interpret Chinese deterrence signalling and explores seven case studies of recent Chinese deterrence behaviour to illuminate what has stayed the same and what has changed in Chinese peacetime and crisis deterrence signalling.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## **THE STRATEGIC AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF BIDEN'S NEW CHINA SANCTIONS**

*Jordan Brunner and Emily Weinstein | Lawfare | June 18, 2021*

The Biden administration has steadily developed its grasp on the U.S.-China relationship. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan met with their Chinese counterparts for the first time in March 2021. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry completed his first sit-down with Chinese climate officials during a visit to Shanghai in April. And last month, Kurt Campbell, the National Security Council coordinator for Indo-Pacific affairs, announced that the era of "engagement" with China had "come to an end," and that the "dominant paradigm" between the United States and China is now one of competition. In line with this paradigm, on June 3, the administration released its "Executive Order on Addressing the Threat from Securities Investments that Finance Certain Companies of the People's Republic of China" (Executive Order 14032) to revise the sanctions levied against companies tied to China's defense sector.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## **DO COLLEGES NEED A FOREIGN POLICY?**

*Karin Fischer | The Chronicle of Higher Education | June 22, 2021*

When Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration announced plans for a dual-degree program with Peking University, in China, earlier this year, many professors opposed it with alarm. Under President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government has become increasingly repressive, cracking down on pro-democracy advocates in Hong Kong and workers' rights supporters. The U.S. State Department has charged the Chinese with committing "genocide and crimes against humanity" against Uyghurs, a Muslim minority. That authoritarianism has extended to China's universities, where academic freedom and dissent have been squeezed. One of the professors who opposed the program was Eli Friedman. An associate professor of international and comparative labor, Friedman had run a pair of student-exchange programs with Renmin University of China before suspending them in 2018 amid concerns about academic freedom and treatment of student activists. He was dismayed that Cornell was planning a far deeper collaboration with China.

Read the full article [here](#).



## 32 CFR PART 117 NISPOM RULE CHANGES

Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency | June 18, 2021

DCSA has created a video series to prepare industry for the implementation of the NISPOM Rule. The series' first episode, "Get Ready for the Rule!," is available now at <https://lnkd.in/g5wjnzk>.

Watch the video [here](#).

---

## REPS CALL FOR REVIEW INTO ALLEGED FBI 'MISCONDUCT' AGAINST CHINESE SCIENTIST ACCUSED OF SPYING

Brandi Vincent | Nextgov | June 22, 2021

Three Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee requested a comprehensive look into the FBI's actions against a former University of Tennessee at Knoxville professor charged with concealing his ties to China after the litigation resulted in a mistrial. Reps. Ted Lieu, D-Calif., Mondaire Jones, D-N.Y., and Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., called for a fresh investigation via a letter to Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz. In it, the lawmakers also questioned whether the China Initiative—a Trump-era effort to counter economic espionage attempts executed by the People's Republic of China—pushes federal agents to engage in racial profiling. "[W]e are deeply troubled by the alleged misconduct of the [FBI] in the unsuccessful prosecution of [UTK] associate professor Anming Hu," the lawmakers wrote. "The FBI allegedly falsely accused Professor Hu of being a Chinese spy; falsely implicated Professor Hu as an operative for the Chinese military; and used false information to put Professor Hu on the federal no-fly list—among a number of other actions." Hu, a Chinese-born scientist and Canadian citizen, was arrested early last year and charged with federal counts of wire fraud and making false statements. Prosecutors accused him of hiding his work with the Beijing University of Technology while participating in a NASA-funded project. The professor was reportedly the first academic to stand trial on non-espionage charges under DOJ's China Initiative, according to the Washington Post. Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions launched that program in 2018 to help combat what the administration viewed as mounting China-led intellectual property and trade-secret theft reports. It has carried on into the Biden-Harris administration, but some argue the effort's led to fear in the U.S. science community—and potentially, profiling.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## CHINESE SCIENTISTS ENSNARED IN U.S. VISA FRAUD LEGAL BATTLE

Jane Lanhee Lee | Reuters | June 17, 2021

For Chinese brain researcher Song Chen, a visiting scholar at Stanford University when she was arrested last July on a visa fraud charge, a court hearing last month in San Francisco brought some hope. U.S. District Judge William Alsup expressed skepticism about the FBI's failure to inform Song of her rights when she was first interrogated, calling its tactics a "gimmick." He'd previously rejected requests from the prosecution that evidence in her case be kept secret on national security grounds, a decision the U.S. government is appealing. But Song, who sat tense and teary-eyed through the proceedings, is still a long way from a trial date as the case winds through the courts. She also has been charged with lying to investigators and destroying evidence as part of an alleged effort to conceal ties to the Chinese military. Song, who works for the Xi Diaoyutai Hospital in Beijing, a military facility, pleaded not guilty to the charges and denies being an active-duty member of China's military. She is currently free on bail. Her case is one of at least five visa fraud prosecutions of university researchers launched last year as part of the U.S. Department of Justice's "China Initiative," a three-year-old effort aimed at preventing the transfer of U.S. technology to China. All the Chinese scientists have pleaded not guilty to falsifying visa applications to conceal military ties as well as other charges.

Read the full article [here](#).



## RESEARCH SECURITY TIGHTENED WITH CHINA THREAT IN MIND

Suvendrini Kakuchi and Yojana Sharma | University World News | June 16, 2021

Japan is enacting new measures to guard against theft of advanced technologies by foreign countries like China, including a system for Japanese and foreign researchers to seek government approval before they can access civil-military or so-called dual-use research and technologies. The system is aimed at strengthening national security, officials said. However, some Japanese academics have said increased monitoring will not have the desired effect and instead could hamper legitimate and fruitful research collaboration. "Given the Chinese system is not as transparent as it should be, Japanese universities will find it almost impossible to check the backgrounds of their Chinese researchers or doctoral students," explained Takeshi Osawa, professor in the department of East Asian studies, faculty of humanities, Fukuoka University. This week leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised countries, which includes Japan, issued a summit statement after their meeting in Cornwall, United Kingdom, on 11-13 June that singled out China as a challenge to world peace and order. United States President Joe Biden, like his predecessor Donald Trump, sees China as a serious rival in science and technology research and has lobbied US allies in Europe and Japan to improve technology transfer and controls on Chinese acquisition of sensitive technologies.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## EXPERTS HIGHLIGHT POSSIBILITY OF CHINESE ESPIONAGE IN CANADA AFTER FIRING OF SCIENTISTS FROM LAB

Yahoo News | June 15, 2021

After two scientists were fired from Canada's National Microbiology Lab (NML) in Winnipeg in January - a case that has attracted Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) investigation - national security experts believe that the case raises the possibility of Chinese espionage. Two years ago, Dr Xiangguo Qiu and her biologist husband, Keding Cheng, were marched out of the Winnipeg-based laboratory and stripped of their security clearance. They were officially fired last January, reported CBC News. "It appears that what you might well call Chinese agents infiltrated one of the highest prized national security elements when it comes to biosecurity and biodefence," said Christian Leuprecht, a security expert. In May 2019, the couple shared information and samples of Ebola and Henipah, two kinds of paramyxovirus, with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) after the Winnipeg lab agreed to send the samples to the Chinese lab. This comes as the Wuhan lab is increasingly under fire amid fresh calls for a fresh probe on COVID-19 origins. Many scientists have raised the possibility that the COVID-19 has leaked from the Wuhan Institute. Meanwhile, China has said that its scientific cooperation with Canada should not be politicised. "I'm not aware of what you mentioned. China and Canada have some scientific cooperation which is quite normal and should not be politicised," said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Wenbin at a news conference last week.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

*The Academic Security and Counter Exploitation Program is coordinated by The Texas A&M University System Research Security Office as a service to the academic community.*  
<https://rso.tamus.edu>

