



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**October 6, 2021**

## **CONSENSUS ISN'T ALWAYS A GOOD THING**

*Yasmeen Serhan | The Atlantic | October 5, 2021*

Dissent is prevalent in Washington. When it comes to China policy, disagreement might help. American politicians appear to agree on precious little these days, with one notable exception: China and the threat it poses. The reasons for this emerging consensus are seemingly obvious. Economically and militarily, not to mention in terms of democracy, freedom, and human rights, Beijing is seen by lawmakers in Washington as an existential threat to U.S. interests—so much so that both the Trump and Biden administrations made taking a tougher stance on China among their top foreign-policy priorities. Republicans and Democrats have proved their willingness to shelve political differences to pass legislation aimed at reining in Beijing's economic influence; further bipartisan efforts are expected on issues related to trade and China's human-rights abuses against the Uyghurs and other minority groups. The political cohesion around American policy toward China has been touted as perhaps the last bipartisan issue left in Washington. Consensus is a powerful, if rare, currency in politics. When it does occur, it's celebrated as a politicking feat—a virtue unto itself.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **FEDERAL RESEARCH: AGENCY ACTIONS NEEDED TO ADDRESS FOREIGN INFLUENCE**

*U.S. Government Accountability Office: A Century of Non-Partisan Fact-Based Work | October 5, 2021*

To protect U.S. investments in scientific research from undue foreign influence, federal agencies should have conflict of interest policies and require researchers to disclose foreign interests. We testified that the National Science Foundation has an agency-wide financial conflict of interest policy, but it doesn't define non-financial conflicts (e.g., for researchers with multiple professional appointments). The policy does require researchers to disclose some non-financial interests in grant proposals—like foreign-provided lab space. We recommended defining non-financial conflicts in agency policies in our report on NSF and 4 other agencies. U.S. research may be subject to undue foreign influence in cases where a researcher has a foreign conflict of interest (COI). Federal grant-making agencies such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) can address this threat through COI policies and requiring the disclosure of information that may indicate conflicts. In a December 2020 report, GAO reviewed five agencies, including NSF, which together accounted for almost 90 percent of all federal research and development expenditures at universities in fiscal year 2018.

Read the full article [here](#).



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## **FOREIGN INTERFERENCE ACT IS A RISK FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

*Cherian George, Chong Ja Ian, Linda Lim, and Teo You Yenn | University World News | October 5, 2021*

The government has for decades proclaimed higher education and research as vital to Singapore's development as a knowledge economy. But its proposed Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act or FICA – without watertight assurances against overreach in the text of the law – could represent the single biggest threat to academia in Singapore and its chances of realising that vision. This is not because academia is full of the kinds of malign, clandestine foreign manipulation that any government has a responsibility to counteract. Rather, the bill casts a broad shadow over activities that academics consider not only legitimate but also necessary: activities involving cross-border collaboration, wide online dissemination and strong social impact. While academia is not the main target of FICA, in an environment already rampant with second-guessing by university administrators nervous about what might earn official displeasure, there is every chance that it will suffer collateral damage. Universities play a valuable role in research as well as in educating the public about malign forms of foreign interference.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **NAVIGATING THE NEW CHINA REGULATORY CONSENSUS**

*Marik A. String | Reuters | October 4, 2021*

A rare bipartisan consensus has emerged in Washington to aggressively counter China's exploitation of U.S. technology, capital markets, and open investment environment to advance Chinese priorities viewed as contrary to U.S. interests, particularly its military modernization, extraterritorial claims, and threats to Hong Kong. This fall, the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch will consider new far-reaching legislation and enforcement tools that would implement this consensus and accelerate the so-called "decoupling" of the U.S. and Chinese economies. Indeed, during this author's experience at the State Department over the last four years, new coordination mechanisms were critical, as China policy now permeates every functional and regional bureau across the department. The same is true across the U.S. government: even agencies focused principally on domestic affairs now must take account of new China-related requirements.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CHINESE MILITARY DYNAMICS AND EVOLVING STRATEGY: GRAPHIC NET ASSESSMENT**

*Anthony H. Cordesman | Center for Strategic & International Studies | October 4, 2021*

The Emeritus Chair at CSIS is releasing an e-book length Graphic Net Assessment on key developments in Chinese capabilities to compete with the United States and other powers in 2021. This assessment provides an updated overview of the key developments in China's growing civil and military capabilities to compete with the United States and other powers. It shows that the challenges posed by China are complex and involve a growing fusion of civil and military capabilities. It shows that the Chinese approach to competition is also global, rather than centered in one area like Taiwan or the South China Sea, and it is often a competition where China's increasing ability to influence and deter may well be a more important goal than its ability to fight. As a result, competition with the United States takes many different dimensions and is rapidly changing in many key areas of military force, economics, and politics. The assessment provides a wide range of graphs, maps, and tables that provides a diverse view of the summary data on a wide range of China's strategic and military capabilities where these can be summarized in quantitative form or by using maps and selected quotes.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **JAPAN'S NEW PM CREATES CABINET-LEVEL ROLE TO MANAGE ECONOMIC THREAT FROM CHINA**

*Martin Greene | Taiwan News | October 4, 2021*

Japan's newly elected prime minister, Kishida Fumio, has created a new post for a minister of economic security, with the focus understood to be on the emerging threat from China, according to reports. The portfolio for the new minister of economic security, Kobayashi Takayuki, will be oriented around Beijing's alleged technology theft and economic espionage as well as semiconductor supply chain issues, according to the Financial Times. Kobayashi, a former vice-minister of defense and three-term lawmaker, is likely to work in tight collaboration on China matters with Liberal Democratic Party Secretary-General Amari Akira. The Harvard-educated Kobayashi's new job is said to be what is in effect the institutionalization within the Cabinet of the Economic Division of the National Security Secretariat, which was established in 2020, per the Japan Times. Kishi Nobuo, the brother of former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, will be continuing in his role as defense minister, a job he began under outgoing Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **HOW CHINA IS BIDDING FOR GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL DOMINANCE**

*Romi Jain | University World News | October 2, 2021*

'Geointellect' is an emerging manifestation of China's global influence. I coined this term to denote a country's dominance in higher education, research and innovation paradigms across geographies. Though facilitated at times by soft power, geointellect is differentiated, inter alia, by its rationale to establish and consolidate China's global intellectual dominance. Its focus is on vigorously enhancing the visibility of Chinese academic and research institutions and of disciplines – inclusive of concepts and theories – which exhibit Chinese characteristics. Thus, while soft power is 'a means to success in world politics', geointellect symbolises the crown of knowledge. Moreover, geointellect is constructed, unlike soft power, which is tethered to others' perceptions and opinions and is, as China expert David Shambaugh points out, "earned". Succinctly, it is to national rejuvenation what a spoke is to a hub. What are the key modalities of China's geointellectual agenda? First, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Education Action Plan 2016 sets out China's leadership in shaping the contours of educational cooperation among BRI countries backed by a "proactive and exemplary" role for the Chinese education sector.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **DECLINE OF FRENCH RESEARCH INVESTIGATED BY LE MONDE**

*Jane Marshall | University World News | October 2, 2021*

The influence of France in international research has been in decline for years, receiving a falling share of gross domestic product (GDP), and with reductions in its scientific publications output, researchers' salaries and number of posts, according to a wide-ranging investigation into the state of French research published in Le Monde. The inquiry into the decline, and the reasons for it, was carried out for a special issue marking the 10th anniversary of the newspaper's weekly "Science and Medicine" supplement. While France ranked sixth in the number of scientific publications in 2009, by 2017 Canada, Spain, Australia and Italy had overtaken it. This meant that France risked falling out of the international top 10, according to a report prepared for the 2020 Research Programming Law, or LPR. This drew protests from a scientific community that doubted the utility of structural reforms in 2005 which had coincided with the decline, wrote David Larousserie for Le Monde.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **SEN. COTTON, REP. GALLAGHER CALL ON BIDEN ADMIN TO BLACKLIST CHINESE BIOTECH COMPANIES**

*Jessica Chasmar | Fox Business | September 30, 2021*

Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., are demanding the Biden administration add Chinese biotechnology companies to the U.S. government's economic blacklist, arguing that China intends to use biotechnology for military purposes against U.S. interests. "The Chinese Communist Party will stop at nothing to steal Americans' most private information – including their DNA," Cotton told Fox News in a statement. "Blacklisting Chinese biotechnology companies will help counter the CCP's privacy invasion and strengthen our national security." Cotton and Gallagher announced Thursday that they sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin calling for Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) and other Chinese biotech companies to be added to the blacklist. The congressional members argued in the letter that BGI routinely acts on behalf of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) as part of the Chinese Communist Party's strategy of "Military-Civil Fusion."

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **IS WESTERN ACADEMIA KEEPING UP WITH ASIA'S RISE?**

*Joyce Lau | The World University Rankings | September 30, 2021*

It is widely agreed that this is the "Asian century". Yet it is easy to point to evidence – escalating trade wars, diplomatic "cold wars", the misjudging of the initial Covid outbreak and even physical attacks on overseas Asian students and academics – suggesting that Western politicians and citizens have little understanding of Asia and its people. This raises obvious challenges for business, policymaking and diplomacy, where universities might be expected to help bridge the gap. Yet they can provide little help as long as Asia studies remains a minor and marginalised discipline within most institutions. Experts warn that universities and politicians are doing their nations a disservice by failing to give Asia the attention it merits. One sobering assessment comes from Scott Kennedy, a senior adviser at the Washington-based Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) and the founding academic director of Indiana University's China Office: "There has always been insufficient attention paid to Asia in American universities, and probably elsewhere, relative to the significance of Asia."

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **'QUAD' SUMMIT GIVES IMPETUS TO RESEARCH COLLABORATION**

*Suvendrini Kakuchi | University World News | September 30, 2021*

A new 'Quad' Summit agreement between Japan, the United States, India and Australia to counter geopolitical challenges posed by China is extending cooperation between the countries of the group by bringing in new areas of research collaboration, while in Japan it is providing an impetus to increase and protect research activities in universities. The in-person summit of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad held at the White House on 24 September between US President Joe Biden, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison agreed to step up cooperation on security-related technologies and research. This includes collaboration on developing "competitive technology ecosystems" fostering interoperability, compatibility and inclusiveness; reducing barriers to data and knowledge sharing for research projects and greater innovation while protecting research security; monitoring future trends and harnessing opportunities to advance technologies to address shared objectives.

Read the full article [here](#).



# STRENGTHENING U.S. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP THROUGH GLOBAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

*The National Academies Press | August 2021*

International engagement and partnership are integral to the U.S. research and development (R&D) enterprise. The U.S. innovation environment relies on complex and diverse cross-sector collaborations and multi-stakeholder coalitions, and international relationships are critical to this mix of partnerships. For decades, top students, researchers, and entrepreneurs from around the world have sought to come to the United States, drawn by a system that values innovation, creativity, and an open exchange of knowledge and talent. Prioritizing these values and partnerships has fostered U.S. science and technology leadership for decades. At the same time, the U.S. R&D enterprise may be at a tipping point, according to a 2020 report by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.<sup>1</sup> Other countries are investing heavily in their own R&D capabilities, while U.S. federal spending has remained stagnant as a percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Economic and national security concerns have impacted some aspects of America's collaborative spirit and openness.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## RESEARCH SECURITY, COLLABORATION, AND THE CHANGING MAP OF GLOBAL R&D

*Melissa Flagg, Autumn Toney, and Paul Harris | Center for Security and Emerging Technology | June 2021*

The global map of research has shifted dramatically over the last 20 years. Annual global investment in research and development has tripled and the United States' share of global R&D funding and total research output is diminishing. The open research system, with its expanding rates of investment and interconnectedness, has delivered tremendous benefits to many nations, but it has also created new challenges to research integrity and security. Our data shows significant variations across countries in how much, and in what ways, they rely on their collaborative links to the global research network. A more nuanced understanding of those differences is critical for assessing the unique cost/benefit calculations behind decisions to limit open engagement to address security concerns. Takeaways: The United States has lost its leadership position in the scientific literature across many research fields, not only to China, but also to the European Union, over the last 20 years.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## RESEARCH: HOW ONE BAD EMPLOYEE CAN CORRUPT A WHOLE TEAM

*Stephen Dimmock and William C. Gerken | Harvard Business Review | March 5, 2018*

One bad apple, the saying goes, can ruin the bunch. So, too, with employees. Our research on the contagiousness of employee fraud tells us that even your most honest employees become more likely to commit misconduct if they work alongside a dishonest individual. And while it would be nice to think that the honest employees would prompt the dishonest employees to better choices, that's rarely the case. Among co-workers, it appears easier to learn bad behavior than good. For managers, it is important to realize that the costs of a problematic employee go beyond the direct effects of that employee's actions — bad behaviors of one employee spill over into the behaviors of other employees through peer effects. By under-appreciating these spillover effects, a few malignant employees can infect an otherwise healthy corporate culture. History — and current events — are littered with outbreaks of misconduct among co-workers: mortgage underwriters leading up to the financial crisis, stock brokers at boiler rooms such as Stratton Oakmont, and cross-selling by salespeople at Wells Fargo.

Read the full article [here](#).



# EXAMINING CORE ELEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION: SUMMARY OF A WORKSHOP

*Susan Sauer Sloan and Tom Arrison | The National Academies Press | 2011*

The globalization of science, engineering, and medical research is proceeding rapidly. The globalization of research has important implications for the U.S. research enterprise, for the U.S. government agencies, academic institutions, and companies that support and perform research, and for the world at large. As science and technology capabilities grow around the world, U.S.-based organizations are finding that international collaborations and partnerships provide unique opportunities to enhance research and training. At the same time, significant obstacles exist to smooth collaboration across national borders. Enhancing international collaboration requires recognition of differences in culture, legitimate national security needs, and critical needs in education and training. In response to these trends, the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) launched a Working Group on International Research Collaborations (I-Group) in 2008, following its meeting on New Partnerships on a Global Platform that June. As part of I-Group's continuing effort, a workshop on Examining Core Elements of International Research Collaboration was held July 26-27, 2010 in Washington, DC.

Read the full article [here](#).

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