



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

## September 29, 2021

### AMERICA NEEDS A 'MILLION TALENTS PROGRAM' NOW

Graham Allison | *The Hill* | September 28, 2021

As Americans wake up to the stark fact that China is overtaking the U.S. in the race to develop frontier technologies such as 5G and artificial intelligence (AI), what is the single most significant step the U.S. can take to sustain the technological predominance it has enjoyed since World War II? In one line, it is to recruit the world's million most talented individuals to work, live and thrive here in the United States. As Congress finalizes the budget reconciliation bill this week, it has an opportunity to make a major down payment toward this goal. The bill should include a provision to expedite access to green cards for foreign students currently in the U.S. earning advanced degrees in STEM, allowing them to stay here and help build the next wave of leading technology companies. In the great rivalry between the U.S. and China, China has asymmetric advantages the U.S. cannot hope to match — for example, a population four times its size. China produces four times more bachelor's students in STEM than the U.S. and is on track to graduate twice as many STEM PhDs annually by 2025. By contrast, the number of domestic-born students participating in AI doctoral programs in the U.S. has not increased since 1990. One thing China struggles to do, however, is attract tech superstars from other countries. The total number of naturalized Chinese citizens remains under 2,000.

Read the full article [here](#).

### CFIUS, TEAM TELECOM AND CHINA

Adam Chan | *Lawfare* | September 28, 2021

In the past few years, two federal government interagency committees—the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and Team Telecom—have begun to play an important role in the government's effort to counter potential threats from Chinese companies' involvement in the United States. Both committees review certain foreign companies' American investments. CFIUS has jurisdiction over a broad swathe of foreign investment in the U.S., and Team Telecom's jurisdiction covers certain licenses for foreign telecommunications companies to operate. Both committees have become more assertive—often *retroactively* ordering divestiture or revocation against Chinese companies, sometimes years after an investment was completed or a license granted. And notably, both committees seem to be broadly maintaining a similar posture under President Biden as under President Trump. This post reviews both committees' origins and activities.

Read the full article [here](#).



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## **SWEEPING U.S. LISTS SEEK TO RESTRICT TRADE AND INVESTMENT THAT SUPPORT THE CHINESE MILITARY**

*Trevor R. Jones and Treston Chandler | Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control | September 27, 2021*

In response to China's military modernization over the past few decades, the U.S. government has developed a range of sanctions and regulatory tools to target the Chinese defense industry and limit the ways U.S. resources, technology, and products contribute to the growth of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). These efforts accelerated during the Trump Administration with the expansion of military end user-based export controls to China, the creation of the Military End User List, and the advent of investment restrictions on Chinese military-related companies. This report provides an overview of the policies and programs driving Chinese defense industry modernization, the key entities in China implementing these policies over time, and the strategic trade and investment restrictions that the U.S. government has developed in response. This response targets the Chinese military-industrial complex as a whole, as well as the specific entities that operate within it. Over the past year, the U.S. government published several lists of "Chinese military companies" as part of its strategy to target the Chinese defense industry.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **PERSPECTIVES | MEETING THE PRC CHALLENGE TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

*Andrew Chubb | UTS Australia-China Relations Institute | September 27, 2021*

In June this year, a major report from Human Rights Watch (HRW) highlighted the Chinese government's impact on freedom of speech in Australian higher education. The report documented how faculty and students, especially those from Mainland China or Hong Kong, face surveillance, intimidation, censorship, and pressure to self-censor from the party-state – and some of its supporters – when working and studying in Australian universities. Since 2019, Australia's universities have collaborated extensively with security agencies through the University Foreign Interference Taskforce (UFIT) to address issues like espionage and technology theft. But as the HRW report noted, 'discussion remains focused on protecting university research interests and national security while the universities remain unprepared to address threats to academic freedom in a systematic way. This reflects a more general problem in Australia's approach to the People's Republic of China's overseas political activities, which has rolled together national security concerns with encroachments on civil liberties and academic freedom into an aggregated concept of 'foreign interference.'

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **TIMELINE: THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF CHINA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS**

*Geopolitical Monitor | September 27, 2021*

To check the pulse of China-Australia relations, one needs look no further than a recent tweet from an official PRC government Twitter account depicting an Australian soldier cutting the throat of an Afghan child. It would appear as though the bilateral relationship – by far Australia's most important in economic terms – is on life support. Yet the fate of China-Australia relations informs on much more than just short-term economic forecasting in Canberra. The bilateral relationship is a template in-the-making of how democratic countries navigate engagement with an increasingly authoritarian and assertive partner in Beijing. Australia is an extreme example due to its economic overreliance on China; but its' example is no exception.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **CHINA WIELDS NEW LEGAL WEAPON TO FIGHT CLAIMS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THEFT**

*Fox Business | September 26, 2021*

Chinese technology giants have seized on a new legal tactic to fight claims of intellectual property theft, raising concerns in the U.S. that Beijing's promises to strictly enforce patent and copyright laws will be undermined by Chinese courts. In four major cases since 2020, Chinese courts granted so-called anti-suit injunctions blocking foreign companies from taking legal action anywhere in the world to protect their trade secrets. Three of the rulings were in favor of Chinese telecom companies—Huawei Technologies Co., Xiaomi Inc., and BBK Electronics. The fourth supported South Korea's Samsung Electronics Corp. in a dispute with Swedish telecom giant Ericsson AB. In the Xiaomi case, the Beijing-based company was granted an anti-suit injunction against InterDigital Inc., a Delaware firm that holds patents on wireless and digital technology used in smartphones. Xiaomi, the world's biggest smartphone maker, has sold millions of handsets using InterDigital patents since 2013, under industry practice that allows companies to do so while licensing fees are being negotiated.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **DEEP FREEZE: STATE BILL STYMIES FOREIGN RESEARCHERS' JOB PROSPECTS**

*Juan Torres-Bedoya | Nicholson Student Media Today | September 26, 2021*

UCF is implementing a hiring freeze to research-related positions until further notice due to Florida Senate Bill HB 7017. HB 7017, commonly referred to as the Florida Foreign Influence Act, works as an improved screening process for foreign applicants looking to fill certain research positions at state universities, according to the bill. The newly integrated law is focused on restricting foreign applications and is one of the first hiring freezes implemented since the start of the pandemic to not be a result of funding issues, as the bill specifically applies to universities with a research budget of \$10 million or more, according to the Florida Senate official website. This isn't the first time UCF has put a hiring freeze into place; a freeze was implemented last April to safeguard the campus community during the onset of the pandemic. "They have all this funding to pay for PhD students and postdocs, and they can't bring in the best, the most qualified person for the job," Linda Walters, chair of the Faculty Senate's research council, said.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **DISTINGUISHED US PROFESSORS PARTICIPATED IN CONTROVERSIAL CHINESE RECRUITMENT PLAN: LEAKED DOCUMENTS**

*Daniel Holl and Kelly Song | The Epoch Times | September 25, 2021*

Several prominent professors at U.S. colleges have participated in China's talent acquisition program, according to leaked documents from a Chinese regional authority. The professors worked with the Thousand Talents Program (TTP), a controversial state-backed recruitment plan criticized by U.S. officials for its role in transferring Western research and technology to China. Two of the professors work at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and another at the University of California–Berkeley. All three are experts in biomedical research and development. Their names will not be included in this report. The leaked documents, obtained from multiple municipal government agencies in Xi'an city, Shaanxi Province, further listed names of other recruited experts from abroad, funding details, and objectives for the local TTP.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **JAPAN'S UNIVERSITIES TIGHTENING BACKGROUND CHECKS ON FOREIGN STUDENTS**

*Kyodo News | September 24, 2021*

Japan's major universities including those with close ties with China are moving to tighten background checks on foreign students seeking to study civil-military technologies, a Kyodo News survey found Thursday. Their efforts to keep sensitive information from being transferred out of Japan comes after the government of Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced a plan in June to tighten control on exports of technologies that can be used for military purposes, requiring students under strong influence of foreign governments to gain the industry ministry's approval for working on such research. The survey collected responses from 56 universities including those having student exchange agreements with Chinese universities known as the "Seven Sons of National Defense" which have close links to China's defense industry. Of the surveyed schools, 31 said they have tightened student background checks or are planning to do so. They have started to check with schools about which foreign students have attended and the companies they have worked for.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **TINKER, TAILOR, SCIENTIST, OR SPY: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF CHINESE RESEARCHERS AMIDST U.S. ANTI-ESPIONAGE EFFORTS**

*Vincent Chim | Journal of Sino-American Affairs | Summer 2021*

As Sino-American tensions have grown, so too has the increasing scrutiny of ethnic Chinese researchers and scientists. Historically, these academics have been at the center of Sino-American relations, simultaneously promoting U.S.-Chinese exchange while dealing with a culture of distrust. In the broader context of Sino-American relations, the role of technology and its human developers plays a critical role. This paper seeks to explicate the roles of ethnic Chinese academics within diplomatic and domestic settings to provide context to the current persecution of Chinese academics within the U.S., and its ramifications for Sino-American relations. By examining these perspectives, this paper demonstrates how the role of ethnic Chinese academics as cultural intermediaries has both been essential to Sino-American relations and reinforced existing Sinophobic perceptions of these immigrants.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **WHY DETERIORATING RELATIONS, XENOPHOBIA, AND SAFETY CONCERNS WILL DETER CHINESE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY TO THE UNITED STATES**

*Ryan M. Allen and Ying Ye | Open Journals in Education | 2021*

Collaborations between American and Chinese universities have been critical to global knowledge production. Chinese students accounted for over a third of all international students in the United States prior to COVID-19, but the pandemic paused most global mobility in 2020. We argue that this international mobility to the United States will not fully recover if larger stressors are left unaddressed. First, relations between the United States and China have deteriorated in recent years, especially under the Trump administration, with growing suspicion against Chinese researchers and scholars. Second, viral acts of violence and anti-Asian incidents have painted the United States as unsafe for Chinese students. Finally, given them is managed response to the pandemic, it may take years before trust returns from abroad.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **ACADEMIC ESPIONAGE: HOW INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW CAN PROTECT HIGHER EDUCATION**

*Cameron Keen | Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law | 2021*

In Atlanta, Georgia, neuroscientist Li Xiao-Jiang was at the peak of his professional career when his employment with Emory University was unexpectedly terminated in the summer of 2019. Before Xiao-Jiang's employment was terminated, he worked with his wife and lab co-leader at Emory University for twenty-three years, conducting research related to Huntington disease. Xiao-Jiang, a tenured professor known nationally for his research and leadership within his lab, worked alongside committed postdoctoral students engaged in creating pig and mouse models to study Huntington disease. In May 2019, however, Xiao-Jiang's career came to a sudden halt when the school notified him of his termination of employment. According to Xiao-Jiang's fellow researchers, university officials seized Xiao-Jiang's lab and confiscated computer files and documents while Xiao-Jiang was on leave in China.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **WINNERS AND LOSERS IN US-CHINA SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS**

*Jenny J. Lee and John P. Haupt | SpringerLink | July 6, 2020*

This study examined the patterns and nature of science co-publications between the USA and China. Based on a scientometric study of Scopus co-publications over the past 5 years, the results demonstrated a continuous rise of bilateral collaboration between the two countries. Challenging the US political rhetoric and attempts to curb international research engagement with China, the findings demonstrated ways that China plays a leading role in US-China research collaboration, based on first authorship and governmental funding patterns. Findings also showed that over the past 5 years, US research article publications would have declined without co-authorship with China, whereas China's publication rate would have risen without the USA. Using zero-sum and positive-sum frameworks, this study shows the benefits of US collaboration with China for both the US nation-state and global science. The USA and China are arguably the top two global superpowers in the current knowledge economy as both countries are at the forefront of scientific knowledge production.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS AS PERCEIVED BY TOP-PERFORMING SCHOLARS**

*Miri Yemini | SAGE Journals | November 9, 2019*

This study combines two rapidly growing bodies of literature; one addresses the reasons behind the success of highly productive academics and the second investigates collaborations (international coauthorships in particular). The growing literatures on these two topics mainly involve quantitative bibliometric explanatory studies, denoting the demographic, institutional, and national factors as influential parameters that shape these trends. In this study, I employ the notion of agency to analyze 20 in-depth interviews with top-producing academics from Denmark, Israel, and Australia in the fields of education and nanoscience, seeking to better understand the motivations, nature, perceived benefits, and drawbacks of such collaborations. I argue that these highly productive scholars involve themselves in international collaborations for a variety of reasons, but mainly due to the potential of such collaborations to advance their research.

Read the full article [here](#).



# ACADEMIC ESPIONAGE: STRIKING THE BALANCE BETWEEN OPEN AND COLLABORATIVE UNIVERSITIES AND PROTECTING NATIONAL SECURITY

Erin N. Grubbs | North Carolina Journal of Law & Technology | May 1, 2019

American universities and research laboratories strive to foster open, collaborative spaces, where students from all over the world can come to learn from leading academics in their field of study. However, some people believe this open and collaborative environment is threatened by international students who are coming not to add to the environment, but rather to take from it. Academic espionage is not a new problem, but it is a problem that the Trump administration and Congress are working diligently to solve. Lawmakers, administrative agencies, and universities are striving to determine whether there are enough safeguards in place to protect the United States' intellectual property. Alternatively, others are wondering whether the restrictions being put in place are truly necessary or if they are instead hindering the open exchange of ideas that is needed to advance science and research. This Recent Development argues that better awareness about academic espionage, not more safeguards, is required to protect the United States' academic institutions.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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