



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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November 4, 2021

UNIVERSITIES BRACE FOR GUIDANCE ON SECURITY MEMORANDUM; AGENCIES PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Theresa Defino | JD Supra | October 29, 2021

If a timeline announced by the White House is met, universities and others should receive guidance later this month on securing the research enterprise as the Biden administration moves forward with implementing a last-minute memorandum issued by former President Trump. President Biden has embraced National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM-33), which seeks to “strengthen protections of United States Government-supported Research and Development (R&D) against foreign government interference and exploitation” while “maintaining an open environment to foster research discoveries and innovation that benefit our Nation and the world.” Announced during the last week of Trump’s term, “the previous administration did not have time to develop implementation guidance for federal agencies,” wrote Eric Lander, scientific advisor to President Biden and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). In a blog post on Aug. 10, Lander said his office was “working on how to implement NSPM-33 effectively, rigorously, and uniformly across the federal government in a way that protects the nation’s interests in both security and openness.”

Read the full article [here](#).

SCIENTISTS’ FEARS OF RACIAL BIAS SURGE AMID US CRACKDOWN ON CHINA TIES

Nidhi Subbaraman | Nature | October 29, 2021

The US government’s search for spies in laboratories and businesses has stoked fear among scientists of Chinese descent and damaged collaborations with researchers in China, according to a survey of nearly 2,000 scientists. “There was a lot of broad speculation about this idea,” says Jenny Lee, a social scientist at the University of Arizona in Tucson, who studies research collaborations and geopolitics. Lee is one of the co-authors of the survey and related report. “What we wanted to do was actually seek out the evidence.” The China Initiative, launched under former US president Donald Trump, has led to several well-publicized arrests of scientists since 2018, often over links to collaborators or institutions in China. The US government has said the goal of the effort is to stop the theft of US trade secrets by the Chinese government. But civil-rights groups and individual researchers have warned that the US government’s scrutiny of scientists under this programme has hampered valuable scientific collaborations with researchers in China.

Read the full article [here](#).



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'I KNOW SPYING WHEN I SEE IT AND THIS IS SPYING,' EX-CIA CHIEF ON ACCUSED CHINESE SPYMASTER

Paula Christian | WCPO Cincinnati | November 1, 2021

Prosecutors rested their case against an accused Chinese spymaster late Friday with their last witness, a former CIA chief of counterintelligence, urging the jury to convict, saying, "I know spying when I see it, and this is spying." Attorneys for Yanjun Xu had planned to call experts on Chinese culture, intelligence, and technology to bolster their defense. But they notified U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Black on Sunday that they will not put on any defense witnesses. Jurors will hear closing arguments on Wednesday morning and then begin deliberating on this historic case. The rare espionage trial is being heard in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati because it centers on Evendale-based GE Aviation and its highly successful gas turbine engine, which prosecutors say China desperately wants to duplicate. Xu is the first Chinese intelligence agent ever to be extradited to the U.S. to stand trial. He is deputy division director with the Ministry of State Security, which is the intelligence and security agency for China. The FBI alerted GE Aviation leaders that one of its engineers, David Zheng, had taken a trip to China in June 2017 to present information about its aircraft engines at the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Read the full article [here](#).

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND DUAL-USE CONCERNS: A HORIZON SCAN FOR GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

World Health Organization | 2021

This publication presents the findings of an international horizon scan on dual-use research of concern (DURC) in the life sciences. Horizon scans have proved useful in identifying emerging opportunities and risks due to social and technological change. For this study, the scan was based on structured elicitation of information from experts convened by the Science Division of the World Health Organization (WHO). The final 15 priority issues were classified by the experts as to be expected in timelines from < 5 years to ≥ 10 years. The identified priorities range from governance to new and converging technologies. A clearer understanding of the areas in which life sciences research could be most seriously misused could strengthen governance and national, regional and international preparedness and response.

Read the full article [here](#).

NEW ROW OVER CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES' ROLE ON CAMPUSES

Yojana Sharma | University World News | October 29, 2021

The cancellation of events at two German universities promoting a book on China's leader Xi Jinping, allegedly due to pressure from Chinese diplomats, has reopened the debate in Germany about university-hosted Chinese Confucius Institutes and renewed calls for government funding of more independent China research at universities. The China-funded Confucius Institutes at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany's Ruhr area, and at Leibniz University in the northern city of Hannover were to hold the events this week for the book *Xi Jinping – The most powerful man in the world* by Stefan Aust, a former editor-in-chief of Germany's *Der Spiegel* magazine, and Adrian Geiges, a China correspondent for weekly magazine *Stern*. But the event at the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) was suddenly cancelled with the book's publisher, Piper Verlag, saying this was "due to Chinese pressure". The publisher said the Chinese consul in Düsseldorf, Feng Haiyang, had allegedly personally intervened to stop the event at the university. Head of the publishing house Felicitas von Lovenberg said the cancellation was "a disquieting signal".

Read the full article [here](#).



SEE THE 2022 BEST GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES

David Gleisner | U.S. News & World Report | October 25, 2021

Innovative, globe-spanning scholarship requires a concerted effort by institutions to support international students and faculty. The 2022 Best Global Universities rankings include 1,750 top universities from more than 90 countries, ranked according to research performance and reputation. The top 20 universities in the world work across borders to attract international talent and address global issues. Read on to see some of the ways these schools based in the U.S., U.K. and Canada made it to the top of the list.

Read the full article [here](#).

RACIAL PROFILING OF CHINESE SCIENTISTS IS SPREADING FEAR

Yojana Sharma | University World News | October 29, 2021

Racial profiling of both Asian-American and Asian scientists in the United States is causing fear and anxiety, and particularly for researchers and faculty from China, leading them to reassess their future in the country, a major survey has found. But the impact of racial profiling goes beyond the individuals singled out by race, as scientists and universities are becoming reluctant to engage in projects with China or collaborate with scholars based in China. This is the finding of the just-released survey report, Racial Profiling Among Scientists of Chinese Descent and Consequences for the US Scientific Community by Jenny Lee and Xiaojie Li at the University of Arizona in the US and the staff at Committee of 100 – an organisation of Chinese Americans in business, academia, government and the arts fund. In one of the first academic reports that tries to assess the racial impact of US government policies that target China, the survey conducted between May and July this year of almost 2,000 scientists in top US universities uncovered significant differences in the experiences of scientists of Chinese and non-Chinese descent. It found that around 42.2% of Chinese scientists – people of Chinese descent or heritage, regardless of citizenship – in the US feel racially profiled by the US government, compared to 27% of Asian scientists who are not Chinese, and 8.6% of non-Chinese scientists, including faculty, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students.

Read the full article [here](#).

TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE PATRIOT ACT, WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF BIOSECURITY?

Yong-Bee Lim, David Gillum, and Kathleen Vogel | Issues in Science and Technology | October 25, 2021

The USA Patriot Act was signed into law exactly 20 years ago, on October 26, 2001. While the law was profoundly shaped by the back-to-back events of the September 11 attacks and the 2001 anthrax attacks, it was deeply rooted in fears about bioterrorism that had been growing since the 1990s. This anniversary provides a moment to reflect upon the Patriot Act's legacy, as well as to imagine and plan for different biosecurity futures. The overall intent of the USA Patriot Act (formally known as the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act) was clear: to prevent terrorism by raising the "barrier to entry" for potential terrorists. At its core, the act responded to two kinds of perceived threats—from outsiders and from insiders—and this dichotomy continues to have repercussions today. Within the realm of biosecurity, the legislation sought to make it harder for states, terrorists, extremist groups, and lone-wolf actors to acquire dangerous biological materials, while also protecting biological research facilities from insider threats such as disgruntled employees and people with a grudge against biological research. Twenty years on, it is time to reflect: How well did this legislation promote or hinder biosecurity over time? What unintended or negative consequences have resulted?

Read the full article [here](#).



BIGGEST DROP IN COLLEGE ENROLMENT IN HALF A CENTURY

Nathan M. Greenfield | University World News | October 27, 2021

“American colleges and universities are experiencing the largest drop in enrolment in half a century,” said Doug Shapiro, executive director of the Virginia-based National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center, as he presented the organisation’s latest update on higher education enrolment. The drop can be seen across almost every sector. Undergraduate enrolment declined another 3.2% over last year’s similar decline, meaning there are 6.6% fewer freshmen on the nation’s campuses. “Far from filling the hole of last year’s enrolment declines, we are still digging deeper. A year and a half into the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to see significant nationwide declines in undergraduate students,” says Shapiro. After a 7.8% decline in the fall of 2020, the number of international graduate students grew by 13.1%. Though the NSC Research Center’s data did not allow her to explain this difference definitively, Dr Mikyung Ryu, director of research publications at the NSC Research Center, attributes this rise to both the leniency universities showed about when graduate students had to report to campus because of travel disruptions and the financial aid and scholarships they offered.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE HEAD OF COUNTERINTELLIGENCE NARROWED THE FOCUS TO FIVE TECHNOLOGIES CRITICAL TO THE U.S. DOMINANCE

Javier Zelaya | MB Daily News | October 22, 2021

The top U.S. counterintelligence official said he is narrowing his team’s focus to safeguarding five key technologies, including semiconductors and biotechnology, as he sees his protection from rivals determining whether the US remains the world’s leading superpower. The acting director of the National Center for Counterintelligence and Security, Michael Orlando, said Thursday that he is fine-tuning the center’s priorities in order to carry out an effective outreach campaign to educate business and academia about China’s expansive efforts. and Russia to collect cutting-edge research. The five technologies identified by Orlando include artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and autonomous systems like underwater drones and robots that can perform surgery. Scientists and researchers often describe the sectors as future drivers of economic growth and military dominance. Orlando, who took office in January after serving as deputy director, told a news conference that losing leadership in these fields could lead to the United States being overshadowed as the world’s superpower. The narrower focus appears to mark an adjustment, rather than a diversion, from a large-scale counterintelligence campaign launched under the Trump administration to stop the theft and transfer of American technology, research, and other proprietary information to China.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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