



<https://asce.tamus.edu>

THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

September 7, 2022

AN UPDATE ON RESEARCH SECURITY: STREAMLINING DISCLOSURE STANDARDS TO ENHANCE CLARITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND EQUITY

Morgan Dwyer, Christina Ciocca Eller, and Ryan Donohue | The White House | August 31, 2022

One of America's greatest strengths is its scientific and technological innovation, fueled over time by Federal investments in research and development (R&D). From the fundamental to the applied, U.S.-supported research has transformed our world and has made our communities safer, healthier, stronger, and more equitable. The American research culture is intentional in its strong commitment to openness. Yet maintaining that open research culture also requires being clear-eyed that certain governments seek to exploit our openness and disrupt the integrity of our research. Such threats require the Federal government, in collaboration with the research community, to take protective actions to mitigate research integrity risks without compromising the values that distinguish the U.S. research enterprise: openness, transparency, honesty, equity, fair competition, objectivity, and democratic participation. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to strengthening research security without compromising these core values.

Read the full article [here](#).

NCSC AND FEDERAL PARTNERS FOCUS ON COUNTERING RISK IN DIGITAL SPACES DURING NATIONAL INSIDER THREAT AWARENESS MONTH 2022

Office of the Director of National Intelligence | National Counterintelligence and Security Center | August 31, 2022

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC), the National Insider Threat Task Force (NITTF), the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense Intelligence and Security, the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security today launched the fourth-annual "National Insider Threat Awareness Month" (NITAM). NITAM is an annual, month-long campaign during September to educate government and industry about the risks posed by insider threats and the role of insider threat programs. The campaign seeks to encourage government and private industry employees to recognize and report behaviors of concern, leading to early intervention and positive outcomes for at-risk individuals and reduced risks to organizations. To learn more about the campaign and resources available to organizations, visit the NITAM 2022 website. An insider threat is anyone with authorized access who wittingly or unwittingly harms an organization through their access. Most insider threats exhibit risky behavior prior to committing negative workplace events.

Read the full article [here](#).



TIKTOK'S IN-APP BROWSER INCLUDES CODE THAT CAN MONITOR YOUR KEYSTROKES, RESEARCHER SAYS

Richard Nieva | Forbes | August 18, 2022

When TikTok users enter a website through a link on the app, TikTok inserts code that can monitor much of their activity on those outside websites, including their keystrokes and whatever they tap on the page, according to new research shared with *Forbes*. The tracking would make it possible for TikTok to capture a user's credit card information or password. TikTok has the ability to monitor that activity because of modifications it makes to websites using the company's in-app browser, which is part of the app itself. When people tap on TikTok ads or visit links on a creator's profile, the app doesn't open the page with normal browsers like Safari or Chrome. Instead it defaults to a TikTok-made in-app browser that can rewrite parts of web pages. TikTok can track this activity by injecting lines of the programming language JavaScript into the websites visited within the app, creating new commands that alert TikTok to what people are doing in those websites. "This was an active choice the company made," said Felix Krause, a software researcher based in Vienna, who published a report on his findings Thursday. "This is a non-trivial engineering task. This does not happen by mistake or randomly."

Read the full article [here](#).

THE US HAS RULED ALL TAXPAYER-FUNDED RESEARCH MUST BE FREE TO READ. WHAT'S THE BENEFIT OF OPEN ACCESS?

Virginia Barbour | International Science Council | May 9, 2022

Last week, the United States announced an updated policy guidance on open access that will substantially expand public access to science not just in America, but worldwide. As per the guidance, all US federal agencies must put in place policies and plans so anyone anywhere can immediately and freely access the peer-reviewed publications and data arising from research they fund. The policies need to be in place by the end of 2025, according to President Biden's White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The new guidance builds on a previous memo issued by then president Barack Obama's office in 2013. That one only applied to the largest funding agencies and, in a crucial difference, allowed for a 12-month delay or embargo for the publications to be available. Now we're seeing a substantial step forward in a lengthy effort – extending back to the beginning of this century – to open up access to the world's research. We can expect it to act as a catalyst for more policy changes globally. It's also especially timely given UNESCO's Open Science Recommendation adopted in 2021.

Read the full article [here](#).

ACADEMIC ESPIONAGE: HOW INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW CAN PROTECT HIGHER EDUCATION

Cameron Keen, J.D. | Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law | June 8, 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 2019.¹ 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.² 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.³ In May 2019, however, Xiao-Jiang's career came to a sudden halt when the school notified him of his termination of employment.⁴ 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.⁵ Xiao-Jiang was stunned.

Read the full article [here](#).



THE DECOUPLING WITH THE WEST WILL BE HARD ON CHINA'S HE

Philip G. Altbach and Hans de Wit | University World News | September 6, 2022

On 19 July, we wrote an article for University World News titled "The US has an instability problem and it's affecting HE". Just as important, China's current tightening and increasingly assertive geopolitical direction will have dramatic implications for China's own universities, scientific development, intellectual life and for global higher education as well. It is worth summarising these realities and then reflecting on their almost inevitable implications for global higher education. China's internal realities and geopolitical posture have significantly changed in recent years. Since Xi Jinping rose to power in 2013, China's foreign relations have become more assertive in the Asian region and globally, and its internal governance more controlling. Most recently, the perennial 'Taiwan problem' has been exacerbated by the visits of United States congressional leader Nancy Pelosi and other US officials. Additionally, China's posture relating to its immediate neighbours (Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and others) has changed the views of many countries from a willingness to accept China's commercial – and political – leadership to significant scepticism and growing opposition.

Read the full article [here](#).

BOOTS ON THE GROUND: LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THREATS TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense | May 2022

Land-grant universities are institutions of higher education designated by Congress or state legislatures to receive benefits associated with the Morrill Acts of 1862 (12 Stat. 503) and 1890 (P.L. 51-841, 26 Stat. 417), as well as the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-382 §531-535).² As the United States works to identify critical biodefense gaps exposed by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Nation should also draw upon the resources and relationships land-grant universities possess to fill those gaps. The food- and agro-biodefense challenge is different from, but as daunting as, biodefense of human public health due to the diversity of targets (e.g., livestock, crops, soil); spectrum of potential pathogens and pests; and different geographies, ecosystems, and infrastructures at risk. Land-grant universities are uniquely positioned to help defend the United States against biological threats to food, livestock, crops, wildlife, biofuels, pharmaceuticals, textiles, the environment, the bioeconomy, and the food and agro-economy, valued at more than \$1 trillion annually.

Read the full article [here](#).

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

Erin N. Grubbs | The North Carolina Journal of Law & Technology | 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.

Read the full article [here](#).



THE CHINA SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL: AN OVERVIEW

Ryan Fedasiuk | Center for Security and Emerging Technology | July 2020

The Chinese government seeks to exert influence through its scholarship and exchange programs. This issue brief assembles a picture of the China Scholarship Council—the primary vehicle by which the state provides scholarships—through Chinese-language sources. Since the 2010s, U.S. officials have voiced concerns that the Chinese government may attempt to influence or exploit Chinese students on study abroad programs in its quest for foreign technology. Some Chinese student associations at U.S. universities have spoken out about the Chinese government’s efforts to provide unwanted “guidance.” However, in the first half of 2020, the U.S. Department of Justice charged several Chinese students with committing visa fraud and acting as agents of the People’s Republic of China. The extent to which the PRC government may attempt to influence Chinese students, by what means, and how to respond, remain the subjects of debate in the United States. One avenue by which the Chinese government could exert influence over students is through scholarship and exchange programs.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ON CAMPUS: OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS

U.S. Department of State | September 2020

The United States welcomes international students, researchers, and scholars to participate in America’s outstanding academic environment. The vast majority are valuable contributors to campus life, embracing international academic values and posing no threat to American research integrity or security. However, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) entices or compels some individuals to engage in coercive, deceptive, or illegal activity. The United States must protect its interests against these efforts that threaten academic freedom, misuse access to world-class institutions, and seize research to enhance the PRC military. Educational and research exchanges are valuable and long-standing. The U.S. welcomed more students from China in 2019 (370,000) than from any other country—a number that has quadrupled over the last decade. The strength of America’s global leadership in science and technology (S&T) rests on core principles of research, including openness, transparency, reciprocity, and merit-based competition.

Read the full article [here](#).

WINNERS AND LOSERS IN US-CHINA SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Jenny J. Lee & John P. Haupt | *The International Journal of Higher Education Research* | 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](#).



TOP CCP SCIENTIST DIAGNOSES CHINA'S STEM ILLS

Jordan Schneider and Irene Zhang | ChinaTalk | September 6, 2022

It's been a minute since we've translated some partyspeak here at ChinaTalk. But this past week, a speech by Zhang Yuzhuo 张玉卓, an energy scientist and Party Branch Secretary of the China Association of Science and Technology (CAST), caught my eye. CAST is China's umbrella professional association for scientists charged with "publicizing the line, principles and policies of the CCP, reflecting the suggestions, opinions and demands of scientific and technological workers." In other words, it facilitates politics among China's STEM community and leads Party initiatives in science & tech. It has the additional mandate of popularizing scientific literacy. CAST is also in charge of nearly 200 journals, including the adorably titled Tea Science whose recent edition published an article on 'Effects of Light Waves on the Aroma Substances of Fresh Tea Leaves in Summer and Autumn During Spreading and the Quality of Final Green Tea'. CAST's current Chairman is Wan Gang, who from 2007-2018 ran the Ministry of Science and Technology, an organization most famous for spearheading the 863 Program and China's most ambitious science megaprojects. Zhang Yuzhuo, who delivered the speech below, is CAST's seniormost Party official.

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>*

