



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

<https://asce.tamus.edu>

THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

August 24, 2023

NSF RELEASES GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH SECURITY ANALYTICS PRACTICES

Brian Mosley | Computing Research Association | August 2023

At the end of June the National Science Foundation released their long-anticipated guidelines covering their internal guidance for research security data-related practices. In their announcement, NSF said these, "guidelines are one of several NSF activities demonstrating that the principles of open science can align with research security standards." The guidelines were released on the website of the Office of Chief of Research Security Strategy and Policy (OCRSSP). Research Security, defined by NSF as, "safeguarding of the U.S. enterprise against the misappropriation of research and development," has become an issue of importance in government circles, particularly in Congress, over the past few years. Several parts of the Federal Government have taken steps to counter threats, and perceived threats, from foreign adversaries, with China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran being the main countries of concern.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW CHINA EXPORTS SECRECY

Christopher Walker | Foreign Affairs | July 11, 2023

China thrives on secrecy. Beijing's approach to governance, which relies on surveillance and control rather than openness and deliberation, requires secrecy. And to sustain it, the Chinese government suppresses independent journalism, censors digital information, and closely guards the kind of information that democracies freely disclose. This commitment to secrecy and censorship is a long-standing feature of the Chinese Communist Party's rule. But under President Xi Jinping, whose ideas about governance may shape the world for years to come, the CCP has grown even more furtive. In recent months, the Chinese government has obscured the deaths of as many as one million people after it abruptly abandoned its harsh "zero COVID" policy. It has manipulated and withheld data about the pandemic. And it has broadened its draconian counterespionage laws to assert even greater control over China's information environment. Beijing has also emerged as a stealth exporter of secrecy abroad.

Read the full article [here](#).

HAS CHINA'S YOUNG THOUSAND TALENTS PROGRAM BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN RECRUITING AND NURTURING TOP-CALIBER SCIENTISTS?

Dongbo Shi, Weichen Liu, and Yanbo Wang | Science | January 5, 2023

China is a top sender of students overseas, and the Chinese government launched the Young Thousand Talents program to recruit and nurture high-caliber, early-career expatriate scientists who return to China after they receive doctorates abroad. Shi et al. examined how effective the program has been in supporting the young scholars' productivity when they return to China compared with their peers that remained overseas. They found that the scholars were high (but not top) caliber and outperformed overseas peers in last-authored publications because of greater access to larger research teams and better research funding in China. In this study, we examined China's Young Thousand Talents (YTT) program and evaluated its effectiveness in recruiting elite expatriate scientists and in nurturing the returnee scientists' productivity.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE U.S. IS TURNING AWAY FROM ITS BIGGEST SCIENTIFIC PARTNER AT A PRECARIOUS TIME

Karen Hao and Sha Hua | The Wall Street Journal | August 16, 2023

One of the most productive scientific collaborations of the 21st century is pulling apart, as deteriorating relations between the U.S. and China lead researchers to sever ties. The decoupling, which began in recent years with investigations into Chinese researchers in the U.S., has accelerated as tensions have risen between the superpowers. Now some U.S. lawmakers are pushing to let a landmark agreement to cooperate on science and technology, signed in 1979 and renewed routinely since, expire this month. China has built itself into a powerful engine of scientific discovery in recent decades, partly with American help, and many in Washington fear that China could gain a security and military advantage unless the U.S. takes decisive steps to cut off cooperation in scientific research.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINESE SPIES ARE TARGETING THE UK 'AGGRESSIVELY' WITH BEIJING 'PENETRATING EVERY SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY' AND FEARS OVER INFLUENCE IN UNIVERSITIES, WARNS PARLIAMENT'S INTELLIGENCE WATCHDOG

James Tapsfield | Daily Mail | July 13, 2023

Chinese spies are targeting the UK 'prolifically and aggressively' with Beijing managing to penetrate 'every sector of the economy', a watchdog warned today. The alarming picture was revealed in a long-awaited report by Parliament's intelligence watchdog. It raises concerns about Chinese influence in UK universities and the country's intention to become a 'permanent and significant player' in the civil nuclear energy industry. The Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) is also critical of the UK Government's response, questioning the trade-off between economic interest and security concerns. The 207-page report, published this morning, said the UK is of 'significant interest to China when it comes to espionage and interference', placing the country 'just below China's top priority targets'.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA TARGETING GERMAN TECH 'THROUGH BACK DOOR' WITH LICENCES - REPORT

Reinhard Becker | Reuters | August 9, 2023

China is going after licences to boost its access to German technology as investment regulation makes company acquisitions in the sector increasingly difficult, the Handelsblatt newspaper reported on Wednesday, citing a study. The study conducted by the IW economic institute, analysing Bundesbank data on behalf of the newspaper, found German licence revenues from China more than tripled in 2022 compared to 2014. Compared with 2020, the increase was about half. "There is a clear early indication that Chinese companies are looking for a new way to get access to German technology," said Juergen Matthes, head of IW's global and regional markets research unit. Tech licences are one way for China to try to get in "through the back door", he told Reuters. With the German economy still smarting from a breakdown in ties with Russia, Berlin launched an overhaul of its China policy, calling for a "de-risking" approach that seeks to avoid over-reliance, while acknowledging the country's importance as a key market for many companies.

Read the full article [here](#).

RETHINKING WHO'S WINNING THE US-CHINA TECH COMPETITION

Jon Schmid | Defense News | August 15, 2023

A study earlier this year asserted China has a "stunning lead" in essential technologies. And it wasn't the first time this claim has been made. But are these claims based in reality? When assessing the global impact and reach of American companies like Amazon, Apple, OpenAI, Boeing, Moderna, Microsoft and Google, it's not immediately clear the United States is lagging in technological innovation. But the challenge is understanding exactly how to measure a "technology competition" or "strategic competition." Typically, competitions involve scores, winners and losers. But how does one keep score in technology competition? Is it the number of patents, academic publications, leading educational institutions, or multibillion-dollar companies? Or is the appropriate scoring system a more complex mixture of these, and other, factors?

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA'S COLLECTION OF GENOMIC AND OTHER HEALTHCARE DATA FROM AMERICA: RISKS TO PRIVACY AND U.S. ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center | February 2021

Would you want your DNA or other healthcare data going to an authoritarian regime with a record of exploiting DNA for repression and surveillance? For years, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has collected large healthcare data sets from the U.S. and nations around the globe, through both legal and illegal means, for purposes only it can control. While no one begrudges a nation conducting research to improve medical treatments, the PRC's mass collection of DNA at home has helped it carry out human rights abuses against domestic minority groups and support state surveillance. The PRC's collection of healthcare data from America poses equally serious risks, not only to the privacy of Americans, but also to the economic and national security of the U.S.

Read the full article [here](#).

SMALL COMPANIES CAN'T ACCESS CLASSIFIED WORK WITHOUT A SECURE SPACE TO WORK IN

Eric Tegler | Forbes | August 3, 2023

If your small defense business has desirable technology that the government considers classified, you'll need a secure workspace before you can secure government work. It's a Catch-22 that Congress wants to alleviate. The 2024 National Defense Authorization Act includes language from both the House and Senate meant to open up existing classified work-spaces to small businesses. Building or gaining access to a government-approved secure workspace is a costly burden that adds to the already thorny problems defense startups face in getting security clearances for their employees and in getting their companies as a whole "covered" or cleared to work on classified projects. Such hurdles curb or prevent innovative, potentially war-winning technologies and ideas from being embraced and applied by the Pentagon says Andrew "Scar" Van Timmeren, vice president of government solutions for Blue Force Technologies, a small North Carolina-based business which recently secured a contract to build prototype unmanned adversary training aircraft for the Air Force.

Read the full article [here](#).

WINNING THE TECH COLD WAR

Caitlin Lee | Rand Corporation | August 17, 2023

If world leaders learn only one lesson from the war in Ukraine, it should be that the ability to rapidly innovate—to invent, adopt, and effectively integrate new technologies—can have profound implications for combat outcomes. Outgunned and outnumbered, Ukrainians took a page from the U.S. playbook and turned to technology to gain an advantage over the adversary. They deftly adopted Starlink satellite communications, turned commercial drones into flying bombs, and quickly embraced unfamiliar Western weapons to keep Russia from wiping them off the map. Throughout the history of war, a decisive factor in conventional conflict has always been the human ability to innovate—to invent and make effective use of that new technology. For the past 70 years, nuclear weapons technology has stood alone in its unique ability to independently change the course of history.

Read the full article [here](#).

PROTECT YOUR ORGANIZATION FROM THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE THREAT

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center

Today the global threat environment is more diverse and dynamic than ever. As spelled out in the latest Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC), a growing number of state actors and non-state actors are targeting the United States. They are no longer just interested in obtaining classified U.S. secrets but also are collecting information from almost all U.S. Government agencies and virtually every sector of the U.S. economy. Personal data, trade secrets, intellectual property, technology, and research and development are all being targeted by adversaries who have the capabilities, patience, and resources to get them. To achieve their objectives, foreign adversaries are employing a range of illegal techniques, including insider threats, cyber penetrations, supply chain attacks, and blended operations that combine some or all these methods.

Read the full article [here](#).

EUROPE IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Strider

From artificial intelligence and smartphones to electric vehicles and data centers, semiconductors are critical in powering and advancing today's technologies. For years, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has played a significant role in the global semiconductor industry as both a major consumer and producer. But as the PRC works to modernize its military and become a global leader in technology, it's seeking foreign sources of expertise to obtain advanced semiconductors. Dozens of PRC government documents published in recent years emphasize leveraging foreign intellectual property (IP) and talent to advance their domestic integrated circuit (IC) industry¹ through three main methods:

Recruiting international talent

Strider's global talent flow data shows that over the past 20 years, more than 30,000 individuals have left top European technology companies, including premier semiconductor firms, and moved to PRC-headquartered companies. PRC economic statecraft actors leverage government-backed talent programs, overseas alumni associations, and industry events to encourage overseas experts to relocate.

Read the full article [here](#).

SAFEGUARDING OUR FUTURE

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center | June 20, 2023

Since 2015, the PRC has passed or updated comprehensive national security, cybersecurity, and data privacy laws and regulations, expanding Beijing's oversight of domestic and foreign (including U.S.) companies operating within China. Beijing views inadequate government control of information within China and its outbound flow as a national security risk. These laws provide the PRC government with expanded legal grounds for accessing and controlling data held by U.S. firms in China. U.S. companies and individuals in China could also face penalties for traditional business activities that Beijing deems acts of espionage or for actions that Beijing believes assist foreign sanctions against China. The laws may also compel locally-employed PRC nationals of U.S. firms to assist in PRC intelligence efforts.

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>*