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CHINESE STUDENTS JOIN RAT RACE TO STUDY ABROAD AS JOB PROSPECTS DIM AMID SLOWING ECONOMY

Beata Mo | South China Morning Post | August 21, 2023

After taking an international English proficiency test for non-native speakers six times in a year at the cost of over 10,000 yuan (US\$1,387), Jennie Zhan finally achieved her desired score in February. The 22-year-old, who graduated from the biological science programme at university in Fujian province in June, needed a minimum score of seven out of nine on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) to pursue her postgraduate ambitions. And in May, Zhan received an offer from Georgetown University in Washington to study bioinformatics – a field of science that develops methods and software tools for understanding biological data – having opted not to take the domestic postgraduate yankao entrance exam “I wanted to open my eyes, seeing different and various ways of thinking and lifestyles in foreign countries,” said Zhan. Around 4.7 million students signed up for the 2023 national exam for postgraduate enrolment, with around 20 per cent of university graduates moving on to higher education amid pressure to secure employment.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW CHINA WEAPONIZES THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM AGAINST US

Keith Krach | The Hill | August 6, 2023

As we navigate the escalating threat posed by China – a nation guided by communist doctrine, yet peculiarly sustained by the tenets of global capitalism – the urgency to reassess our financial engagement becomes more pressing than ever. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the draconian ruler of the world’s second-largest economy, has accumulated immense wealth from American investments. This wealth manifests itself through dollar-denominated Chinese bonds and a myriad of Chinese companies publicly traded on U.S. exchanges, including their shrewdly named subsidiaries, intricately woven into the fabric of index funds. In an alarming twist, the Chinese government has weaponized our own capitalist system against us. Through 401(k) retirement accounts and diverse investment vehicles, approximately 100 million Americans are unknowingly bolstering a predatory economic adversary and facilitating a military with global supremacy ambitions.

Read the full article [here](#).

NEW CISA GUIDANCE LOOKS TO GUARD AGAINST SUPPLY CHAIN HACKS

Alexandra Kelley | Nextgov/FCW | August 16, 2023

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency released its first remote monitoring and management software guidance document on Wednesday, part of the agency's larger Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative initiative. The Remote Monitoring & Management Cyber Defense Plan specifically focuses on the potential vulnerabilities within RMM software installed on network endpoints. RMM software is commonly used to monitor the safety landscape of a given network, and can grant remote access to some system configurations. Malicious hackers who target these systems through endpoint access often maintain long-term and uninterrupted access into a business's digital networks, a technique CISA refers to as "living off the land." Noting that malicious actors frequently exploit RMM security patches, CISA's plan relies on two pillars as key to safeguard digital networks: operational collaboration, focused on increased information sharing; and cyber defense guidance, which primarily suggests educating RMM end users on the cybersecurity dangers associated with the software.

Read the full article [here](#).

UNDERSTANDING THE GLOBAL GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH LANDSCAPE

Caroline Schuerger, Steph Batalis, Katherine Quinn, Ronnie Kinoshita, Owen Daniels, and Anna Puglisi | Center for Security and Emerging Technology | August 2023

Gain-of-function (GOF) and loss-of-function (LOF) research are two valuable methodologies that allow scientists to study pathogens. These interconnected research approaches alter pathogens' genomes to add or subtract functionality, allowing scientists to examine and better understand how pathogens function and develop new vaccines and therapies. Despite its widely recognized value for science, gain-of-function research has attracted attention and concern from U.S. policymakers due to what some see as inherent risks in this methodology, particularly following the outbreak and debated origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. The risk that gain-of-function research could inadvertently contribute to pandemics or widespread illness has sparked discussion about new regulations. LOF research results in weakened pathogens—and thus does not impart the same risks as GOF research—and is rarely mentioned in policy debates in the same way as GOF research.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA IS NORWAY'S BIGGEST TECH RESEARCH PARTNER – REPORT

Jan Petter Myklebust | University World News | August 30, 2023

Since 2019, China has been Norway's biggest partner in technological research, outpacing both the United States and the United Kingdom, according to a recently published analysis which maps Norway's relationship with China and South Korea within the context of global scientific collaboration. The report, published by the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education and based on scientific articles in the Web of Science, notes that after a "temporary closing down of Sino-Norwegian relations", the importance of Norwegian research collaboration to China has risen since 2017 and, although Denmark is now a "preferred partner relative to its size, the report says "all four Nordic countries" (Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway) are rising in China's "collaboration profile".

Read the full article [here](#).

HE RESEARCH: WE MUST SEEK OUT, AND LISTEN TO, NEW VOICES

Rebecca Schendel | University World News | September 2, 2023

Twenty years ago, the sociologist Barry Schwartz coined the phrase the 'paradox of choice' to describe a feeling of paralysis when faced with a dizzying array of consumer choices in the marketplace. Schwartz's argument at that time was that, despite what traditional economic theory might suggest, choice is not always a benefit to consumers, especially when there are too many options. A choice between a small number of options can be helpful, as it allows consumers to feel less restricted and gives them the chance to choose against something that is really not of interest to them. However, once there are too many choices, consumers become anxious, as it becomes far more difficult to make an informed choice, which then raises the possibility of making a 'wrong' choice that you might regret.

Read the full article [here](#).

INTERNATIONALISATION GUIDELINES: BONUS OR BURDEN FOR HE?

Jan Petter Myklebust | University World News | August 24, 2023

A Norwegian government report providing guidelines and advice to higher education and research institutions and aimed at safeguarding academic values and national interests against foreign intelligence and interference, digital security and illegal knowledge transfers has been launched in response to what is seen as a growing global challenge. The Directorate of Higher Education and Skills and the Norwegian Research Council delivered its report on regulations and tools for responsible international cooperation to the Ministry of Higher Education and Research on 14 August. "International higher education and research cooperation have over recent years become more demanding and the sector is facing the dilemma every day between openness and security, and they have been asking for more information and guidelines from us," said Minister of Research and Higher Education Sandra Borch at the launch of the guidelines held at the Arctic University of the North at the start of the university year.

Read the full article [here](#).

UNIVERSITY GROUP LEADER DEFENDS CROSS-BORDER RESEARCH

Andrew Silver | University World News | September 1, 2023

The head of a European university group has defended cross-border research collaboration, as politicians in the European Union and United States seek to weaken socio-economic ties with nations they perceive to have hostile potential, writes Andrew Silver for Research Professional News. "As geopolitical tensions continue to rise, universities must recognise the imperative of working together to defend their shared interests," Rik Van de Walle, rector of Ghent University in Belgium and president of the CESAER group of science and technology universities, said this month in an opinion article published by the Academic Cooperation Association. "Alongside quests to decouple or de-risk how our economies work comes a threat for renewed academic isolation," he warned, adding that there is "the risk of re-division of the world into a number of more or less isolated blocks".

Read the full article [here](#).

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION MUST ACT TO STOP AMERICAN SEMICONDUCTOR EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS PROFITING FROM DANGEROUS CHINESE LEGACY CHIP SECTOR

Roslyn Layton | National Security Institute | August 25, 2023

Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo is visiting China this week. If recent trips by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen were any indication, Raimondo will probably be eager to find new ways of economic cooperation with China. A better move would be to stay home and focus on stopping American semiconductor equipment manufacturers (SEMs) from selling some of the world's most sensitive technological equipment to Chinese legacy chipmakers. For years, Chinese companies have feasted on government subsidies to gain market share in technological products such as solar panels, LED screens, and telecommunications gear. Now, since the U.S. Commerce Department rolled out new export controls targeting advanced semiconductors (14 nanometers or smaller) last year, China is apparently deploying subsidies to boost its legacy semiconductor sector.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHIPS AND SCIENCE OPENS A DOOR FOR SOCIETY

Rep. Haley Stevens, Rayvon Fouche, Andreen Soley, and Evan Michelson | Issues in Science and Technology | August 30, 2023

In August 2022, President Biden signed the CHIPS and Science Act into law, a bill my colleagues and I passed to ensure US leadership in semiconductor development and innovation across a multitude of sectors. The law secured historic authorizations in American manufacturing, support for our workforce in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and bolstering of the nation's research competitiveness in emerging technologies. A year later, Congress must find the political will to fund the science component of the act, while ensuring these investments are socially and ethically responsible for all Americans. In recent decades, emerging technologies were quickly perfected and rapidly proliferated to transform our economy and society. Powerful forces are now overwhelmingly at our fingertips, either through mass production or the digital superhighway brought on by fiber optics.

Read the full article [here](#).

GERMAN UNIVERSITY SUSPENDS ACCEPTANCE OF CHINESE STATE-FUNDED RESEARCHERS OVER ESPIONAGE CONCERNS

Heena Sharma | World is One (WION) | August 26, 2023

The Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU) in Germany's Bavaria state has declared a suspension of researchers holding scholarships from the China Scholarship Council (CSC), a Chinese government entity. This move, effective from June 1, has been made due to concerns about the potential for industrial espionage. The university cited conflicts between the CSC contract and Germany's Basic Law, asserting that such agreements limit academic freedom and freedom of expression.

Read the full article [here](#).

BREAKING THE CEILING ON RISK ASSESSMENT: DISPOSITIONAL INDICATORS OF RISK EXPOSURE (DIRE) SCALE

Jonathan Shedler, Luisa E. Marin-Avellan, Olga G. Shechter, Peter Fonagy, Michael Karson, and Eric L. Lang | The Mirror Journal | Summer 2023

Current risk-assessment methods may be approaching a ceiling on accuracy. The domain of personality represents a source of untapped information for enhancing prediction not only of criminality but also of broadly defined misconduct, including breaches of trust and other forms of non-criminal insider threat in organizations. We describe the Shedler-Westen Assessment Procedure (SWAP), a comprehensive method of personality assessment, and the Dispositional Indicators of Risk Exposure (DIRE) scale, a psychometric scale designed to harness implicit and explicit expert knowledge concerning personality and risk. Study 1 examined the convergent validity of the DIRE scale in a national clinical sample of $N = 1,201$ patients. DIRE correlated significantly with a range of risk-related criterion measures, including global maladaptive functioning ($r = .64$), employment trouble ($r = .49$), mental instability ($r = .34$), criminality and violence ($r = .46$), and child/adolescent antisociality ($r = .53$).

Read the full article [here](#).

RUSSIA'S MODERN ESPIONAGE TACTICS: WHAT SECURITY MANAGERS MUST KNOW TO STAY AHEAD

John Davis | ClearanceJobs | August 30, 2023

In the murky realm of espionage, a recent Bellingcat study, in collaboration with Germany's Der Spiegel and Italy's La Repubblica, exposes a relentless Russian campaign. They're not just sticking to old-school spy games; their repertoire includes computer warfare, terrorism, election manipulation, and more. It's a multifaceted assault on Western adversaries, and today, we're delving into one of their covert tactics.

ESPIONAGE'S EVOLUTION: FROM SLEEPER AGENTS TO ANNA CHAPMAN AND MARIA K.

Security Managers remember 2010 as the year of the Russian 'sleeper' agents. In that year some 10 Russian agents, disguised as 'average Americans' were exposed. They were revealed as having been secretly infiltrated into our society by the Putin government. Most intriguing about that case was how the spies' 'backstory', the tales they told to account for their previous lives, were so painstakingly validated.

Read the full article [here](#).

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