



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

October 26, 2023

MI5 HEAD WARNS OF 'EPIC SCALE' OF CHINESE ESPIONAGE

Gordan Corera | BBC News | October 18, 2023

It comes amid a new warning to tens of thousands of British businesses of the risk of having their innovation stolen. Ken McCallum was speaking to the BBC at an unprecedented public appearance of the security chiefs of the Five Eyes alliance in California. The heads of US, UK, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand security agencies appeared together. They did so for the first time to warn of commercial secrets being obtained by China. Stanford University in California was chosen as the venue for the first public meeting because it lies in the heart of Silicon Valley. In both public statements and a closed session with entrepreneurs and investors, security chiefs warned that cutting-edge research is being stolen. "We have seen a sustained campaign on a pretty epic scale," Mr. McCallum told the BBC in an interview during the event. In the past, MI5 focused on protecting government secrets from foreign spies but now the fear is that innovation is often stolen from small companies, start-ups and researchers who may not previously have worried about security.

Read the full article [here](#).

SECRET-LEVEL VERSION OF MICROSOFT 365 ROLLS OUT TO TOP PENTAGON OFFICES THIS MONTH

Jared Serbu | Federal News Network | October 20, 2023

Thousands of users across the Defense Department's "fourth estate" will get their first chance to use modern collaboration tools on classified IT networks over the next several weeks as DoD continues its push to deploy Office 365 across the military departments, Defense agencies and field activities. The Defense Information Systems Agency has been piloting the new service — called DOD365-Secret — since January. But officials are now fully deploying it for users across the 17 components of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), mainly in the Pentagon itself and in the nearby Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia. It's a major shift, not only in that it's one of DoD's first large-scale forays into cloud computing at the secret level, but also because it will have the effect of consolidating an aging patchwork of tools senior leaders and their support staff have been using to discuss classified information for years, said Danielle Metz, OSD's chief information officer.

Read the full article [here](#).

VIEWPOINT: WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT RESEARCH SECURITY ON CAMPUS

Irna van der Molen | Science/Business Network | October 19, 2023

We cannot be naïve: rising pressure from Western governments in recent years to toughen research security was bound to affect science and universities – and the data show that’s indeed happening. Risk profiling, screening and export control are starting to have effects: for example, on international partnerships, on the access of scientists from high-risk countries to work on sensitive technology at the university of their choice, but most of all on the awareness among universities that times have changed and openness is not that absolute anymore. The history of this issue is short and sharp. Just eight years ago, “Open innovation, open science and open to the world” were the three main policy goals for research and innovation of the European Union. The collaborative, international and open nature of science and innovation was presented as instrumental for the development of new ideas and sustainable investments in the future of Europe.

Read the full article [here](#).

AN AGE OF DISENTANGLED RESEARCH?

Igor Martins and Sylvia Schwaag Serger | Issues in Science and Technology | Fall 2023

International research collaboration has grown significantly since the 1980s, and until very recently the trend was considered unambiguously positive and likely to continue. By 2020, nearly a quarter of all published research involved international collaboration. One of the key engines of this rise was an increase in China’s international scientific cooperation, especially with the United States. Over this period, collaboration became tremendously important to the productivity of the scientific enterprise as a whole. Examining 25 million research articles between 1981 and 2012, research analyst Jonathan Adams found that the increase in the scientific output of the United States and Western European countries over this time period is largely explained by the increase in internationally coauthored papers. The impact is so profound that Adams characterized this phase of intensifying international collaboration as the “fourth age of research,” to recognize a distinct shift in the drivers of scientific output from previous ages, which he described as “the individual, the institutional, and the national.”

Read the full article [here](#).

REIMAGINING CHINA–US UNIVERSITY RELATIONS: A GLOBAL ‘ECOSYSTEM’ PERSPECTIVE

Qiang Zha | Studies in Higher Education | October 20, 2023

This paper is among the few that attempts to connect two popular topics, the rapid growth of Chinese higher education and the shifting China–US higher education relations. There has been a rich body of literature about the former topic, and there is growing literature regarding the latter, yet few links both topics. As such, it is a unique study, and there are three rationales for this study: (1) China has been drawing on the US experience and patterns in its effort to raise the higher education standards, hence the two countries have formed one of the most intensive and important bilateral relations since the early 2000s along with China’s higher education rapid growth, (2) the currently escalating geopolitical tensions between China and the US have rendered the two countries moving towards political rivalry and economic decoupling, which in turn has ushered in a possibility of decoupling between the two higher education systems (Zha 2022a), and (3) the shifting China–US higher education relations would have a significant impact on the global higher education landscape (Lee and Haupt 2020, 2021).

Read the full article [here](#).

BUILDING SECURE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS WITH CHINA

Glen Noble | Wonkhe | October 20, 2023

The government's recent response to the Intelligence and Security Committee's China report stressed that little further guidance would be provided to the sector over research security. "Whilst the government continues to work... on threats facing the sector... British universities are independent," the response read, concluding that it would be "critical for institutions to own their own risks." This was despite the sector earlier in the year suggesting that the government needs to be clearer on where the "red lines" are for international partnerships in research. There are a number of likely reasons why further support is currently not forthcoming. First, resources such as the Research Collaboration Advice Team (RCAT) and Trusted Research are still new to the sector, making it difficult to consider what further interventions might be necessary. Second, any shift away from the "country agnostic" approach taken so far would likely cause several diplomatic headaches. Third, the UK government lacks the structure and resources to develop and maintain the required scientific knowledge that would be required to identify (and publish, as the committee recommended) a definitive list of what the "sensitive" areas of research are.

Read the full article [here](#).

MINISTER STICKS TO SCREENING OF FOREIGN RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS

Hoger Onderwijs Persbureau | Cursor | October 9, 2023

Universities are increasingly aware of the risk of espionage and foreign influence, according to a review the minister sent to the House of Representatives last Monday. All universities are looking to increase knowledge security and are appointing dedicated officers to monitor this. But when exactly does a student or researcher from outside the EU constitute a threat to national security? To be able to answer this question, universities argue that they need a clear framework. Otherwise, there is a risk of discrimination and stigmatisation. "Universities cannot and do not want to reject promising applicants or valued colleagues based solely on where they come from", they write in a letter to the minister. Although the minister is sympathetic to this point, he has yet to address it. Nor has he responded to the objections raised by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) to the systematic screening of foreign academics and students. They argue that this would unduly impede international cooperation and violate academic freedom.

Read the full article [here](#).

UPDATE: ENTRY SUSPENDED FOR CHINESE STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS WITH MILITARY-CIVIL FUSION LINKS

Chodorow Law Offices | October 15, 2023

President Trump issued Proclamation 10043 on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers from the People's Republic of China on May 29, 2020. The Biden administration has continued to enforce the Proclamation. As of fall 2020, the State Department had revoked about 1,000 previously issued visas under the Proclamation. During fiscal year 2021, a total of 1,964 visas were denied pursuant to the Proclamation, according to State Department statistics. Fiscal year 2022 statistics obscure the number of denials. From my perspective as an immigration lawyer, the proclamation appears to be counter-productive, a distraction from real measures needed to fight Beijing's theft of sensitive technologies, and an attempt to boost Trump's electoral odds by stoking xenophobia.

Read the full article [here](#).

CSIS CHIEF OPENS UP ABOUT CHINA'S INTEREST IN CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

Catharine Tunney | CBC News | October 17, 2023

The head of Canada's intelligence agency spoke openly about China's interest in partnering with Canadian universities to gain a military edge during a conference with his Five Eyes counterparts on Tuesday. "China has been very transparent," Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) Director David Vigneault said. "Everything that they're doing in our universities and in new technology, it's going back into a system very organized to create dual-use applications for the military." Vigneault made the comments on stage during a rare public gathering with spy bosses from the U.S., the U.K., Australia and New Zealand. The representatives of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance are meeting in California's Silicon Valley at the invitation of FBI Director Christopher Wray to discuss adversaries' use of technology and threats to innovation and research. Vigneault said CSIS has been trying to warn Canadian universities about the People's Republic of China's motivations and is in the process of setting up a research security centre to provide advice directly to research institutions.

Read the full article [here](#).

EDUCATING ACADEMICS WILL EASE UK UNIVERSITIES' FOREIGN INFLUENCE CRISIS

Fiona Quimbre | RAND Corporation | October 19, 2023

The United Kingdom has a China problem and it can't be swept under the carpet any longer. Rishi Sunak has admitted that the Communist Party of China poses a "particular threat to [the UK's] open and democratic way of life." This follows last month's arrest of two men under the Official Secrets Act on allegations of spying for China, and revelations that China is seeking to influence public life by cultivating early career political candidates. At the epicentre of this storm are UK universities. China has long been accused of using covert and overt methods to undermine academic freedom, siphon off cutting-edge technologies, and recruit the best and brightest scientists. The UK government reaffirmed the gravity of the situation in its September response to the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament report on China. This echoes the stern warning issued in July by Ken McCallum, head of the UK's domestic intelligence agency MI5, who labelled UK universities "magnetic targets for espionage and manipulation."

Read the full article [here](#).

CITATIONS USED BY CHINA TO 'SEIZE CONTROL OF GLOBAL SCIENCE'

Jack Grove | Times Higher Education | October 17, 2023

The rising number of highly cited papers produced by China should be treated with scepticism because Beijing will use these impressive metrics to push science in a direction that suits the superpower's national interests, a policy analyst has warned. Speaking at an event to mark King's College London's China Week, Sophia Gaston, head of foreign policy and UK resilience at Policy Exchange, an influential centre-right UK thinktank, said China had sought to increase the citation scores of its research papers because a higher global standing would allow its researchers to influence the future path of science. Citations are "used in claims of legitimacy in regulation and governance," Ms Gaston told an audience on 16 October, adding that this kind of influence over scientific rules and sector norms was "not in our interest because China's intention is to overhaul the liberal global order that we have helped to create".

Read the full article [here](#).

FOR BRIGHT YOUNG MINDS IN CHINA AND US, CURIOSITY AND PRAGMATISM OUTPACE NATIONALISM, DISTRUST

Bochen Han | *South China Morning Post* | October 21, 2023

Yang's first day in the US did not go as planned. Upon landing, Yang and four of his classmates were stopped for secondary questioning by border security. Yang, who asked to use a pseudonym to protect his privacy, was part of a group of 14 Chinese Tsinghua University students on a two-week trip to cultural institutions, universities and think tanks on the US East Coast this summer. The university-organised tour was the first post-pandemic trip of its kind, and for most of the students, their first journey to the US. A recent graduate of Tsinghua's quantum computing programme, Yang was held for three hours in what he described as a deeply uncomfortable experience. Yet he says he left the US very hopeful for bilateral cooperation and does not rule out future study in the US. Overall, while acknowledging that he had seen only a sliver of some of the country's most cosmopolitan cities, he said he saw "a real United States" with "warm-hearted and passionate people" – a contrast to the negative images he and his classmates often see in the media.

Read the full article [here](#).

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USEFUL RESOURCES

The China Threat

Federal Bureau of Investigations | October 6, 2023

The counterintelligence and economic espionage efforts emanating from the government of China and the Chinese Communist Party are a grave threat to the economic well-being and democratic values of the United States. Confronting this threat is the FBI's top counterintelligence priority. To be clear, the adversary is not the Chinese people or people of Chinese descent or heritage. The threat comes from the programs and policies pursued by an authoritarian government. The Chinese government is employing tactics that seek to influence lawmakers and public opinion to achieve policies that are more favorable to China. At the same time, the Chinese government is seeking to become the world's greatest superpower through predatory lending and business practices, systematic theft of intellectual property, and brazen cyber intrusions.

View the full resource [here](#).

DARPA Countering Foreign Influence Program (CFIP)

Department of Defense/Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency | September 17, 2021

The DARPA CFIP is an adaptive risk management security program designed to help protect the critical technology and performer intellectual property associated with DARPA's research projects by identifying the possible vectors of undue foreign influence. In order to identify and mitigate undue foreign influence, as required by Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E)), the Mission Services Office/Security and Intelligence Directorate (MSO/SID) CFIP team will create risk assessments of all proposed Senior/Key Personnel selected for negotiation of a fundamental research grant or cooperative agreement award. CFIP risk assessment ratings will be applied based on information found in the [Standard Form \(SF\) 424, "Senior/Key Person Profile \(Expanded\)](#)," and any of its accompanying or referenced documents, in concert with Executive Orders, federal policy, and publicly available undue foreign influence entity lists.

View the full resource [here](#).

Potential Warning Signs of Foreign Interference

Australian Government/Department of Home Affairs

People who undertake foreign interference activities may not be easily identifiable, and it may not be obvious they are acting on behalf of a foreign power. These people seeking to conduct acts of foreign interference could attempt to create a sense of personal connection with, and obligation from, an individual which they can then use to coerce or influence decisions in their favour.

View the full resource [here](#).

Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector

Australian Government/Department of Education | August 17, 2022

The world-class performance and reputation of Australia's university system is intrinsically linked to the globally engaged and open nature of our universities. Universities play a key role in developing new knowledge and technological innovation. This role is vital to Australia's continued prosperity, economic growth and international engagement. A proactive approach to the potential threat of foreign interference helps to safeguard the reputation of Australian universities, protect university students and staff, and ensure our institutions continue to benefit from international collaboration.

View the full resource [here](#).

National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships

Government of Canada | April 4, 2023

Domestic and international partnerships are an essential component of Canada's open and collaborative academic research, guided by the principles of academic freedom and institutional autonomy. The majority of research partnerships have transparent intentions that provide mutual benefits to all research partners. However, some activities by foreign governments, militaries and other actors pose real risks to Canada's national security and the integrity of its research ecosystem. To address these risks, researchers, research institutions, federal granting agencies, and the Government of Canada have a shared responsibility to identify and mitigate any potential national security risks related to research partnerships.

View the full resource [here](#).

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