



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**November 9, 2023**

## **U.S. OFFICIALS HOLD THEIR BREATH FOR IRANIAN CYBERATTACKS**

*Maggie Miller | POLITICO | November 1, 2023*

The U.S. government is prepping for a potential onslaught of Iranian cyberattacks in retaliation for support for Israel in its conflict with Hamas. It's far from just Israel at risk of cyberattacks from the Hamas-aligned regime's cyber operatives, U.S. officials say. They also see the U.S. and other nations that support the Israeli government as likely targets. Such attacks could take the form of attempting to damage critical systems like water or electricity, would likely involve widespread disinformation efforts and could also involve proxies to keep Iran's fingerprints off the incidents. "The cyber targeting of American interests and critical infrastructure that we already see conducted by Iran and non-state actors alike we can expect to get worse if the conflict expands, as will the threat of kinetic attacks," FBI Director Christopher Wray testified to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Tuesday. Multiple U.S. federal agencies have stressed that they have yet to see any intelligence suggesting that Iran is planning an imminent attack on U.S. critical infrastructure.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **SCIENCE COMMITTEE LEADERS INTRODUCE BILL TO ADVANCE AND SECURE QUANTUM LEADERSHIP**

*Committee on Science, Space and Technology | Press Release | November 3, 2023*

Today, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) introduced H.R. 6213, the National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act, to advance quantum science and technology in the United States and maintain our global leadership position. As competing nations like China and Russia are actively investing in the development of quantum systems, continuing our success in this field is critical to our economic competitiveness and national security. The National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act builds off the accomplishments of the National Quantum Initiative Act, passed by the Science Committee and signed into law in 2018, and ensures we continue to accelerate breakthroughs in quantum sciences and strengthen our quantum ecosystem to keep America competitive for decades to come. "I am proud to lead this critical bipartisan piece of legislation to advance America's leadership in emerging technologies," Chairman Lucas said.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **THE US JUST GOT SERIOUS ABOUT CYBERSECURITY. CONTRACTORS AREN'T READY.**

*Eric Noonan | C4ISRNET | November 3, 2023*

The federal government's hands are more than full in monitoring multiple wars overseas and an election cycle just ahead. Amid these urgent conflicts, the leaders of the Five Eyes recently sat for an unprecedented interview with 60 Minutes, calling The People's Republic of China "the defining threat of this generation." The first public appearance of America's English-speaking intelligence alliance at a time of great unrest abroad speaks volumes about the importance of protecting sensitive information in cyberspace. In recent months, U.S. agencies were breached by Chinese hackers who stole 60,000 State Department emails in their data haul, and we know defense intelligence is targeted, too. In many cases, companies that hold such intelligence aren't aware of their own role in national security. Nearly a decade ago, the Department of Defense (DoD) implemented a security framework, the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), to safeguard our nation's intellectual property. Despite its inclusion in more than 1 million contracts, DFARS has largely gone unenforced. Until now.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **FALL IN FOREIGN PHD STUDENTS IMPERILS SCIENCE – EXPERTS**

*Nic Mitchell | University World News | November 3, 2023*

An alarming fall in the number of research students from the European Union and a drop in new PhDs from China are threatening to have a 'compound impact' on the research output of the United Kingdom within the next five to 10 years, warn international higher education experts. With UK universities and research institutions relying on more than 80% of PhD students coming from outside the UK in critical science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) areas like material sciences, alarm bells should be ringing at the 42% decline in European full-time PhD entrants in the last academic year (2021-22). And it is not only the Brexit effect that is hitting the research talent pipeline to the UK. "China has the most significant percentage of research students in the UK, with about 28% of entrants to PhDs, but those numbers are dropping as well," said Dr Janet Ilieva, director and founder of Education Insight, at a webinar to unveil the latest update of her organisation's Global Engagement Index (GEI).

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **SETTING DEMOCRATIC GROUND RULES FOR AI: CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGIES**

*Amaris Rancy | The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) | October 19, 2023*

With recent leaps in the development of AI, we are experiencing a seismic shift in the balance of power between people and governments, posing new challenges to democratic principles such as privacy, transparency, and non-discrimination. We know that AI will shape the political world we inhabit—but how can we ensure that democratic norms and institutions shape the trajectory of AI? Drawing on global civil society perspectives, this report surveys what stakeholders need to know about AI systems and the human relationships behind them. It delves into the obstacles— from misleading narratives to government opacity to gaps in technical expertise—that hinder democratic engagement on AI governance, and explores how new thinking, new institutions, and new collaborations can better equip societies to set democratic ground rules for AI technologies. governance, and explores how new thinking, new institutions, and new collaborations can better equip societies to set democratic ground rules for AI technologies.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **CHINA: WITH NEARLY ALL U.S. CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES CLOSED, SOME SCHOOLS SOUGHT ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE SUPPORT**

*U.S. Government of Accountability Office | October 30, 2023*

Confucius Institutes offer Chinese language and culture programs on U.S. college campuses. Because the government of the People's Republic of China partners with schools and partially funds the institutes, researchers and others have raised concerns about undue influence and more. In 2018, Congress restricted federal funding to schools with institutes; nearly all of the institutes have since closed. Our survey of schools showed that many closed their institutes because of concerns about losing federal funds. Some schools reported using other resources—e.g., federal programs, other partnerships—to offer Chinese classes after the closures. The number of Confucius Institutes at U.S. universities and colleges declined since 2019, from about 100 to fewer than five. Schools most commonly cited the potential loss of federal funding and external pressures as contributing to their decision to close their Confucius Institute.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CHINA STEALING U.S. RESEARCH: CONGRESS DEMANDS ANSWERS**

*Didi Kirsten Tatlow | Newsweek | November 3, 2023*

Two congressional committees have written to the U.S. federal government's National Science Foundation to demand answers over the protection of American research from China and other foreign countries that seek to exploit it. In a letter to the agency, the chairpersons of the committees asked what the major grant giver was doing about it. As an example of the concerns in question, Newsweek published an exclusive report this week on how top artificial intelligence research flowed from the U.S. to China via a prominent researcher, Song-Chun Zhu, who received at least \$30 million in federal grants from the Pentagon and the NSF while building up a parallel research system in China. Warning of "systematic attempts to exploit, degrade, and misappropriate" American science which was supported by billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded research, James Comer (R-KY) Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and Frank D. Lucas (R-OK) Chairman of the House Committee of Science, Space and Technology, gave the NSF by Nov. 14 to answer questions on its measures to protect scientific research as well as economic and national security.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **WHY CHINA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE U.K. AI SAFETY SUMMIT WAS SO SIGNIFICANT**

*Will Henshall and Anna Gordon | TIME | November 3, 2023*

As delegates from around the world and leaders from the tech industry gathered in the U.K. for the first ever AI Safety Summit, there appeared to be harmony between officials of historical rivals China and the U.S. On Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Chinese Vice Minister of Science and Technology Wu Zhaohui shared a stage at the opening plenary of the U.K. AI Safety Summit. Later that day, the U.S. and China were two of 29 countries to sign the Bletchley Declaration, which affirmed the risks AI poses and commits to international cooperation to identify and mitigate those risks, a crucial initial step to establishing regulation in the future. But simmering beneath these shows of cooperation is an undercurrent of increasing tension between the two AI superpowers. Tech supremacy has been a hallmark of the tensions between the U.S. and China in recent years.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **CLARIVATE REPORT REVEALS CHINA CHALLENGING U.S. RESEARCH DOMINANCE, SIGNALING FUTURE RESEARCH AMBITIONS**

*Cision PR Newswire | October 31, 2023*

Clarivate Plc (NYSE:CLVT), a global leader in connecting people and organizations to intelligence they can trust to transform their world, today released a report from the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)™ which reveals that China's\* research economy has seen a dramatic increase in quality and its research is increasingly valued beyond its borders. China is also diversifying beyond its traditional strengths in technology and physical sciences to focus on new areas such as biomolecular science. China's research landscape draws on data from the Web of Science™ citation index of scientific publications and charts China's remarkable research trajectory over the last 40 years. The report shows an acceleration in published research output, which increased five-fold between 2009 and 2021, well outpacing the U.S. and E.U. Analysis from the Institute for Scientific Information suggests this trajectory is likely to continue.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **DEALS WITH UNIS IN CHINA AND RUSSIA ‘PUTTING STAFF AT RISK OF BLACKMAIL AND BRIBERY’**

*Natasha Bitá | The Australian | November 2, 2023*

Australian universities are exposing academics and students to espionage, blackmail and bribery risks through collaborations with unis in China, Iran and Russia, a report reveals. Stricter security checks for foreign students – especially those wanting to study a masters degree or PhD in Australian universities – are flagged in the academic study, titled Are we Training Potential Adversaries? More than 3300 collaborations with universities in autocratic regimes are analysed in the paper by University of Queensland academics including cyber criminology lecturer David Mount, who is a former commandant of Australia's Defence Intelligence Training Centre, and his colleague Brendan Walker-Munro, a senior research fellow with UQ's Law and the Future of War research group.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **BEST PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCH: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

*The Society for Neuroscience*

With nearly 36,000 members, the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) is the world's largest organization of basic scientists and physicians who study the brain and nervous system. As part of its support for the responsible use of animals in research, SfN offers guidance to scientists under attack by groups attempting to eliminate the use of animals in research and also by educating the public on the value of this research. SfN's Committee on Animals in Research (CAR) serves as a resource for all SfN members under attack or concerned about attacks and guides Society leadership on SfN's position on animal research. Recently, the number of campaigns of harassment and intimidation, often at researchers' homes and involving their families, against researchers has increased sharply. SfN members reported more attacks in the first six months of 2007 than in the five-year period from 1999 to 2003. The Society believes that the safety and security of those using animals in their research depends heavily on the proactive involvement of their research institutions.

Read the full article [here](#).

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# PROTECTING KEY ASSETS: A CORPORATE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE GUIDE

*Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive*

A disturbing trend has developed in which foreign intelligence services, non-state actors, and criminals are using intelligence collection techniques against American companies to steal valuable trade secrets and assets. This activity can bankrupt a company by compromising years of costly research and development, weaken the U.S. economy, and threaten national security. According to the FBI, the cost to U.S. industry is tens of billions of dollars each year. Corporate boards and executive officers must understand the true threat their companies face. It is one that has evolved beyond the stage where information security, as one example, can simply be delegated to the security office or CIO - it requires full executive engagement. With the tools available to economic spies, the American private sector is more vulnerable than ever.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## FACT SHEET | 2023 CHINA MILITARY POWER REPORT

*U.S. Department of Defense | November 1, 2023*

Today, the Department of Defense transmitted to Congress its annual report, Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China (PRC), referred to as the China Military Power Report (CMPR). This congressionally mandated report charts the current course of the PRC's national, economic, and military strategy, and offers insights into the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) strategy, current capabilities, and activities, as well as its future modernization goals. The CMPR illustrates why the 2022 National Defense Strategy identified the PRC and its increasingly capable military as the Department's top pacing challenge.

Read the full article [here](#).

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