



Open Source Media Summary

December 14, 2023

STOP FOREIGN ADVERSARIES LIKE CHINA FROM CORRUPTING AMERICAN SCHOOLS

Marco Rubio | *New York Post* | December 7, 2023

Before lawmakers headed home for turkey and cranberry sauce, the bipartisan, bicameral US-China Economic and Security Review Commission issued its annual report to Congress. Among its 30 recommendations: a request that the House and Senate “address China’s state-sponsored influence and interference” in the American education system. This may come as a surprise. After all, it was widely reported Congress already cracked down on the Chinese Communist Party’s efforts to influence our children’s education in 2021, when lawmakers cut funding to colleges and universities that host the CCP-backed campus organizations known as Confucius Institutes. But the truth is China continues to meddle in American schools. For one, while many colleges and universities are ditching their Confucius Institutes, others are maintaining them, with still others allowing them to reconfigure under different names and arrangements. Our grade schools, meanwhile, are prey to a nationwide network of Confucius Classrooms that peddle the same Communist propaganda but to more impressionable K-12 students.

Read the full article [here](#).

IMMIGRATION COULD BE KEY TO U.S.-CHINA COMPETITION

Stuart Anderson | *Forbes* | December 7, 2023

The Biden-Xi summit in November outside San Francisco addressed trade, the economy and military affairs but bypassed the pivotal issue of immigration. Data and analyses show foreign-born scientists and engineers remain crucial to America’s technology future. While immigration could be the U.S. secret weapon in the competition with China and Chinese companies, U.S. domestic politics, not foreign affairs, determines America’s openness. “Admitting more foreign-born scientists and engineers will be essential for the U.S. economy and American companies to compete with China and its companies in the 21st century,” according to new research from the National Foundation for American Policy. “Americans will benefit from the increased innovation, productivity and economic growth these immigrants and visa holders bring whether the United States pursues a policy of mutually beneficial economic ties with China or adopts a more confrontational posture.” (I authored the study.) Many U.S. lawmakers have appeared hostile or indifferent to admitting and retaining high-skilled talent. However, for many years, the Chinese government has maintained policies to attract or lure back scientists and engineers. A study in science found the policies produced results.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINESE STUDENTS IN US SEEN AS VITAL LINK

May Zhou | ChinaDaily | December 7, 2023

China remained the leading place of origin among international students at universities and colleges in the United States for the 2022-23 academic year, according to a report. The Open Doors 2023 Report on International Educational Exchange, released by the Institute of International Education, said that China sent 289,526 students to the US for the academic year, followed by India with 268,923 students. Chinese students comprised 27 percent of the total number of international students in the US, while Indian students made up 25 percent, the report said. The number of Chinese students in the US for the current academic year is the lowest since the figure peaked at more than 369,000 in 2019-20, a drop of 21 percent over a period of three years. The decline is partially due to geopolitical tensions, said Madelyn Ross, president of the US-China Education Trust, on Tuesday at an online discussion about Chinese students in the US.

Read the full article [here](#).

ZINKE CALLS ON UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA TO DROP EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH CHINA

Kate Heston | Daily Inter Lake | December 7, 2023

U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke last week called on the University of Montana to cut ties with China, asking them to cancel a law student exchange program set to take place this summer. "When you go to China... you're dealing with the Chinese Communist Party," Zinke said Tuesday, saying he was shocked when he learned of the initiative. The request came shortly on the heels of the University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law, and its affiliated Max S. Baucus Institute, announcing two study abroad programs, one in Ireland and the other in China. There are two proposed China trips. One is designed as a cultural exchange for two weeks and the other is a four-week trip with an emphasis on the environment and climate. The trips, according to the Baucus Institute website, are to familiarize law students with the "ever-changing nature of the Chinese economy" and the rising superpower's complex political and legal systems.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW AMERICA LOST THE HEART OF CHINA'S TOP TALENT

Yingyi Ma | Brookings | November 16, 2023

There is a perception that Chinese talented youth are itching to flock to American shores, so much so that legislature have attempted to curtail their entry. However, the reality is quite the opposite: Just this year, India has eclipsed China in sending the most international students to the United States. This is the first time China has lost that distinction since 2008. Although Chinese students' enrollment in the United States has rebounded this year, this growth may not reflect the choices of China's top talent. Many may be coming to avoid China's ultra-competitive college entrance exam. The critical question is: For those who can get into China's top colleges, do they still prefer to study in the United States?

Brain Dead? Not Necessarily

Quality, not quantity, is paramount. I argue that the United States has increasingly lost the heart of China's best and brightest, those who, given the chance, prefer to stay within China's own top institutions.

Read the full article [here](#).

FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE POURING BACK INTO AUSTRALIA

The Economist | December 7, 2023

The first international student, from China, enrolled at the University of Sydney a century ago. Now its sandstone buildings hum with foreign languages: almost half the university's students are from overseas. "For Asian kids, we value the rankings a lot," says one of its Chinese students, who asks not to be named. Australian universities perform well in them; the University of Sydney is one of nine ranked among the world's top 100 institutions. Australia also has better weather than Britain or Canada, and less gun crime than America. When the student enrolled in 2015, it "seemed like one of the friendliest countries in the Western world." Over the past two decades the number of international students in Australia has risen nearly fourfold, to 440,000 in 2019. Its universities now attract more foreign talent than those of any country except America and Britain. Education is Australia's fourth-biggest export, worth around 3% of GDP.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE PRC'S EFFORTS ABROAD

CSET ANALYSES OF CHINA'S TECHNOLOGY POLICIES AND ECOSYSTEM

Owen Daniels | *Center for Security and Emerging Technology* | September 2023

At Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET), we develop a data and primary-source informed understanding of the People's Republic of China's (PRC) approach to emerging technologies at home and abroad. In this brief, a companion to a similar compilation of our findings and recommendations on China's domestic technology ecosystem, we examine steps China has taken to increase its technological competitiveness beyond its own borders.* The research summarized here is based on global tech monitoring, primary source language translations, and data analyses of private sector activity. We work to contextualize China's technology development and acquisition strategies alongside those of the United States and its global allies and partners, and to situate the U.S. - China rivalry in the broader landscape of democratic and authoritarian technology competition.

Read the full article [here](#).

EXPLORING CHINESE HUMAN CAPITAL FLIGHT USING UNIVERSITY ALUMNI DATA

Guy J. Abel, XiaoXia Zhu & Ziyue Huang | *Taylor & Francis Online* | December 10, 2023

China is one of the major sources of student migrants to many Western countries, growing rapidly during the last couple of decades. In China, several national and regional level policy schemes have been set up to incentivise the return of the high-skilled overseas population. Data to monitor these migration patterns are typically lacking. In this article, we explore the spatial patterns of overseas alumni populations from 106 leading Chinese universities using data gathered from the LinkedIn advertising platform. We first assess the suitability of the LinkedIn data for measuring overseas migrant distributions and then adapt an extended gravity model to aid the interpretation of the relationships between countries, universities and intermediate characteristics and the size of the overseas alumni populations. We find that the LinkedIn data provide plausible measures of Chinese university alumni networks. Alumni populations are in general larger from highly ranked universities, in greater numbers from universities in Beijing and Shanghai and universities with higher numbers of foreign students.

Read the full article [here](#).

A BIGGER YARD, A HIGHER FENCE: UNDERSTANDING BIS'S EXPANDED CONTROLS ON ADVANCED COMPUTING EXPORTS

*Hanna Dohmen and Jacob Feldgoise | Center for Security and Emerging Technology
December 4, 2023*

On October 17, 2023, the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) at the U.S. Department of Commerce issued highly complex and extensive updates to the October 7, 2022, export controls restricting U.S. exports of advanced chips and semiconductor manufacturing equipment (SME). These export control updates are intended to stay up-to-date with technological developments of AI systems and manufacturing of advanced chips, as well as address gaps in the October 7, 2022, controls that became apparent over the last year. These latest controls are designed to more effectively advance the Biden administration's stated objectives of blunting China's military modernization and maintaining U.S. military leadership. More specifically, the aim of the controls is to limit China's ability to use large-scale AI systems to develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and advanced conventional weapons by restricting access to the advanced chips needed to train frontier AI models and the SME necessary for the production of these chips.

Read the full article [here](#).

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY IN AN AGE OF SHARP POWER

Ellen Bork | American Purpose | December 6, 2023

Approving comments about Osama bin Laden's 2022 antisemitic "Letter to America" posted on TikTok after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel have rightly renewed attention to the social media platform and its operation under Chinese Communist Party (CCP) government dictates. "Beijing's carefully censored domestic information space has permitted a torrent of antisemitic content, while the Beijing-controlled algorithms and censors of TikTok have promoted pro-Hamas and anti-Israel content," according to Matt Pottinger, David Feith, and Ben Noon, "apparently, with major influence on the views of American TikTok users, who increasingly rely on the platform for news." The promotion of antisemitic, pro-Hamas views is just one element in what Edward Lucas notes is China's "bid for outright dominance of the world's information systems."

Read the full article [here](#).

'MY COLLABORATIONS WOULD SEE ME JAILED': AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHERS FEAR PROPOSED NEW LAWS

Bianca Nogrady | Nature | November 28, 2023

Scientists have reacted with alarm at a proposal by the Australian Department of Defence to control information sharing with foreign researchers, even those working in Australia. If it is passed, the proposed Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2023 will affect scores of scientists working in Australia and have a chilling effect on international collaboration and the employment of visiting researchers in Australian laboratories, scientists say. "Because we are in such an interconnected world, it is critical that we continue to exchange knowledge to solve the problems," says Anna-Maria Arabia, chief executive of the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra. The act, as it currently stands, requires Australian researchers to obtain a permit to export 'dual-use' technologies — technology that could have military uses. Failure to do so could result in fines and up to ten years in prison.

Read the full article [here](#).

US UNIVERSITIES' FOREIGN FUNDERS: HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW?

Nathan Greenfield | University World News | December 10, 2023

During the meeting of the United States House of Representatives Education Committee's grilling of the presidents of the University of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, Representative Elise Stefanik asked Harvard's president, Claudine Gay, if she was aware that Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) department had received US\$1.5 billion from foreign entities and governments over the past three years. Gay had answered several previous questions on the source of the department's funding in one or another version of the words: "We receive funding from alumni from all over the world." On the question of the amount, she changed tack and told the Republican congresswoman from upstate New York: "I don't know if that's the correct number, but that's the number you shared."

Read the full article [here](#).

POST-STUDY WORK VISAS UNDER REVIEW IN MIGRATION CLAMPDOWN

Nic Mitchell | University World News | December 6, 2023

Universities and higher education stakeholders in the United Kingdom are assessing the self-inflicted damage likely to be caused by the Conservative government's latest attempt to clamp down on record levels of net migration, which includes a promised review into the length of post-study work visas and raising the minimum salary threshold for skilled foreign workers by a third. James Pitman, managing director (UK and Europe) for international higher education pathway provider Study Group, warned: "The last thing the government should be doing is damaging confidence in the UK higher education offering by commencing a review of the post-study work Graduate Route". Speaking to University World News, he said: "The international student market is becoming ever more competitive, with Australia in particular rapidly regaining market share." He said the British post-study work period was "already uncompetitive in comparison with Australia's six years of post-study work experience for many international students", while the UK currently allows most international students to stay in the UK for two years after graduation to find employment.

Read the full article [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS: A BIG PART OF DENMARK'S SUCCESS

Jan Petter Myklebust | University World News | December 8, 2023

An analysis of the composition of the current scientific staff body at Denmark's eight universities has shown that out of 17,963, 43% are people with citizenship other than Danish – and at three universities they outnumber locals. What is it about the Danish research system that encourages such a healthy proportion of international talent? The analysis, based on figures obtained by *Forskerforum*, shows that among post-doctoral researchers and adjuncts the proportion of foreign-born academics is even higher, at 62% and 69% respectively. Taken together, post-doctoral and PhD students constitute 8,674 researchers, 54% of whom are foreign citizens. The figures suggest that given the introduction of tenure track positions into Danish university law in 2019 – a system through which some international academics are recruited – it is only a matter of time before the majority of Danish scientific staff are internationals. Currently, the most 'international' university in terms of staff, according to *Forskerforum* data, is IT University of Copenhagen where 65% of the scientific staff members hail from outside the country, followed by the Technical University of Denmark at 59% and the Copenhagen Business School at 52%.

Read the full article [here](#).

CYBERCRIME TO COST THE WORLD \$10.5 TRILLION ANNUALLY BY 2025

Steve Morgan | Cybercrime Magazine | November 13, 2023

If it were measured as a country, then cybercrime — which is predicted to inflict damages totaling \$6 trillion USD globally in 2021 — would be the world's third-largest economy after the U.S. and China. Cybersecurity Ventures expects global cybercrime costs to grow by 15 percent per year over the next five years, reaching \$10.5 trillion USD annually by 2025, up from \$3 trillion USD in 2015. This represents the greatest transfer of economic wealth in history, risks the incentives for innovation and investment, is exponentially larger than the damage inflicted from natural disasters in a year, and will be more profitable than the global trade of all major illegal drugs combined. The damage cost estimation is based on historical cybercrime figures including recent year-over-year growth, a dramatic increase in hostile nation-state sponsored and organized crime gang hacking activities, and a cyberattack surface which will be an order of magnitude greater in 2025 than it is today.

Read the full article [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CONTRIBUTED OVER \$40 BILLION TO US ECONOMY IN 2022/23

Erudera News | December 9, 2023

More than one million international students studying in the United States during the 2022/23 academic year contributed \$40.1 billion to the American economy, according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Although it remains below the pre-pandemic record of \$40.5 billion in 2018/19, this figure is an increase of \$6.3 billion or 19 percent compared to 2021/22, Erudera.com reports. The NAFSA's report published on November 13 highlights that the number of international students at US universities and colleges has now recovered from the decline reported during the pandemic era. Data showed that international students have supported a total of 368,333 jobs, both within their educational institutions and in their communities. This is a significant increase of almost 10 percent compared to a year earlier and a 20 percent rise compared to the year when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of America's borders.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The Research and Innovation Security and Competitiveness Institute



USEFUL RESOURCES

WHEN DIGRUNTLEMENT IS UNHEALTHY

BTAC Bulletin | November 2023

Modest disgruntlement can be a common human condition. Whether it's how we feel we're treated by our bosses and organization, resentment about that promotion we thought we deserved, or our disagreement with a particular policy of the US government, sometimes we all can feel dissatisfied in the workplace. While some disgruntlement is normal, if it leads to a grievance, especially if accompanied by a "call to action," it could be a potential risk indicator for insider threats like espionage, unauthorized disclosures, or targeted violence.

View the full resource [here](#).

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