



## Open Source Media Summary

April 25, 2024

### GLOBAL RESEARCH COOPERATION MUST CONTINUE, BUT 'CAREFULLY'

Jan Petter Myklebust | *University World News* | April 18, 2024

A seminar aimed at renewing discussion on the “fundamental values of international cooperation” in an increasingly polarised world was hosted by the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) on 19 March. “Sweden is a country deeply engaged in globalisation, and it is therefore profoundly affected by geopolitical trends shifting towards increased polarisation, complexity, and uncertainty,” STINT stated when announcing the event. “These trends, which in some ways signify a break with globalisation as we know it, underscore the need for a renewed discussion on the fundamental values of international academic cooperation and for charting a path in the international context,” it stated. STINT’s advisory board’s second report, *The rationale for international cooperation in an increasingly polarised world* was presented at the meeting. The advisory board is made up of: Dr Agneta Bladh, former chair of the Swedish Research Council; Professor Bertil Andersson, former president of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore; Professor Jason E Lane, president and CEO of the National Association of Higher Education Systems, United States; Dr Nelson Torto, former executive director of the African Academy of Sciences in Kenya and now a senior official of the Botswana government; and Professor William Brustein, former vice-president for global strategies and international affairs at West Virginia University, United States.

Read the full article [here](#).

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### UK WARNS UNIVERSITIES CHINA COULD STEAL SECRET TECH

Matt Honeycombe-Foster | *Politico* | April 18, 2024

Britain is considering cracking down on foreign research funding amid concern its universities are being left open to Chinese and other overseas influence. Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden told an event in London Thursday that while Britain’s universities are “a jewel in our crown,” the funding of research by foreign powers could put at risk the development of sensitive dual-use technology and “has the potential to become a chink in our armor.” Dowden said he would summon university bosses to a meeting “in the coming weeks” to brief them on a government review of academic security and to present the country’s “proposed response.” “This is not about erecting fences around entire institutions or areas of research,” Dowden said. “However, it is right that we look at who has access to research frontiers in the most sensitive disciplines. “Similarly, we must ensure that some universities’ reliance on foreign funding does not become a dependency by which they can be influenced, exploited, or even coerced, or indeed, find themselves vulnerable in the fallout from heightened geopolitical tensions.”

Read the full article [here](#).

## **CHINESE GOVERNMENT POSES 'BROAD AND UNRELENTING' THREAT TO U.S. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, FBI DIRECTOR SAYS**

*Federal Bureau of Investigation | News | April 18, 2024*

FBI Director Christopher Wray on April 18 warned national security and intelligence experts, as well as students, that risks the government of China poses to U.S. national and economic security are “upon us now”—and that U.S. critical infrastructure is a prime target. “The PRC [People’s Republic of China] has made it clear that it considers every sector that makes our society run as fair game in its bid to dominate on the world stage, and that its plan is to land low blows against civilian infrastructure to try to induce panic and break America’s will to resist,” he said in remarks at the Vanderbilt Summit on Modern Conflict and Emerging Threats in Nashville. But he suggested that partnerships with both the private sector and academia can be powerful tools in the quest to neutralize this threat.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **HEARING WRAP UP: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST EFFECTIVELY COMBAT THE CCP’S INFLUENCE AND INFILTRATION CAMPAIGN**

*House Committee on Oversight and Accountability | Press Release | April 17, 2024*

The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability held a hearing today titled, “Defending America from the Chinese Communist Party’s Political Warfare, Part I.” At the hearing, experts outlined how the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is waging an influence and infiltration campaign that threatens U.S. military readiness, the technology sector, financial markets, the agriculture industry, education systems, intellectual property, and federal government agencies. In addition, experts emphasized the CCP’s ongoing political warfare seeks to manipulate the public and these tactics jeopardize the safety of all Americans. Members concluded that the House Oversight Committee has a responsibility to ensure the federal government is using all existing resources effectively to thwart China’s political warfare and examine solutions that agencies can adopt to eliminate CCP threats.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CHINA SEES FOREIGN THREATS ‘EVERYWHERE’ AS POWERFUL SPY AGENCY TAKES CENTER STAGE**

*Nectar Gan | CNN | April 21, 2024*

In a slick video marking the National Security Education Day, China’s top spy agency has a stern message for Chinese people: foreign spies are everywhere. As ominous music plays, a broad-faced, beady-eyed man disguises himself as a street fashion photographer, a lab technician, a businessman and a food delivery driver – he even sets up an online honey trap – to glean sensitive state secrets in various places and industries. “In the sea of people, you may have never noticed him. His identity is changeable and his whereabouts are hard to find,” a narrator says. “They are everywhere, cunning... and sneaky, and they may be right here in our lives.” Eventually, Chinese police catch the spy in a dramatic ambush after state security authorities receive multiple tip-offs from the public. “They can disguise as anyone. But among the crowds you and I together are protecting national security,” the narrator concludes. “We 1.4 billion people are 1.4 billion lines of defense.”

Read the full article [here](#).

## **THE NOT-SO-SILENT TYPE**

*Jeffrey Knockel, Mona Wang, and Zoë Reichert | Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (University of Toronto) | April 23, 2024*

Typing logographic languages such as Chinese is more difficult than typing alphabetic languages, where each letter can be represented by one key. There is no way to fit the tens of thousands of Chinese characters that exist onto a single keyboard. Despite this obvious challenge, technologies have developed which make typing in Chinese possible. To enable the input of Chinese characters, a writer will generally use a keyboard app with an "Input Method Editor" (IME). IMEs offer a variety of approaches to inputting Chinese characters, including via handwriting, voice, and optical character recognition (OCR). One popular phonetic input method is Zhuyin, and shape or stroke-based input methods such as Cangjie or Wubi are commonly used as well. However, used by nearly 76% of mainland Chinese keyboard users, the most popular way of typing in Chinese is the pinyin method, which is based on the pinyin romanization of Chinese characters.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **A NATIONAL SECURITY INSIDER DOES THE MATH ON THE DANGERS OF AI**

*Lauren Goode | WIRED | April 23, 2024*

Jason Matheny is a delight to speak with, provided you're up for a lengthy conversation about potential technological and biomedical catastrophe. Now CEO and president of Rand Corporation, Matheny has built a career out of thinking about such gloomy scenarios. An economist by training with a focus on public health, he dived into the worlds of pharmaceutical development and cultivated meat before turning his attention to national security. As director of Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, the US intelligence community's research agency, he pushed for more attention to the dangers of biological weapons and badly designed artificial intelligence. In 2021, Matheny was tapped to be President Biden's senior adviser on technology and national security issues.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **BEYOND BORDERS: CHINA'S ATTEMPTS TO CENSOR GLOBAL ACADEMIA**

*Human Rights Foundation | April 22, 2024*

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is dedicated to perfecting its global narrative, employing a combination of coercion and co-optation tactics to shape public discourse both within China and abroad. As part of its strategy, Beijing has increasingly intimidated global academia, targeting both individual scholars and higher education institutions. This includes Beijing's regulation of academic activities through government-funded programs and informal networks and the erosion of the academic institutions' autonomy by promoting financial dependency. A key player in this strategy is the United Front Work Department (UFWD), a CCP agency focused on influence operations and intelligence activities. Central to its mission is the orchestration of China's work abroad, aimed at establishing a global network to influence local politics, economics, diaspora communities, and academia. The UFWD has a significant presence within global academia, seeking to ensure that critical voices are either co-opted or coerced into silence.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CHINA RESEARCHERS GOT BANNED NVIDIA CHIPS VIA SERVER PRODUCTS**

*Jim Pollard | Asia Financial | April 23, 2024*

Universities and research institutes in China have been able to buy high-end Nvidia artificial intelligence chips via resellers, despite stronger US curbs imposed by Washington late last year. A review of hundreds of tender documents by Reuters shows 10 Chinese entities acquired advanced Nvidia chips embedded in server products made by Super Micro Computer, Dell Technologies and Taiwan's Gigabyte Technology after the US on November 17 expanded the embargo to subject more chips and countries to licensing rules. Specifically, the servers contained some of Nvidia's most advanced chips, according to the previously unreported tenders fulfilled between November 20 and February 28. While the US bars Nvidia and its partners from selling advanced chips to China, including via third parties, the sale and purchase of the chips are not illegal in China. The 11 sellers of the chips were little-known Chinese retailers. Reuters could not determine whether, in fulfilling the orders, they used stockpiles acquired before the US tightened chip-export restrictions in November.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CHINESE SPY ALLEGATIONS RATTLE EUROPE-CHINA RELATIONS**

*Diego Mendoza | Semafor | April 22, 2024*

The U.K. and Germany have charged five people suspected of being Chinese spies on Monday. Prosecutors in Berlin charged three people for allegedly handing over technologies with potential military purposes to Chinese intelligence. All three were accused of exporting a special laser without authorization to China, and two of the three — a married couple — were also accused of helping a Chinese contractor partner with a German university to conduct research on machine parts that could be used to build powerful marine engines. In the U.K., police announced charges against two men — one of whom was a former high-profile researcher for the Conservative Party — for providing "prejudicial information" to China. The two men were arrested last year but released on bail, pending charges. The arrests come just days after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited China in an attempt to mitigate tensions between Europe and Beijing over concerns of China's overcapacity of cheap green technology to the EU.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **GERMANY SEES SPIKE IN CHINESE AND RUSSIAN ESPIONAGE**

*Marcel Fürstenau | Deutsche Welle (DW) | April 23, 2024*

The press office of Germany's Federal Prosecutor is a hive of activity these days: "Arrest for suspected secret service agent activity" — read the headline of a press release from April 23, 2024. A press release from the day before had exactly the same headline. All four suspects — three men and one woman — are alleged to have spied for China. "We must finally understand that this is a very serious and very real threat to our security," said Green Party lawmaker Konstantin von Notz who heads the Parliamentary Control Committee for the Intelligence Services in the lower house, the Bundestag. "We must act quickly and decisively both through criminal prosecution and by uncovering the structures and networks," he added. The latest developments came as no surprise to the head of Germany's domestic intelligence service. "We initiated these investigations, and once the evidence was clear, we were able to hand this case over to the police and the public prosecutors," Thomas Haldenwang, president of Germany's domestic intelligence service, told DW.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **TIKTOK AND CHINA'S DIGITAL PLATFORMS: ISSUES FOR CONGRESS**

*Congressional Research Service | April 22, 2024*

Congress and U.S. policymakers at the federal and state levels have taken steps to address their national security related concerns about the People's Republic of China's (PRC or China) influence over PRC-tied digital platforms operating in the United States. Most U.S. actions to date have focused on TikTok, owned by ByteDance, a company with ties to the PRC government. Other expressed concerns include PRC platforms' large user bases, access to large amounts of U.S. data, and company data and content policies. TikTok has an estimated 148.9 million U.S. users as of January 2024. TikTok's CEO testified to Congress in March 2023 that ByteDance retains in the PRC at least seven years of U.S. TikTok users' data. In March 2024, the House passed H.R. 7521, which would require ByteDance to divest TikTok. In April 2024, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson added the bill to a legislative package that includes aid for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **TROUBLING THE WATER**

*Yangyang Cheng | Made in China Journal | April 32, 2024*

The story begins with water. 'How do we make sure that that spigot remains open and free?' an audience member asked during a panel discussion on scientific collaboration between the United States and China. He pointed out that the 'very, very best students' recruited from around the world are the 'secret sauce' that makes the US education system 'the wonder of the world', and rising tensions between the two superpowers could cut off this precious stream. The moderator directed the question to me, the only China-born person on the stage. In this picture, I was a coveted droplet who left her birth country to soak into the sumptuous US creation. The metaphor, expressed in earnest with a hint of flattery, unsettled me.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **2023 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEDERAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

*White House Office of Science and Technology | April 2024*

The Biden-Harris Administration believes that the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are critical to the prosperity, security, and health of our nation. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are the foundation for discovery and innovation. STEM skills are increasingly important to succeed in the workplace and in everyday life. To foster development of these skills, the nation must engage in a collaborative effort to ensure that everyone has access to high-quality STEM education throughout their lifetimes. A focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in STEM requires opening opportunities across education and career pathways. This effort is especially important for those who are underrepresented and underserved in STEM.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

*The Research and Innovation Security and Competitiveness Institute*



# USEFUL RESOURCES

## **CHINA PUSHES TO EXPAND THE SCO AND BRICS**

*Helena Legarda | MERICS | August 24, 2023*

To build a counterweight to international institutions seen as too Western-dominated, Beijing wants to expand the BRICS grouping and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Chinese officials expressed strong support for adding new members to both organizations in the months leading up to two summer summits – the July SCO summit hosted by India (whose full members are four ex-Soviet border states plus India, Pakistan, Russia, China and now Iran)<sup>1</sup> and the August BRICS summit of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa in Johannesburg.<sup>2</sup> Beijing’s efforts within BRICS were successful. At the summit in South Africa, the group announced six new members that will join starting January 1, 2024: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Beijing’s push to expand BRICS and the SCO shows it puts renewed importance on these multilateral fora amid worsening geopolitical competition with the United States.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **NAMED RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS**

*Government of Canada | April 18, 2024*

The Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern provides that research grant applications submitted by a university or affiliated research institution to the federal granting councils—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada — and the Canada Foundation for Innovation that involve research to advance a sensitive technology research area will not be funded if any of the researchers involved in activities supported by the grant are affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from a university, research institute or laboratory connected to military, national defence, or state security entities that could pose a risk to Canada’s national security. This policy includes two lists that only operate in conjunction — a list of Sensitive Technology Research Areas, and a list of Named Research Organizations, provided below.

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY 2024**

*Department of Defense | Office of Prepublication and Security Review | March 21, 2024*

The DoD DIB Cybersecurity Strategy serves as the Department’s strategic plan to enhance the cybersecurity and cyber resiliency of the DIB through an overarching vision and mission covering Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 through FY 2027. The Strategy outlines a set of four goals and their respective objectives that are aligned with interagency efforts and were developed by DoD stakeholders in coordination with the DIB to achieve a secure and resilient DIB information environment which promotes industry competitiveness, innovation, and sustainable growth. The Strategy supports the present and future needs of our Armed Forces and collaboration with the interagency and other key players in the cyberspace domain.

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR THE BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL TRAVELING ABROAD**

*U.S. Department of Justice | Federal Bureau of Investigation*

Business travelers should take measures to ensure not only the safety and security of themselves but also their business information while traveling outside the United States.

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **OPS BUSINESS TRAVEL TIPS GUIDE**

*U.S. Department of Justice | Federal Bureau of Investigation*

You or your firm may be a target of a foreign country's efforts to obtain information or technologies in order to increase its market share, build its economy, or modernize its military. Targeting methods include luggage searches, extensive questioning, and unnecessary inspection and downloading of information from laptop computers.

View the full resource [here](#).

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