



## Open Source Media Summary

May 23, 2024

### **NSF TO ISSUE FRAMEWORK ADDRESSING NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF SENSITIVE RESEARCH**

*Alexandra Kelley | NEXTGOV/FCW | May 17, 2024*

The National Science Foundation will release a new risk management framework to help guide agency decision-making regarding the potential national security implications of research projects working with sensitive technologies. The risk rubric process — Trusted Research Using Safeguards and Transparency — responds to a recent report issued by the MITRE Corporation’s JASON scientific advisory group that recommends the NSF develop approaches to mitigating risks to national security stemming from research efforts. NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan confirmed the new TRUST process is slated to be unveiled and piloted in “the coming months” during a House Science, Space and Technology subcommittee hearing on Thursday. “In the near future, we will begin a risk rubric that will guide the agency in making determinations about the national security implications of projects in sensitive technologies,” Panchanathan said. “We have prohibited funding for researchers that participate in malign foreign talent programs and developed analytical capabilities to assess risks.

Read the full article [here](#).

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### **‘DEVASTATING’ NSF FUNDING CUTS PRESENT A ‘NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE,’ OFFICIALS TELL HOUSE PANEL**

*Madison Alder | FEDSCOOP | May 17, 2024*

Witnesses representing the National Science Foundation and its governing board at a Thursday House hearing underscored, in no uncertain terms, the negative impacts that decreased funding levels for science will have on the agency’s research priorities. “The more we cut, the more the ideas that are being proposed to NSF in quantum, in AI will not be funded. And guess what; who’s funding them and the people? It is our competitor,” NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan said, in reference to global competitors. “This is a national security issue,” he added, “and this is not something that we should take lightly at all. I’m extremely worried.” Panchanathan’s comments came in response to a question from Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif, ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology, who asked about the impact that further cuts might have on research priorities on top of the roughly 8% cut the science agency already took in 2024 appropriations.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **IS THERE A FUTURE FOR U.S.-CHINA RESEARCH COLLABORATION?**

*Christine Mui | Politico | May 13, 2024*

For anyone excited about the possibilities of U.S.-China science collaboration, the new semiconductor at Georgia Tech is a perfect example of how globalized research drives progress. In January, physicist Walt de Heer produced the world's first functional graphene-based semiconductor, developed mostly at a joint Georgia Institute of Technology-Tianjin University lab. He dubbed his breakthrough a "Wright brothers moment," the birth of a next-generation material that could undergird the electronic devices of the future. For some worried about the risks of U.S.-China collaboration, however, it's a blinking red light. After Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Mich.) took over last month as the new chair of the House China panel, the very first investigation he launched was into Georgia Tech's graphene work. In a letter last week, he asked Georgia Tech's president to detail its ties with China's Tianjin University, which since 2020 has been under sanctions on a U.S. trade blacklist called the Entity List.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **THE U.S. ECONOMY IS LOSING AS MUCH AS \$600 BILLION A YEAR IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FROM CHINESE ESPIONAGE**

*Stavros Atlamazoglou | The National Interest | May 11, 2024*

Here you are, sitting at your desk, walking to the metro, strolling through the airport, and waiting for your flight. Look around you. Do you see all those people walking busily, scrolling on their phones, chatting away? How would you feel if you knew that some of their most intimate data is in the hands of a foreign state? Indeed, some of your data is likely there, too. In 2015, U.S. officials at the Office of Personnel Management discovered that Chinese hackers had broken into their databases and stolen millions of records of highly sensitive records, including the security background forms, fingerprints, health data, and financial records from millions of current and former U.S. officials and applicants for federal jobs. But that wasn't the only hack. Through steady computer network espionage, Beijing has stolen more than 500 million travel and personal records from the Marriott hotel chain, 145 million financial and personal records from Equifax, and 78 million financial, healthcare, and personal records from Anthem.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **HUAWEI-FUNDED RESEARCH AT US INSTITUTIONS IS SUBJECT OF HOUSE PROBE**

*Daniel Flatley and Kate O'Keeffe | Bloomberg | May 16, 2024*

Two senior US lawmakers blasted a Washington-based foundation for secretly accepting money from Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies Co., saying the move "flies in the face" of efforts to keep foreign adversaries from compromising US research. The letter stemmed from Bloomberg News reporting earlier this month that showed how Huawei, which is blacklisted by the US government, secretly funded a research competition that has awarded millions of dollars through the Optica Foundation. The foundation is an arm of the nonprofit professional society Optica. "Optica's decision to accept Huawei money and distribute it to unknowing recipients flies in the face of the increased risk awareness and transparency we are all working toward in the research security space," the top Republican and Democrat on the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space and Technology wrote on Thursday to Optica Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Rogan.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CHINA: OVERSEAS STUDENTS FACE HARASSMENT AND SURVEILLANCE IN CAMPAIGN OF TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION**

*Amnesty International | May 13, 2024*

Chinese and Hong Kong students studying abroad are living in fear of intimidation, harassment and surveillance as Chinese authorities seek to prevent them from engaging with 'sensitive' or political issues while overseas, Amnesty International said in a new report published today. Students based in Europe and North America interviewed for the report, 'On my campus, I am afraid', described being photographed and followed at protests in their host cities, while many said their families in China had been targeted and threatened by police in connection with the students' activism overseas. "The testimonies gathered in this report paint a chilling picture of how the Chinese and Hong Kong governments seek to silence students even when they are thousands of miles from home, leaving many students living in fear," said Sarah Brooks, Amnesty International's China Director.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **FAR FEWER YOUNG AMERICANS NOW WANT TO STUDY IN CHINA. BOTH COUNTRIES ARE TRYING TO FIX THAT**

*Didi Tang and Dake Kang | APNews | April 13, 2024*

Stephen Garrett, a 27-year-old graduate student, always thought he would study in China, but the country's restrictive COVID-19 policies made it nearly impossible and now he sees interest among fellow scholars wane even after China reopened. Common concerns, he said, include restrictions on academic freedom and the risk of being stranded in China. These days, only about 700 American students are studying at Chinese universities, down from a peak of close to 25,000 a decade ago, while there are nearly 300,000 Chinese students at U.S. schools. Some young Americans are discouraged from investing their time in China by what they see as diminishing economic opportunities and strained relations between Washington and Beijing. Whatever the reason for the imbalance, U.S. officials and scholars bemoan the lost opportunities for young people to experience life in China and gain insight into a formidable American adversary.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CYBER WEEK IN REVIEW: MAY 16, 2024**

*Kat Duffy and Kyle Fendorf | Council on Foreign Relations | May 17, 2024*

A bipartisan group of senators, which consists of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and Sens. Todd Young (R-IN), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), released a "roadmap for artificial intelligence policy in the U.S. Senate" this week, and identifies areas or uses of AI that are well-suited for regulation, including boosting funding for AI innovation, developing standards for AI fairness, addressing AI's implications for national security, and addressing AI's effects on the workforce, among other concerns. The roadmap also calls for Congress to appropriate nearly \$32 billion to encourage non-military AI innovation over the coming year. Although the report offers a variety of recommendations for how Congress could leverage processes like appropriations, existing acts and funding like the CHIPS and Science Act, and research and development funding mechanisms to meet the goals of the roadmap, the senators have not clarified exactly what action Congress should take or when it would do so.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **A STUDENT’S VISA HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR LINKS TO ‘WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION’. WHAT’S GOING ON WITH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH SECURITY?**

*Brendan Walker-Munro | The Conversation | May 14, 2024*

Over the weekend, Queensland University of Technology PhD student Xiaolong Zhu became national news – and not for a good reason. Zhu is a Chinese citizen, and his visa to study in Australia has been denied on the grounds of being “directly or indirectly associated with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”. The story begins in October 2019, when the university offered Zhu a scholarship to undertake a PhD in robotics. His research would focus on how drones navigate in urban environments without access to GPS. But in June 2020, Zhu was told the foreign minister had ruled him a risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, specifically missiles and rockets.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **THE INNOVATION RACE: US-CHINA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION AND THE QUANTUM REVOLUTION**

*Brandon Kirk Williams | Wilson Center | 2022-2023*

Technology competition is the fundamental driver of long-term US-China strategic competition. Technology racing will define the bilateral rivalry over the coming decades, and it is an innovation marathon that American policymakers must navigate to preserve the United States’ security and economic competitiveness. After taking power in 2012, Xi Jinping launched a determined campaign to shift the vital center of science and technology (S&T) from the United States to China by pioneering emerging technologies such as quantum. Quantum technologies offer revolutionary potential to upend the geopolitical balance of power. Chinese champions are shifting away from deep investments in quantum communication to keep pace with American progress in quantum computing and sensing.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **IN CHINA, FOREIGN AWARDS FACE GROWING CYNICISM AMONG ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AFTER EUROPEAN INSTITUTION CONTROVERSY**

*Dannie Peng | South China Morning Post | May 13, 2024*

On the afternoon of April 21, an institution called the European Academy of Natural Sciences (EANS) held a ceremony in Beijing to welcome its new members. It was a grand occasion. The vice-president of the academy presented six Chinese scholars with membership certificates and gold badges, and Nobel laureate Thomas C. Südhof, a German-American biochemist, posed with them for a photo. An article published the next day by a consulting firm called the China Development Research Institute showed a picture of Südhof with the institute’s president, Wang Tong, who was holding a certificate after he had been elected an “academician”. The article said Südhof congratulated Wang in a speech.

Read the full article [here](#).

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# USEFUL RESOURCES

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - RECENTLY UPDATED**

*U.S. Department of Treasury | Office of Foreign Assets Control*

The Office of Foreign Assets Control administers and enforces economic sanctions programs primarily against countries and groups of individuals, such as terrorists and narcotics traffickers. The sanctions can be either comprehensive or selective, using the blocking of assets and trade restrictions to accomplish foreign policy and national security goals.

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **ADDITIONS OF ENTITIES TO THE ENTITY LIST**

*Federal Register | Industry and Security Bureau | May 14, 2024*

In this final rule, the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) amends the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) by adding 37 entities under 37 entries to the Entity List. These entries are listed on the Entity List under the destinations of the People's Republic of China (China) and have been determined by the U.S. Government to be acting contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **U.S.-CHINA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

*Congressional Research Service | May 16, 2024*

On January 31, 1979, weeks after the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC, or China) established diplomatic relations, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and PRC leader Deng Xiaoping signed the U.S.-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement (STA), the first major agreement between the two governments. The STA was a part of U.S. strategy at the time to build ties with China to counter the influence of the Soviet Union. During the 1980s and 1990s, U.S. strategy shifted and science and technology (S&T) ties became part of a broader U.S. effort to integrate China into the global system and influence its development trajectory and behavior. President Barack Obama expanded S&T ties with China to address global challenges, such as health, energy, and climate.

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **THINK BEFORE YOU LINK – GLITCH**

*National Protective Security*

NPSA's innovative app allows users to identify the hallmarks of fake profiles used by foreign spies and other malicious actors.

View the full resource [here](#).

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# **RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING - OVERSIGHT AND EXAMINATION OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S PRIORITIES FOR 2025 AND BEYOND**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology | Subcommittee on Research and Technology Hearing  
May 16, 2024*

The purpose of the hearing is to review the Administration's Fiscal Year 2025 budget request for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and its priorities for supporting science and engineering research and education, including the construction and operation of NSF's research facilities and infrastructure; investments in STEM education and workforce development; and the activities of the Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships. Additionally, the Committee will examine the progress of NSF's National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) Pilot Program, the development of research security guidance and policy implementation, and the future of the Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes. This hearing will also be an opportunity to discuss the steps the Foundation and the National Science Board have taken to address the unsafe culture and environment of the United States Antarctica Program (USAP).

View the event details [here](#).

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