



## Open Source Media Summary

May 30, 2024

### HOW CAN CHINA GET THE BEST TECH? KEEP CALM AND LEARN FROM THE US, ECONOMIST SAYS

Phoebe Zhang | *South China Morning Post* | May 19, 2024

China needs to learn from the United States about how to encourage innovation, including being more open, and overcome its anxiety about falling behind, according to a leading economist. Yao Yang, director of the China Centre for Economic Research at Peking University, also said China should consider its own needs instead of blindly and anxiously following everything the US did, Shanghai-based news outlet The Paper reported. "Not everyone needs to innovate from scratch," Yao told a youth innovation forum in Shanghai on Saturday. "When the US develops large language models, we also follow up on such models, and now China has more than 20 companies, even more than the US. "Does China need that many? I don't think so." He said the public was too anxious about being a technological step behind the US. "It's impossible to exceed the US in every aspect," Yao said.

Read the full article [here](#).

### CHINA'S TOP QUANTUM PHYSICIST PAN JIANWEI NAMED ROYAL SOCIETY FELLOW, DAYS AFTER US SANCTIONS TARGET CHINESE SECTOR

Dannie Peng | *FEDSCOOP* | May 17, 2024

China's "father of quantum" has been elected as a fellow of London's Royal Society days after the latest US sanctions list targeted the "core" of Chinese quantum technology. Pan Jianwei, a leading physicist who built the world's first quantum satellite, is among "over 90 exceptional researchers from across the world" to be named this year by the society, or Britain's national academy of sciences. Announcing the list on Thursday, the Royal Society said "the elected fellows are leaders in their fields" and "recognised for their invaluable contributions to science". Pan, a professor of modern physics and executive vice-president at the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), has done pioneering work "in multi-article interferometry and quantum experiments in space", the society's Fellows Directory says.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **REPORT TO CONGRESS ON CHINA’S ‘ONE BELT, ONE ROAD’ INITIATIVE**

*U.S. Naval Institute Staff | U.S. Naval Institute News | May 16, 2024*

The People’s Republic of China (PRC or China) in 2013 launched an ambitious and multifaceted foreign economic policy initiative—One Belt, One Road—to expand China’s global economic reach and influence. In 2015, China’s leaders changed the English name to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), possibly to deflect from the initiative’s focus on developing China-centered and controlled global ties in a hub and spoke format. The Communist Party of China (CPC) incorporated the initiative into its Charter in 2017 and reaffirmed the effort’s significance in 2022 at its 20th Party Congress. Some participating governments say they value the initiative for filling infrastructure gaps. Other governments, and some in Congress, assess that One Belt, One Road projects advance PRC geopolitical and economic goals while undercutting U.S. influence and interests. One Belt, One Road aims to develop China-centered and -controlled global infrastructure, transportation, trade, and production networks. Initially focused on Asia, Europe, and Africa, the scope has become global and encompasses over 100 countries, including the United States.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **IMMIGRANT INVENTORS ARE CRUCIAL FOR AMERICAN NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY**

*Connor O’Brien and Adam Ozimek | Economic Innovation Group | May 21, 2024*

Nearly one out of every seven people who live in the United States is foreign-born. Yet the benefits of immigration have been much larger than immigrants’ share of the population would suggest. Foreign-born talent has been instrumental in American scientific and technological leadership, accounting for more than one-third of U.S. Nobel Prizes over the last decade. And as we will show, immigrants drive innovation in strategically important American industries. We use U.S. patent data between 2000 and 2018 to estimate the share of patents with foreign-born authors by industry. We find that immigrants authored or co-authored 30 percent of patents within U.S. industries that are important for economic and national security, from semiconductors to automobile manufacturing to software development. These results build on our previous research on high-skilled immigrants in the strategic industry workforce, further reinforcing our conclusion that America’s openness to foreign-born talent is vital for American security interests. The reform and expansion of our high-skilled immigration pathways, which are currently both outdated and undersized, must therefore be a national priority.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **KEI KOIZUMI ADVISES THE PRESIDENT**

*Kei Koizumi and Lisa Margonelli | Issues in Science and Technology | May 21, 2024*

In this installment of Science Policy IRL, Kei Koizumi takes us inside the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy, or OSTP. As the principal deputy director for policy at OSTP, Koizumi occupies an unusual position at the very heart of science policy in the United States. OSTP provides science and technology advice to the president and executive office, works with federal agencies and legislators to create S&T policy, and helps strengthen and advance American science and technology. Koizumi talks to Issues editor Lisa Margonelli about what he does at OSTP, how he got there, and the exciting developments in S&T policy that get him out of bed every day.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **WHY SCIENTIFIC FRAUD IS SUDDENLY EVERYWHERE**

*Kevin T. Dugan | [Intelligencer](#) | May 21, 2024*

Junk science has been forcing a reckoning among scientific and medical researchers for the past year, leading to thousands of retracted papers. Last year, Stanford president Marc Tessier-Lavigne resigned amid reporting that some of his most high-profile work on Alzheimer's disease was at best inaccurate. (A probe commissioned by the university's board of trustees later exonerated him of manipulating the data). But the problems around credible science appear to be getting worse. Last week, scientific publisher Wiley decided to shutter 19 scientific journals after retracting 11,300 sham papers. There is a large-scale industry of so-called "paper mills" that sell fictive research, sometimes written by artificial intelligence, to researchers who then publish it in peer-reviewed journals — which are sometimes edited by people who had been placed by those sham groups.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **NSF CHIEF SETHURAMAN PANCHANATHAN DEFENDS PROPOSED \$10.2B AGENCY BUDGET FOR FY2025**

*Jerry Petersen | [ExecutiveGov](#) | May 20, 2024*

National Science Foundation Director Sethuraman Panchanathan said at a recent House Science, Space and Technology subcommittee hearing that ensuring funding for his organization's work on critical and emerging technologies is a matter of national security, MeriTalk reported Thursday. Panchanathan also expressed concern that the U.S. is falling behind its competitors in terms of global technological leadership because the amount being invested by the government in key technologies like quantum computing and artificial intelligence is not sufficient. "The more we cut, the more the ideas that are being proposed to NSF in quantum, in AI will not be funded," Panchanathan warned the lawmakers. Also present at the hearing was National Science Board Chair Daniel Reed, who shared Panchanathan's concerns. "While other countries invest heavily in the future, our real Federal R&D funding is flat," Reed said, adding, "So, I'm here today not merely to ask you to fund NSF with the FY25 request level ... I'm here to ask for more. I'm asking us to dream better dreams." President Joe Biden is proposing a budget of about \$10.2 billion for the NSF in fiscal year 2025.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **SAFETY OF ADVANCED AI UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT IN FIRST EVER INDEPENDENT, INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT**

*Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and The Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP  
Gov.UK Press Release | May 17, 2024*

New research supported by over 30 nations, as well as representatives from the EU and the UN, shows the impact AI could have if governments and wider society fail to deepen their collaboration on AI safety, as the first iteration of the International Scientific Report on the Safety of Advanced AI is published today. Launched at the AI Safety Summit, the development of the report was one of the key commitments to emerge from the Bletchley Park discussions, coming as part of the landmark Bletchley Declaration. Initially launched as the State of Science report last November, the report unites a diverse global team of AI experts, including an Expert Advisory Panel from 30 leading AI nations from around the world, as well as representatives of the UN and the EU, to bring together the best existing scientific research on AI capabilities and risks.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **HARASSMENT OF SCIENTISTS IS SURGING – INSTITUTIONS AREN'T SURE HOW TO HELP**

*Bianca Nogrady | Nature | May 21, 2024*

As a vocal advocate of vaccinations for public health, Peter Hotez was no stranger to online harassment and threats. But then the abuse showed up on his doorstep. It was a Sunday during a brutal Texas heatwave in June 2023 when a man turned up at Hotez's home, filming himself as he shouted questions at the scientist, who is a pediatrician and virologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Because of the long-running online and real-life abuse he has faced, Hotez now has the Texas Medical Center Police, Houston Police Department and Harris County Sheriff's Office on speed dial, an agent tasked to him from the FBI and extra security whenever he speaks publicly. "This is a very powerful adversarial force that is seeking to undermine science, and now it's not only going after the science. It's going after the scientists," he says.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **MI5 WARNS THAT RUSSIA, CHINA AND IRAN ARE TARGETING UK UNIVERSITIES IN NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT**

*Jack Walters | GB News | April 26, 2024*

MI5 has warned Russia, China and Iran have been targeting British universities. Bosses at Britain's top academic institutions were called to Whitehall on Thursday for an unprecedented briefing with security chiefs. MI5 director-general Ken McCallum and National Cyber Security Centre's acting chief executive Felicity Oswald warned hostile states posed a threat to national security. Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden and Science Secretary Michelle Donelan co-hosted the meeting. The pair will later launch a consultation on measures to protect sensitive research and emerging technology at universities. It is believed Moscow, Beijing and Tehran have been targeting UK universities to steal intellectual property to enhance their economic and military capabilities.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **EU WANTS SPIES ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES TO FIGHT CHINESE TECH ESPIONAGE**

*Pieter Haeck | Politico | May 23, 2024*

European universities could soon have a direct line to intelligence agencies as the Continent seeks to shield sensitive tech research from foreign powers, especially China. National governments want to safeguard Europe's research in sensitive technology like microchips, quantum, biotech and artificial intelligence. Officials said they want to set up regular classified and non-classified briefings and appoint "liaison officers" to help universities fight foreign snooping, in a text dated May 14 and seen by POLITICO. The text was signed off by ministers on Thursday. In recent years, concerns have grown over the presence of Chinese students and academics at European universities or collaborations between European universities and Chinese research institutes. Several universities, for instance, cut ties with the Chinese state-funded Confucius Institute after suspicions of espionage.

Read the full article [here](#).

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# MINIMISING THE RISKS OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC CONTEXT

*Vitālijs Rakstiņš, Karina Palkova, Andris Sprūds and Olena Agapova | Springer Link | May 24, 2024*

This study addresses the pressing issue of foreign influence risks in academic and research institutions, crucial hubs for innovation and technological progress. In navigating the delicate balance between openness and national interests, the research focuses on dependencies on foreign resources, technologies, and intellectual property. Employing a comprehensive methodology, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, the study conducts a systematic literature review and comparative analysis across countries and regions. The findings, validated through qualitative content analysis and triangulation, offer practical insights to enhance internal due diligence processes and establish screening measures. The aim is to protect research autonomy amidst financial dilemmas, technological dependencies, and intelligence vulnerabilities. In a rapidly evolving global landscape, these recommendations contribute to safeguarding national security and maintaining a competitive edge.

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

## **COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREAT VIA SOCIAL MEDIA**

*Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency*

Social networking sites (SNS) are everywhere in today's society. Worldwide SNS usage provides foreign intelligence entities (FIE) vast opportunities to exploit personnel, cleared or uncleared. The FIE goal is to obtain U.S. critical technology, proprietary data, advanced research and development, and many other aspects of valuable information in U.S. industry.

- 51% = Total world population; 3.96 billion people use social media
- 2.25 = Hours digital consumers spend daily on SNS and social messaging
- 79% = Number of adults in the United States that use at least one SNS
- 8.8 = Number of SNS accounts the average person maintains

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **UNIVERSITY AND FEDERAL ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS RESEARCH SECURITY ISSUES**

*Association of American Universities | January 3, 2024*

Congress is currently considering several measures related to securing federally funded research data and intellectual property at universities and other research institutions in the United States. As lawmakers consider these measures, it is important to understand the current state of play for research security in the country to avoid new requirements that are duplicative, unnecessary, or counterproductive. This document summarizes actions that have already been taken or are currently being taken by both universities and federal entities regarding research security.

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **BEST PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCH**

*Society for Neuroscience*

To support the vital progress of scientific research, as well as the health and economic well-being of the university or institution, the nation, and the global science community, each university and research institution should adopt the following plan in order to pre-empt and react to anti-research activists. Ultimately, research institutions must make an unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety, security, and ability of researchers to pursue responsible research. When protests extend beyond constitutionally protected activities and become personally violent or intimidating, the leadership and administration are obligated to demonstrate that protection of researchers is a core responsibility and directly affects the livelihood of both the institution and the global research enterprise.

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **RESEARCH SECURITY AND FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AT U.S. ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS**

*Association of American Medical Colleges*

Over the past decade, Congress, federal science agencies, and the media have highlighted concerns about the impact of undue foreign influence on federally funded research in the United States. For institutions, this means an increased focus on research security and the need to update internal policies and processes, while maintaining a focus on the value of a global workforce and international scientific collaborations. This page provides background information, the latest updates on relevant federal government policies and activities, and considerations and resources for institutional leadership, administrators, and researchers as they address this issue on their campus.

View the full resource [here](#).

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## **REPORT TO CONGRESS ON TIKTOK AND CHINA'S DIGITAL PLATFORMS**

*U.S. Naval Institute Staff | U.S. Naval Institute News | May 23, 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 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.

View the full resource [here](#).

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