



Open Source Media Summary

June 13, 2024

CANADA'S UNIVERSITIES ARE A PIPELINE FOR CHINESE MILITARY TECHNOLOGY

Jonathan Manthorpe | The Walrus | June 4, 2024

Through Naïveté and mindless belief in the universal benefits of academic exchange, some of Canada's leading universities have contributed to the militarization of the Far East. From the start of academic exchanges with the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the early 1970s, the government of Canada has watched and largely approved of Chinese students focusing almost exclusively on science and technology faculties at Canadian universities. Meanwhile, Canadians going to study in China have engrossed themselves in Chinese language and culture and Maoism. For most of the past fifty years, Canadian universities and authorities were satisfied with this exchange. They saw giving Chinese students the benefits of Canadian knowledge and experience in science and technology as a gift toward the economic and industrial development of China. Around the year 2000, however, Beijing and its People's Liberation Army (PLA) realized that here was an opportunity to grab or develop technology for their program of rapid military modernization that had begun a decade before. The PLA calls the program "picking flowers in foreign lands to make honey in China," and it is not at all as innocent as it sounds.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW TO CREATE, AND SUSTAIN, R&D LEADERSHIP

Norbert Holtkamp, Thomas Mason, and Anna Puglisi | Hoover Institution | June 3, 2024

How the United States can compete in the twenty-first century is one of the most vexing challenges for policy makers and academics today. Many studies have shown that most science and technology advances with the greatest impact happen in open and diverse environments, under excellent research conditions, with sufficient funding. Since the end of World War II, the United States has been the most attractive country for open research and commercialization of new discoveries. This strategy—partly articulated in science administrator Vannevar Bush's Endless Frontier report of 1945—leverages federal government investments in research and development (R&D) to enhance economic competitiveness and national security. The combination of a dynamic, open research ecosystem and world-leading science infrastructure provided an exciting work environment leading to groundbreaking discoveries, and propelled economic growth through the second half of the twentieth century.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA'S TOP SCIENCE INSTITUTE RESTRUCTURED TO FOCUS ON RESEARCH FRONTIERS

Wendy Wu | *South China Morning Post* | June 9, 2024

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the country's top science institute, has undergone an organisational overhaul, with more focus on strengthening frontier and basic research capabilities. New bureaus have been set up for frontier sciences and basic research, sustainable development research, and basic science and technology capacity, according to the CAS website. These replaced previous departments that had also been responsible for education, science promotion and dissemination. China has stepped up its push for innovation and tech breakthroughs by fixing flaws in the scientific research system and focusing on original innovation in a bid to counter hi-tech containment by the US and power economic growth through technology and high value-added manufacturing.

Read the full article [here](#).

FBI ASKS SCIENTISTS FOR TRUST IN TAKING ANTI-ASIAN BIAS SERIOUSLY

Neil Savage | *Nature* | June 11, 2024

In a rare meeting between the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the academic community on Thursday, members of the FBI sought to reassure researchers of Asian descent that their concerns over discrimination are being heard. The 6 June public forum, held at Rice University in Houston, Texas, was lauded by participants as an important step in building trust, although several said that much more work remains to be done. "We want you to feel comfortable. That's why we're here," said Douglas Williams, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Houston field office, which, among other things, investigates hate crimes based on ethnicity. "More importantly, we want you to trust us, so that when something does happen in this community, which I believe it does, that you feel comfortable calling us and that we can investigate it." The two-hour session — sponsored by organizations including the Asian Pacific American Justice Task Force, based in McLean, Virginia — was held in response to increasing fears in the past few years among students and researchers of Asian descent working in the United States.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINESE RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS SHIFT TO THE BELT AND ROAD

Benjamin Plackett | *Nature* | June 5, 2024

Although China is expanding its international research collaborations rapidly, the composition of these interactions is shifting, according to data from the Nature Index. Specifically, China's researchers are increasingly working with scientists in countries taking part in the Beijing government's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI is often described as a modern-day reboot of the Silk Road, an ancient system of trade routes that connected China's heartland with the eastern edge of Europe. Officially, the BRI is a bid to strengthen the resilience of China's trade networks, both overland — across Asia into the Middle East and Africa — and by sea — upgrading ports and building maritime fuelling stations throughout the Asian continent.

Read the full article [here](#).

IS CHINA'S HUAWEI A THREAT TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY?

Noah Berman, Lindsay Maizland, and Andrew Chatzky | Council on Foreign Relations | February 8, 2023

One of the world's leading providers of fifth-generation (5G) mobile technology, Huawei is a Chinese telecommunications giant that has stoked fears of espionage and intellectual property theft in the United States and many other countries. In response, Washington and its allies have imposed sweeping restrictions on Huawei as part of a larger crackdown on Chinese technology companies. Some experts warn that tensions between Washington and Beijing over technology could lead to a "digital iron curtain," which would compel foreign governments to decide between doing business with the United States or China.

Read the full article [here](#).

NEWLY PUBLISHED NSF GUIDANCE ON THE FOREIGN FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION RECEIVING NSF FUNDING

Mark Barnes, Stephen D. Sencer, Christina A. Ravelo, and Shanzeh Daudi | Ropes & Gray | June 7, 2024

Colleges and universities that receive funding from the National Science Foundation ("NSF") on or after May 20, 2024 have a new obligation, pursuant to Section 10339B of the CHIPS & Science Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-167) (the "CHIPS Act"),¹ to report gifts and contracts at or in excess of \$50,000 received from any source in specific "foreign countries of concern," including the People's Republic of China. The new reporting obligation is similar, but not identical, to the existing reporting obligation under Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as indicated in this chart.² NSF recently published long-awaited sub-regulatory guidance relating to the upcoming reporting requirement, including FAQs on implementation of Section 10339B and a demonstration portal with more detail on the report submission process.

Read the full article [here](#).

FOREIGN MALIGN INFLUENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

U.S. Department of Homeland Security | June 3, 2024

On November 14, 2023, Secretary Mayorkas tasked the Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council (HSAPC) to form a subcommittee on foreign malign influence (FMI) in higher education to develop recommendations on guidelines and best practices for higher education institutions to reduce and counter FMI; to consider a public-private partnership to enhance collaboration and information sharing on FMI; and to assess how the U.S. Government (USG) can improve its internal operations and posture to effectively address FMI-related national security risks to higher education institutions. To set the context for the Subcommittee, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reported that it has seen malign actors employ various tactics to achieve FMI, including:

- Monitoring, intimidating, and threatening students on U.S. campuses or targeting the overseas families of international students attending U.S. institutions to silence dissenting views;
- Persuading or pressuring academics to self-censor views they might oppose;
- Influencing publications they view as denigrating to their own interests or views;

Read the full article [here](#).

TWO-THIRDS OF US UNIVERSITIES FALL IN QS WORLD RANKINGS

Brendan O'Malley | University World News | June 7, 2024

The United States still hosts many of the world's top universities, but two-thirds of ranked US institutions have dropped places, indicating a "noticeable trend" in the decline of their global standing, according to QS's analysis of the QS World University Rankings 2025 released on 4 June. Top US institutions and their performance:

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT): Remains the world's top university for the 13th consecutive year, achieving perfect scores in multiple indicators including academic and employer reputation.
- Harvard University: Ranked 4th, leading globally in several metrics including academic reputation and citations per faculty.
- Stanford University: Ranked 6th, maintaining its strong performance.
- California Institute of Technology (Caltech): Returned to the top ten, now ranked 10th.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA STATE-BACKED HACKING GROUP VOLT TYPHOON, AN INCREASING THREAT

Guillermo Saavedra | Dialogo Americas | June 10, 2024

Disruptive cyberattacks linked to the People's Republic of China and its spy agencies are a growing threat, analysts say. Of increasing concern is China state-sponsored hacking gang Volt Typhoon. The cyberespionage gang's activities have led the global intelligence alliance known as Five Eyes, comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, to issue two warnings a month apart in the first trimester of 2024, urging critical infrastructure owners and operators worldwide to protect their facilities. "The objective is clear: to affect the critical infrastructure of all countries," Erich Zschaeck, a Chilean consultant and cybersecurity expert, told Diálogo on May 8. "In our region, this would affect the generation of energy, water, public services, telecommunications, and all services that could impact not only companies but also the population."

Read the full article [here](#).

CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES SAY FOREIGN INFLUENCE REGISTRY COULD HARM RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Jim Bronskill | The Canadian Press | June 10, 2024

Canada's leading research universities warn that a proposed foreign influence transparency registry could have an unintended "chilling effect" on international partnerships, meaning Canada misses out on cutting-edge opportunities. The U15 Canada universities are among several concerned voices urging MPs to adopt changes to the planned registry, a centrepiece of legislation being whisked through a House of Commons committee. Members of the committee are slated to begin a clause-by-clause review of the sweeping anti-foreign interference bill today — including any amendments — after only a week of hearings. The legislation would introduce new criminal provisions against deceptive or surreptitious acts, allow for the sharing of sensitive information with businesses and others beyond government, and establish a foreign influence transparency registry.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW WORRYING IS THE RAPID RISE OF CHINESE SCIENCE?

The Economist | June 13, 2024

If there is one thing the Chinese Communist Party and America's security hawks agree on, it is that innovation is the secret to geopolitical, economic and military superiority. President Xi Jinping hopes that science and technology will help his country overtake America. Using a mix of export controls and sanctions, politicians in Washington are trying to prevent China from gaining a technological advantage. America's strategy is unlikely to work. As we report this week, Chinese science and innovation are making rapid progress. It is also misguided. If America wants to maintain its lead—and to get the most benefit from the research of China's talented scientists—it would do better to focus less on keeping Chinese science down and more on pushing itself ahead. For centuries the West sniffed at Chinese technology. Self-regarding Europeans struggled to accept that such a far-flung place could possibly have invented the compass, the crossbow and the blast furnace.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The Research and Innovation Security and Competitiveness Institute



USEFUL RESOURCES

SAFEGUARDING OUR MILITARY EXPERTISE

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center

China's (PRC) People's Liberation Army (PLA) continues to target current and former military personnel from North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) nations and other Western countries to help bolster the PLA's capabilities. The PLA is using private companies in South Africa and China to hire former fighter pilots from Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, the United States, and other Western nations to train PLA Air Force and Navy aviators. The PLA wants the skills and expertise of these individuals to make its own military air operations more capable while gaining insight into Western air tactics, techniques, and procedures. The insight the PLA gains from Western military talent threatens the safety of the targeted recruits, their fellow service members, and U.S. and allied security.

View the full resource [here](#).

NIST CYBERSECURITY FRAMEWORK CORE EXPLAINED

Ethan Bresnahan | CyberSaint Security Blog | June 11, 2019

As a gold standard for cybersecurity in the United States and the foundation for many new standards and regulations starting to emerge today, the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST CSF) Cybersecurity Framework is more crucial than ever. Developed as a public and private sector collaboration led by NIST under a presidential executive order to improve critical infrastructure cybersecurity, the NIST Cybersecurity Framework core functions soon scaled beyond high-level energy and critical infrastructure - its outcomes-based approach allowed it to apply to almost any sector and any business size. This framework profile comprises the Framework Core, Profiles, and NIST Implementation Tiers. Here, we'll dive into the Framework Core and the five core functions: Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, and Recover.

View the full resource [here](#).

PROTECTING YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SECRETS

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center

Foreign adversaries and competitors are actively seeking information that is vital to our national and economic security, U.S. global competitiveness, and your organization's mission. This includes:

- Sensitive or proprietary financial, trade, or economic policy information
- Pioneering research and development
- Emerging technologies

View the full resource [here](#).

**THE TEXAS A&M
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The Research and Innovation Security and Competitiveness Institute



UPCOMING RESEARCH SECURITY EVENTS

NCURA RESEARCH SECURITY SYMPOSIUM: BUILDING A PROGRAM RESPONSIVE TO REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Despite delays in the implementation of final guidance for National Security Policy Memorandum 33 and the resulting Research Security Program requirements, scrutiny of how research institutions conduct research, and particularly how that research is protected from unwanted foreign interference or theft, continues to grow in the U.S. and globally. This symposium will explore the current political environment and provide updates on upcoming regulatory changes that research institutions should consider. Whether your institution is research intensive and will have a federally mandated Research Security Program or a small primarily undergraduate institution, you will learn practices and strategies to assist in developing and improving research security at your institution.

- June 25, 2024
- Old Town, Alexandria, VA

View the full resource [here](#).
