



Open Source Media Summary

July 25, 2024

CHINA'S EXPANDING ARCTIC AMBITIONS CHALLENGE THE U.S. AND NATO

Didi Kirsten Tatlow | Newsweek | July 21, 2024

As the Arctic summer melts the polar bear tracks on the sea ice around Norway's Spitsbergen Island, dozens of Chinese scientists are arriving at a facility guarded by a very different kind of white creature—stone lions from Shanghai. About 50 researchers from China are expected this year in the Norwegian science station of Ny-Ålesund in the Svalbard Archipelago, where a male and a female lion watch the door of China's "Yellow River Station". It is the highest number of researchers since the COVID pandemic began with some expected to stay through the polar winter. The growing Chinese presence is a sign of the Arctic's increasing importance to Beijing as China emerges as a global power to challenge the United States and its allies, even though at its closest China is 900 miles away from the Arctic Circle, the distance from New York to Tallahassee. Svalbard, belonging to American NATO ally Norway but hard by China's strategic ally Russia, is an accessible international scientific center that has become a microcosm of the struggle between world powers in the Arctic. A Newsweek investigation shows that a Chinese scientific institute that is operating on the island where research for "war-like purposes" is forbidden is in fact part of China's defense establishment, raising questions over whether it is defying the ban by carrying out potential "dual-use" research that has military as well as civilian applications.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA'S MILITARY IS TAPPING INTO EU-FUNDED RESEARCH

Pieter Haeck | Politico | June 27, 2024

A group of Chinese universities with military ties known as the "Seven Sons of National Defense" are involved in European Union-funded research projects, POLITICO has found. The EU over the past decade has funded at least 14 projects for €26 million that worked with Chinese universities deemed "high-risk" by experts. Eight of these projects are still ongoing. The topics of the research projects ranged from decarbonization, climate modeling and heating and cooling technology to antennas and motor propulsion technology. The research ties are awkward for Brussels, which has been trying to rekindle its relationship with China. In May, the bloc adopted guidelines for EU countries and universities to shield researchers and universities from foreign interference — notably from China — for fear of seeing intellectual property leaking and its know-how being used against its interests. China experts have warned that the Seven Sons group has "known links to military research." The universities are under the management of China's Industry and Information Technology Ministry and "play an important part in the Chinese defense industry," a recent study by Datenna, a data intelligence platform focused on China, said.

Read the full article [here](#).

COULD THE US BENEFIT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BACKLASH ELSEWHERE?

Rachel Scholten | University World News | July 20, 2024

International students represent 22% of higher education institution enrolments in the United Kingdom, 24% in Australia and 30% in Canada – enormous percentages highlighting their dependency on international education. Despite the many commonly acknowledged benefits that international students bring, including boosting the economy and diversifying campuses, large numbers of international students can be viewed as a burden or scapegoat if growth in enrolments is not managed with intentionality. Despite each of these countries having national-level strategic plans for international education, a spate of government policies has emerged in the past year aimed at limiting international students in these major Anglophone host countries. Canada plans to reduce study permits by 35% in the current year, the UK has limited which students may bring dependent family members with them during their studies, and Australia is tightening the belt with increasing visa denials, more than doubling visa fees and a planned international enrolment cap from 2025.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA–US RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS ARE IN DECLINE – THIS IS BAD NEWS FOR EVERYONE

Gemma Conroy | Nature | July 19, 2024

China's scientific collaboration with other countries has declined since the pandemic, driven by falling partnerships with the United States, an analysis shows. Scientists have been warning that political tensions between China and the United States, combined with the pandemic, have affected research collaborations between the two countries. But it takes time for evidence of this sort of decline to accumulate in research databases. The latest evidence comes from an analysis conducted by Springer Nature's team in China. (Nature's news team is editorially independent of its publisher, Springer Nature.) The authors used InCites, a tool owned by publishing-analytics firm Clarivate, based in London, to analyse internationally co-authored articles that were published between 2013 and 2023. InCites draws on papers indexed in the science-citation database Web of Science.

Read the full article [here](#).

NEW OSTP GUIDELINES REQUIRE IMPROVING RESEARCH SECURITY

Kristen Smith | ExecutiveGov | July 16, 2024

New guidelines from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy require federal research agencies to implement research security policies amid increasing military and economic competition. The OSTP memorandum indicated that the agencies must obligate certain research institutions to certify that they have established a functioning research security program designed to protect sensitive information, in compliance with the National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 and certain provisions of the CHIPS and Science Act, the White House said Tuesday. The certification must include elements relating to cybersecurity, foreign travel security, research security training and export control training. While the guidelines apply to research institutions of higher education, federally funded research and development centers and nonprofit research institutions receiving over \$50 million in funding annually, the agencies are encouraged to adopt similar research security requirements for non-covered institutions that meet the funding threshold.

Read the full article [here](#).

SCIENTIST FIRED FROM WINNIPEG DISEASE LAB INTENTIONALLY WORKED TO BENEFIT CHINA: CSIS REPORT

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) | February 28, 2024

One of the scientists who was fired from Canada's top infectious disease laboratory "intentionally" shared scientific information with China - potentially putting people's health in jeopardy - says an assessment by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). The intelligence assessment was released late Wednesday afternoon by the federal government, along with hundreds of other documents about the mysterious dismissal of Dr. Xiangguo Qiu and her husband Keding Cheng. The scientists and their students worked in the Level 4 virology facility at the Winnipeg-based National Microbiology Lab (NML), which is equipped to deal with the most serious and deadly human and animal diseases. The couple were marched out of the facility in July 2019 and were stripped of their security clearances. Their dismissals were announced in January 2021, triggering concerns about Chinese espionage and leading to heated demands in Parliament for more information.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINESE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PASSING ON CANADA: 'MONOTONOUS' AND UNAFFORDABLE

Yvonne Lau | National Post | July 19, 2024

When 19-year-old Ricky Liu was applying for universities in the fall of 2022, one thing occupied his mind: how to score a seat at a top-ranked institution. Both Chinese and Western universities courted Liu, a dual citizen of mainland China and Hong Kong: he was fluent in multiple languages, scored high grades in STEM and humanities courses, and showed leadership through his extracurricular activities in sports and music. While Liu and his peers were fretting over final exams and poring over world university rankings, major shifts in Canada were occurring, with a growing chorus of people souring on immigration and policymakers increasingly concerned about foreign interference. Such concerns have affected Chinese prospects for studying in Canada. In January, a Canadian Federal Court judge barred Yuekang Li from entering Canada, a Chinese national who had been accepted into the University of Waterloo's engineering PhD program. The court argued that Li's study proposal could be categorized as "non-traditional" espionage — a ruling that could have significant implications for Chinese students hoping to study in Canada.

Read the full article [here](#).

US, ALLIES RAISE CONCERNS OVER CHINESE HACKERS

Lauren Irwin | The Hill | July 9, 2024

A group of eight countries, including the United States and Australia, are raising concerns over Chinese hacking groups and the threat they pose. The advisory, reported first by The Wall Street Journal, marks an unusual move for Western governments, who joined together to target China's cyber activity, which they claim is led by the country's intelligence services. Australia led the warning and marks the first time the country has taken such action after being slow to criticize the activity from its largest trading partner, the Journal noted. The U.S., the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea and Japan all joined in on the advisory. "In our current strategic circumstances, these attributions are increasingly important tools in deterring malicious cyber activity," said Richard Marles, Australia's deputy prime minister, per the Journal. The warning targeted a group known as Advanced Persistent Threat 40, or APT40. It works with China's Ministry of State Security to conduct cybersecurity operations.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE ‘RISKY RESEARCH REVIEW ACT’ WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD

David Gillum, Rebecca Moritz, and Gregory D. Koblentz | STAT | July 19, 2024

In an era of rapid scientific and technological advances when politicians and scientists are struggling to find the right balance between innovation and safety, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has introduced the Risky Research Review Act (S. 4667) in an effort to navigate this treacherous terrain. But instead of providing clarity and security, this legislation threatens to cast a shadow over the future of life sciences research and slow it down. The act proposes creating a Life Sciences Research Security Board to review federally funded life sciences research involving “high-risk” experiments and to decide if such research should be funded. But the bill’s definition of high-risk life sciences research is overly broad and ambiguous, and duplicative of existing regulations covering agents of bioterrorism concern and dual-use research. It goes beyond a list of potential pandemic pathogens and experiments to enhance pathogenic characteristics (so-called gain-of-function research) and includes pathogen collection and surveillance.

Read the full article [here](#).

A QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE S&T PUBLICATION COLLABORATIONS

Emelia Probasco and Autumn Toney | Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET) | June 2024

While the Department of Defense’s broad investments in research and development go far beyond what is publicly disclosed, authors affiliated with the DOD do publish papers about their research. These papers reflect a small portion of the DOD’s engagement efforts across an enormous research ecosystem, but they nonetheless offer some insight into the patterns of research collaboration by the DOD.* By analyzing more than 100,000 papers authored by researchers affiliated with the DOD* in the OpenAlex database, we find:

- Of 100,158 DOD-affiliated papers that we manually reviewed for specific entity affiliation, approximately 86% list an author from a DOD organization (such as the U.S. Army, Naval, or Air Force Research Laboratory), 12% include a DOD-affiliated federally funded research and development center or university affiliated research center (FFRDC/UARC), and 2% have both a DOD and a DOD FFRDC/UARC affiliated author.†

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW ZERO TRUST CAN PROTECT AGAINST EVOLVING CYBERSECURITY THREATS IN HIGHER ED

Joel Keller | EdTech | July 15, 2024

In a 2023 survey of tech leaders at higher education institutions, Inside Higher Ed found that fewer than a quarter of respondents were either very or extremely confident that their networks could withstand a ransomware attack. Their fears are not an exaggeration; higher education has proved to be one of the least secure industry sectors over the past few years, with the number of cyberattacks against institutions in that sector on the rise. EDUCAUSE documented a 44 percent increase in cyberattacks against higher education institutions since 2022, citing increased remote access to university and college networks since the pandemic as well as the fact that many institutions don’t have the robust budgets to hire IT security experts that corporations and other large enterprises do. According to EDUCAUSE, the average cost of each data breach is \$3.65 million, but the nonmonetary cost might be even higher.

Read the full article [here](#).

INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE: WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Peter J. Phillips and Gabriela Pohl | Information Security Journal: A Global Perspective | July 14, 2024

People have spent a lot of money trying to protect their secrets, and other people have spent a lot of money trying to steal them. Danielson (2009, p. 503) defines economic espionage as “. . . the act of targeting or acquiring trade secrets from domestic companies or government entities to knowingly benefit a foreign state.” Following Danielson, Wagner (2012, p. 1040) defines industrial espionage as being “the same as economic espionage, except that rather than benefiting a foreign government, it benefits another private entity.” Lots of decisions are made – by both the firm and the spy – under conditions of risk and uncertainty. A company doesn’t know everything about the threat it faces from economic or industrial espionage, and the spy and the spy’s handlers don’t know if they will get away with it. Despite this, there haven’t been any significant attempts to use decision theory or information economics to get the edge on the “insider” industrial spy. We investigate this potential application of decision theory.

Read the full article [here](#).

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USEFUL RESOURCES

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH SECURITY PROGRAMS AT COVERED INSTITUTIONS

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Institute of Standards and Technology | July 9, 2024

The Computer Security Resource Center (CSRC) has information on many of NIST's cybersecurity- and information security-related projects, publications, news and events. CSRC supports people and organizations in government, industry, and academia—both in the U.S. and internationally.

- Learn more about current projects and upcoming events
- Search and browse our publications library of current and historical standards, guidelines, and other reports
- Explore content by topic

View the full resource [here](#).

DOD RELEASES UPDATED LIST OF FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS ENGAGING IN PROBLEMATIC ACTIVITIES TO COUNTER UNAUTHORIZED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

U.S. Department of Defense | July 19, 2024

The Department of Defense today announced publication of the Fiscal Year 2023 update to the list of foreign institutions engaging in problematic activity and reaffirmed the FY22 list of foreign talent programs that pose a threat to national security, as required by Section 1286 of the FY19 National Defense Authorization Act. The update is crucial to the Department's continuing effort to highlight and counter unauthorized technology transfer to foreign countries of concern.

View the full resource [here](#).

SAFEGUARDING OUR INNOVATION

National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC)

Venture capital (VC), private equity, and other foreign-origin private investment can provide vital funding for United States (U.S.) technology startups. Foreign threat actors can also use these investments to exploit U.S. startups and harm U.S. economic and national security interests.

View the full resource [here](#).

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