



Open Source Media Summary

September 19, 2024

ARE NEW US EXPORT CONTROLS RULES ON CHIPS AND OTHER CRITICAL TECH GOOD ENOUGH?

Ian J. Stewart | Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists | September 13, 2024

Last week, the United States rolled out new export controls on critical technologies, including semiconductor and quantum computing items, in an effort to bolster national security and for “foreign policy reasons.” Released by the Department of Commerce, these rules add quantum computing, advanced additive manufacturing equipment, and certain advanced semiconductor manufacturing equipment to its control list. In recent years, the United States, along with several other countries, has taken transformative coordinated national action instead of agreeing to controls through multilateral export control regimes. While the reasons for these actions differ, collectively, they point to a need to rethink how export controls are coordinated at the international level, particularly the need to control emerging technologies. The existing multilateral export control regimes do not, alone, provide a sufficient basis for addressing today’s security challenges, especially with China’s full-society effort to weaponize emerging technology, which is known as Military Civil Fusion. While the existing regimes should be maintained, now is the time to work through the future of multilateral export controls to provide a mechanism for coordinating emerging technology controls internationally.

Read the full article [here](#).

REPUBLICANS SEEK TO REVIVE CHINA INITIATIVE

Jessica Blake | Inside Higher Ed | September 11, 2024

Gang Chen, a mechanical engineering professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said he is no longer the same person he was before he was arrested early one morning in January 2021. In part of a controversial series of Justice Department investigations into Chinese academics and others, Chen was charged with failing to disclose various financial ties and affiliations with Chinese entities on a federal grant application. His life was flipped upside down in an instant. Although the charges were dismissed a year later, Chen says that his family now “lives in constant fear.” “I’m still often woken up by my wife’s cry because in her dreams she remembers the police shouting beside her bed the morning I was arrested,” he said. “And every time I cross the border after coming back from an international trip, I’m scared of being stopped.” Experiences like Chen’s could become more common if House Republicans succeed in bringing back a Trump-era program that investigated individuals or organizations with ties to China, higher ed groups and advocates warned this week.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOUSE PASSES SCIENCE COMMITTEE LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN RESEARCH SECURITY

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology | Press Release | September 9, 2024

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 7686, led by Science Committee member Congressman Mike Garcia (R-CA). The bill updates the definition of malign foreign talent recruitment programs in the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act to help federal research agencies and universities more clearly identify and address threats to scientific research. As our nation routinely faces threats from global adversaries seeking to wrongfully acquire U.S. innovation, our federal agencies and universities must be prepared to safeguard valuable research, and this update will help achieve that goal. “The CHIPS Act is only as strong as its defenses against foreign exploitation,” Rep. Garcia said. “This bill eliminates confusing language in the CHIPS Act that could have allowed China to rob, replicate, and replace our innovations with their own. It’s a direct, decisive move to ensure American taxpayer dollars aren’t funding our CCP adversaries. We can’t afford to be naive—this is about securing our competitive edge and protecting our nation’s intellectual property.”

Read the full article [here](#).

US AND CHINA INCH TOWARDS RENEWING SCIENCE-COOPERATION PACT — DESPITE TENSIONS

Natasha Gilbert and Smriti Mallapaty | Nature | September 10, 2024

The United States and China have missed the deadline to renew a pact that governs their cooperation in science and technology. But they are close to agreeing on a way forwards, Nature has learnt. Over the past year, the two nations have been negotiating the terms and conditions of a decades-old pact, normally renewed every five years, that expired on 27 August 2023. The pact is symbolic in that it doesn’t provide any funding. But researchers in the United States and China say it is crucial because it lays the groundwork for building strong research collaborations between the two nations, which have so far announced two 6-month extensions to complete negotiations. But the latest deadline, 27 August, has come and gone without them taking any action. A spokesperson for the US Department of State told Nature, however, that the two nations remain in communication. Sources familiar with the negotiations, but not directly involved, say that despite tensions between the two countries, signs point to a renewal — but the pact is likely to become more limited in scope. They also think that the upcoming US presidential election could be factoring into the delay, given that cooperation with China is a politically sensitive issue that could affect voting.

Read the full article [here](#).

EU RULES FOR RESEARCH TIES WITH CHINA AREN’T TRANSLATING INTO AWARENESS YET

Goda Naujokaitytė | Science|Business | September 10, 2024

Most researchers aren’t well-versed in the risks of cooperating with Chinese counterparts, a small-scale Austrian study has found, implying the increasing EU effort to counter foreign interference in research is not translating into more awareness on the ground. A survey of 24 researchers working on collaborative projects with Chinese institutions showed only nine knew the term ‘knowledge security’. Just six were aware of the ‘Seven Sons of National Defence’, a group of universities tied to China’s military.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA WANTS ACADEMIC EXCHANGE BUT HISTORIANS SAY INCREASED CENSORSHIP MAKES RESEARCH HARD

Laurie Chen | Reuters | September 13, 2024

At Beijing's largest antiques market, Panjiayuan, among the Mao statues, posters and second-hand books are prominent signs warning against the sale of publications that might have state secrets or "reactionary propaganda". Some of the signs display a hotline number so that citizens can tip off authorities if they witness an illegal sale. China's antique and flea markets were once a gold mine of documents for historians, but now the signs are emblematic of the chill that has descended on their ability to do research in the country. On one hand, Beijing wants to increase academic exchange and President Xi Jinping last November invited 50,000 American students to China over the next five years - a massive jump from about 800 currently. How much steam that will gather is very much an open question. But scholars of modern Chinese history in particular - arguably among the people most interested in China - fear that tightened censorship is extinguishing avenues for independent research into the country's past.

Read the full article [here](#).

COMPETING WITH CHINA EXPLAINED: WHAT AMERICANS NEED TO KNOW

RAND | September 13, 2024

The U.S.-China relationship presents a complex array of foreign policy challenges that will have to be addressed when a new administration takes charge in Washington next year. Among the critical issues that will be on the agenda in January when the next U.S. president is sworn in are economic tensions, Chinese military aggression in the Indo-Pacific region, the security of Taiwan, China's relationship with Russia, its efforts to spread its influence around the globe, and its accelerating disinformation campaigns. We asked three RAND experts to shed some light on the state of U.S.-China relations and competition as the American electorate heads to the polls. Kristen Gunness is a senior policy researcher at RAND, professor of policy analysis at the Pardee RAND Graduate School, and former Director of the Navy Asia Pacific Advisory Group at the Pentagon, with expertise in Chinese military, security, and foreign policy issues.

Read the full article [here](#).

IS CHINA TURNING AWAY FROM INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION?

Patrick Jack | Times Higher Education | September 12, 2024

China's international research collaboration rate is stalling, in part because its domestic output is growing so rapidly, according to analysts. Data from Clarivate's annual G20 scorecard shows that Chinese universities produced a total of 741,160 papers in 2023 - of which 147,951 (20 per cent) involved cross-border co-authorship. This was the lowest proportion of the past decade, and down from a peak of 27.4 per cent in 2018. Jonathan Adams, chief scientist at Clarivate's Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), said China's number of international collaborations was lower than might be expected, given the rapid growth of its research sector. "That is because it's like water pouring on to the kitchen floor - you can only soak it up so quickly. And in China's case, it's like the sink has overflowed and the water's going everywhere," he told Times Higher Education. "There's so much research that it's just impossible for potential partners to soak up all of that collaboration immediately, so it's going to take time."

Read the full article [here](#).

BRIEFING – RESEARCH SECURITY: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Russell Group | July 8, 2024

Universities are key to the UK's economic and national security. Russell Group universities contribute groundbreaking R&D, delivering innovations that are transforming the way the UK responds to global challenges such as climate change and pandemics, ensuring a safer and stronger nation. Our universities recognise the strength of their R&D in strategically important fields makes the UK a target for hostile international actors seeking to access and misappropriate university research for their own gain. Research security is a shared national responsibility, and our universities work closely with government departments and the security services to identify and tackle hostile activity. They have responded to emerging threats by bolstering internal defences with enhanced due diligence, targeted training programmes for key staff and robust policies aligned with government and sector guidance.

Read the full article [here](#).

SAFEGUARDING THE INTEGRITY OF SCIENCE: COMBATING THE PROLIFERATION OF SLOPPY RESEARCH

*Michael Lissack and Brenden Meagher | SSRN (formerly known as Social Science Research Network)
August 9, 2024*

The scientific enterprise is facing a credibility crisis, fueled partly by the proliferation of sloppy research practices. This commentary examines the role of academic publishers, particularly the fast-growing MDPI, in enabling and incentivizing the spread of hasty, overhyped, and poorly vetted science. We argue that the prioritization of quantity over quality, coupled with lax peer review and editorial oversight, is flooding the literature with unreliable and irreproducible findings. The consequences are especially dire in medicine and public health, where flawed research can mislead policy and erode public trust. Drawing on case studies and insights from the philosophy of science, we diagnose the root causes of this problem and propose a suite of remedies. These include realigning incentives to reward rigor and transparency, harnessing new technologies for enhanced scrutiny and reproducibility, and fostering a culture of active self-correction.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The Research and Innovation Security and Competitiveness Institute



USEFUL RESOURCES

INTELLIGENCE THREATS & SOCIAL MEDIA DECEPTION

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center

Do you want to connect? Understand that foreign intelligence entities and criminals routinely use deception on social media platforms to try and connect with people who have access to information they want. Before you link online with someone you don't know, think about the risks it may pose to yourself, your family, your organization and even national security.

THE "NEVERNIGHT CONNECTION"

The FBI and the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) have released a new movie, "The Neveeright Connection," to raise awareness of how hostile actors use fake profiles and other forms of deception on social media to target individuals in government, business and academic communities for recruitment and information gathering.

View the full resource [here](#).

VIRTUAL TELEWORK PLATFORMS: STRENGTHEN YOUR POSTURE TO GUARD YOUR DATA

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center

THREAT

Greater workforce use of virtual telework platforms has broadened the virtual threat landscape, giving more opportunities for foreign intelligence entities and other malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities to access sensitive personal, corporate, and government information.

View the full resource [here](#).

U.S. GOVERNMENT NATIONAL STANDARDS STRATEGY FOR CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES (USG NSSCET): IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

The White House

The ability of the United States to sustain a position of global technological leadership is directly related to sustained strategic and tactical U.S. engagement in standards for critical and emerging technologies (CETs). The United States' approach of leveraging the contributions of private sector innovators and government supported research and development has fueled competitiveness and technological progress to the benefit of the U.S. and global economy. These contributions have also ensured strong and impactful technical contributions to standards. The U.S. standardization system is a decentralized, bottom up, sector-based approach led by the private sector to develop market-driven, voluntary, consensus-based standards physical and natural world, the cosmos, society, and of humans—their minds, bodies, and economic and other social interactions.

View the full resource [here](#).

TRUSTED RESEARCH GUIDANCE FOR ACADEMICS

UK National Protective Security Authority | July 2024

Trusted Research supports the integrity of the system of international research collaboration, which is vital to the continued success of the UK's research and innovation sector. It is particularly relevant to researchers in STEM subjects, dual-use technologies, emerging technologies and commercially sensitive research areas. The advice has been produced in consultation with the research and university community and is designed to help the UK's world-leading research and innovation sector get the most out of international scientific collaboration whilst protecting intellectual property, sensitive research and personal information.

View the full resource [here](#).

OVERSIGHT OF SECURITY-SENSITIVE RESEARCH MATERIAL IN UK UNIVERSITIES: GUIDANCE

Universities UK | July 2021

Universities play a vital role in carrying out research on issues where security-sensitive material is relevant. This guidance document concerns the storage and circulation of security-sensitive research material. If circulated carelessly, such material is sometimes open to misinterpretation by the authorities, and can put researchers in danger of arrest and prosecution under, for example, counterterrorism legislation.¹ Procedures for independently registering and storing this material – through research ethics processes – are recommended in this guidance.

View the full resource [here](#).

G7 COMMON VALUES AND PRINCIPLES ON RESEARCH SECURITY AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY

G7 Working Group on the Security and Integrity of the Global Research Ecosystem (SIGRE) | June 2022

Vision

The 2021 G7 Research Compact states:

We commit to promoting international research cooperation and the conditions of freedom, independence, openness, reciprocity and transparency under which it flourishes. Our governments have the right and responsibility to effectively ensure the security and integrity of the research ecosystem, in partnership with the research community, preventing the theft, misuse, and inappropriate exploitation of our intellectual property and personal data, and other forms of misconduct. The G7 members envision the continuation of a collaborative research system where the importance of all talent – domestic and international – is acknowledged. Openness and security are not contradictory but complementary and mutually reinforcing.

View the full resource [here](#).

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