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Upcoming Events and Conferences

1. 2022/10/14 OSTP Community Briefing on Research Security Updates



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 **FEDERAL REGISTER**
The Daily Journal of the United States Government 

 Notice

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comment Regarding Common Disclosure Forms for the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support

A Notice by the [National Science Foundation](#) on 08/31/2022

There will be a virtual community briefing with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Federal agency leaders, and fellow members of the U.S. research community on progress related to implementing National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM)-33 on research security. The briefing is by invitation only and will be held on Friday, October 14, from 1:30-2:30pm ET.

OSTP published a [blog post](#) providing a broad overview of the Federal government's progress. As part of that update, OSTP announced [a Federal Register notice](#) requesting public comment on draft standardized formats for the disclosure of information to assess researchers' potential conflicts of interest and commitment. Comment period will end on October 31, 2022. During the community briefing, OSTP will discuss this opportunity for public comment and also will provide an opportunity for Q&A.

We urge all scientists and researchers, especially those of Chinese and Asian descent, to pay attention to these developments, take time from their busy schedules to review the draft standardized formats, and provide their feedback in a timely manner. The recent "China Initiative" was a hard lesson to be learned. If we do not pay enough attention to these developments, we will suffer the consequences.

The briefing will be led by Dr. **Christina Ciocca Eller**, OSTP Assistant Director of Evidence and Policy, as well as colleagues from OSTP and several of the co-chairs of the National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Research Security.

Christina also spoke about these topics at the September 2022 APA Justice monthly meeting. A summary of her report is located here: <https://bit.ly/3LTvK6n>

2. 2022/10/19 Pathways for U.S.-China Research Collaboration



Asia Society Northern California and UC Berkeley School of Law's Center for Law & Technology for an in-person discussion on Pathways for U.S.-China Research Collaboration on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

The ability of the U.S. and China to collaborate in private and public scientific research increasingly looms as a challenge that can affect all of humanity in our efforts to address pandemics, global climate change, and other shared human and planetary challenges. To some observers, however, research has become impossible due to concerns over national security, human rights, and theft.

The program will first examine the risks of U.S.-China technology collaboration, look at the impact of the FBI's China Initiative, how China's own practices and policies may put such collaboration at risk, and the risks posed by collaboration in fundamental research and in sector-specific areas. It will then look at steps that can be taken to reduce the risks of collaboration. The discussions will look at all aspects of research: government to government, corporate, non-profit, and academic.

This will be a hybrid program, with both in-person and virtual attendees. Read more about the program and register here: <https://bit.ly/3Cg5xuj>

3. 2022/11/11-12 30th Anniversary Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO)



Friday-Saturday, November 11-12

The dramatic rise of anti-Chinese animus globally in response to the Covid pandemic has shaken many diasporic communities to the core. The resurgent Sinophobia has heightened social awareness among diasporic Chinese and revitalized engagement on an unprecedented scale that crosses generations and national, linguistic, and class boundaries. At the same time, the competition for economic and technological hegemony between the US and China has reached new levels of intensity and, indeed, hostility that is forcing a geopolitical realignment. In an era when China is perceived as more a threat than an opportunity, ethnic Chinese have become victims of collateral damage.

This hybrid conference brings together hundreds of scholars from across the globe to share their research on these issues. There is a fee to attend in person at the Kabuki Hotel, San Francisco, and advance registration is required - deadline October 18. Read more about the conference and register (free) to attend any of the five plenary sessions via Zoom Webinar at <https://bit.ly/3ym44lg>

4. 2022/11/16 National Asian American Education Leadership Organizational Meeting

Progress and Status of a National Leadership Conversation
Date: Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 12:43 PM

Dear Asian American colleagues,

Thank you for reading [our initial email](#) offering the idea of establishing a national discussion and support group for Asian American higher education leaders. Not only has the response been positive, we have also received the attention of some national education groups and some media. Clearly the main response is “let’s get this going” and/or “I want to participate”. We did hear from some “veterans” who wished such a group existed when they first became a senior administrator.

On July 12, 2022, **Les Wong**, President Emeritus of San Francisco State University, and **Frank Wu**, President of Queen's College of the City University of New York (CUNY), put out an [initial call](#) to explore the creation of an Executive network of educational leaders of Asian descent.

On September 26, 2022, Les and Frank, along with **Clarence Kwan**, **Soniya Munchi**, and **Jeremy Wu** sent a [joint message](#) on the progress and status of this effort. With Frank's help, the Asian American/Asian Research Institute (AARI) at CUNY under the leadership of Interim Executive Director Dr. Soniya Munshi has agreed to possibly sponsor or help coordinate the first national meeting. A core group will meet in New York City on November 16, 2022. The potential first national meeting will be during spring semester 2023. "We have no idea whether it will be face to face, zoom or a hybrid. We hope to 'start' the conversation, meet one another and listen to what participants want out of this discussion," the joint message said.

In addition, "[w]e are still trying to identify Asian American academic leaders. Our list grows from deans and chairs to presidents. We are not sure how to define membership. But with the importance of the pipeline and mentoring, the question is ready for our national discussion. If you know of Asian Americans who are sitting in Chair, President/Chancellor, Vice President, Dean, or equivalent positions, please send us their names."

Please don't be shy about contacting any of the five of us. We look forward to your participation and your support.

- Les Wong lewong@sfsu.edu
- Frank Wu fwu@qc.cuny.edu
- Clarence Kwan clarencetquan@gmail.com
- Soniya Munshi smunshi@aaari.info
- Jeremy Wu jeremy.s.wu@gmail.com

Update on Opposition to Casey Arrowood Nomination

We are continuing to work with community organizations and leaders to raise awareness about our opposition to the nomination of **Casey Arrowood** to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District

of Tennessee, including messages and briefings to staffers for members of the Senate Judiciary Committee (SJC) and monitoring the [SJC calendar on the nomination](#). To date, there is no scheduled meeting or hearing on the nomination. There are five possible outcomes: (a) No action will be taken in this Congress that ends in December, (b) White House withdraws the nomination, (c) SJC conducts investigation before a decision, (d) Arrowood withdraws his nomination, and (e) the SJC confirms the nomination.

On September 2, 2022, the Department of Justice (DOJ) [responded](#) to the [June 17, 2021 request](#) by Reps. **Ted Lieu**, **Mondaire Jones**, and **Pramila Jayapal** for an investigation into DOJ's handling of the investigation and prosecution of University of Tennessee at Knoxville Professor **Anming Hu** in the case captioned [United States v. Hu, No. 3:20-cr-00021](#) (E.D. Tenn.), stating that "[a]fter receipt of your letter from the Office of the Inspector General, OPR [Office of Professional Responsibility] opened an inquiry into the initiation and handling of the Hu case." In addition, "OPR identified no evidence that the prosecution was motivated by the defendant's race, ethnicity, or national origin." However, the DOJ letter contains a number of gaps, such as the date when the OPR study was completed.

We urge all concerned organizations and individuals, especially constituents of the SJC members, to inform their congressional delegation (2 Senators and 1 Representative) about the problematic nomination.

Read more about the continuing development: <https://bit.ly/3R6bP5w>

Hateful Racist Name-calling by Donald Trump and Quandary of Scientists

2022/09/30 Hateful Racist Name-calling by Donald Trump. On September 30, 2022, former president **Donald Trump** used social media to attack Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell** and described his wife, former Transportation Secretary **Elaine Chao**, as the senator's "China loving wife, Coco Chow!" The hateful racist name-calling was widely condemned by the [Committee of 100](#), GOP congressional candidate [Allan Fung](#), and [United Chinese Americans](#). While president, Trump used slurs such as "China Virus" and "Kung Flu" to fuel anti-Asian hate and started the ill-conceived "China Initiative."

2022/10/02 Los Angeles Times Op-ed. On October 2, 2022, the *Los Angeles Times* published [an op-ed](#) titled The Quandary of U.S.-trained Chinese scientists: Stay or Leave? "Would you train your workers and then squeeze them out by creating a hostile environment? Would you drive out these workers so they can go work for a competitor? The answer is obviously no. Yet this is what's happening now in the U.S., with a rising number of U.S.-trained Chinese scientists leaving this country,"

In 2021 alone, 1,400 U.S.-trained scientists have left their corporate positions or relinquished tenured positions at top-tier American universities such as Harvard, MIT and Princeton. This trend has grown since former President Trump promoted anti-China rhetoric during his term. To

make things worse, many of these Chinese scientists are returning to China to compete against the United States.

Why would these U.S.-trained Chinese scientists give up their secure and prestigious positions in this country? Why do Chinese students seek their higher education elsewhere?

The op-ed cited three factors:

- Mistrust and the hunt for spies among Chinese Americans have long been present in U.S. history. Under the Trump administration, the Department of Justice launched a program called the China Initiative in 2018 that was intended to counter theft of U.S. secrets and technology. Many scientists of Chinese descent have been falsely accused of spying for China, and many of them have been interrogated by FBI agents.
- Many Asian Americans, despite having a strong presence in corporate America, are virtually absent in the executive suites and feel least included at the workplace. In fact, Asian American workers are the least likely group to be promoted to management — even less likely than Black and Latino workers.
- Many people of Chinese descent feel they have been made scapegoats for the spread of the coronavirus. This negative sentiment has triggered a staggering increase of hate crimes against Asians — by 339% in 2021. Heightened safety concerns over hate crimes against Asians have nudged more Chinese scholars to leave and discouraged Chinese students from coming to the U.S.

Read the op-ed here: <https://lat.ms/3RIZMuS>

2022/10/03 Asia Sentinel. On October 3, *Asia Sentinel* reported that Chinese Academics in US Increasingly Going Home Out of Fear. According to the report, the United States is paying a heavy price for the China Initiative, the 2018 probe of academic and economic spying begun by then-President **Donald Trump** which has driven up the number of Chinese-born academics departing back to China by 40 percent, according to a new study by the Asian American [Scholar] Forum.

The US loss has been China's gain. The returning academicians have steadily moved into top positions in academia and industry, "lured to return to China by a combination of factors: large and fast-growing investments in science, high social prestige and attractive financial rewards tied to positions in Chinese institutions, and capable research collaborators and assistants."

Read more about the *Asia Sentinel* report: <https://bit.ly/3fJwHSW>

On July 15, 2019, **Frank Wu**, current President of Queen's College, published an opinion at *Inside Higher Ed* titled Attacking Chinese on Our Campuses Only Hurts America. Frank opined that "The joke going around campuses is that the fear of Chinese coming to steal secrets has it backward: if the Chinese do not come, there will be no secrets to steal."

The risk is of a self-fulfilling prophecy: if Chinese are driven out of America, it will very likely benefit China with a brain drain in reverse.

Read more about Frank's 2019 opinion: <http://bit.ly/2XR2CIM>

New from the Federal Government

1. Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights



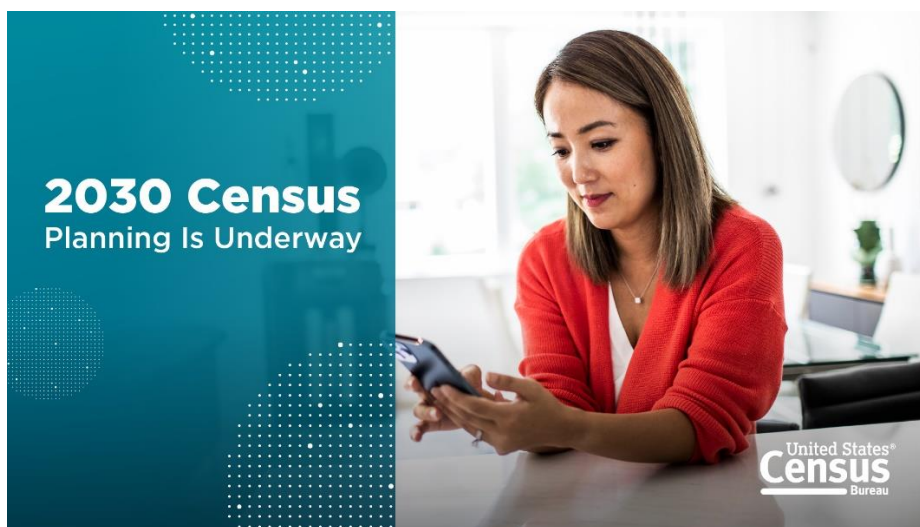
On October 4, 2022, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) announced a [Blueprint for an AI \(Artificial Intelligence\) Bill of Rights](#), which outlines five protections Americans should have in the AI age. According to the announcement, among the great challenges posed to democracy today is the use of technology, data, and automated systems in ways that threaten the rights of the American public. The important progress with technology and data must not come at the price of civil rights or democratic values, foundational American principles. On his first day in office, President Biden [ordered](#) the full Federal government to root out inequity, embed fairness in decision-making processes, and affirmatively advance civil rights, equal opportunity, and racial justice in America.

According to a [MIT Technology Review](#) report, the announcement is the White House's vision of how the US government, technology companies, and citizens should work together to hold AI accountable. However, critics say the plan lacks teeth and the US needs even tougher regulation around AI.

In September, the administration [announced](#) core principles for tech accountability and reform, such as stopping discriminatory algorithmic decision-making, promoting competition in the technology sector, and providing federal protections for privacy. The AI Bill of Rights is a blueprint for how to achieve those goals. It provides practical guidance to government agencies and a call to action for technology companies, researchers, and civil society to build these protections.

AI is a powerful technology that is transforming our societies. It also has the potential to cause serious harm, which often disproportionately affects minorities. The new blueprint aims to redress that balance. It says that Americans should be protected from unsafe or ineffective systems; that algorithms should not be discriminatory and systems should be used as designed in an equitable way; and that citizens should have agency over their data and should be protected from abusive data practices through built-in safeguards. Citizens should also know whenever an automated system is being used on them and understand how it contributes to outcomes. Finally, people should always be able to opt out of AI systems in favor of a human alternative and have access to remedies when there are problems.

2. Not Too Early to Think About the 2030 Census



The Census Bureau started its early planning for the 2030 Census in fiscal year 2019. The once-a-decade census determines how many congressional seats each state gets and the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending each year. Its results are used for redrawing political districts. The 2020 census was one of the most challenging in recent memory not only because of the attempts at political interference but also because of the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.

According to [NPR](#), [H.R.8326 - Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act](#) passed the House by a 220-208 vote along party lines, but its Senate path is unclear.

On September 13, 2022, the Brennan Center for Justice published a paper titled "[Improving the Census](#)." The think tank, which opposed the Trump administration's efforts to end the U.S. head count early, makes 19 proposals to ensure that future counts will be more accurate, equitable, and legitimate.

On August 17, 2022, the Census Bureau announced in the Federal Register [Soliciting Input or](#)

[Suggestions on 2030 Census Preliminary Research](#). The comment period ends on November 15, 2022.

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