

"China Initiative" and Racial Profiling Harm America

On February 26, 2021, Science published an editorial titled [Clarity on the crackdown](#) regarding the "China Initiative." According to the editorial, what is concerning are the prosecutorial methods wielded under the "China Initiative." Many outstanding scientists, mostly Chinese American, are being investigated for not properly disclosing certain associations with China. Even routine responsibilities, such as recommending students for jobs and awards, or serving as a reviewer on grants, are being portrayed as crimes. Some professors and many trainees have had to leave their positions or training after the termination of grants from U.S. agencies. The scale and obscurity of these matters threaten to damage research and innovation in the United States as Chinese and Chinese American scientists find themselves under constant suspicion for activities that are routine in academic collaborations.

On February 22, 2021, Lawfare published [The Biden Administration Should Review and Rebuild the Trump Administration's China Initiative From the Ground Up](#). Citing the racial profiling concerns from the Asian American community, including [the coalition letter to President Biden led by Advancing Justice | AAJC](#) and the work of Seton Hall Professor Margaret Lewis, the article concludes that

In the China Initiative, questions of geopolitics and national security have collided with concerns over civil rights and academic freedom. Given the history and severity of current concerns, the onus is on U.S. federal agencies to demonstrate that they are proactively countering historic inequities, reversing systematic racism in the nation's institutions, and ensuring that enforcement of the laws will be fair and unbiased. The Biden administration has an important mandate to guarantee that the geopolitical threats America confronts today are tackled in a manner consistent with the nation's highest values. Doing so will not sacrifice national security—if anything, it will strengthen it.

APA Justice Is Now on Twitter

Thanks to Harvard Professor Zhigang Suo for bringing us into the 21st century, APA Justice is now on Twitter. Join us for the latest at [@apa_justice](#) or https://twitter.com/apa_justice

Preparing Testimonies in a House Hearing

On February 24, 2021, Mike German, Fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice, testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security in a hearing on the rise of domestic terrorism in America. He spoke about the problem of white supremacist and far-right violence, undergirded by the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, and outlined the appropriate steps Congress should take to address this persistent threat to our country. His written testimony

provides an example for potential witnesses to prepare in similar congressional hearings: <http://bit.ly/3sswtRi>.

Thanks to the Federation of American Scientists for capturing a copy of this guide on "House Committee Hearings: Witness Testimony" by the Congressional Research Service: <https://bit.ly/3bMMfjk>

APA Justice endorses Queens College President and national civil rights leader Frank Wu to be a witness to appear as a coalition representative of non-profit/tax-exempt organizations in the requested hearing with the House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Frank's exemplary work includes this op-ed for Inside Higher Ed: <http://bit.ly/2XR2CIM>. Complete this online form to get started: <http://bit.ly/2Nvs1ll>. The interested parties and Frank will have to reach mutual agreement to proceed. There is no guarantee that the hearing will take place, and if it takes place, that Frank will be called as a witness.

Webinars and Petitions

On February 24, 2021, the third in a series of webinars on the "China Initiative" was held on the topic of Building Coalition Against "China Initiative" Discrimination. CAPAC Chair Rep. Judy Chu kicked off the webinar with inspiring remarks. Among the most notable comment received about the webinar was: "The webinar was outstanding. As an African American, most of my childhood has been spent living through this Black vs White lens, and it was not only insightful but moving to hear the numbers and stories of marginalized Asian Americans and the hatred that has become so normalized. Representative Chu and the president emeritus from SF State and others introduced points that will make it easier for me, an outsider to the Asian-American experience, to listen and make change." A video recording of the webinar is posted at <https://bit.ly/3bP198m> (video 1:16:13). Learn more about the webinar series co-hosted by Advancing Justice | AAJC, APA Justice, APAPA, Brennan Center for Justice, and UCA: https://bit.ly/APAJ_Webinar_Series

On March 4, 2021, Advancing Justice | AAJC will host a webinar titled Federal Grant Applications in the Era of the "China Initiative": How to Avoid Trouble, featuring John Yang, Peter Zeidenberg, and Catherine Pan-Giordano. Read more and register for the event at <http://bit.ly/3uAYt6T>

On March 6, 2021, Chinese American Scholar Forum will host a webinar titled DOJ's China Initiative: Perspectives on How It Makes America Stronger or Weaker, featuring Chief of the Counterintelligence and Export Control Section (CES) of the National Security Division at DOJ Jay Bratt and Seton Hall University law Professor Margaret Lewis. Register for the event here: <http://bit.ly/3dZgq9H>

On March 8, 2021, Colorado State University will host a webinar titled "Scientific Espionage, Open Exchange, and American Competitiveness," featuring Professor Xiaoxing Xi of Temple University. The event is co-hosted by Office of International Programs, College of Natural Sciences, and Department of Physics at CSU. APA Justice will provide Zoom support to the event. Read more and register here: <http://bit.ly/2NYEu1k>

On March 11, 2021, SupChina will host a webinar titled "The China Initiative: The ethnic targeting of Chinese scientists and the subsequent brain drain," featuring Catherine Pan and James Mulvenon. Additional descriptions and registration for the event is available at: <http://bit.ly/3q1fuDQ>

The "We are all Gang Chen" petition has exceeded 1,000 co-signers. It will try to reach 1,500 next. Join at <https://bit.ly/36A4kiw>

The Union of Concerned Scientists started a letter campaign to President Biden on his pledges to listen to scientists. It is available here: <http://bit.ly/3b0DZwK>

Statistics about Chinese Students

On February 18, 2021, [the Council of Graduate Schools](#) released [new data](#) showing that although international graduate application rates increased at U.S. universities for Fall 2020, first-time enrollment declined substantially. Final application counts from prospective international graduate students increased by 3% between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020, but first-time enrollment decreased by 39%. While the first-time enrollment at the master's level declined (-43%) at a higher rate than at the doctoral level (-26%), the rate of decline was consistent across institutional types. In China and India, two countries that consistently represent the largest shares of international graduate applications, first-time enrollments, and total enrollments, there were significant decreases in first-time graduate enrollment, -37% and -66%, respectively.

According to an October 2020 report titled "[Estimating the Number of Chinese STEM Students in the United States](#)" published by the Center for Security and Emerging Technology at Georgetown University for academic year 2018/19, there were around 46,000 Chinese undergraduates, an estimated 40,000 master's students, and an estimated 36,000 Ph.D. students across six main STEM fields at U.S. universities. At the undergraduate level, around one-third of all Chinese students at U.S. universities are in STEM fields, compared to more than half at the graduate level.

Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

On February 25, 2021, the Washington Post published a front-page story titled 'Nobody came, nobody helped': Fears of anti-Asian violence rattle the community. Across the nation from New York to San Francisco, anti-Asian hate crimes are on the rise, especially against the elderly. Read more about these stories at <https://bit.ly/2KC7zuk>

According to USA Today on February 27, 2021, a recent federal report warned that at least 40% of hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents went unreported to authorities, and that victims commonly said it's a low priority for police to investigate. The report compared data from a national crime victim survey to federal statistics, highlighting that while there was an average of 204,600 hate crimes experienced by the public, only 7,500 victims were counted by the FBI because the incidents were either not reported to police, not investigated by officers, or not submitted to the national database.

On March 4, 2021, the 1990 Institute will host a webinar on Protecting Asian Americans in Violent Times, featuring community leaders from both the Asian American and the Black communities to share their ideas for addressing these issues. More information and registration to the event at: <http://bit.ly/3uGu8nH>

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