

‘New Cold War’ will hurt researchers everywhere

On October 20, 2020, Science | Business published [How a ‘new Cold War’ between China and US will hurt researchers everywhere](#). Researchers predict the US government crackdown on Chinese involvement in US science will be maintained, and the current political tension between the two nations will persist, no matter who wins next month’s US presidential election.

Included in the report: This suspicion of Chinese and Chinese-American scientists is having a big impact on individuals, says Gisela Kusakawa of the Asian Americans Advancing Justice group, which offers legal support. “It’s a pattern of heightened scrutiny on one group. Often times we’ll see cases involving researchers of Chinese descent, where their lives have been left in shambles by investigations,” Kusakawa said. “Because of over-zealous prosecutions, based on racial bias, lives have been upended.” Many of the charges against Chinese researchers do not come up to the level of economic espionage or IP theft, Kusakawa says. “A lot are for minor issues, which would normally be handled internally in universities,” she said.

There has been “disproportionate targeting” of Chinese in the US, and it has grown worse since the COVID-19 outbreak, said Yangyang Cheng, a physicist at Cornell University in New York. “The hostile environment is not just because of the ‘Chinese initiative’,” Cheng said. “American society has become more explicitly racist towards Chinese people.”

A Culture of Silence? Reports from SupChina and Aljazeera

On October 22, 2020, SupChina published [Can WeChat be woke? The progressive Chinese Americans countering right-wing narratives](#). The loudest voices on WeChat in the U.S. have long been those of conservative, first-generation immigrants from mainland China who support Trump. But recently, some liberal Chinese Americans have begun working harder to make their voices heard on the platform.

On October 16, 2020, Aljazeera reports on [America's Anti-Asian Pandemic](#) with a video (25:15). They have been stabbed, had acid thrown at them and barred from public transport. This is now a reality for some Asian Americans bearing the brunt of increasing tensions between the United States and China. The COVID-19 pandemic and US presidential race are creating the perfect storm, as experts warn the two countries could be heading towards a new Cold War. As President Donald Trump blames China for the virus, two-thirds of surveyed Americans say they do not trust the country and Americans of Asian descent are increasingly being violently attacked. 101 East investigates what the battle of the superpowers means for Asian Americans.

Data and Research Needs for the Asian American Community

On October 18, 2020, USA Today published [Asian Americans in San Francisco are dying at alarming rates from COVID-19: Racism is to blame](#). COVID-19 is killing Asian Americans in the Bay Area. The article investigates how systemic racism is driving high death rates with facts and statistics.

On October 20, 2020, NBC News reported [Why the Asian American Covid data picture is so incomplete](#). It describes how undertesting, stigma and a lack of disaggregated data have complicated the depiction of how the pandemic is affecting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The following are a few known studies of COVID-19's impact on the Asian American community. More research is needed, but it will also require accurate and reliable data that are lacking.

2020/10/20 Ohio State University: [Study reveals why some blame Asian Americans for COVID-19](#)

2020/10/19 University of Kansas: [Asian Americans More Affected by Pandemic-Related Unemployment Than Any Other Racial Group](#)

2020/06/12 Frontiers in Communications: [Prejudice Toward Asian Americans in the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Effects of Social Media Use in the United States](#)

2020/04/30 University of Maryland Baltimore County: [Racism and Discrimination Facing Asian-American Youth, Families](#)

ASA Task Force on the 2020 Census

On October 23, 2020, Science Magazine published [Census needs review, panel says](#). According to the report, the American Statistical Association has assembled a task force to report publicly on whether the Census Bureau has met its goal of "counting everyone once, and only once, and in the right place." The task force was prompted by what it regards as unprecedented political interference by President Donald Trump's administration into the \$15 billion decennial head count conducted by the nation's largest statistical agency. The twist is the latest in the troubled 2020 census, which went live on 1 April after 10 years of planning. Task force members say an independent assessment is needed "to restore public confidence in the 2020 census."

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