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Repair the Damage Done by DOJ Wrongly Targeting Chinese Scientists



On June 29, 2022, *The Hill* published an opinion titled "Repair the damage done by DOJ wrongly targeting Chinese scientists" by Stanford University Professors **Steven A. Kivelson** and **Peter F. Michelson**, who also spearheaded an open letter by 177 Stanford faculty members to Attorney General Merrick Garland in September 2021, calling for an end to the "China Initiative." The nationwide campaign was joined by a total of more than 3,100 faculty members, representing over 240 educational and research institutions from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The Department of Justice ended the "China Initiative" in name on February 23, 2022. Read more about the End The China Initiative campaign at: <https://bit.ly/2ZC12up>

According to the opinion, the "China Initiative" was a wrong-headed response to a real issue. To begin repairing the damage done, the United States government and U.S. research universities should actively promote open scientific collaboration with scientists and students in and from China, and from around the world. This is essential not only to justify our self-image as the land of opportunity, but also because U.S. international leadership in science and technology relies on these talented immigrants.

Theft of information essential to our national security is very much on the minds of U.S. legislators and the executive branch. Some countries — China and Russia being examples — do not adhere to the codes of conduct that we espouse. (As an aside, one can wonder whether our country is as deferential to the dictates of international law as we should be.) But an effective response to this challenge is not to curtail scientific exchanges between the United States and the rest of world — most especially not between the U.S. and China.

The vast majority of scientists — especially those in academia engaged in [fundamental research](#) — are much alike, around the world, in their dedicated pursuit of new knowledge. The results of research carried out by academic scientists are disseminated in openly published papers. A university-based scientist garners prestige and advancement by publishing in [high-](#)

[impact journals](#). Publications are increasingly [internationally co-authored](#), with scientists in China now the largest group of international collaborators working with U.S. scientists. Indeed, it is forbidden by most U.S. universities for faculty to engage in classified research on campus. Even proprietary research is highly constrained and relatively rare. Important national or industrial secrets cannot be stolen by foreign agents infiltrating U.S. universities for the simple reason that such secrets are, by design, not to be found there.

Great universities, both here and abroad, produce highly trained science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates. The positive impact of scientists and engineers on the well-being of our country is well established. We have led the world for decades in the creativity and effectiveness of our scientific and engineering enterprises, powered not only by our home-grown workforce, but also by our ability to attract the most talented graduates of premier universities from around the world.

Our World War II victory and success in the Cold War that followed, were significantly assisted by the brilliant scientific establishment that we inherited — almost overnight — from the German diaspora fleeing nascent Nazi Germany to positions in universities and government laboratories in the United States. Our science and engineering strength has relied on immigrants from around the world, but particularly from China, India and several other countries.

Professors Kivelson and Michelson have experienced the lingering negative effects of the "China Initiative" within their immediate community. Distressingly, many of their colleagues of Chinese origin in both research and teaching have recently begun to feel unwelcomed in our country. For many years, they have read applications to the graduate class in their department from astounding young Chinese scholars who are notable not only for their educational achievements, but also for their idealism. Sadly, they have noticed a precipitous decline in these applications in the last couple of years. They attribute this, at least in part, to the chilling effect of the "China Initiative."

Read more about *The Hill* Opinion: <https://bit.ly/3yeeu5u>

2022/07/11 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

FAS Senate
AN ELECTED BODY OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES
YALE UNIVERSITY

April 28, 2022

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate Resolution
Regarding the University's response to the China Initiative and Policies related to
inquiries from Federal Agencies
APPROVED April 28, 2022

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Yale University (FAS) was established as an elected representative body by a vote of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences;

WHEREAS, Yale's commitment to Excellence in Teaching and Research are core values that require attracting and retaining top faculty internationally;

WHEREAS, the China Initiative, started under the Trump Administration by the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Federal agencies including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in November 2018, has been criticized as being racially biased and disproportionate, and concluded in name under Biden Administration in February 2022;

WHEREAS, the FBI and/or the NIH investigated several Yale faculty and community members of Chinese heritage as a part of the China initiative, resulting in at least one Yale faculty member placed on academic leave by the University related to these investigations;

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Two Rooftop Pools & Sundeck
Contact: Perregrino City

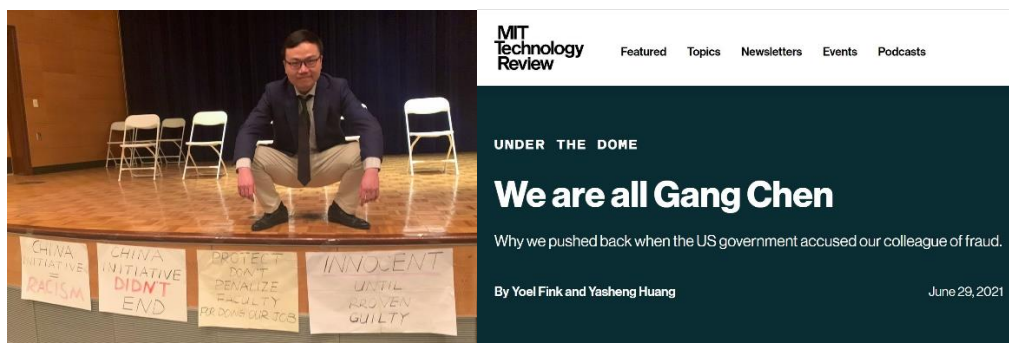
**Packing
Shipping**
The UPS Store

LIANG & ZHU: Lies and Spies
ALEX LIANG & MIRILLA ZHU | 1:43 AM, NOV 19, 2021
GUEST COLUMNISTS

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Apartments
in Arlington,
VA



The next APA Justice monthly meeting will be held on Monday, July 11, 2022. In addition to updates by **Nisha Ramachandran**, Executive Director, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and **Gisela Kusakawa**, Assistant Director, Anti-Racial Profiling Project, Advancing Justice | AAJC, the theme of the meeting will focus on the [Yale Faculty of Arts and Science Senate \(FASS\) resolution](#) passed on April 28, 2022.

It was RESOLVED that

- FASS urges the University to provide transparency regarding past and ongoing investigation of Yale community members related to the China Initiative, and the University's response to these investigations; and
- FASS urges the University to establish a committee to evaluate, define and protect the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of faculty and administration in cases involving the investigation of faculty by outside agencies.

Yale FASS President **Dr. Valerie Horsley** and Senator **Dr. Jing Han** have accepted our invitation to speak at the meeting. They will provide background to the resolution, as well as updates and follow-up actions and reactions.

In November 2021, two Yale University undergraduate students - **Alex Liang** and **Mirilla Zhu** - wrote a guest column titled "[Lies and Spies](#)" in the *Yale Daily News*, bringing awareness to the Yale campus about the "China Initiative" and the increased targeting of scientists at American universities for administrative errors unrelated to espionage, such as failing to properly disclose relationships with China's universities in grant applications and routine paperwork.

In January 2022, 192 Yale faculty members wrote [an open letter](#) to Attorney General Merrick Garland calling for the end of the "China Initiative," joining the [nationwide campaign](#) started by [177 Stanford faculty members](#). The Department of Justice [announced](#) the end of the "China Initiative" in February 2022.

Alex and Mirilla will tell the story of their guest column and their perspectives of events that followed on the Yale campus.

The *Yale Daily News* is the nation's oldest college daily newspaper and has been financially and

editorially independent since its founding on January 28, 1878. It publishes Monday through Friday during the academic year and serves the communities of Yale and New Haven, Connecticut.

Less than a month after the announced end of the "China Initiative," **Issac Yu**, Staff Reporter for the *Yale Daily News*, broke the news that Professor **Haifan Lin**, a School of Medicine professor and Director of the Stem Cell Center was suspended amid a Department of Justice and National Institutes of Health investigation that may be related to the "China Initiative."

The Yale FASS resolutions have apparent applicability to and potential impact on the transparency and accountability of U.S. universities as well as the protection of their faculty members. [MIT Professor Gang Chen](#), an innocent victim of the "China Initiative," and MIT Professor **Yoel Fink**, a co-author of the "[We Are All Gang Chen](#)" letter to the MIT President, have accepted our invitation to speak about their experience and the Yale FASS resolution.

Professor X. **Edward Guo**, Department of Biomedical Engineering will also speak about the situation and experience at Columbia University and the potential applicability of the Yale FASS resolution.

The virtual monthly meeting is by invitation only. If you wish to join, either one time or for future meetings, please contact one of the co-organizers of APA Justice - Steven Pei, Vincent Wang, and Jeremy Wu - or send a message to contact@apajustice.org. Read past monthly meeting summaries here: <https://bit.ly/3kxkqXP>

2022 Chinese American Convention & UCA National Youth Convention



The 2022 Chinese American Convention & UCA National Youth Convention will be held on July 14-16, 2022, in Washington, DC.

Chinese American Convention (美国华人大会), a national and open convening platform for Chinese communities first started in 2016, is organized by United Chinese Americans (UCA), a national community-based coalition and civic movement. This Convention typically will bring together hundreds of community and civic leaders, activists, elected officials, academics as well as business leaders and entrepreneurs from across the country. They come together to discuss issues of concern to them, share and compare unique experiences, forge consensus

and common agenda, and explore opportunities to work together.

The UCA National Youth Convention is a cultural and political experience that seeks to empower Asian American youth through exploring identity and community.

Register for the event here: <https://bit.ly/3nCX3GV>

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