**Chinese scientists leaving the U.S. as many feel unwelcomed**

**BY RANDALL, AsAM News, AUGUST 7, 2023**

**The number of Chinese scientists leaving the United States has increased at a rapid pace for more than a decade, new research has found**.

The study by PNAS, a peer-reviewed journal of the National Academy of Sciences, found what it called “widespread fear among scientists of Chinese descent in the United States arising from conducting routine research and academic activities.”

A breakdown of that study by Chemistry World revealed nearly 20,000 Chinese scientists who began their careers in the United States have left for other countries, including China.

The number of departures increased from 900 in 2010 to 2621 in 2021. The rate of researchers leaving increased by 75% since 2018, the year then-President Trump launched the China Initiative, an initiative intended to root out economic espionage from China but resulted in a number of false prosecutions, ruined lives and the vast majority of cases being dropped.

The Brennan Center says out of more than 2,000 investigations under the China Initiative, only 77 resulted in criminal charges over three years.

35% of 1304 Chinese scientists surveyed say they feel unwelcomed in the United States and 72% do not feel safe. 42% admit to being fearful of conducting research.

Yet 88% say they intend to contribute to US science and tech leadership.

‘These findings reveal that the widespread fear of conducting routine research and academic activities among scientists of Chinese descent, and the significant risks of losing talent culminated in hesitancy to remain in the US and contributing to federal sponsored research in science and technology,’ says study co-author Xihong Lin, to Chemistry World. “Addressing the fears of scientists of Chinese origin and making the academic environment welcoming and attractive for all will help retain and attract scientific talent and strengthen the US leadership in science and technology in the long run.”

The Biden Administration ended Trump’s China Initiative in February of 2022, three years after it began.

A number of high profile prosecution ended up being dropped or ending in acquittals including Anming Hu of the University of Tennessee and Gang Chen of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Civil rights groups blasted the China Initiative accusing it of resulting in racial profiling

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**Increasing number of Chinese researchers leaving the US out of fear, study says**

**Bryan Ke, *Yahoo News*, October 3, 2022**

**A new study suggests the number of Chinese researchers relocating to China from the United States is increasing despite the end of the controversial China Initiative earlier this year.**

The Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF) [published a report](https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/2209/2209.10642.pdf) titled “Caught in the Crossfire: Fears of Chinese-American Scientists” on Sept. 3.

In its study, the association presented the results of its national academic climate survey, showing that the number of Chinese researchers leaving the U.S. has grown since the U.S. Department of Justice launched its China Initiative in 2018.

“There has been a significant increase of Chinese-origin scientists returning to China in recent years despite them wanting to contribute to science and research in the United States,” Xihong Lin, AASF board member and co-chair of the association’s Data and Research Committee, said.

**More from NextShark:**[**K-Pop Fans Demolish Republican Congresswoman's Attempt to #ImpeachBidenNow on Twitter**](https://nextshark.com/impeach-biden-now-hashtag-kpop-stans/)

“The fear among Chinese-origin scientists is palpable and the U.S. runs a high risk of losing talent,” Lin continued. “We want to use our research to raise awareness of these concerns and continue the long history of the U.S. benefiting from attracting and retaining the best and brightest scientists and engineers from around the world.”

In collaboration with 11 Asian American organizations, **AASF surveyed over 1,300 Chinese-born faculty members across the country between December 2021 and March 2022. Around 89% of respondents said they “would like to contribute to the U.S. leadership in science and technology.”**

**However, of the survey's more than 1,300 respondents, around 61% said they feel pressured to leave the country. Around 47% of them said they would like to relocate to Asia, while 46% of them mentioned relocating to non-Asian countries.**

The **study also revealed the uneasiness Chinese researchers felt: 72% said they “do not feel safe as an academic researcher,” 42% said they are "fearful of conducting research" in the U.S. and 65% are "worried about collaborations with China."**

The report linked the growing exodus of Chinese researchers to the China Initiative, a security program launched in 2018 under the Trump administration. Although the program was [stopped earlier this year in February](https://nextshark.com/justice-departments-ends-china-initiative/) by the Biden administration, many researchers have still decided to leave the U.S.

“It is clear from our research that the impact of the chilling effect from the ‘China Initiative’ is far from over,” Yu Xie, co-chair of AASF’s Data and Research Committee, said. “We must address the fears of scientists of Asian origin so that we can make the academic environment welcoming and continue the global competitiveness and U.S. leadership in science and technology for future generations to come.”

In the report, **one respondent explained that the country's “anti-Chinese atmosphere” drove him to quit his academic position.**

“What I have experienced at my former institution was not only disgusting, but a system corruption that I believe [is] illegal,” the respondent, a self-described U.S. citizen and a former recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, said.

“I had never thought of somewhere in this county to be dark and corrupted like this. If I had, I would not have become a naturalized U.S. citizen, which I regret now. What I experienced not [only] ruined my academic career, but also destroyed my American dream.”

Some scholars think that there are [other factors to consider](https://estonianfreepress.com/news/united-states/chinese-researchers-leaving-the-u-s-amid-rising-tensions-study-finds/) besides the China Initiative that could be causing the exodus of Chinese researchers, including the [closure of several Confucius Institutes](https://nextshark.com/united-kingdom-taiwanese-teachers-phase-out-confucius-institutes/) across the U.S.

“I have a problem with the attempts, largely by innuendo, to link Chinese movements back to the mainland to the China Initiative,” Robert Heineman, a retired political science professor at Alfred University in New York, said.

**The number of graduate students coming to the U.S. from China has also reportedly dropped significantly. The Council of Graduate Schools reported that from fall 2020 to fall 2021, the number of applicants from China dropped by 16%,** while graduate program applicants from India rose by 36%.

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**Antisemitic incidents in the US are at the highest level recorded since the 1970s**

**By Krystina Shveda, CNN, March 23, 2023**

Antisemitic incidents in the US reached their highest level last year since the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a civil rights non-governmental organization, began recording them in 1979.

The incidents including assault, vandalism and harassment increased by more than a third in just one year and reached nearly 3,700 cases in 2022, a new ADL report published Thursday found.

And the upward trend is alarming.

Last October, a former student killed a University of Arizona professor who he believed to be Jewish, according to the ADL report. This February, a man was charged with two hate crimes after he allegedly shot two people who were exiting two separate synagogues in Los Angeles.

Earlier this month, Stanford University police launched a hate crime investigation after an antisemitic drawing containing swastikas and an image resembling Adolf Hitler was found on a Jewish student’s dorm room door.

“Despite the rise of antisemitism, there is still a perception in many people’s minds that Jews are not under threat, that they are successful and wealthy, and are not a targeted minority,” Mark Weitzman, scholar of the history of antisemitism and chief operating officer at The World Jewish Restitution Organization, told CNN.

The ADL report, which includes information gathered directly from victims and local community leaders, as well from police statistics, shows an increase across a range of hate-based incidents, from offensive comments to antisemitic slurs written on property, to physical attacks. In 2022, there was a 69% increase in attacks against visibly identifiable Orthodox Jews, the report found.

Los Angeles, CA - An LAPD Mounted Unit speaks with Rabbi Mendy Cunin as they patrol the Pico-Robertson neighborhood in Los Angeles on Friday, February 17, 2023 after the shootings of two Jewish men. (Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz/MediaNews Group/Los Angeles Daily News via Getty Images)

Los Angeles, CA - An LAPD Mounted Unit speaks with Rabbi Mendy Cunin as they patrol the Pico-Robertson neighborhood in Los Angeles on Friday, February 17, 2023 after the shootings of two Jewish men. (Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz/MediaNews Group/Los Angeles Daily News via Getty Images)

“The brazenness of these attacks, sometimes in broad daylight, is a huge concern,” Oren Segal, Vice President of the ADL Center on Extremism told CNN.

“The findings of our latest report quantify what a lot of people in the Jewish community have been feeling – that antisemitism seems to be popping up everywhere and often,” Segal said.

American Jews are disproportionately affected by hate crime compared to other religious groups, according to the FBI hate crime figures for 2021. Yet official law enforcement statistics of these incidents are notoriously underreported, experts told CNN. ADL records indicate that the number of anti-Jewish incidents (criminal and not) is more than three times higher countrywide than the FBI records of confirmed hate crimes show, and almost 1.5 times higher in New York City than what official police records reveal.

Every fourth American Jewish adult, Orthodox or not, was targeted in an antisemitic incident ranging from physical attacks to remarks in person or online, a separate survey by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) published in February found.

The AJC survey found that while both Jewish Americans and the general public see antisemitism as a problem, less than half of the general population think antisemitism has increased at least to some extent in the past five years, compared to about four in five Jewish Americans.

“While the American Jewish community is very aware of rising anti-Jewish sentiment, the general American public is not,” said Robert Williams, a historian and executive director of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education at the University of Southern California, who was also not involved in the ADL report.

**“Non-Jewish populations in the United States haven’t quite come to that point of making the realization that they also need to stand up against antisemitism, that antisemitism is not just a Jewish problem, but it’s a collective problem – it’s a threat to national security, and it’s a threat to our democracy,” Williams said.**

Segal sees today’s situation as an opportunity for American people to come together and reject the hatred.

“When a synagogue is firebombed, or somebody in the community is being attacked or harassed, it is important for others in that community, no matter what their religion or ethnicity, to say ‘this does not represent us’,” Segal said.