

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Creating and Connecting US and China Science: Chinese Diaspora and Returnee Researchers](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nber.org/papers/w31306>

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Tweet: [In 2018 Chinese born researchers contributed to 27% of American research papers, Chinese born researchers who had returned to China from the US contributed to 38% of Chinese research papers. @NBERpubs](#)

Summary: The close connection between US and China in scientific research and education in the 2000s produced a large group of China-born researchers who work in the US (“diaspora”) and a larger group of China-born researchers who gained US-research experience and returned to do their research in China (“returnee”). We estimate that diaspora researchers contributed to 27% of US addressed papers, and that returnee researchers contributed to 38% of China addressed papers. In terms of quality or impact, papers with diaspora or returnee authors averaged more citations and had higher proportions of publication in high CiteScore journals than other US-addressed or China-addressed papers. The link between the countries’ research began to fray from 2018 through the early 2020s, with potential deleterious effects on each country’s future research output and on global science to which US and China are the two biggest contributors.

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