

Discussion with Foreign Interference Commission

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Biographical Sketch

Professor, School of Information Studies, McGill University
Canada Research Chair in Data Mining for Cybersecurity

P.Eng. (Software Engineering) in Ontario

Ph.D., M.Sc., B.Sc. (Comp. Sc.) Simon Fraser University

Published over 200 articles in the research areas of data mining, machine learning, AI, privacy protection, cybersecurity, and crime investigation. Received over 15,000 citations.

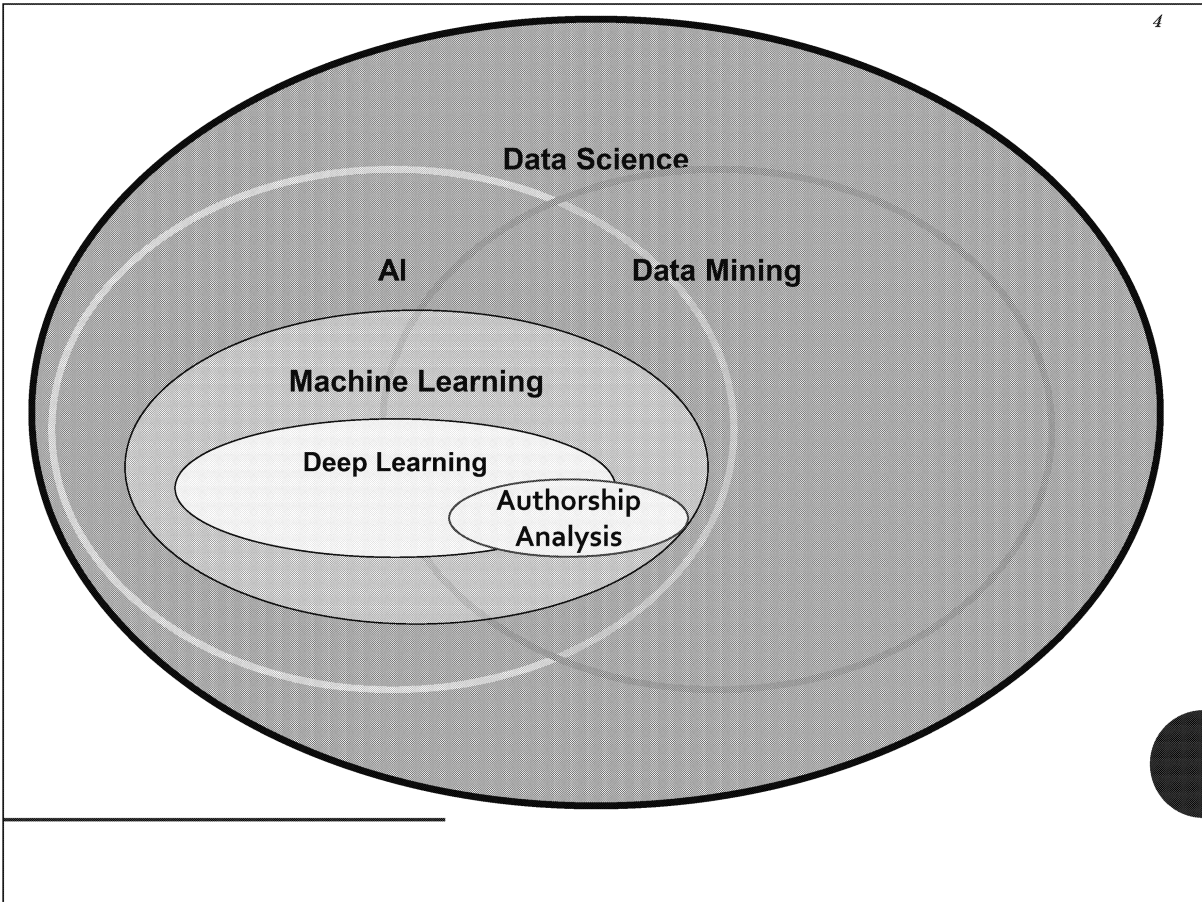
Biographical Sketch

Closely collaborate with Defence Research & Development Canada (DRDC) in the area of cybersecurity since 2010.

In terms of received citations on authorship analysis, rank first in the world.

Authorship analysis:

- Study of (digital) writing styles to identify the author or the author's characteristics.



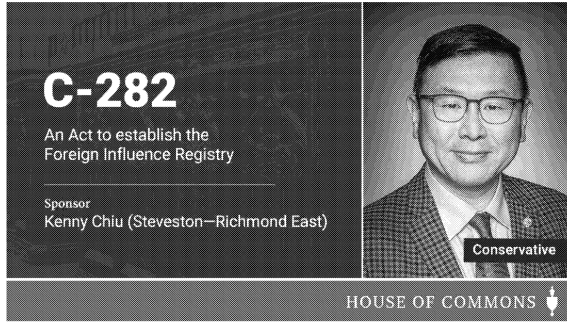
*Disinformation
Campaign
Targeting Chinese
Diaspora in
Canada*



Former Conservative MP Kenny Chiu

- An outspoken politician who advocated for Hong Kong and democracy and heavily criticized Beijing's violation on human rights.
- Urging the Canadian government to impose sanctions on China.
- Unfavoured by the Beijing government.

Disinformation Campaign



- In Spring 2021, Foreign Influence Registry Act (Bill C-282).
 - Impose “an obligation on individuals acting on behalf of a foreign principal to file a return when they undertake specific actions with respect to public office holders.”
 - A potential way to expose the relationship between agents in Canada and their ties to foreign countries.

This act will make more difficult for external states to conduct electoral interference, technological and intellectual property theft, or even surveillance and operations like the “Operation Fox Hunt” (a global covert operation conducted by Beijing to threaten and repatriate Chinese dissidents to mainland China).

Foreign influence transparency registry

Election in Steveston Richmond East

- 2019: Total number of votes: 41,084
 - Conservative: 17,193
 - Liberal: 14,397
 - Difference: 2,796 = 6.8%
 - Only need to swing 1,398 votes
- 2021: Total number of votes: 38,949
 - Conservative: 13,066 (↓ 1,331)
 - Liberal: 16,543 (↑ 2,146)
 - Difference: 3,477
- (I have no interaction with Kenny Chiu at all.)

Timeline in 2021

C-282 First reading

4/13

WeChat (Weixin) and WhatsApp: Disinfo on C-282 and Chiu

9/2

The collage contains several key elements:

- WeChat Messages:** A screenshot of a WeChat group chat titled '加拿大华人社区联络群(58)' with messages discussing the impact of PC and the role of the Chinese diaspora.
- News Article 1:** Titled '请关注赵锡荣在国会提出的“外国势力注册法”', it discusses the 'Foreign Interference Registry Bill' (C-282) and its implications for individuals and organizations.
- News Article 2:** Titled '“外国势力注册法”和提案人简介', it provides an introduction to the bill and its author, Henry Chiu, including details about the bill's requirements and the author's background.

9/21

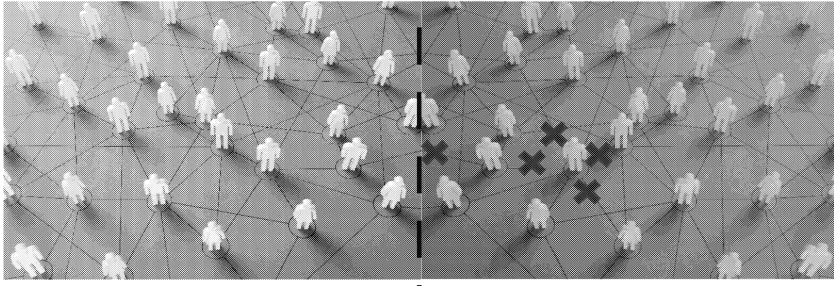
- 2021-09-02 Wechat FI registry o-10.jpg [CC0000001]
- 2021-09-02 Wechat FI registry o-10 transcription.docx [CC0000002]

Timeline in 2021

C-282 First reading 4/13

WeChat (Weixin) and WhatsApp: Disinfo on C-282 and Chiu 9/2

- Outside of China
 - Monitored but not censored
- Inside of China
 - Monitored and censored



- The Citizen Lab: <https://citizenlab.ca/2020/05/we-chat-they-watch/> [CCC0000209]

9/21

Timeline in 2021

C-282 First reading 4/13

WeChat (Weixin) and WhatsApp: Disinfo on C-282 and Chiu 9/2

Voice: a letter to Chinese, use nationalism to encourage vote for Liberal 9/2

众道(122): 给加拿大华人同胞们的一封信

Spread in social media.



Key messages:

- Chinese community in Canada is miserable.
- What is the essence of politics, is plunder, is power.
- Nobody represents the Chinese community in government.
- "I decided to **switch to the Liberal Party in this election**"
- "Finally, in my own name. Please, help me, **don't vote for O'Toole with your precious vote**. Let me, as a member of the Chinese, be able to live with a little hope and dignity."

- CCC0000201 – This was spread in WhatsApp in Chinese. It is the same copy of the original version from: <https://www.chinesecanadianvoice.ca/141081/>
- CCC0000201 (same article in English)

Timeline in 2021



English Translation

Please spread the word! Conservative MP Chiu Kam Wing (Kenny Chiu) proposes "Foreign Power Registration" bill to **suppress Chinese community**

Earlier in the Parliament, British Columbia's Conservative Party MP Kenny Chiu introduced a private member's bill (BILLC-282)--the Foreign Interference Registry Act.

The bill passed its first reading before Parliament was dissolved. According to the legislative process of the third reading in Parliament, the Foreign Interference Registry Act may become law in Canada if Kenny Chiu is able to be re-elected in the upcoming election.

Why must Canadian Chinese pay attention to this bill?

The reason is simple: if this bill becomes law, all individuals or groups that have ties to China may be considered spokespersons for the Chinese government and thus be required to register specifically.

What about registration? After registration, activities that associate with mainland China groups, as well as normal Sino-Canadian economic, cultural, and technological exchanges may be subjected to suppression, and the freedom of expression of the Chinese people has a high probability of being crackdown, resulting in **profound negative impact on the Chinese community.**

news.com/canada/49207

Registry)。此法案在国会解散之前，已经通过一读，按照国会参读的立法程序，一旦赵锦荣在大选中胜出连任。「外国势力注册法」有可能成为加拿大的法律。



国势力

tweet Share 0

ny Chiu), 早前在
gn Interference

Today Commercial News is Pro-CCP newspaper (part of the propaganda machine)

Many phrases (highlighted in yellow) are identical to the WeChat posts:

Only two possibilities:

1. Direct copy from the WeChat posts (not a common practice for newspaper.)
2. Both the WeChat posts and this article come from the same source.

2/13/24, 12:38 PM 请广传！保守党国会议员赵锦荣提「外国势力注册」法案打压华人社区 - 加拿大商报 Today Commercial News

日期 加拿大商报 加國新聞 每日新聞 | 華埠合作 | 社區發展



请广传！保守党国会议员赵锦荣提「外国势力注册」法案打压华人社区

[2021-09-09] - 2855人點閱

Marie C. Fung

卑詩省的加拿大保守黨 (Conservative Party) 國會議員趙錦榮 (Kenny Chiu)，日前在國會提出私人立法提案 Bill C-283，即是「外國勢力註冊法」(Foreign Interference Registry)。此法案在國會解散之前，已經通過一讀，按照國會套送的立法程序，一旦趙錦榮在大選中勝出連任，「外國勢力註冊法」有可能成為加拿大的法律。為甚麼華裔的加拿大人，必須關注這個法案呢？

原因很簡單，因為一旦此法案成為法律，所有與中國有聯繫的个人或者團體，都有可能被認為是中國政府代理人而被要求專門登記。登記又如何？登記之後，讓中國大陸社團有關的活動，以及正常的中加經濟文化科技等交流都會有機會被打壓，華裔的言論自由，亦有很大機會被遏制，對華社產生深遠的負面影響，亦是很可能發生的事情。

如果大家仍然不明白，就看看以下的法案簡介，看完就會一清二楚。

加拿大保守黨國會議員趙錦榮提出的「外國勢力註冊法」法案，要求除外國政府官方代表之外，任何受個別外國政府或政治組織控制和影響的个人、公司或者組織，必須在加拿大司法部登記。如果這些個人和組織與國會議員及公職人員進行交流，也必須在政府登記。登記的內容要求個人或所代表的外國勢力的名稱，與外國勢力的任何金錢往來。沒有登記或者信息不準確將會面臨二十萬罰款和兩年監禁刑罰。(法案內容連結: <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42/1/1/C-283/first-reading>)

趙錦榮提出的私人法案，只是要求和個別「敵對國家」有聯繫的個人和團體進行登記，但法案未有列出哪些是「敵對國家」，但是趙錦榮一向是「反華」，很明顯地，在中加關係正处在历史最低点的时刻，他提出了此法案，就是一个针对加拿大境内大陆华人团体和个人的法案，目的在遏制加拿大境内的任何亲中言论，控制和监视各大陆团体和个人。

法案规定任何受到外国政府机构控制和影响的个人和团体都是外国政府受托人。

按照这个定义，有以下行为的个人和团体，都会被认定为是受到中国政府的影响，而被定为中国政府的受托人，包括了同乡会成立或者开展活动；愿意地政府拉有往来或者校友会成立或者开展活动；出席过中国领事馆庆贺会及春节团拜等的团体和个人；邀请过领事馆官员出席活动的团体，以及与任何一级中国官员有联系的团体或者个人；甚至是任职过国内机构和包括政府和国企的个人；接受过中国私人企业资助团体等等。

说到赵锦荣反华，他的背景又是甚麽呢？他出生于香港，於上世纪80年代移民加拿大，然後加入加拿大保守黨，於2019年在卑詩省 Steveston Richmond East 選區當選國會議員。

趙錦榮當選之後，以加拿大議員身份受香港反送中運動邀請前往香港代表國際社會監督區議會選舉，其在選中多次抨击中国和香港当局，并担任選中的國際人權小組委員會副主席，投票支持谴责中国的新疆维吾尔法案，并要求制裁中国和香港政府官员，結果在2021年趙錦榮被中國列入反制裁名單，禁止他進入中國領土。若大家关心华社的福祉，请广传这个讯息，让更多人知道这对个人有切身关系的事!!!

上頁: 警方警告公众小心虚拟诈骗騙局
下頁: 疫情緩和的好? 發指請人誰!

- 2021-09 Disinformation about Kenny Chiu's 2021 election.docx [CCCoooo061]

Timeline in 2021



https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/ChyQqrVl3QwpZP_NkFGSeQ (Account being hidden already)
 The author interpreted that O'Toole would ban all Chinese apps, e.g., QQ, Weibo, Xiaohongshu, and Alipay.

- 2021-09-10 Election 20210910 O'Toole and CCP faction in Weixin-translation.docx [CCC0000205]
- 2021-09-04-weixin-O'Toole bans WeChat.pdf [CCC0000215]

Timeline in 2021



Articles Against Conservative and Pro-Liberal

-  2021-08-12-yorkbbs-O'Toole's China Policy.pdf
-  2021-08-31-O'Toole passes Trudeau in surveys.pdf
-  2021-09-02-365nettv-Chinese organizations support Davis.pdf
-  2021-09-02-weixin-Conservative passes Liberal.pdf
-  2021-09-04-weixin-O'Toole bans WeChat.pdf
-  2021-09-06-lahoo-Liberal Han Dong.pdf
-  2021-09-09 Today Commercial News - Kenny Chiu.pdf
-  2021-09-09-VanPeople-Chinese Canadian Position.pdf
-  2021-09-09-weixin-Cutting Ties with China.pdf
-  2021-09-09-Weixin-Kenny Chiu.pdf
-  2021-09-09-weixin-Why oppose Kenny Chiu.pdf
-  2021-09-09-yorkbbs-Conservative 31 times China.pdf
-  2021-09-13-yorkbbs-O'Toole's in Chinese community.pdf
-  2021-09-14-lahoo-Trudeau rising.pdf
-  2021-09-14-VanPeople-Who treats China the best.pdf
-  2021-09-15-51.ca-Michael Chan-Election analysis.pdf
-  2021-09-19-yorkbbs-anti-Asian.pdf

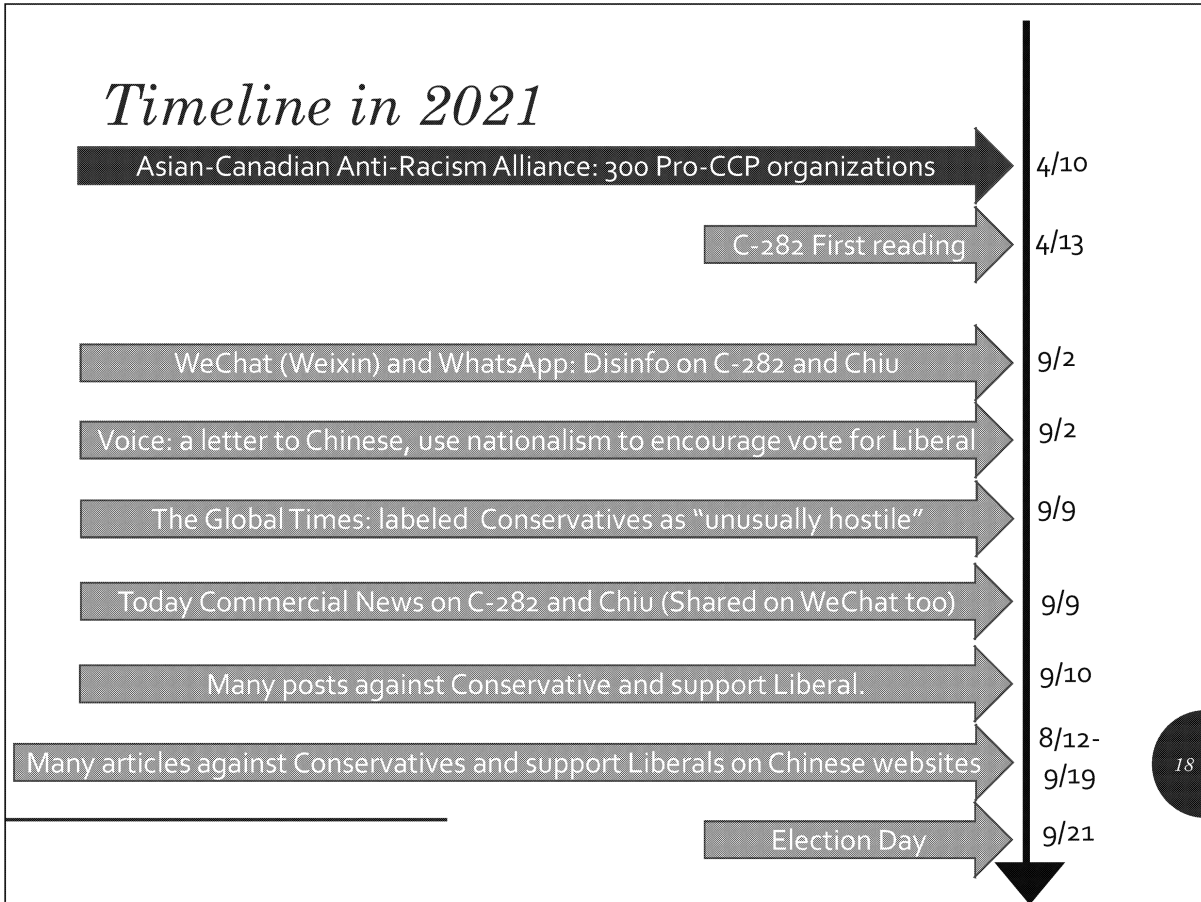
Intentionally Leaving Out Conservative - Rise Weekly and Rise Home Magazines



- Media targeting audience are Chinese from PRC.
- They were in sync with the CCP propoganda when Russia invaded Ukraine
- They carried Russia/CCP propaganda materials.

• 2021-08-27 to 2021-09-21 RISE WEEKLY.pdf [CCC0000206; CCC0000235-238]

This magazine did the same in the 2022 Vancouver municipal election.



300 Pro-CCP organizations: Similar to the organizations that advertise for 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. Though it is called "Asian-Canadian Anti Racism Alliance", there is no Taiwanese, Koreans, or Japanese organizations.

Movement on “Asian” Anti-Racism

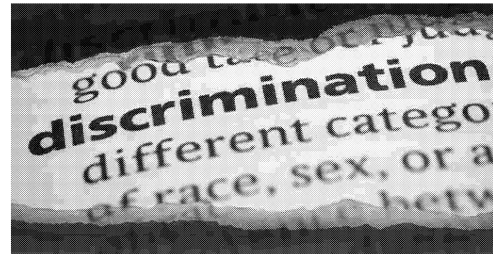
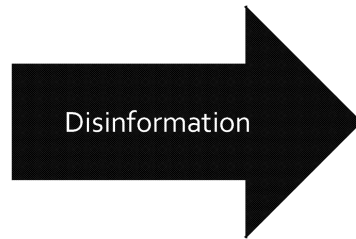
The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Global News app with options: LIGHT, Global NEWS, and a search icon. Below the navigation bar are icons for Menu, Home, Trending, Watch, and Local. A banner for 'AD' is visible. The main content area is under the 'CRIME' category and features the headline: 'University of Alberta international student stabbing raises concerns at school'. The article is by Sarah Komadina & Slav Kornik, posted on April 26, 2021, at 1:16 pm, with a 4-minute read time. Below the headline is a video player for 'Global News Hour at 6 Edmonton' with the subtitle 'Man stabbed on University of Alberta LRT platform in south Edmonton'.

- The victim is an international student from China, but says he did not feel the attack was racially motivated.
- Some posts attempted to link the racism incidents with Conservative.

- 2021-04-26 GlobalNews University of Alberta International Student.pdf [CCC0000210]
- 2021-04-16 EpochTimes CCP groups anti-racism.JPG [CCC0000229]
- 2021-09-19-vorkbbs-anti-Asian.pdf [CCC0000227]

Disinformation Campaign Driven by Fear and Chinese Nationalism

- Spin: Foreign influence registry act → racial discrimination against the Chinese and operate surveillance on organizations and individuals in the overseas Chinese community.
- Spin: (Criticizing CCP) = (Discriminate Chinese)
- Chinese nationalism



State-sponsored Disinformation Campaign

Planting seeds



- Kenny Chiu lost his seat in the 2021 federal election.
- This disinformation campaign shows a “successful” example to manipulate diaspora communities (via psychology and social connections). The impact could generate waves that would drown Canada’s democracy in the future.

WeChat
 Communicate with friends in China
 Self-censorship
 Not promoting CCP but to protect the Chinese community in Canada
 Critical moment: election time
 Spin the topic to racism □ easy to influence.

Other dimensions of foreign interference

- Ultimate goal is to influence Canada's policies.
- Method: Cultivate an environment that facilitates the growth of CCP's influence.
- Election is just one of the venues.
- Research security
 - Huawei attempted to recruit me multiple times. I rejected their offer.
 - How does CCP recruit research scholars?
 - China Scholarship Council (CSC)
- Harassing diaspora and dissident groups in Canada
 - Cyberattack
 - Attempted to stop us playing movie in Montreal
 - Threatening phone calls

Thank you. Comments? Questions?

Presented by Benjamin Fung
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<https://dmas.lab.mcgill.ca/>



"Winnie the Pooh" is banned in China, so I rely on Winnie to prevent my slides from being shared in China. ☐