

From: [Wilson, Clive](#)
To: [O'Connor, D](#)
Subject: FW: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai
Date: 24 June 2019 10:06:00
Attachments: [image005.png](#)

Not sending it – it just made me feel better

Clive

Dear [REDACTED]

I previously told your friend [REDACTED] the answer to most of these questions – unfortunately he couldn't be bothered to check the facts before publishing his piece with Ms Orson's name attached.

Answers to each point below.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 June 2019 21:51
To: O'Connor, D
Cc: Wilson, Clive; Orson, R
Subject: Re: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

In this email I raised some more questions regarding your email dated June 14, 2019, 9:08 am, from which you wrote:

"As previously circulated, all PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. They clearly received their copy because otherwise it would not have been processed and appear on their catalogue – and from there to appear on the British Library catalogue."

In fact, the so-called PhD thesis of Ing-Wen Tsai (1984) does not exist in both physical and digital form. That is the reason why this thesis has not been searchable in each of the three U of London libraries: LSE library, IALS library, and Senate House library. I already made a number of screen shots about my failed search of the PhD thesis just in case a proof is required in the future. I also searched all other PhDs (i.e. 106 other PhDs) in 1983-84, and all those are searchable and existent in their specific locations, except for 5 PhDs. For these missing 5 PhDs, every one has no searchable academic record. For your information, Partha Sen was my professor at the University of Illinois and my long-term friend. As a LSE graduate, he was awarded a PhD in economics in 1984, and his PhD thesis titled "Real balances and the exchange rate: theoretical and empirical analysis" is searchable and existent in LSE Library, as opposed to the case of Ing-Wen Tsai.

Not relevant

It is evidenced that the final copy of Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis has never been received in 1984 by Senate House Library and IALS library. This was confirmed by Ruth Orson (Library Assistant, Research Services, LSE) and Clive Wilson (Enquiry Services Manager, LSE Library) in their emails sent to me. As such, without a final copy of a PhD thesis being received at Senate House Library, how was it possible that Ing-Wen Tsai allegedly earned a PhD in law in 1984?

As already explained, it was submitted correctly hence the award. No, the libraries did not receive a copy but the libraries do not award the thesis.

It is bizarre that Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis becomes searchable in the British Library catalogue using EthOS, an e-theses online service, as well as in the Google Books catalogue. This thesis is unsearchable internally in the U of London libraries (including LSE Library), but it is searchable outside of the U of London. It is bizarre, isn't?

No, it was received correctly and catalogued at the University of London – The British Library catalogue just copied the information as it does for all UL theses.

Further, if you examine the following links to EthOS or Google Books, you will see little information about the magic PhD thesis except for the thesis title, author, and the year of 1984. There is no information about the number of pages at all and there is no workable link to the thesis one way or another.

EthOS:
<https://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?did=1&uin=uk.bl.ethos.652034>

As above

Google Books:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=IRwIvwEACAAJ&dq=unfair+trade+practices+and+safeguard+actions&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwicioTVnvviAhXLm-AKHRtMBMgQ6AEIKDAA>

<https://books.google.com/books?id=IRwIvwEACAAJ&dq=unfair+trade+practices+and+safeguard+actions&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwicioTVnvviAhXLm-AKHRtMBMgQ6AEIKDAA>

As explained to your friend [REDACTED], google books just scrapes the data from other sources

Even more bizzare is that the magic thesis was published in 1984 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the United States according to a famous thesis search engine called ProQuest, as the attached image file indicates. How could it be possible that a PhD thesis completed in 1984 in UK got published right away in the same year in the US?

As explained to your friend [REDACTED], the ProQuest database just scrapes the data – every single thesis available on it has the same date for thesis and published.

Is it possible that someone made and uploaded information to the EthOS system, Google Books, and ProQuest in order to cover Ing-Wen Tsai as President of Republic of China (Taiwan)? To me, I cannot preclude this possibility.

No, it is just abysmal journalism for not checking how those databases actually work ...

Lastly, let me provide some more information about Ing-Wen Tsai. She studied at LSE for less than three years (about 2 years and 6 months; correct me if I am wrong). In such a short-term period, she claimed that she completed a PhD thesis in law in 1984. She then returned to Taiwan for a teaching position in 1984, and with almost no publications, she got promoted to Full Professor within 7 to 8 years. Can we question her integrity as a scholar and as a political leader? I sincerely LSE can be responsible and truthful in dealing with Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis and degree issues.

As explained Ing-Wen Tsai was correctly awarded her PhD.

I contacted you all for a public interest issue under UK FOI, and I am looking forward to your clarifications regarding the true situation of Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis and degree.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Jun 14, 2019 at 5:21 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Thank you very much for your replies along with the attached pages of the Calendar of 1985/86.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Jun 14, 2019, at 9:08 AM, O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence, I have been asked to respond with some more information.

Further to your remarks, the records of both the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of London confirm that Tsai Ing-Wen was awarded a PhD in Law 1984 and the student record shows that the thesis was submitted.

For your interest, I have attached a scan of a relevant entry in the 'LSE Calendar' of 1985/86, which is an official public record of awards and degrees given to LSE students for the previous year.

