

**From:** [Kelloway.C](#)  
**To:** [O'Connor.D](#)  
**Subject:** RE: More on the PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai ...  
**Date:** 28 June 2019 16:26:47

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Does this extra line look ok to you?

### **LSE spokesperson:**

“The records of the University of London and London School of Economics and Political Science confirm Tsai Ing-Wen was correctly awarded a PhD in Law in 1984.

“All PhDs from that period were awarded via the University of London and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. It is clear from Senate House Library records that a copy was received. Senate House have confirmed they sent their copy of the thesis to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (IALS).

“We have corresponded with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Neither Senate House nor IALS are able to locate a copy of the thesis.

“This year, President Tsai Ing-wen’s office provided the LSE Library with a facsimile copy of her thesis. This is available to view in the library’s reading room.”

/END

### **As background**

I have attached a scan of the relevant entry in the LSE Calendar of 1985/86, which acts an official record of awards and degrees given to LSE students in 1984. This confirms Dr Tsai’s PhD award at the time.

### **General response:**

Thank you for your email. We have checked our records and both the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of London confirm that Tsai Ing-Wen was correctly awarded a PhD in Law 1984.

However, all PhDs from that period were awarded via the University of London and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. It is clear from Senate House Library records that a copy was received. Senate House have confirmed they sent their copy of the thesis to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (IALS).

We have corresponded with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Neither Senate House nor IALS are able to locate a copy of the thesis,

“This year, President Tsai Ing-wen’s office provided the LSE Library with a facsimile copy of her thesis. This is available to view in the library’s reading room.”

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**From:** Cerny,MW  
**Sent:** 28 June 2019 14:09  
**To:** O'Connor,D; Wilson,Clive; Thomson,MT; Kelloway,C; Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: More on the PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai ...

I am happy with this being available in the library. I can see that it as we have it, and it is of interest, it should be available where possible and my view is also that it is up to the Library to decide whether to accept materials and whether to store and make them available within whatever rules/conditions apply.

However, my decision from a regulatory standpoint, is that this has to be on the basis that this is a document provided to the Library in 2019 and be clear that we are not storing this as a formal record of the thesis examined or awarded.

What wording on the catalogue that might cover this and pre-empt questions is debatable but I think Clive's formulation is a reasonable one. Even if we got the question about it being genuine or whether we endorse it can we not simply fall back on the agreed statement? Noting again that we are satisfied that the thesis was correctly awarded in line with the relevant procedures, that Senate House sent a copy to IALS, that neither Senate House nor IALS can locate a copy, and that Dr Tsai's office provided this version in 2019.

One final note on my position on this. It is not just a question as to whether we can prove that this is the thesis or whether we believe it to be. It is also a question that we would not accept a copy at this late remove in these circumstances for any other candidate and then record it as the examined or awarded thesis. Given this, for purposes of consistency, I do not think we should do so because of an individual graduates status. For the record, I am actually satisfied that this is an accurate version of the thesis examined (but I obviously could not prove it).

Thanks,  
Marcus

**Marcus Cerny**  
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**From:** O'Connor,D  
**Sent:** 28 June 2019 13:27  
**To:** Wilson,Clive; Thomson,MT; Kelloway,C; Cerny,MW; Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: More on the PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai ...

Hi Clive,

In normal circumstances, this all sounds very sensible.

However, as Marcus highlighted at the meeting, would we do the same if it were from a run-of-the-mill PhD graduate from the 1980s?

Also, I have a feeling announcing that we now have a facsimile copy might lead to a more confused message and a run of questions, such as : ‘can you say it’s genuine?’ ‘If not, are you *refusing* to endorse it?’ “It says 2019, are you saying she only just wrote this?” etc. Answerable but may get us in the weeds.

Not saying we shouldn’t go with the suggestion, it sounds like a good compromise, but just want to make sure our messaging is in order.

Hope that makes sense. Thanks very much,

Danny

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**From:** Wilson, Clive

**Sent:** 28 June 2019 12:11

**To:** Thomson, MT <[M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk)>; Kelloway, C <[C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk](mailto:C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk)>; O'Connor, D <[D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk)>; Cerny, MW <[M.W.Cerny@lse.ac.uk](mailto:M.W.Cerny@lse.ac.uk)>; Metcalfe, F <[F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk](mailto:F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** More on the PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai ...

Hi everyone

I received two copies of the thesis from Taiwan late yesterday. One soft bound and one hard bound. But both photocopies.

There are two draft chapters and an outline on the student record and – in my humble opinion - there is enough of those in the thesis to suggest it is good. And besides, even with the whole wheel of government behind you, it would still be a rather neat trick to fake or rewrite a thesis as if it was done in 1983 and in the same font as the draft chapters. ☺ However, as Marcus said on Monday, we still can’t really prove that this is what she actually submitted in 1983.

One of my cataloguing colleagues has said we can probably catalogue it as a facsimile. For example:

Tsai, Ing-Wen. Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions: a facsimile copy of her 1983 PhD thesis presented to LSE Library by President Ing-Wen Tsai of Taiwan. 2019

This makes it clear it’s a copy and was presented to us by her – so some deniability on our part if necessary.

By saying it was presented (again) and addressing her as President - it shows we are proud and still claiming brownie points for her as an LSE alumna.

The date shows as 2019 because that’s when the copy was made – so again, not claiming it is the actual thesis.

To me, that sounds like a win-win for us and for her team. But happy to take it under advisement.

And then, as previously, we don't have permission to digitise it so it would only be available in the special collections reading room where we have two people at all times who can monitor any copying or defacing. And I would suggest we only give out the soft copy.

How does that sound?

Clive

Marcus in the PhD Academy is concerned that, although it almost certainly is valid, we can't prove that this is what she submitted in 1983. There are two draft chapters and an outline on the student record and there is enough of those in the copy to suggest it is good. And besides, even with the whole wheel of government behind you, it would be a rather neat trick to fake or rewrite a thesis as if it was done in 1983.

Clare said she needed to check but we could catalogue it as a facsimile. Marcus will (probably) be happy provided we make it clear (or ambiguous even) that we are not claiming it's the actual thesis.

So I am thinking something like:

Tsai, Ing-Wen. Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions: a facsimile copy of her 1983 PhD thesis presented to LSE Library by President Ing-Wen Tsai of Taiwan. 2019

If we make it available it would have to be reading room only. Can we restrict copying? Would we still hold it with the print theses? Would we add it to Theses Online even if it isn't digitised?

