

From: [Wilson,Clive](#)
To: [O'Connor,D](#); [Metcalf,E](#)
Cc: [Kelloway,C](#)
Subject: RE: Sub.: Tsai Ing-wen's doctoral thesis
Date: 23 July 2019 13:00:03

Another commentator already pointed out that libraries not receiving a copy doesn't mean it wasn't submitted, but hey.

Again, very happy to be named as admitting that the information I passed on to Ruth was mistaken.

Several visitors have already viewed the thesis. 😊

Clive

From: O'Connor,D
Sent: 23 July 2019 11:35
To: Wilson,Clive; Metcalfe,F
Cc: Kelloway,C
Subject: Fw: Sub.: Tsai Ing-wen's doctoral thesis

FYI - I don't intend on giving this much in the way of a reply.

Can confirm Ruth's initial email was incorrect and then indicate members of the public are free to request to view the copy.

Danny

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2019 06:34
To: O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>
Subject: Re: Sub.: Tsai Ing-wen's doctoral thesis

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

Many thanks for your kind reply!

Please allow me some follow-up questions:

1) There seems to be some discrepancies between your explanation and the answer of Ruth Orson of the library's research services office: "Dr. Tsai's thesis is unavailable I'm afraid. LSE Library has *never* had a copy of this thesis."

<https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/2019/07/04/tsai-ing-wens-missing-thesis-was-not-submitted-says-university-library/>



[Tsai Ing-wen's missing thesis was not submitted says university library – Richardson Reports](#)

richardsonreports.wordpress.com

The London School of Economics and Political Science Library has confirmed that Tsai Ing-wen's 1984 doctoral thesis was not submitted as required by academic protocol. Tsai, who is now the President of the Republic of China in-exile and living on Taiwan, attended LSE in London in 1984 when she authored her doctoral dissertation entitled "Unfair..."

So you mean Ms. Orson's statement doesn't apply any more?

2) As you probably know, Ms. Tsai's thesis was already placed under scrutiny in Taiwan several years ago. But she never reacted to the accusation, not to mention showing her thesis. Therefore, the "facsimile" copy of the thesis you talked of is really something out of the blue for us. The reasonable doubt would then be as follows: Is the copy a product of ghostwriting? That's precisely what many in Taiwan believe.

3) Regarding the possibility of ghostwriting, does the LSE have a mechanism to prove the identity of the copy mentioned and the original thesis? Could you assure the sceptics now: Yes, this is exactly the thesis we have lost? It would be hard to accept for the public that the person in question simply submits a book 35 years later and everything would then be okay. Otherwise there could have been no Saif Gaddafi Affair.

4) The topic of Tsai's thesis is apparently a timeless one: Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions. Tsai herself even boasted in

her autobiography that the LSE examiners once said she deserved 1 1/2 doctoral degrees.

(Sorry, in Chinese: <https://www.peoplenews.tw/news/41075ad6-3253-4db4-a689-38d8ea3e1e1f>)

So there must have been feverish academic citations in the past decades worldwide. My question is simple: Do you have any citation record of such a marvellous work?

5) Again, regarding the ghostwriting suspicion. It might be extremely difficult for the LSE to prove the identity of the copy since you probably couldn't find any original. Nevertheless, the proving job could be eased with the help of crowd intelligence. That means: the LSE puts the copy into the Internet. And all the Sherlocks would be glad to take their assignment. Transparency and easy access are crucial. As I said in the last mail: It's about the fame of a world-class university.

6) The arrival of Ms. Tsai's thesis at you library has also become public since a few days.

(<https://www.ettoday.net/news/20190719/1494073.htm>)

The irony speaks for itself: Why on earth do we Taiwanese need a photo taken by a member of the Taiwanese Representative Office in London to know the very existence of Tsai's thesis? Wouldn't it have been more persuasive to show it beforehand in Taiwan? Anyway, since the thesis now is "Not loanable", I am afraid it is only there to wow the visitors like the Tutankhamun mask and not to be touched. Again, a plea from me for the widest access to the public.

7) And my final question: With the arrival of the "facsimile" copy did the name of Ms. Tsai's supervisor, which has been guarded 35 years like the Coca Cola formula, finally come out of the cold?

Thank you for your kind reply in advance.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk> 於 2019年7月19日 下午7:56 寫道:

Dear ,

Thank you for your email to the LSE Director. It has been passed on to me to reply.

As you may be aware, we have checked our records extensively and both the University of London and the London School of Economics and Political Science confirm that Tsai Ing-Wen was correctly awarded a PhD in Law 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 but neither Senate House nor IALS are able to locate a copy of the thesis,

However, Dr Tsai Ing-wen recently provided the LSE Library with a facsimile copy of the thesis, *Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions*. This is now available to view in the LSE Library reading room.

Kind regards,

Daniel O'Connor

Daniel O'Connor
Head of Media Relations | Communications Division
The London School of Economics and Political Science
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE
t: +44 (0)20 7955 7417
e: oconnord@lse.ac.uk
lse.ac.uk

<image001.jpg>

<[image002.png](#)><[image003.png](#)><[image004.jpg](#)><[image005.png](#)><[image006.jpg](#)>

[LSE is ranked #1 in Europe for social sciences \(QS World University Ranking 2018\)](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 July 2019 07:02
To: Directorate <Directorate@lse.ac.uk>
Subject: Sub.: Tsai Ing-wen's doctoral thesis

Dear Ms. Director Shafik,

Excuse me for the disturbance!

I am a law professor of the Providence University, Taiwan. As you probably know, all my compatriots have been eagerly interested in your school since weeks. Or precisely formulated: in President Tsai Ing-wen's doctoral thesis at your faculty. You don't have it, as we now know: <https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/2019/07/04/tsai-ing-wens-missing-thesis-was-not-submitted-says-university-library/>

But our curiosity isn't yet satisfied. On the contrary. A doctoral thesis is, as universally known, there to be appreciated or scrutinized by the scientific community. So there must be some copies other than in your library. Or in form of microfiche at that time. But where? As regards the doctoral certificate, Tsai personally had never, despite of the medial pressure, shown the original awarded by the LSE to the Taiwanese public. Until several days ago, she finally gave us a glance at an ersatz issued by the University of London:

<https://udn.com/news/story/6656/3936717>

But it raised only more questions: No supervisor, no thesis title and no notes.

The whole story is so fishy that many believe the reality must have been something awful: Ms. Tsai hasn't written any thesis, but the LSE still awarded her a PhD! If the belief is true, than this would be the second

known scandal regarding your school ever since the Saif Gaddafi Affair. The consequence would be more devastating both for the LSE and the British higher education system.

I myself have acquired my PhD in Germany where the system unfortunately isn't exempted from scandals. They are all, so far as I know, related to plagiarism. Quite a few politicians had to go due to the diligent crowd intelligence in the Internet. But the universities concerned showed also their responsibilities when the doubts were reasonable. Ms Tsai's case could be more serious, since the thesis is nowhere to be found!

This is indeed a case for Sherlock. And I would say an enquete committee on behalf of the world-class LSE would be helpful to clear its name and eventually Ms Tsai's.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.