

**From:** [Wilson,Clive](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: further assistance sought for the whereabouts of a dissertation  
**Date:** 12 July 2019 13:25:41

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Dear [REDACTED]

Ms Orson was using text that I had provided several years ago, and it appears that I had been given incorrect information. It is very unfortunate that Ms Orson's name has been attributed to this text when it was my error. By all means, contact Senate House directly to confirm this.

As to the rest, I'm just a librarian but – as LSE has confirmed the PhD was awarded correctly - I can't see that there are any other questions in your email for LSE to answer.

kind regards

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 July 2019 02:24  
**To:** Wilson,Clive  
**Cc:** Directorate  
**Subject:** further assistance sought for the whereabouts of a dissertation

Dear Manager Wilson:

Thank you very much for the email regarding Dr. Tsai Ing-wen's dissertation. Unfortunately, however, I haven't got the Director's reply as of today, July 9, 2019. Hence my inquiry in the previous email. So, I am particularly appreciative for your email.

No one ever doubts that "Tsai Ing-Wen was correctly awarded a PhD." So, this should not be an issue. However, some controversies have been hovering over Taiwan (questioning 1). why should her dissertation be "missing" or "unavailable," (attachment 1) for 35 years, as pointed out by Ms. Ruth Orson, an LSE library assistant at the Research Support Services? Wouldn't every PhD holder be proud to show, if not show off, his/her dissertation? If a dissertation author tries best to make the dissertation vanish without a trace, what is there for the author to hide? 2). Why would Dr. Fang-Long Shih, a co-director of Taiwan Research Program, keep trying to translate all questionings regarding this dissertation issue into a political controversy among rivaling candidates in Taiwan's presidential election instead of taking it decently and offering substantial answers since this is really an issue of integrity surrounding a presidential candidate as well as the LSE. Sadly, on June 21, 2019 Dr. Shih again offered the same answer to the same question in the same way as she did four years ago, offering no substantial answers at all except that result

would be made available within 10 days, and yet 18 days have passed and the whereabouts of the dissertation is still a mystery. Why so? I can't help but to start to ponder if she is taking a political side, and 3) why would the only page in the record of the dissertation made known so far show no name of the dissertation's supervisor nor the dissertation's abstract (attachment 2)? How would one blame that there are more and more Taiwanese people of all walks who sense something foul in this dissertation mystery.

Shouldn't LSE, being an outstanding university of the oldest democracy, respect Taiwanese people's rights to know about the whereabouts and the contents of the dissertation, particularly when the author is a presidential candidate? Again, this is more an issue of an individual's academic integrity and the LSE's reputation in the world than a political controversy as Dr. Shih tries to lead it to.

Apart from all arguments from all sides, shouldn't LSE and all parties concerned ask Dr Tsai for another copy to keep as record, at least, since none of these parties can find their copies of the dissertation?

Last but not least, I got confused when I was reading your email since you say "It is clear from Senate House Library records that a copy was received." while Ms. Orson of the LSE library informs her inquirer in the said letter, "Unfortunately Senate House apparently never received a copy..." So, I'd appreciate it if you could kindly further clarify this difference of information.

Thank you so much for your kindness to help look into this issue, the result of which is so important for the Taiwanese people to know before they cast their votes in 2020 to choose their new president. The Taiwanese electorate would really appreciate your understanding and caring for their hunger for the rights to know.

Gratefully,

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