

From: [Withers,IF](#)
To: [Phdacademy](#)
Cc: [Haynes,KJ](#); [Metcalf,E](#); [Wilson,Clive](#); [Thomson,MT](#)
Subject: Re: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD of 1984
Date: 03 October 2019 22:32:08

Hi Marcus

It seems appropriate to give some background and guidance to colleagues if we think more staff are being contacted, although do we have an idea of academic faculty likely to have been approached?

Happy to speak tomorrow to discuss and to also get Danny's expertise to make sure we are aligned with external comms.

Best wishes
Imogen

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Oct 2019, at 21:55, LSE PhD Academy <phdacademy@lse.ac.uk> wrote:

The one Kevin has attached has been sent to several people including the Simon Hix, Rita Astuti and Max Shulze. I have advised Rita to ignore but should we do some internal comms to academics likely to receive such queries?

Thanks,

Marcus

Marcus Cerny
PhD Academy Deputy Director
The London School of Economics and Political Science
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE
t: +44 (0)20 7955 6766
e: m.w.cerny@lse.ac.uk
lse.ac.uk/phdacademy

If you are a current PhD student please remember to send your queries through the [PhD Academy Enquiry Form](#). All other enquirers should contact phdacademy@lse.ac.uk

----- Original Message -----

From: Haynes,KJ [k.j.haynes@lse.ac.uk]
Sent: 03/10/2019 16:24
To: phdacademy@lse.ac.uk; m.t.thomson@lse.ac.uk; i.f.withers@lse.ac.uk
Cc: clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk; f.metcalf@lse.ac.uk; k.j.haynes@lse.ac.uk
Subject: FW: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD of 1984

Hi Danny

I've attached another that you may already have seen. I think our party line more or less answers why we wouldn't be embarking on an investigation.

Best wishes, Kevin

LSE Legal Team

Secretary's Division

Room 3.01, 1 Kingsway

London School of Economics and Political Science

Houghton Street

London

WC2A 2AE

020 7955 7823

From: O'Connor,D

Sent: 03 October 2019 16:13

To: Phdacademy <Phdacademy@lse.ac.uk>; Thomson,MT
<M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk>; Withers,IF <I.F.Withers@lse.ac.uk>

Cc: Wilson,Clive <CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk>; Metcalfe,F <F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk>;
Haynes,KJ <K.J.Haynes@lse.ac.uk>

Subject: FW: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD of 1984

Colleagues,

To note, the Director's office continue to receive emails from Hwan Lin.

I have advised against engaging with him at all. He has received a response from LSE on numerous occasions, and his subsequent allegations are weak and far-fetched.

Kind regards,

Danny

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 September 2019 03:29
To: Gajewska,M <M.Gajewska@lse.ac.uk>
Subject: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD of 1984

Dear LSE Director Shafik:

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to make inquiries about the authenticity of Ms. Tsai's LSE PhD in law, which, she claimed, was awarded in 1984. I am an academic economist in the US and I made my inquiries for the sake of academic honesty and integrity. As you may have noticed, Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai is President of Republic of China (Taiwan).

For your information, some new startling evidence just came up recently. On September 6, 2019, Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai's spokesperson displayed three documents in public in order to prove the authenticity of her so-called PhD in law. These documents are attached in this email for your review. To me, these documents instead prove that she was actually not awarded a PhD in 1984. My explanations of each document are in order:

#1. The first document is Ing-Wen Tsai's Student Records while she was a graduate student at LSE. This document clearly says that she was on a M. Phil. program between October, 1980 and November 10, 1982. In the entire course of study, she had two supervisors (Mr. Lazar and Mr. Elliott) for the academic year of 1980-81 and only one supervisor (Mr. Elliott) for the next academic year of 1981-82. The duration of the course of study was 21 months, much less than the duration of 3 - 4 years for a typical PhD program. The M. Phil program was clearly a master's program. Note that she withdrew from the course of study on November 10, 1982 for the sake of financial difficulties. All these are specified on the Student Records.

It is evident that she did not have any course of study at LSE starting from the day of November 10, 1982. But how could it be possible that the M. Phil program was later changed to a PhD program on the Student Records? And when was this change being made? For these questions, the Student Records

provide no information at all. More absurd is that an undisclosed degree was awarded to her in February, 1984, which occurred about 16 months after she withdrew from the course of study. Moreover, the date of recording the degree-awarding event was about one year earlier than the occurrence of this event itself. How could one predict and record a far-away future event on Student Records?

Another serious problem is that the Student Records indicate nobody supervising Ing-Wen Tsai's doctoral study after she withdrew from the course of study on November 10, 1982. Even if we assume that Mr. Elliott continued to serve as Supervisor, it is still unbelievable that LSE could permit a bachelor-degree supervisor to direct a doctoral study. Note that Mr. Elliott graduated from Oxford University with a bachelor's degree and he was very young in the early 1980s. He left LSE in 1982 and joined the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS) in 1983, which was the cabinet office's Think-Tank.

All these weird problems revealed that Ms. Tsai's Student Records are problematic and can never be a proof that she was awarded a PhD in 1984, given that she had not been an LSE student since November 10, 1982.

#2. The second document is a letter dated February 8, 1984 that Mrs. G. F. Roberts mailed to Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai's home address in Taipei, Taiwan. According to this letter, Mrs. G. F. Roberts was Academic Registrar from the University's Senate House. Ms. Tsai claimed that this letter was a proof that she passed her viva exam for a PhD. However, the letter did not mention the examination as a viva exam, and the two viva examiners were never mentioned at all in the letter and elsewhere, either. More seriously, Mrs. G. F. Roberts did not sign on the letter. Thus, how could such an unsigned letter be a formal proof of passing a viva exam for her PhD.

#3. The third document is a carbon copy of Ms. Tsai's so-called PhD diploma. According to Ms. Tsai, such a carbon copy was kept in the University of London and she got a copy of it from the University. Note that in the year of 2015, Ms. Tsai said that she applied for a replacement diploma from the University. She then displayed this replacement diploma in public on July 10, 2019. A month ago, an image file of this replacement was sent to you, as attached. According to the University's Head of Diploma Production Office, any replacement must be identical to the original diploma. However, the replacement that Ms. Tsai obtained in 2015 is totally different from the carbon copy of the so-called original diploma she obtained from the University. In other words, it is highly possible that the replacement is fake and came illegally from some unknown sources.

I was pulled into the investigation of Ms. Tsai's PhD diploma about three months ago when I tried to check out her thesis titled "Unfair Trade Practices

and Safeguard Actions" from LSE Library. The librarian told me that the University's Senate House Library had never received a copy of the thesis over the past 35 years, neither had the University's Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. This was a shock to me and then the investigation has since then continued.

On June 28, 2019, Ms. Tsai sent a facsimile copy of a so-called thesis to LSE Library for the first time in 35 years. It was bound into a hard-cover book and cataloged in the Library. This thesis then become searchable, starting from July 13, on the Library's online search system. On August 6 - 8, 2019, I visited LSE Library and reviewed this thesis. What shocked me was that I was not allowed to copy any part of the thesis's contents. You can see such illegal restrictions indicated on a white-colored paper band on the thesis, as attached. I found that the thesis has six missing pages in Chapter One (pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 are missing) and its editorial checks and corrections were quite sloppy. It does not look like a PhD-level thesis.

After a three-month investigation, I have documented a 47-page report in Chinese, which is downloadable at my Facebook Page [hwanclin](#). And an English-version of this report will be available soon. The report concludes that Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai was not awarded an LSE PhD in law in 1984.

I admire the global reputation of LSE. I sincerely hope that we all can work together to uphold the noble values of academic honesty and integrity. I believe that LSE would never compromise these values simply because Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai is President of Republic of China (Taiwan).

I hereby make a Freedom-of-Information-Act request that LSE should verify formally whether Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai was correctly awarded an LSE PhD in law in 1984.

Yours faithfully,



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