

**From:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**To:** [Thomson.MT](#); [Wilson.Clive](#); [Cerny.MW](#)  
**Cc:** [Kelloway,C](#); [Metcalf,F](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Tsai thesis press enquiry  
**Date:** 17 July 2019 11:07:17

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Many thanks, Mark and Clive.

In light of the comments, I have updated the response to the following:

"LSE would consider displaying copies of requested theses if the originals can no longer be sourced by the University of London or LSE Library."

"As indicated, the School does not have the original manuscript by Dr Tsai to compare. This is why it is listed as a personal copy on the LSE library catalogue."

Many thanks,

Danny

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**From:** Thomson,MT  
**Sent:** 17 July 2019 10:55:51  
**To:** Wilson,Clive; O'Connor,D; Cerny,MW  
**Cc:** Kelloway,C; Metcalf,F  
**Subject:** RE: Tsai thesis press enquiry

Colleagues, greetings

I would advocate the position that the less said the better, for the reasons Danny implies below; namely, we will never provide a response that fully satisfies any of these queries, given the likely motivation behind them. Providing additional detail will only beget further queries.

To that end, I think we should stick with the wording Danny originally proposed, with 'PhD' removed from the response at a) in light of Clive's helpful confirmation that we have operated this practice in the past, albeit for Masters students.

All best,

MTT

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**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 17 July 2019 10:50  
**To:** O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>; Cerny,MW <M.W.Cerny@lse.ac.uk>; Thomson,MT <M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk>

**Cc:** Kelloway,C <C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk>; Metcalfe,F <F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Tsai thesis press enquiry

sadly not. But we can evidence that we would do if there was sufficient interest.

I had to delete the file when I passed it over to Marcus so don't have them anymore. sorry.

Clive

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**From:** O'Connor,D

**Sent:** 17 July 2019 10:46

**To:** Wilson,Clive; Cerny,MW; Thomson,MT

**Cc:** Kelloway,C; Metcalfe,F

**Subject:** Re: Tsai thesis press enquiry

Thanks Clive.

a) Won't go into detail but does this mean we can say *we have* previously accepted copies of thesis which were lost?

b) We could mention this material but I suspect we may invite further questions which we can't answer for data protection reasons (please share the first two chapters, what does her file say etc).

Danny

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**From:** Wilson,Clive

**Sent:** 17 July 2019 10:38:59

**To:** O'Connor,D; Cerny,MW; Thomson,MT

**Cc:** Kelloway,C; Metcalfe,F

**Subject:** RE: Tsai thesis press enquiry

Hi Danny

a)

We have actually gone through these processes, or part processes, for three Masters dissertations. One needs to remember that early Masters were frequently done by research rather than taught.

Dudlyke, E.R., 1937. The economic geography of the milk supply of London. Unpublished MA  
G.L. Ayres (1934) Fluctuations in New Capital Issues on the London Money Market. Unpublished MSc

A. Essex-Crosby (1937) Joint stock companies in Great Britain, 1890-1930. Unpublished M.Com

The second two are both heavily cited.

All went missing. All went through the same discussion with Senate House.

Essex-Crosby reappeared and has been digitised on Ethos, one of the very few masters on there (even though it still says PhD)

Dudlyke reappeared but didn't digitise as very few citations.

We couldn't find Ayres. Both myself and one of our academics (Les Hannah) contacted several people we knew who had cited it to see if we could re-assemble any parts of it that they had copied but with no luck. Yes, we would have definitely catalogued a facsimile if we could have found one.

b)

The content, style of language, and type face are all consistent with two draft chapters that we have as part of Dr Tsai's student record – and it might not be an expert opinion but it was pretty glaring.

Could this be a good time to mention the approx. 600 theses returned to us by Senate House in 2010 (ish) that we didn't have copies of ...

Clive

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**From:** O'Connor,D  
**Sent:** 17 July 2019 09:38  
**To:** Cerny,MW; Thomson,MT; Wilson,Clive  
**Cc:** Kelloway,C; Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** Tsai thesis press enquiry

Dear colleagues,

In amongst the many enquiries, we have received a follow-up from a Chinese state-funded Hong Kong media outlet asking two specific questions

1. Is it a conventional practice of LSE to display facsimile copies if original copies are lost?
2. How did LSE verify the facsimile copy provided by Dr Tsai was identical to the original manuscript?

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Following our earlier discussions on these points, I propose we say something along the

following lines:

"LSE would consider displaying copies of a thesis for any PhD graduate if the original can no longer be sourced by the University of London or LSE Library

"The university does not have the original manuscript to compare, hence why it is listed as a fascimilie provided by Dr Tsai."

Please can you

a) verify it is accurate

b) please provide comment (if you have any) on the content - particularly the second part - which could be where the media may focus.

Kind regards,

Danny

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 July 2019 17:54  
**To:** O'Connor,D  
**Subject:** RE: Press Inquiry

Dear Mr O'Connor

Thank you so much for your swift response and the information provided.

We have a couple of follow-up questions.

1. Is it a conventional practice of LSE to display facsimile copies if original copies are lost?
2. How did LSE verify the facsimile copy provided by Dr Tsai was identical to the original manuscript?

Many thanks.

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

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19/7/16 (週二),O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk> 寫道:

主旨: RE: Press Inquiry  
[REDACTED]

日期: 2019年7月16日,二,下午10:30

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find below a statement from an LSE spokesperson on this matter.

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 but neither Senate House nor IALS were able to locate a copy of the thesis.

“However, President Tsai Ing-wen has recently provided the LSE Library with a facsimile copy of the thesis, ‘Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions’. This will be available to view in the LSE Library reading room shortly.”

/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.

Kind regards

Daniel O'Connor

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 July 2019 15:00

To: O'Connor,D  
<D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>

Subject: Press Inquiry

Dear Mr  
O'Connor

Our  
newspaper is trying to make sense of the issue in regard to  
one LSE alumna Tsai Ing-wen's missing doctoral  
dissertation entitled  
Unfair Trade Practices and Safeguard Actions from the  
LSE library. We would like to learn more about LSE's PhD  
award requirements and protocols.

Reportedly  
the LSE Library does not have a print copy of Tsai

Ing-wen's doctoral dissertation, nor does the Senate House Library, the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, or the British Library.

Apparently LSE does not even have an abstract of Tsai's dissertation.

I should be grateful if you would respond to our concerns and questions by 26th July (Friday).

1. Can LSE confirm whether it has ever had a print copy of Tsai's doctoral dissertation?

2. How many doctoral dissertation print copy missing cases were reported to LSE annually over the past three decades?

3. What mechanism does LSE have to ensure every recipient of University of London PhD as recommended by LSE is qualified?

4.

Will LSE look into the matter and review under what circumstances Tsai's PhD was awarded, and verify if the award was valid?

5. Is LSE

able to confirm that corruption was not involved in Tsai's case?

Thank you  
very much.

Kind  
regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



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