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| 1 | 2011 and 2015 Investigation |
| 2 | One copy from the Senate House Library to the IALS Library |
| 3 | A report based on the records disclosed under the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) |
| 4 | To prove the existence of Ing-wen Tsai’s doctoral thesis in the Senate House Library and the IALS Library, the press statement released by LSE on October 8, 2019, stating that the Senate House Library records confirm that a copy was received and sent by them to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS).  |
| https://www.lse.ac.uk/News/Latest-news-from-LSE/2019/j-October-2019/LSE-statement-on-PhD-of-Dr-Tsai-Ing-wen |
| 5 | The FOIA request submitted to U.O.L. on September 12, 2020, requested the Senate House Library records mentioned in the LSE press statement on October 8, 2019.  |
| https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/about\_ico\_commissioners\_decision |
| 6 | The requested record is the first file disclosed by U.O.L. on the WhateDoTheyKnow.com website on February 23, 2022. |
| 7 | It contains three emails sent in 2011. The first one was sent from the Senate House Library on July 13, 2011, at 16:27. It could not find a catalog entry of Tsai’s doctoral thesis but claimed that the Senate House Library once had a copy of Tsai’s thesis because a record of Tsai’s thesis was found in the national or ASLIB index to Theses. |
| https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/792874/response/1980587/attach/2/Withheld%20information%20A%20Redacted.pdf?cookie\_passthrough=1 |
| 8 | It is an unsubstantiated claim for two reasons.First, a copy of the national or ASLIB index to Theses has never been produced.Second, the LSE press statement on October 8, 2019, relied on the IALS Index document published in 1985, not the national or ASLIB index to Theses, to prove the existence of Tsai’s doctoral thesis.  |
| 9 | Five days later, on July 18, 2011, at 11:25, another email was sent from the Senate House Library. I can add to the email below that I tracked down the 1984 card output from the computer system, so I know we once had a copy on the shelf and our online catalogue and that we sent the College copy to IALS, but they don’t have it either. |
| https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/792874/response/1980587/attach/2/Withheld%20information%20A%20Redacted.pdf?cookie\_passthrough=1 |
| 10 | The Senate House Library’s old card catalogue and the U.O.L.’s response on January 11, 2022, prove that the claim that the Senate House Library once had a copy of Tsai’s doctoral thesis on the shelf and the online catalogue was bogus. U.O.L. did not receive Tsai’s doctoral thesis in 1984. |
| 11 | Even in 2023, no catalogue entry of Tsai’s thesis can be found in the Senate House Library Online catalogue. |
| [Senate House Libraries / ULTHESES (london.ac.uk)](https://catalogue.libraries.london.ac.uk/search~S16/?searchtype=t&searcharg=Unfair+trade+practices+and+safeguard+actions&searchscope=16&SORT=D&extended=0&SUBMIT=Search&searchlimits=&searchorigarg=aTsai%2C+Ing-Wen) |
| 12 | Based on the second email, the copy sent to the IALS Library was the College copy.  |
| 13 | The requirement of a College copy can be found in the 1998-1999 U.O.L. Regulations, but not the 1983-1984 U.O.L. Regulations. One copy of a successful thesis is placed in the library of the candidate's College. The College copy shall be the archival copy in hard-bound form. |
| https://lse-atom.arkivum.net/uploads/r/lse-institutional-archives/a/b/6/ab6466cf23dd82237d91f63289e64951a73fc4a46cff73e1e95de4461690494f/cbc78460-d08b-4cd9-896d-3b0cd3572c3b-UKLSE\_DL1\_PU01\_001\_001\_0105\_0001.pdf |
| 14 | The college copy sent by the Senate House Library to the IALS Library was a phantom copy that did not exist in 1983-1984. Furthermore, the College copy was the LSE copy stored in the LSE Library, not the IALS Library. The Senate House Library should have sent it to the LSE Library, not the IALS Library. |
| 15 | The Research Degree Examination office replied the next day, July 19, 2011, at 17:27.It refuted the Senate House Library’s claim that it once had a copy of Tsai’s thesis on the shelf and its online catalogue because the green record form and the reproductions of thesis form that would usually have been sent to the Senate House Library with the theses but were still in Tsai’s U.O.L. student file retrieved from the archives. |
| https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/792874/response/1980587/attach/2/Withheld%20information%20A%20Redacted.pdf?cookie\_passthrough=1 |
| 16 | It also refuted the College copy claim.If the Senate House once had a copy of Tsai’s thesis, it might be the spare third examination copy in those days. |
| Id. |
| 17 | The 1983-1984 U.O.L. Regulations required two bound copies and one adequately bound copy to be submitted for the PhD exam.  |
| 11.7 |
| 18 | The spare third examination copy was the adequately bound copy submitted for the PhD exam in the early 1980s, probably because three viva examiners might be nominated instead of two. |
| 19 | Since the Senate House Library claimed that it once had a copy of Tsai’s thesis, the Research Degree Examination office speculated the only possibility:It may be that only one copy of the thesis (the spare third examination copy, in those days) was sent to you sometime after the close of the examination once it was apparent to us that no headway was being made with obtaining the examiners' copies for you.  |
| Id. |
| 20 | It was only speculation because the Research Degree Examination office “cannot be sure.”  |
| Id. |
| 21 | and “can’t shed any light on the whereabouts of the copy you appear to have had at some stage.”It indicates that, by July 19, 2011, there was no record of sending the spare third copy of Tsai’s thesis to the Senate House Library or anywhere else in Tsai’s U.O.L. student file.  |
| Id. |
| 22 | In addition, no written entry clarified whether or not U.O.L. received the examination copies after 1 ½ years of the chase.  |
| Id. |
| 23 | All three examination copies of Tsai’s doctoral thesis vanished after the viva exam, and U.O.L. had no records of their whereabouts. |
| 24  | In addition to the Senate House Library’s old card catalogue and U.O.L.’s response on January 11, 2022, Tsai’s U.O.L. student file described in the email dated July 19, 2011, also proves that the Senate House Library’s claim that it once had a copy of Tsai’s thesis and sent the College copy to the IALS Library was bogus.  |
| 25 | Tsai’s non-existing doctoral thesis was reinvestigated in 2015. On June 29, 2015, based on Tsai’s U.O.L. student file retrieved from the U.O.L. Archives again, U.O.L. found that:In 2011, the Senate House Library confirmed that it sent a copy of Tsai’s thesis to the IALS. At that time, someone established that IALS no longer had a copy of the thesis.  |
| 26 | On January 10, 2020, Hwan Lin disclosed two emails received on October 12, 2019, confirming that a copy of Tsai’s thesis was sent to the Senate House Library in 2011. |
| https://www.eatnews.net/blog/20200110-2/ |
| 27 | The first email was received from the Senate House Library at 4:21 pm, Later records indicate that a third copy was sent to the Senate House Library in 2011, and this was then sent on to IALS. However, it would appear that since then, IALS have confirmed that they no longer have this copy.  |
| Id. |
| 28 | According to this email, “a third copy” of Tsai’s doctoral thesis was sent to the Senate House Library in 2011, not in 1984 when U.O.L. awarded a PhD to Tsai. |
| 29 | The second email was sent from IALS at 4:48 PM, reporting that:We have been asked many times for this thesis, but we do not have a copy in our collection, and we have no record that we ever received the copy that was sent to us. |
| Id. |
| 30 | Marcus Cerny’s email on June 27, 2019, at 13:20, confirms that the third copy of Tsai’s thesis was sent to the IALS Library in 2011, not in 1984 when U.O.L. awarded a PhD to Tsai. |
| 31 | Cerny’s email was sent to O’Connor, commenting on O’Connor’s drafted response to Hwan Lin’s enquiry dated June 21, 2019. In the drafted response, to prove the existence of Tsai’s thesis in the Senate House Library and the IALS Library, O’Connor stated that Colleagues have made further enquiries, and Senate House Library records do indicate that a copy was received. Senate House also confirmed they sent their copy of the thesis to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) 35 years ago. |
| 32 | Cerny pointed out that the copy was actually sent in 2011, not 35 years ago, in 1984.  |
| 33 | He tried to justify that the Research Degree Examinations office sent the copy in 2011. This makes sense to me because it will have been around the time that the Research Degrees Office shut at UoL, and remaining responsibilities were devolved to individual institutions (though LSE had already assumed these). I imagine they will have been clearing up a number of things outstanding around that time. |
| 34 | If a third copy of Tsai’s thesis was sent to the Senate House Library and then on to the IALS Library in 2011, it was sent between January 1 and July 12, 2011, at least one day before the Senate House Library claimed that it once had a copy of Tsai’s thesis on July 13, 2011.  |
| 35 | The Research Degree Examinations office speculated that the spare third copy was sent sometime after the close of the examination in the mid-1980s. On July 19, 2011, the office had no record or recollection of sending the spare third copy of Tsai’s thesis to the Senate House Library in the past seven months. It didn’t even know the whereabouts of all three examination copies.  |
| 36 | Who sent the third copy of Tsai’s thesis to the Senate House Library in 2011?  |
| 37 | Was it sent from a unit other than the Research Degree Examinations office at the Senate House in 2011? |
| 38 | The email from the Senate House Library on July 13, 2011, stated thatIt should be an online catalogue, with a note added to indicate if it’s been withdrawn to send to LSE, which should have happened. |
| 39 | It indicates that the doctoral theses produced by LSE had been repatriated from the Senate House Library and sent to the LSE Library before July 13, 2011. |
| 40 | LSE’s response on March 21, 2022, confirmed that the process of withdrawing LSE theses from the Senate House Library to the LSE Library began in 2009 and was completed by the end of 2010.  |
| 41 | U.O.L. was reorganized in 2007. In 2011, four years after reorganization, the Senate House knew that all PhD theses produced by LSE had been withdrawn from the Senate House Library and sent to the LSE Library. |
| 42 | If the third copy of Tsai’s thesis had been sent from a unit at the Senate House, it would have been sent to the LSE Library, not the Senate House Library. |
| 43 | Only seven months ago, the Senate House Library completed the process of repatriating LSE theses to the LSE Library by the end of 2010. If it had received the third copy of Tsai’s thesis within seven months after the completion of the process of repatriating LSE theses to the LSE Library, the Senate House Library would have sent it to the LSE Library, not the IALS Library.  |
| 44 | Therefore, it is unlikely that the third copy of Tsai’s doctoral thesis received by the Senate House Library in 2011 was sent from a unit at the Senate House. It was sent by someone unfamiliar with U.O.L.’s system or the changes in U.O.L.’s system at the time.  |
| 45 | On November 9, 2019, Dennis Peng disclosed a photo showing five people enjoying their afternoon tea, including Tsai and Anthony Giddens, LSE Director between 1996 and 2003 and now a member of the UK Parliament. It was taken on June 9, 2011, and posted on the Facebook page of Chi-Mai Chen, the incumbent Kaohsiung City Mayor, around that time. Chen was also in the picture. Peng suspected that Tsai was the source of the third copy of Tsai’s thesis received by the Senate House Library and sent to the IALS Library in 2011. |
| https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBde2DGe68U&t=1826s |
| 46 | Hwan Lin suspected the third copy sent to the Senate House Library in 2011 was in the heavy handbag carried by Tsai when she visited LSE in June 2011.  |
| <https://www.eatnews.net/blog/20200110-2/> |
| 47 | Coincidentally or not, the Senate House Library made the bogus claim that it once had a copy of Tsai’s thesis on July 18, 2011, only one month after Tsai visited LSE in early June 2011. |
| 48 | One year after Tsai applied and U.O.L. reissued Tsai’s PhD diploma for Tsai to run for the New Taipei City mayor in 2010.  |
| 49 | Two years after Tsai’s doctoral thesis was added to ProQuest in 2009. |
| 50 | The second email disclosed by Hwan Lin stated that the IALS Library never received the third copy of Tsai’s thesis sent from the Senate House Library in 2011.  |
| 51 | Why did the Senate House Library claim it sent the third copy of Tsai’s thesis to the IALS Library in 2011? |
| 52 | Claiming that the copy received by the Senate House Library was sent to the IALS Library would leave a record of Tsai’s thesis in both the Senate House Library and the IALS Library to prove the existence of Tsai’s thesis in both libraries.  |
| 53 | It is evidenced by the email from Kit Good, Data Protection and Information Compliance Manager at U.O.L., to Hwan Lin on June 19, 2019. In regards to whether the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies received a copy, the University does not have any formal acquisition records for theses from the 1980s, though correspondence records indicate a copy was sent from the Senate House Library to IALS at some point in the past.  |
| 54 | LSE did the same on October 8, 2019.The Senate House Library records confirm that a copy was received and sent by them to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS).  |
| 55 | Marcus Cerny’s instruction on June 27, 2019, wasI would keep the date out of it and just say that Senate House Library confirmed they sent it to IALS. |
| 56 | The press statement released by LSE on October 8, 2019, omitted a material fact and should have read:The Senate House Library records confirm that a copy was received and sent by them to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) in 2011.  |
| 57 | Voice generated by FreeTTSTo be continued…. |

/End