

**From:** [Thomson,MT](#)  
**To:** ["Simeon Underwood"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: In confidence  
**Date:** 25 June 2019 09:11:53  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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Thanks Simeon, that all tallies with what I can make out. I have no doubt that the award was made in line with UoL requirements at the time; and I think there is enough to show that the thesis made its way to Senate House (i.e. because there is a record of it being catalogued), but seems to have been lost when they forwarded it to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies.

Lots of noise and heat around this one, re: influential LSE alumna, Taiwanese election, political opponents, etc. The play here is to follow regulations and not make any allowances we wouldn't make for any of our graduates.

You may get back to your retirement now.

All best,

MTT

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**From:** Simeon Underwood [mailto:simeon.underwood@outlook.com]  
**Sent:** 25 June 2019 09:05  
**To:** Thomson,MT <M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: In confidence  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Mark

I have a vague memory of this. My recollection is that it was no big deal. I got the student file from the archive, and then liaised with Senate House (I am not sure whether Susan Johnson had left by that time). All the paperwork was in order -- by contrast to some files I had seen, notably the senior New Zealand civil servant whose claim to have a PhD turned out to be unprovable and possibly fraudulent. I am not sure there are any "workings". If you are in need of anything further, though, I can have a go at looking further, but without much expectation of finding anything. On the missing thesis, I suspect that this is down to Senate House, the Library or both.

Does that help ?

Simeon

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**From:** Thomson,MT <[M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk)>

**Sent:** 24 June 2019 12:43

**To:** 'Simeon Underwood'

**Subject:** In confidence

Simeon, greetings

In confidence, please.

Several years ago, there were some enquiries into the PhD thesis of Ing-Wen Tsai. Apparently you looked into this, and concluded that you were satisfied that – on the basis of the available evidence – all proper UoL procedures for the award of a PhD degree were followed, despite neither the LSE nor UoL being able to locate a copy of the thesis.

A few weeks ago Ing-Wen won the nomination process to lead her party in the upcoming Taiwanese elections. This has precipitated a deluge of enquiries from interested parties into the details of her thesis.

We are playing this one very much with a straight bat, and are replying consistently along the lines of “the award was made in accordance with UoL procedures at the time; neither LSE nor Senate House can locate a copy; thank you”.

Everything is in hand, though if you happened to still have your ‘workings’ from the review you conducted at the time, I would be very happy to have sight of it.

All best,

MTT

PS. Before I sent this note I had a quick search through the electronic files you left me, and felt deep waves of nostalgia upon unearthing the ‘CPT Bulletin 3’ from 2002!

**Mark Thomson**

**Academic Registrar, Academic Registrar's Division**

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE

t: +44 (0)20 7955 6114

e: [m.t.thomson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:m.t.thomson@lse.ac.uk)

[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)



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

**From:** [Kelloway,C](#)  
**To:** [Wilson,Clive](#); [O'Connor,D](#); [Metcalf,F](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Date:** 12 June 2019 11:52:52

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Hi Clive,

Please find the statement below.

I feel we should just confirm her award and share a copy of the calendar as proof as originally discussed.

**Media Statement:**

**An LSE spokesperson said:**

“University of London and LSE records confirm Tsai Ing-wen was awarded a PhD in Law in 1984.

“Unfortunately, the LSE Library has never held a copy of Tsai Ing-wen’s thesis. All PhDs from that period were awarded via the University of London and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library.

“We have corresponded with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Senate House Library are presently unable to find their copy.”

/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.

Many thanks,  
Charlotte

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**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 10:48  
**To:** O'Connor,D; Kelloway,C; Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** FW: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

Hi All

this from Dr Shih suggests Charlotte’s original draft for the press is probably good to go – with maybe the addition of the information that a copy is being provided.

Is it ok to copy her in and run it by her?

thanks









**From:** [Thomson,MT](#)  
**To:** [Wright,NC](#); [Pressoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [Nadal,L](#); [Hix,S](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - LSE PhD thesis - Taiwan president  
**Date:** 11 June 2019 16:57:00

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Thanks Nicola

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**From:** Wright,NC  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 15:54  
**To:** Pressoffice <Pressoffice@lse.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** Nadal,L <L.Nadal@lse.ac.uk>; Hix,S <S.Hix@lse.ac.uk>; Thomson,MT <M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** FYI - LSE PhD thesis - Taiwan president

Dear all,

Just a quick alert that the Library has been receiving queries about this alum and the PhD. This happened a few years ago and Simeon Underwood at that time investigated and established these details. We are responding as per the below text. This could be high profile during the election period in Taiwan.

Best wishes,  
Nicola

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**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 12:35  
**To:** Bell,M; Bhullar,I; Challis,D; Collings,R; Dawson,H; Fry,AE; Gomes,S; Graham1,N; Hayward,S; Horsler,PN; Hussain,R; Murphy,GE; Orson,R; Payne1,D; Reid,MJ; Towlson,A; Wilkinson,E; Wilson,Clive; Zajasensky,L; Benton,A; Rodriguez; Poulouse,S; Donnelly,S; Wilson1,K; Griffiths,CB  
**Cc:** Lsethesonline  
**Subject:** LSE PhD thesis - Taiwan president

Hi All

sorry to send this so widely, but I'm trying to cover all bases. Please forward if you think I've missed anyone.

There are presidential primaries in Taiwan this week to decide who the candidate for the DPP will be. One is the current president and LSE alumna Ing-wen Tsai.

Ing-wen Tsai received her PhD from LSE in 1984: Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions. We have had three queries in the last two weeks about it.

There was also great interest in it when she first stood for election and we had to do a lot of digging. LSE Library has never had a copy and Senate House could not find their copy. We tried IALS as some law theses went there but they didn't have it either. The student record was checked and LSE is satisfied that the PhD was awarded correctly.

The standard response to any query about the thesis is as follows:

Thank you for expressing an interest in this thesis. Unfortunately, LSE Library has never had a copy of this thesis. All PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to Senate House Library. As you can appreciate there has been a lot of interest in Dr Tsai's thesis, we have been in correspondence with the University of London about it and extensive checks have been made. Unfortunately Senate House are unable to find their copy.

I am sorry we cannot help further.

But please copy any queries to both me and [lsethesesonline@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lsethesesonline@lse.ac.uk)

thanks

Clive

**From:** [Orson,R](#)  
**To:** [Fisher,RW](#); [O'Connor,D](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw:  
**Date:** 12 June 2019 16:06:45

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Thanks Ross. Please let me know the response from DTS. I am not aware of my details being on the website.

Ruth.

Ruth Orson  
Library Assistant, Research Support Services | LSE Research Online  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
10 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HD  
tel: 020 7955 3528 | email: [R.Orson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.Orson@lse.ac.uk)

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**From:** Fisher,RW  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 15:59:13  
**To:** O'Connor,D; Orson,R  
**Subject:** RE: Fw:

Hi Danny, Ruth,

The old directory pages aren't managed by the Digital team, but I will contact DTS to see whether they can arrange the removal of Ruth's details.

Ruth, are your contact details listed anywhere on the main LSE website? If so we should look at removing them as well.

All the best,  
Ross

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**From:** O'Connor,D  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 19:48  
**To:** Orson,R <[R.Orson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.Orson@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Kelloway,C <[C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk](mailto:C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk)>; Pearson,MK <[M.K.Pearson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:M.K.Pearson@lse.ac.uk)>; Comms.Digital <[Comms.Digital@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Comms.Digital@lse.ac.uk)>; Metcalfe,F <[F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk](mailto:F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fw:

Hi Ruth,

We don't manage those pages but am copying in colleagues from the digital team who may be able to help.

Mike/ Digital, please see below. Ruth Orson from the library is starting to be targeted with emails from Taiwan. Are you guys able to edit the staff directory temporarily or is this something for HR?

Danny

Danny

On 11 Jun 2019, at 19:03, Orson,R <[R.Orson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.Orson@lse.ac.uk)> wrote:

Please can you remove my email address from the staff directory so I do not continue to get these emails?

Ruth.

Ruth Orson  
Library Assistant, Research Support Services | LSE Research Online  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
10 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HD  
tel: 020 7955 3528 | email: [R.Orson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.Orson@lse.ac.uk)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 11 June 2019 17:43:14

**To:** Orson,R

**Subject:**

Dear,

I'm from Taiwan.

Nearly, I got a information that Dr. Tsai, Ing-Wen's ( the president of Taiwan ) thesis - "Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions" is disappeared, even counterfeit or ghostwriting.

This information may be harmful to LSE and Dr. Tsai's fame.

I really want to know whether this information is correct.

Thank you. Best wishes.

[REDACTED]  
12/06/2019

**To:** [Wilson,Clive](#); [Kelloway,C](#)  
**Cc:** [Metcalf,F](#)  
**Subject:** RE: For your modification re my draft  
**Date:** 12 June 2019 16:32:48

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**From:** Shih,F

**Sent:** 12 June 2019 15:16

**To:** Wilson,Clive <CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk>; Kelloway,C <C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk>

**Cc:** O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>; Metcalfe,F <F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk>

**Subject:** For your modification re my draft

Dear Clive and Charlotte,

Thank you very much for all your efforts in preparing this LSE press release.

This is very important for alumna President Tsai Ing-wen and the school's reputation as they have been under the irrational attack by anti-Tsai camp during the nomination election in her own political party – DDP.

To be brief, the anti-Tsai's camp includes:

- (1) Taiwanese nationalists (who is against Tsai's policy beyond Chinese and Taiwanese nationalisms toward democracy);
- (2) Taiwanese Independence fundamentalists (who is against Tsai's policy in maintaining the status quo with China);
- (3) Church members (who is against Tsai's government which has recently passed same-sex marriage law)

It is hoped you and the school could understand the current fragile situation and support our alumna and her lead of Taiwan's democracy to the next step as well as to redress the

damages to President Tsai and the LSE done by anti-Tsai camp.

The draft letter is fine but is it possible to cut it shorter and add a response to the question of her supervisor and viva examiners?

If this sentence -- “Unfortunately, the LSE Library has never held a copy of Tsai Ing-wen’s thesis”— has appeared again, the anti-Tsai camp will continue to attack Tsai, saying she has never submitted her thesis, no matter how many reasons in explaining this. As such, the rest of the sentences regarding her thesis is better not to repeat again (already said in Ruth Orson’s 2 emails which have invited the conspiracy to accuse her deceiving of her doctoral degree).

As such, it is hoped you will agree this modified version and please see below:

If not, we also understand the school’s concern. Many thanks!

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### **An LSE spokesperson said:**

“University of London and LSE records confirm Tsai Ing-wen was awarded a PhD in Law in 1984. The LSE has all information, such as the names of Tsai’s supervisor and viva examiners. But due to the private data protection, the LSE is unable to release this information without the consent of the individuals. Nevertheless, it is not an unusual case as the supervisor name wasn’t always included in the thesis in those days.”

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All the very best,  
Fang-long



**From:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**To:** [Wilson,Clive](#); [Maguire,RE](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI query - thesis supervisor  
**Date:** 27 June 2019 14:23:00

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I'm happy that we can say something like, "following data protection guidelines we do not, as standard, release the names of PhD supervisors."

It is our default policy, after all.

Danny

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**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 27 June 2019 14:12  
**To:** Maguire,RE <R.E.Maguire@lse.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: FOI query - thesis supervisor

Thanks Rachael, much appreciated.

I can't help think this journalist will just find it very convenient that the supervisor has died. But although we could release it – we don't have to. It's only really chance that I know that he passed away. Danny – your call on that one 😊

thanks again

Clive

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**From:** Maguire,RE  
**Sent:** 27 June 2019 14:04  
**To:** Wilson,Clive  
**Cc:** O'Connor,D  
**Subject:** RE: FOI query - thesis supervisor

Hello Clive,

This is not true as this is third party personal information which is being requested. Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act requires that we consider whether the data protection principles will be breached if we release personal data. The personal data in this case is:

- The degree granted
- The supervisor's name.

The main data protection principle is the first, relating to fairness. We have to consider if it will be fair to release personal data relating to another individual. Regarding the degree, this is fair to release as it is usually in the student's interests to confirm they received the degree they are saying they received. There will be negative consequences for them if we don't. Regarding the supervisor's name, this would not normally be fair because the School does not release the names of teaching staff on a regular basis and there would be an expectation from staff that their names were not released. However, as the supervisor is dead, data protection no longer

applies. You have to be a living individual. So the supervisor's name in this instance could be released.

FoI is not a complete right to information anyway, there are exemptions and other reasons we can refuse e.g. vexatious requests. I suggest linking to the ICO's website for more information [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) as a further resource.

Regards,  
Rachael

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**From:** Wilson, Clive  
**Sent:** 27 June 2019 13:52  
**To:** Maguire, RE <[R.E.Maguire@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.E.Maguire@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** O'Connor, D <[D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** FOI query - thesis supervisor

Hi Rachel

sorry, more on the Ing-Wen Tsai thesis.

A Chinese journalist has been writing on the disappearance of Ing-Wen Tsai's thesis. I had initially replied to him with our standard response and told him that releasing the supervisor's name was not allowed under UK data protection rules – as Simeon Underwood had stated 4 years ago.

The journalist has come back with

**I consulted a British writer and checked with The Freedom of Information Act of UK, it came to my knowledge that as a public figure, a government official, and let alone a sitting president of a democratic country, any information regarding Ms. Tsai's degree, her thesis, her supervisor, etc. should be public information and LSE is responsible to provide whatever they have.**

(I haven't included the long non-LSE related bumpf)

The supervisor passed away in 2016 and hadn't been at LSE since 1984. I feel as though, if he were alive, we would need his permission to release his name. But as Ing-Wen Tsai is the current president of Taiwan do we need to release this?

(I also see there is an international relations exclusion but that's probably a stretch)

Many thanks

Clive

Clive Wilson  
Enquiry Services Manager (Academic Services)  
London School of Economics                      Tel.: 020 7955 7475

10 Portugal Street  
London WC2A 2HD

Fax.: 020 7955 7454

Email: [Datalibrary@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Datalibrary@lse.ac.uk)  
[clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk)

**From:** [Gajewska, M](#)  
**To:** [Directorate](#)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** 17 June 2019 14:30:41

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I'll forward it to the Library for information.

Thanks,

Marta

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**From:** Directorate  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 10:26  
**To:** Gajewska, M <M.Gajewska@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** FW:

Hi Marta,  
Any idea what I can do about the email below?

Best regards,  
Kinga

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 03:42  
**To:** Directorate <[Directorate@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Directorate@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:**

Dear Director Shafik:

An LSE alumna, you might be interested in a recent controversy over another LSE alumna, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, amid her efforts to win a 2nd term of her Taiwanese Presidency.

The controversy has been made public and hot in the Taiwanese Press, with the appearance of two letters by an LSE library assistant at Research Support Services, Ruth Orson, who describes Dr. Tsai's Ph.D. thesis two times as "unavailable" and "missing." Required by law, Dr. Tsai's Ph.D. thesis "would have been sent first to Senate House Library," and "would have gone to the IALS," according to Ms. Orson. "Unfortunately, Senate House apparently never received a copy and the IALS are unable to find their copy," says Ms. Orson in one of the two letters.

A candidate seeking her 2nd term in the upcoming Taiwanese presidential election, Dr. Tsai would have benefited should she face bluntly the Press's questioning. Unfortunately, she chose to evade all questions and keep silence regarding the whereabouts of her Ph.D. thesis and the accessibility to the thesis.

Dr. Tsai as the President carries with her a lot of Taiwanese people's hope for a brand-new democracy and with your highly esteemed status in LSE, you are a new hope for the Taiwanese people to keep their hope alive and help Dr. Tsai clarify the controversy by finding an access to her thesis and explain why the thesis should have been missing for so long, over 3 decades. It would be highly regretful should her candidacy be fouled by any suspicion as such.

As you commit to have the "original vision of LSE" remain constant, I am eager, with your very kind and generous help, to get access to the "original version of LSE" Ph.D. thesis by an outstanding alumna, Dr, Tsai Ing-wen.

Your very kind and generous assistance to find the truth behind the whereabouts and why Dr. Tsai's LSE Ph.D. thesis should be missing for so long would be greatly appreciated by the Taiwanese people. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

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

**From:** [O'Connor.D](#)  
**To:** [Media.Relations](#); [Metcalf.E](#); [Carrol.P](#); [Winterstein.J](#); [Windebank.S](#); [Bale.JM](#); [Kelloway.C](#)  
**Subject:** Next week  
**Date:** 14 June 2019 17:24:00  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Hi all,

Not a lot to update on for next week while I'm off.

### **Tsai PhD**

Charlotte has done a sterling job on this. The next possible stage is receiving her PhD in the library and then letting enquirers know that we have it.

### **WTUD**

Fiona is the point of contact on this...and it is currently in stasis.

### **QS rankings – Out Wednesday**

**Peter**, as discussed could you have a look to see if worth an online story. Can repeat positive news from the subject rankings.

Cheers,

Danny

**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: [doconnord@lse.ac.uk](mailto:doconnord@lse.ac.uk)

[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)



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**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 12 June 2019 17:08:17  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence, I have been asked to respond with some more information.

Further to your remarks, the records of both the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of London confirm that Tsai Ing-Wen was awarded a PhD in Law 1984. For your interest, I have attached a scan of a relevant entry in the 'LSE Calendar' of 1985/86, which is an official public record of awards and degrees given to LSE students for the previous year.

The student record shows that the thesis was submitted but the supervisor copy that should have come to LSE Library (the British Library of Political and Economic Science) never did.

As previously circulated, all PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. They clearly received their copy because otherwise it could not have been catalogued and appear on their catalogue – and from there to the British Library catalogue.

We have been in correspondence with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Senate House are presently unable to find their copy.

I am in touch with colleagues regarding the other pieces of information requested. However, some of them may be restricted by UK data protection laws.

**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](mailto:oconnord@lse.ac.uk)  
[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)



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

**From:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**To:** [taiwan.people.news@gmail.com](mailto:taiwan.people.news@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Media.Relations](#)  
**Subject:** London School of Economics statement regarding article  
**Date:** 12 June 2019 13:53:00  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[LSE\\_1984-5\\_Calendar.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Sir/ Madam

I am getting in touch from the London School of Economics Media Relations Office in relation to this article:

**Is the doctoral degree of Tsai Ing-wen fraud?** [English translation]

<https://www.peoplenews.tw/news/41075ad6-3253-4db4-a689-38d8ea3e1e1f>

LSE would like to provide the following statement, attributable to an LSE spokesperson:

**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.*

*"Unfortunately, the LSE Library has never held a copy of Tsai Ing-Wen's thesis. All PhDs from that period were awarded via the University of London and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library.*

*"We have corresponded with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Senate House Library are presently unable to find their copy."*

/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.

Futhermore, **please remove reference in your article to the LSE member of staff, Ruth Orson.**

The information in her email is correct but she understood this to be personal communication, not a press statement for general publication.

The statement from the LSE spokesperson (as above) can be used instead.

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](mailto:oconnord@lse.ac.uk)  
**lse.ac.uk**



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

**From:** [Cerny.MW](#)  
**To:** [Yarham.B](#); [Marks.S](#)  
**Subject:** Ing-Wen Tsai  
**Date:** 11 June 2019 10:23:00

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Dear Rachel and Susan,

Ing-Wen was awarded in March 1984 and listed in the awards 1985/6. There have been requests for the thesis since her election but none of the three libraries who may be expected to have a copy appear to have one (Senate House and LSE appear not to have received one and IALS are unable to find their copy).

I've raised it with the Comms team and flagged this up to senior management. In the meantime can the department confirm who the supervisor is and whether there might be a reason why the thesis would not be submitted to the libraries. I will raise this with the University of London, as this obviously long pre-dates our taking on degree awarding powers and this will have been managed by Senate House, but I want to check what we know first.

Thanks,  
Marcus

***Marcus Cerny***  
*Deputy Director, PhD Academy*  
*London School of Economics and Political Science*  
*Houghton Street*  
*London WC2A 2AE*

**Please consider the environment and do not print this email unless absolutely necessary.**

Please access the attached hyperlink for an important electronic communications disclaimer:

<http://lse.ac.uk/emailDisclaimer>

**From:** [Directorate](#)  
**To:** [Wilson5.A](#)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** 24 June 2019 08:54:00

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Hi Andy,  
Any idea what we can do about that?

Best regards,  
Kinga

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 June 2019 10:40  
**To:** Directorate <Directorate@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:**

Dear Director Shafik:

An LSE alumna, you might be interested in a recent controversy over another LSE alumna, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, amid her efforts to win a 2nd term of her Taiwanese Presidency.

The controversy has been made public and hot in the Taiwanese Press, with the appearance of two letters by an LSE library assistant at Research Support Services, Ruth Orson, who describes Dr. Tsai's Ph.D. thesis two times as "unavailable" and "missing." Required by law, Dr. Tsai's Ph.D. thesis "would have been sent first to Senate House Library," and "would have gone to the IALS," according to Ms. Orson. "Unfortunately, Senate House apparently never received a copy and the IALS are unable to find their copy," says Ms. Orson in one of the two letters.

A candidate seeking her 2nd term in the upcoming Taiwanese presidential election, Dr. Tsai would have benefited should she face bluntly the Press's questioning. Unfortunately, she chose to evade all questions and keep silence regarding the whereabouts of her Ph.D. thesis and the accessibility to the thesis. Dr. Tsai as the President carries with her a lot of Taiwanese people's hope for a brand-new democracy and with your highly esteemed status in LSE, you are a new hope for the Taiwanese people to keep their hope alive and help Dr. Tsai clarify the controversy by finding an access to her thesis and explain why the thesis should have been missing for so long, over 3 decades. It would be highly regretful should her candidacy be fouled by any suspicion as such. As you commit to have the "original vision of LSE" remain constant, I am eager, with your very kind and generous help, to get access to the "original version of LSE" Ph.D. thesis by an outstanding alumna, Dr, Tsai Ing-wen.

Your very kind and generous assistance to find the truth behind the whereabouts and why Dr. Tsai's LSE Ph.D. thesis should be missing for so long would be greatly appreciated by the Taiwanese people. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kendrick,C](#)  
**To:** [O'Connor,D](#); [Metcalf,E](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tsai Ing-wen  
**Date:** 18 June 2019 11:04:40  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

Morning

Just FYI in case this hasn't looped back to you from the Directorate.

**Chris Kendrick**  
**Head of Alumni & Supporter Engagement | LSE Advancement**  
The London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE  
t: +44 (0)20 7107 5200  
e: [c.kendrick@lse.ac.uk](mailto:c.kendrick@lse.ac.uk)  
[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)



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**From:** "Jaggs,L" <[L.Jaggs@lse.ac.uk](mailto:L.Jaggs@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 June 2019 at 11:02  
**To:** "Kendrick,C" <[C.Kendrick@lse.ac.uk](mailto:C.Kendrick@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Tsai Ing-wen

Hi Chris

Just forwarding these on so you are aware, just in case it starts to go anywhere. Marta may have sent them to Fiona Metcalfe already, but you may wish to give her a heads up in case not?

Best wishes

Liz

**Liz Jaggs**

**Head of Executive Support | LSE Advancement**

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE

t: +44 (0)20 7955 7783

e: [Ljaggs@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Ljaggs@lse.ac.uk)

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**From:** [Wilson, Clive](#)  
**To:** [Cerny, MW](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Taiwanese President phd  
**Date:** 25 June 2019 16:37:37  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]  
[image014.png](#)  
[image015.png](#)  
[image017.png](#)  
[image018.png](#)

---

Hi Marcus

sorry for delay – copy of Ing-Wen Tsai's student record

Clive

---

**From:** Donnelly, S  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 12:05  
**To:** Wilson, Clive  
**Subject:** Taiwanese President phd

Hi Clive,

I still have the scan done for the previous enquiries and I attach it to this email – I have discussed this with Rachael Maguire and we cannot release the file to anyone else without the subject's permission so please do not pass it on to anybody else.

The relevant pages are I think 43-46 which includes a certificate from the University of London confirming the award of the PhD on 14 March 1984 – it looks as though there was a problem with some of the paperwork from her supervisor. It is possible that with her permission we or the University of London could perhaps release that certificate.

Hope that helps you cope with the enquiries,

All the best

Sue

**Sue Donnelly**  
**LSE Archivist | Secretary's Division**  
The London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE  
t: +44 (0)20 3486 2840  
e: [s.donnelly@lse.ac.uk](mailto:s.donnelly@lse.ac.uk)  
[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)



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



**From:** [Kelloway, C](#)  
**To:** [O'Connor, D](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Searching for a PhD thesis in 1984  
**Date:** 14 June 2019 12:42:58

---

FYI – shall we request the record?

I read on another email chain that her supervisor was a Mr MJ Elliott. Doing a quick google search I can't find him so it might be quite difficult for others to track him down.

Also, I think we should probably follow up with the People's News today as they haven't taken down Ruth's name. I don't know if it's worth another email asking them again and saying it is causing her some distress as she doesn't normally deal with the media and didn't think her private communication would be shared in this way?

Charlotte

---

**From:** Wilson, Clive  
**Sent:** 14 June 2019 11:33  
**To:** Kelloway, C  
**Subject:** RE: Searching for a PhD thesis in 1984

Hi Charlotte

although I suggested retrieving the student record, I didn't do that.

But it's also since been suggested that we would need the permission of the supervisor himself as he may end up being emailed directly – as Ruth was.

Clive

---

**From:** Kelloway, C  
**Sent:** 13 June 2019 16:46  
**To:** Wilson, Clive  
**Subject:** RE: Searching for a PhD thesis in 1984

No problem. Have you had any luck with retrieving her student record? As we may include the name of her supervisor and others involved with her viva in our reply to [REDACTED] (as I understand her office gave permission for this info to be shared).

Many thanks,  
Charlotte

---

**From:** Wilson, Clive

**Sent:** 13 June 2019 16:30  
**To:** Kelloway,C  
**Subject:** RE: Searching for a PhD thesis in 1984

Fab, thanks ☺

Clive

---

**From:** Kelloway,C  
**Sent:** 13 June 2019 16:01  
**To:** Wilson,Clive  
**Subject:** RE: Searching for a PhD thesis in 1984

Hi Clive,

Looks good. Does the below work?

Hi Joseph

As stated below, PhDs from that period were submitted to Senate House. LSE Library did not receive a copy which is why it isn't listed on our catalogue. Our records confirm Tsai Ing-Wen was awarded a PhD in Law 1984.

best wishes

Clive

---

**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 13 June 2019 15:37  
**To:** Kelloway,C  
**Subject:** RE: Searching for a PhD thesis in 1984

Hi Charlotte

normally I'd just bat a reply back almost without thinking about it – but is the below ok?

thanks

Clive

---

Hi [REDACTED]

as stated below, PhDs from that period were submitted to Senate House. LSE Library did not receive a copy which is why it isn't listed on our catalogue – missing or otherwise. The important thing is that Tsai Ing-Wen's PhD was correctly awarded.

best wishes

Clive

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 June 2019 15:29  
**To:** Wilson, Clive  
**Subject:** 回覆: Searching for a PhD thesis in 1984

Dear Clive,

Thanks for your help! Does that mean the thesis is currently missing? But my friend studying in the LSE said normally it would show on your library system if an item is missing.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

---

寄件者: [Wilson, Clive](#)  
傳送時間: 2019年6月13日 下午 07:55  
收件者: [REDACTED]  
主旨: RE: Searching for a PhD thesis in 1984

Dear [REDACTED]

It is certainly normal that PhDs from the 1980s and earlier aren't routinely held online.

We have checked our records and both the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of London confirm that Tsai Ing-Wen was awarded a PhD in Law 1984.

However, all PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. We have been in correspondence with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Unfortunately, Senate House are presently unable to find their copy.

yours sincerely

Clive Wilson  
Enquiry Services Manager  
LSE Library

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 11 June 2019 17:43

**To:** Lsethesesonline

**Subject:** Searching for a PhD thesis in 1984

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wonder if it's normal that the digital version of the PhD thesis of the President of Taiwan, Dr Ing-Wen Tsai, cannot be found on your website.

As the next presidential election is coming, some people are questioning whether she indeed wrote the thesis, since little information can be found online.

Even though I can find some information about her thesis on the website of the British Library, but neither abstract, supervisor nor doi are available here:

<https://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?uin=uk.bl.ethos.652034>.

If you could kindly help me find her PhD thesis, or at least indicate its location, that would much clarify those questions against her credibility.

Thanks a lot and I look forward to your reply.

Best regards,



**From:** [Orson,R](#)  
**To:** [Cerny,MW](#); [Metcalf,E](#); [Ridgewell,CB](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Regarding the letters about Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-wen.  
**Date:** 11 June 2019 21:50:08  
**Attachments:** [Screenshot\\_20190612-025735.png](#)  
[Screenshot\\_20190612-025716.png](#)

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Ruth Orson  
Library Assistant, Research Support Services | LSE Research Online  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
10 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HD  
tel: 020 7955 3528 | email: [R.Orson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.Orson@lse.ac.uk)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 20:42:33  
**To:** Orson,R  
**Subject:** Regarding the letters about Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-wen.

Dear Ms. Orson

I am sorry to bother you as the two letters you replied earlier in request of Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-wen's doctoral thesis have cause some controversy in our country. The request was sent from president Tsai's political opponent attempting to question the authenticity of her doctor degree. Her opponents are using the letters you replied as a weapon to attack her integrity and it has become a crises of her presidential election. I have some doubts consider your letters, and attached are the screenshots of your letters. Would you be very kind to help us clarify these questions:

1. Are these letters genuinely by your hand?
2. Have these letters been altered in any extend?
3. You only mention Dr. Tsai in the letters. Did you know it was president Tsai Ing-wen they were referring to? She gained her LSE doctor of philosophy in 1984 and her thesis is "unfair trade practices and safeguard actions". Her thesis should be in the Senate house library since some of the LSE researchers have claimed to read it before, around the 90s.

I would be forever grateful if you would kindly answer to those questions. Our country is in jeopardy. China is a constant threat. We desperately need your help to clarify the doubts. Thank you again for reading this letter. Looking forward to hearing from you.

God bless.

**From:** [Phdacademy](#)  
**To:** [Cerny.MW](#)  
**Subject:** FW: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai  
**Date:** 07 June 2019 09:56:29  
**Attachments:** [FW Ing-Wen Tsais PhD thesis.msg](#)  
**Importance:** High

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**Please forward any email with the link 'View entire message', or any emails that you think are suspicious, to [phishing@lse.ac.uk](mailto:phishing@lse.ac.uk) so we can check them for you.**

Dear Marcus

What is our data protection responsibility here? I am also attaching the chain of emails between the Library and [REDACTED].

Many thanks

Shuma

**Shuma Begum**  
**Research Degrees Officer**  
**PhD Academy**  
**LSE**  
**Houghton Street**  
**London WC2A 2AE**

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/PhDAcademy>

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 June 2019 20:09  
**To:** Phdacademy <[Phdacademy@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Phdacademy@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

**LSE email accounts are currently being impacted by a sustained phishing attempt.**

**Please forward any email with the link 'View entire message', or any emails that you think are suspicious, to [phishing@lse.ac.uk](mailto:phishing@lse.ac.uk) so we can check them for you.**

Hello,

I have been looking for a PhD thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai, a alumna of LSE. Her thesis is titled "Unfair Trade Practices and Safeguard Actions" (1984), as cited in the following link.

<https://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?uin=uk.bl.ethos.652034>

I checked with the LSE library, but I was told that the library has never carried the above-cited thesis. This confused me.

So, if possible, could you please kindly check your thesis-deposit record and let me know whether or not Tsai's PhD thesis was submitted in 1984 as a final copy as required, and whether LSE did award a PhD degree to Ing-Wen Tsai in 1984 according to your record.

Looking forward to your kind reply and thank you very much for your valuable time.

Best regards,

[Redacted signature block]

**From:** [Wilson, Clive](#)  
**To:** [O'Connor, D](#)  
**Subject:** FW: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai  
**Date:** 24 June 2019 10 06:00  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)

---

Not sending it – it just made me feel better

Clive

Dear [REDACTED]

I previously told your friend [REDACTED] the answer to most of these questions – unfortunately he couldn't be bothered to check the facts before publishing his piece with Ms Orson's name attached.

Answers to each point below.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 21:51  
**To:** O'Connor, D  
**Cc:** Wilson, Clive; Orson, R  
**Subject:** Re: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

In this email I raised some more questions regarding your email dated June 14, 2019, 9:08 am, from which you wrote:

"As previously circulated, all PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. They clearly received their copy because otherwise it would not have been processed and appear on their catalogue – and from there to appear on the British Library catalogue."

In fact, the so-called PhD thesis of Ing-Wen Tsai (1984) does not exist in both physical and digital form. That is the reason why this thesis has not been searchable in each of the three U of London libraries: LSE library, IALS library, and Senate House library. I already made a number of screen shots about my failed search of the PhD thesis just in case a proof is required in the future. I also searched all other PhDs (i.e. 106 other PhDs) in 1983-84, and all those are searchable and existent in their specific locations, except for 5 PhDs. For these missing 5 PhDs, every one has no searchable academic record. For your information, Partha Sen was my professor at the University of Illinois and my long-term friend. As a LSE graduate, he was awarded a PhD in economics in 1984, and his PhD thesis titled "Real balances and the exchange rate: theoretical and empirical analysis" is searchable and existent in LSE Library, as opposed to the case of Ing-Wen Tsai.

Not relevant

It is evidenced that the final copy of Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis has never been received in 1984 by Senate House Library and IALS library. This was confirmed by Ruth Orson (Library Assistant, Research Services, LSE) and Clive Wilson (Enquiry Services Manager, LSE Library) in their emails sent to me. As such, without a final copy of a PhD thesis being received at Senate House Library, how was it possible that Ing-Wen Tsai allegedly earned a PhD in law in 1984?

As already explained, it was submitted correctly hence the award. No, the libraries did not receive a copy but the libraries do not award the thesis.

It is bizarre that Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis becomes searchable in the British Library catalogue using EthOS, an e-theses online service, as well as in the Google Books catalogue. This thesis is unsearchable internally in the U of London libraries (including LSE Library), but it is searchable outside of the U of London. It is bizarre, isn't?

No, it was received correctly and catalogued at the University of London – The British Library catalogue just copied the information as it does for all UL theses.

Further, if you examine the following links to EthOS or Google Books, you will see little information about the magic PhD thesis except for the thesis title, author, and the year of 1984. There is no information about the number of pages at all and there is no workable link to the thesis one way or another.

EthOS:  
<https://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?did=1&uin=uk.bl.ethos.652034>

As above

Google Books:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=IRwIvwEACAAJ&dq=unfair+trade+practices+and+safeguard+actions&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwicioTVnvviAhXLm-AKHRtMBMgQ6AEIKDAA>

As explained to your friend [REDACTED], google books just scrapes the data from other sources

Even more bizarre is that the magic thesis was published in 1984 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the United States according to a famous thesis search engine called ProQuest, as the attached image file indicates. How could it be possible that a PhD thesis completed in 1984 in UK got published right away in the same year in the US?

As explained to your friend [REDACTED], the ProQuest database just scrapes the data – every single thesis available on it has the same date for thesis and published.

Is it possible that someone made and uploaded information to the EthOS system, Google Books, and ProQuest in order to cover Ing-Wen Tsai as President of Republic of China (Taiwan)? To me, I cannot preclude this possibility.

No, it is just abysmal journalism for not checking how those databases actually work ...

Lastly, let me provide some more information about Ing-Wen Tsai. She studied at LSE for less than three years (about 2 years and 6 months; correct me if I am wrong). In such a short-term period, she claimed that she completed a PhD thesis in law in 1984. She then returned to Taiwan for a teaching position in 1984, and with almost no publications, she got promoted to Full Professor within 7 to 8 years. Can we question her integrity as a scholar and as a political leader? I sincerely LSE can be responsible and truthful in dealing with Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis and degree issues.

As explained Ing-Wen Tsai was correctly awarded her PhD.

I contacted you all for a public interest issue under UK FOI, and I am looking forward to your clarifications regarding the true situation of Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis and degree.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Jun 14, 2019 at 5:21 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Thank you very much for your replies along with the attached pages of the Calendar of 1985/86.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Jun 14, 2019, at 9:08 AM, O'Connor,D <[D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence, I have been asked to respond with some more information.

Further to your remarks, the records of both the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of London confirm that Tsai Ing-Wen was awarded a PhD in Law 1984 and the student record shows that the thesis was submitted.

For your interest, I have attached a scan of a relevant entry in the 'LSE Calendar' of 1985/86, which is an official public record of awards and degrees given to LSE students for the previous year.







**From:** O'Connor, D  
**To:** Metcalfe, F  
**Subject:** FW: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai  
**Date:** 27 June 2019 12:26:00  
**Attachments:** image005.png

---

Just realised I never replied to this.

Should I bother?

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 21:51  
**To:** O'Connor, D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** Wilson, Clive <CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk>; Orson, R <R.Orson@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

In this email I raised some more questions regarding your email dated June 14, 2019, 9:08 am, from which you wrote:

"As previously circulated, all PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. They clearly received their copy because otherwise it would not have been processed and appear on their catalogue – and from there to appear on the British Library catalogue. "

In fact, the so-called PhD thesis of Ing-Wen Tsai (1984) does not exist in both physical and digital form. That is the reason why this thesis has not been searchable in each of the three U of London libraries: LSE library, IALS library, and Senate House library. I already made a number of screen shots about my failed search of the PhD thesis just in case a proof is required in the future. I also searched all other PhDs (i.e. 106 other PhDs) in 1983-84, and all those are searchable and existent in their specific locations, except for 5 PhDs. For these missing 5 PhDs, every one has no searchable academic record. For your information, Partha Sen was my professor at the University of Illinois and my long-term friend. As a LSE graduate, he was awarded a PhD in economics in 1984, and his PhD thesis titled "Real balances and the exchange rate: theoretical and empirical analysis" is searchable and existent in LSE Library, as opposed to the case of Ing-Wen Tsai.

It is evidenced that the final copy of Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis has never been received in 1984 by Senate House Library and IALS library. This was confirmed by Ruth Orson (Library Assistant, Research Services, LSE) and Clive Wilson (Enquiry Services Manager, LSE Library) in their emails sent to me. As such, without a final copy of a PhD thesis being received at Senate House Library, how was it possible that Ing-Wen Tsai allegedly earned a PhD in law in 1984?

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<https://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?did=1&uin=uk.bl.ethos.652034>

Google Books:  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=IRwIvwEACAAJ&dq=unfair+trade+practices+and+safeguard+actions&hl=cn&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwicioTVnvviAhXLm-AKHRtMBMgQ6AEIKDAA>

Even more bizzare is that the magic thesis was published in 1984 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the United States according to a famous thesis search engine called ProQuest, as the attached image file indicates. How could it be possible that a PhD thesis completed in 1984 in UK got published right away in the same year in the US?

Is it possible that someone made and uploaded information to the EthOS system, Google Books, and ProQuest in order to cover Ing-Wen Tsai as President of Republic of China (Taiwan)? To me, I cannot preclude this possibility.

Lastly, let me provide some more information about Ing-Wen Tsai. She studied at LSE for less than three years (about 2 years and 6 months; correct me if I am wrong). In such a short-term period, she claimed that she completed a PhD thesis in law in 1984. She then returned to Taiwan for a teaching position in 1984, and with almost no publications, she got promoted to Full Professor within 7 to 8 years. Can we question her integrity as a scholar and as a political leader? I sincerely LSE can be responsible and truthful in dealing with Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis and degree issues.

I contacted you all for a public interest issue under UK FOI, and I am looking forward to your clarifications regarding the true situation of Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis and degree.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]







**From:** [Cerny,MW](#)  
**To:** [Hix,S](#); [Astuti,R](#); [Schulze,MS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis  
**Date:** 11 June 2019 13:49:00

---

Re: the latest.

**Marcus Cerny**  
*Deputy Director, PhD Academy*  
*London School of Economics and Political Science*  
*Houghton Street*  
*London WC2A 2AE*

**Please consider the environment and do not print this email unless absolutely necessary.**

Please access the attached hyperlink for an important electronic communications disclaimer:

<http://lse.ac.uk/emailDisclaimer>

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**From:** Cerny,MW  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 13:49  
**To:** Orson,R; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** O'Connor,D  
**Subject:** FW: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Dear Ruth, Nancy and Daniel,

Given that the current query appears to replicate a query we dealt with in 2015 I would assume that we should give the same response that we gave then. The problem is I'm not sure who sent it but the email from the University of London to Dimity in 2015 suggests it will have gone from the Library. Can we check on this?

If so can Daniel advise if the Library should just update and re-send this from the Library for the sake of consistency?

In terms of why the thesis is missing it seems that Senate House acknowledge having one thesis and sending to IALS. This can no longer be found. The theses that were said to be left at the LSE were presumably just never processed and there would not have been felt a need to do this. Examiners copies were sporadically returned to institutions post viva and were probably simply left in an office, either centrally or in the department, unless specifically requested. I would not have expected examiner copies used in the viva to be lodged in a library or retained formally at LSE.

The examination paperwork would have been stored by U of L.

Regards,  
Marcus

**Marcus Cerny**  
*Deputy Director, PhD Academy*  
*London School of Economics and Political Science*  
*Houghton Street*  
*London WC2A 2AE*













**From:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**To:** [Metcalf,F](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis  
**Date:** 11 June 2019 14:06:00

---

FYI

---

**From:** Cerny,MW  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 14:03  
**To:** Graham1,N <N.Graham1@lse.ac.uk>; Orson,R <R.Orson@lse.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>; Wilson,Clive <CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk>; Lsethesesonline <Lsethesesonline@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Hi Nancy,

The examination went through the University of London procedures and we had the award confirmed from them with a March 1984 award date. It was recorded in the 1985/86 Calendar and is recorded in both on LSE and U of L records.

Thanks,  
Marcus

**Marcus Cerny**  
*Deputy Director, PhD Academy*  
*London School of Economics and Political Science*  
*Houghton Street*  
*London WC2A 2AE*

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<http://lse.ac.uk/emailDisclaimer>

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**From:** Graham1,N  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 13:58  
**To:** Cerny,MW; Orson,R  
**Cc:** O'Connor,D; Wilson,Clive; Lsethesesonline  
**Subject:** RE: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Hi all

My colleague Clive Wilson has sent out some advice on this very issue today. He's drafted the following text for anyone to use if they receive a query. Clive has asked that if you do receive a query and reply, to copy both him and LSE Theses Online in – [lsethesesonline@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lsethesesonline@lse.ac.uk)

Thank you for expressing an interest in this thesis. Unfortunately, LSE Library has never had a copy of this thesis. All PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to Senate House Library. As you can appreciate there has been a lot of interest in Dr Tsai's thesis, we have been in correspondence with the University of London about it and extensive checks have been made. Unfortunately Senate House are unable to find their copy.















**From:** [Kelloway,C](#)  
**To:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis  
**Date:** 12 June 2019 12:18:46

---

FYI

---

**From:** Ismail,R  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 12:12  
**To:** Wilson,Clive; Kelloway,C  
**Cc:** Griffiths,CB  
**Subject:** RE: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Hi Clive,

I will try and contact them and ask them to remove it as they did not have permission to publicise that statement.

I will keep you updated.

Kind regards,

Refel

---

**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 12:05  
**To:** Ismail,R; Kelloway,C  
**Cc:** Griffiths,CB  
**Subject:** FW: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Hi Refel

a lot of email over the last 24 hours about the validity of an LSE PhD thesis awarded to Ing-wen Tsai in 1984 – and now president of Taiwan.

One of my colleagues (Ruth Orson) sent out a standard reply to a query explaining that we didn't have a copy of the thesis. This was presumed to be a personal communication but her name has been included in a Taiwanese press report.

<https://www.peoplenews.tw/news/41075ad6-3253-4db4-a689-38d8ea3e1e1f>

Translation: <https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=zh-TW&u=https://www.peoplenews.tw/news/41075ad6-3253-4db4-a689-38d8ea3e1e1f&prev=search>

This is causing a lot of stress for her.

Is there a mechanism to contact them to have it removed?

many thanks





























**From:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**To:** [Kelloway,C](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis  
**Date:** 14 June 2019 15:50:00  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Hi Charlotte,

FYI- I had a chat with Camilla to let her know the reality but that it's likely to fall off the radar.

She understood and said it might be worth reassuring Ruth of this later next week if it's clear they're not going to remove it.

---

**From:** Griffiths,CB  
**Sent:** 14 June 2019 15:09  
**To:** O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Yes please do - my number is [REDACTED]. I have to go out at 3.25 but free until then.

Thanks  
Camilla

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** O'Connor,D  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2019 3:07:57 PM  
**To:** Griffiths,CB  
**Subject:** RE: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Hi Camilla,

Yes, I understand.

I realise you're not working this afternoon but am I able to give you a very quick call about this? Ok, if not possible.

Best wishes,

Danny

---

**From:** Griffiths,CB  
**Sent:** 14 June 2019 14:27  
**To:** O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Thanks Danny, much appreciated.

Between us, Ruth is really quite upset her name has been made public. I know you're doing everything you can – but I just wanted to let you know.

Best wishes,  
Camilla

---

**From:** "O'Connor,D" <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>  
**Date:** Friday, 14 June 2019 at 14:12  
**To:** "Griffiths,CB" <[C.B.Griffiths@lse.ac.uk](mailto:C.B.Griffiths@lse.ac.uk)>, "Kelloway,C" <[C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk](mailto:C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** "Orson,R" <[R.Orson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.Orson@lse.ac.uk)>, "Metcalf,F" <[F.Metcalf@lse.ac.uk](mailto:F.Metcalf@lse.ac.uk)>, "Clark1,B" <[B.Clark1@lse.ac.uk](mailto:B.Clark1@lse.ac.uk)>, "Wilson,Clive" <[CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Hi all,

Just to keep you updated. We have sent further correspondence to the People's Daily Taiwan to get them to remove Ruth's name. We will let you know if we receive a response.

(They have an updated LSE statement which they can use in place of the older screenshotted emails).

Kind regards,

Danny

---

**From:** Griffiths,CB  
**Sent:** 13 June 2019 15:06  
**To:** Kelloway,C <[C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk](mailto:C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Orson,R <[R.Orson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.Orson@lse.ac.uk)>; Metcalf,F <[F.Metcalf@lse.ac.uk](mailto:F.Metcalf@lse.ac.uk)>; Clark1,B <[B.Clark1@lse.ac.uk](mailto:B.Clark1@lse.ac.uk)>; Wilson,Clive <[CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk)>; O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Thanks Charlotte. If you can keep Ruth and I informed on this aspect it would be much appreciated.

All the best,  
Camilla

---

**From:** Kelloway,C  
**Sent:** 13 June 2019 14:45  
**To:** Griffiths,CB  
**Cc:** Orson,R; Metcalf,F; Clark1,B; Wilson,Clive; O'Connor,D  
**Subject:** RE: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Dear Camilla,

We have contacted The People's News and have asked them to remove Ruth's name, explaining that her email was understood to be a personal communication not a press statement for general publication. We have also provided them with a comment from an LSE spokesperson to be used. We will follow up if it is not removed.

Many thanks,  
Charlotte

---

**From:** Griffiths,CB  
**Sent:** 13 June 2019 14:07  
**To:** Kelloway,C  
**Cc:** Orson,R; Metcalfe,F; Clark1,B; Wilson,Clive; O'Connor,D  
**Subject:** RE: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis  
**Importance:** High

Dear Charlotte,

I believe the press statement has been released which is good news – however Ruth's name is still appearing on the People's News web page. (<https://www.peoplenews.tw/news/41075ad6-3253-4db4-a689-38d8ea3e1e1f>)

Can you please let Ruth (and I) know where we are in relation to getting it removed? And can this be followed up if they do have not taken it down today?

Thanks,  
Camilla

---

**From:** Kelloway,C  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 14:05  
**To:** Wilson,Clive  
**Cc:** Griffiths,CB; O'Connor,D; Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis

Hi Clive,

We've adapted the reply to members of the public who are getting in touch. Please see below. Happy for you to send this out in reply to any general enquires, although do let us know if you would prefer this to come from us.

**General response:**

Thank you for your email. We have checked our records and both the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of London confirm that Tsai Ing-Wen was awarded a PhD in Law 1984.

However, all PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. We have been in correspondence with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Unfortunately, Senate House are presently unable to find their copy.

Kinds regards,

Below is the response for [REDACTED], we can reply to him as it seems he is sharing information with the media.



































**To:** [Metcalf, F](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Date:** 12 June 2019 17:06:34

---

---

**From:** Wilson, Clive  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 11:57  
**To:** O'Connor, D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>; Metcalf, F <F.Metcalf@lse.ac.uk>; Kelloway, C <C.Kelloway@lse.ac.uk>; Griffiths, CB <C.B.Griffiths@lse.ac.uk>; Graham1, N <N.Graham1@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

Hi All

fyi

Clive

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 11:34  
**To:** Shih, F  
**Cc:** Wilson, Clive  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

Dear Both,

Thank you so much for your kind assistance and understanding.

We are sending the hardbound editions of the subject thesis tomorrow and I believe it will arrive by next week. As for the electronic copy, we will email it to you by Friday. Please only use it for the LSE internal check not for the public release at this stage as it is indeed likely going to invite more irrational speculations.

LSE is one of the leading academic institutions in the world, and any statement issued by LSE certainly carries weight by itself. We truly appreciate your assistance and help us defend President Tsai's academic credential.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Shih, F [<mailto:F.Shih@lse.ac.uk>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 6:12 PM  
**To:** Wilson,Clive <[CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

Dear Clive,

Thank you. It is possible to get the electronic copy of the thesis today.

However, unfortunately, to make the electronic copy available at <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/> with other LSE theses will not end the speculation but invite many more 'irrational' speculations from anti-Tsai's camp.

As such, is it OK only to mention the arrival of the hardbound copy of the thesis.

However, the Presidential Office is ok to send you the electronic copy now, but please only use it for the LSE internal check not for the public release. I hope you could understand the fragile situation under the irrational attack now.

Many thanks,  
Fang-long

---

**From:** "Wilson,Clive" <[CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 June 2019 at 10:43  
**To:** "Shih,F" <[F.Shih@lse.ac.uk](mailto:F.Shih@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

Dear Both

LSE is holding back a press statement in the hope we can get the (electronic copy) thesis today. Can you let me know if this will be possible please?

If we can make the electronic copy available at <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/> with other LSE theses, we can link to it and hopefully end the speculation.

thanks

Clive

---

**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 09:56  
**To:** Shih,F  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

Dear Both

if there is an electronic copy, we can almost certainly catalogue it from that and make it available if it is a decent copy.

A hardbound copy can be sent to me at

Clive Wilson  
Enquiry Services Manager (Academic Services)  
London School of Economics  
10 Portugal Street  
London WC2A 2HD

It might not be a quick thing to retrieve President Tsai's student record and make the information available but I have asked if that is possible

Fang-long – are you still coming here at 10?

Clive

---

**From:** Shih,F  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 09:47  
**To:** Wilson,Clive  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

Dear Clive,

As suggested, President Tsai Ing-wen has now given her consent for the school to the disclosure of personal information related to her PhD thesis, entitled "Unfair Trade Practice and Safeguard Actions." Please see below the permission message.

As such, please add these information in the school letter: (1)

the names of her supervisor and viva examiners; (2) upon request, the electronic and hardbound editions of her PhD thesis will arrive at the LSE library.

As such, please give the address and the name where and who to receive this thesis. Many thanks!

Dear [REDACTED],

When will the electronic and hardbound editions of her PhD thesis be posted?

How long will it take from Taiwan to the LSE?

Many thanks!  
Fang-long

Dr Fang-long Shih  
Co-Director, Taiwan Research Programme  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street  
London WC2A 2AE  
United Kingdom

LSE Taiwan Research Programme  
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/researchAndExpertise/units/TaiwanProgramme/Home.aspx>

-  
Journal *Taiwan in Comparative Perspective*  
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/researchAndExpertise/units/TaiwanProgramme/Journal/Home.aspx>

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 June 2019 at 09:08  
**To:** "Wilson, Clive" <[CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** "Shih, F" <[F.Shih@lse.ac.uk](mailto:F.Shih@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

Dear Mr. Clive Wilson,

I extend my cordial greetings to you.

As you might already be aware of the recent argument with respect to the admission of Taiwan President Tsai, Ing-Wen's PhD degree awarded by LSE in 1983. We note that LSE

has taken actions to identify related documentation in this regard. On behalf of President Tsai, I would like to give consent to the disclosure of personal information in her PhD thesis, "Unfair Trade Practice and Safeguard Actions."

Further, we are able to provide both the electronic and hardbound editions of the subject thesis for the library collection upon your request. Please kindly let us know if this is feasible at your convenience.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the spokesperson.

Spokesperson of the President  
Office of the President, ROC(Taiwan)  
No.122, Sec.1,Chingqing S.Rd, Taipei City, Taiwan

**From:** [Wilson, Clive](#)  
**To:** [Cerny, MW](#); [O'Connor, D](#); [Graham, N](#); [Kelloway, C](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Date:** 17 June 2019 11:18:15  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

Dear All

we have been sent the title and acknowledgement page (attached) of the thesis from President Tsai's office with the promise we will receive a complete copy later this week. .

Not sure how much these help at the moment although it clearly confirms who her supervisor was. Michael J Elliott passed away in 2016.

<https://www.weforum.org/people/michael-j-elliott>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_J.\\_Elliott](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_J._Elliott)

Also thanked:

Brian Hindley (LSE) passed away in 2012:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/newsletters/pressAndInformation/staffNews/2012/20120614.htm>

[REDACTED]

However, the Michael Elliott links show he left LSE for the Economist in 1984. This fits with what Lorraine from UL sent us (copied again below) that Mr Elliott left both copies with LSE asking LSE to return them to Senate House. It's only circumstantial evidence but one could easily see them being left in his office and that being cleared out ...

I also wonder whether it's worth contacting [REDACTED] to let him know of the interest. Even if we only ever make the print copy available through the archives reading room, his name is still likely to 'get out there'

Clive

Clive Wilson

Enquiry Services Manager (Academic Services)

London School of Economics

Tel.: 020 7955 7475

10 Portugal Street

Fax.: 020 7955 7454

London WC2A 2HD

Email: [Datalibrary@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Datalibrary@lse.ac.uk)

[clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 June 2015 15:13  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Wilson,Clive; Lsethesesonline  
**Subject:** RE: PhD LSE Law Thesis 1984  
**Importance:** High

Dear [REDACTED]

My colleague has now retrieved the file on this student from our Archive Storage. From this I can see the history of chasing for copies of the thesis both by the Research Degrees Examinations office at Senate House and enquiries from Senate House Library too. In 2011 the SHL confirmed that it sent a copy of the thesis to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies. At that time, [REDACTED] established that IALS no longer had a copy of the said thesis.

The Research Degrees Examinations office had also chased both examiners (appointed for the PD examination) and the supervisor (Mr M J Elliott) for the return of the copies of the thesis. Apparently, the Internal Examiner left his copy of the PhD thesis with Mr Elliott post-viva. Mr Elliott left both copies with the LSE asking the LSE to return these to Senate House. These were never received.

The copy referred to above which went over to IALS would have been the spare third copy submitted to the Research Degrees Examinations office for examination on 15 June 1983.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

With best wishes,

Lorraine

**From:** [Kelloway,C](#)  
**To:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Date:** 24 June 2019 09:36:38  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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**From:** Kelloway,C  
**Sent:** 20 June 2019 16:10  
**To:** Wilson,Clive; Cerny,MW; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Hi Clive,

Thanks for this. Yes, we could have a follow up statement to catch any further questions. I think it's still worth sending the standard reply we already have in the first instance.

How does the below look?

Ing-Wen Tsai enrolled at LSE in October 1980 and submitted her thesis in June 1983. She was awarded her PhD in February 1984.

Three copies of the thesis were submitted. One to her supervisor (**Michael Elliott**), one to the external examiner who left his copy with Mr Elliott and one to the University of London Research Degrees Examination Unit. This third copy was catalogued which is why the thesis appears on both the British Library Ethos catalogue and the ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database.

Senate House Library at the University of London confirmed they sent their copy to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies but that copy cannot be found at present.

Just to clarify – did Senate House send their copy to IALS or did they send a copy of their copy?  
In our current statement we suggest they should have a copy but can't find it not that they sent it to IALS.

Did we agree it's OK for us to share Michael Elliott's name? Or is this covered by data protection?

Many thanks,  
Charlotte

---

**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 20 June 2019 15:01











**From:** [Adeyemi,R](#)  
**To:** [Thomson,MT](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Date:** 24 June 2019 09:43:37  
**Attachments:**   
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
**Importance:** High  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

---

FYI – please see summary below and student record attached.

---

**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 24 June 2019 09:38  
**To:** Adeyemi,R  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Hi Remi

as follows – I've also attached a summary of Ing-Wen Tsai's students record.

Clive

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June (2019) a junior colleague sent our standard text to a US professor. He shared the text with some of his colleagues and suddenly it makes the Taiwanese news – with our member of staff's name attached. After several representations (about a week), her name was removed.

We have since had at least 22 requests that I am aware of: most of have come directly to the Library as it's a thesis (but to several departments here), but they have also gone to registry, the PhD Academy, Minouche ...

We have been replying with:

Thank you for your email. We have checked our records and both the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of London confirm that Tsai Ing-Wen was awarded a PhD in Law 1984.

However, all PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. We have been in correspondence with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Unfortunately, Senate House are presently unable to find their copy.

Most of the people have come back with further questions.

The issue of course is that we were never able to find a copy of her thesis. When she first stood for office in 2015, it blew over fairly quickly. Now she has stood for (and won) her party's nomination to run again with the elections in January it seems to have become much more of a story.

[REDACTED] at UL confirmed in 2015 that 3 copies were submitted.

Senate House and IALS lost one copy between them, but not before it was catalogued and so it is listed in all the places you would expect to see a thesis listed. The external examiner left his copy with the supervisor (Michael Elliott). Michael Elliott appears to have been away from LSE in the last year of her PhD (sabbatical?) and subsequently left LSE in 1984 to join the Economist having left instructions to pass them on. Clearly this never happened.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Fang-long Shih in the Taiwan Research Programme put me in touch with President Tsai's office and she sent copies of her title page and the acknowledgments page. We have been promised a full copy.

Our current reply confirms that the degree was awarded in 1984 but the non-existence of the thesis invites further questions. Her supervisor being the main one – Michael Elliott passed away in 2016.

The question – to me – is whether we continue to straight bat further queries which will hopefully go away if we receive a copy and make it available like all other print theses, or whether we release additional information to answer some of the questions people are asking.

---

**From:** Adeyemi,R

**Sent:** 24 June 2019 08:56

**To:** Wilson,Clive

**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Morning Clive,

If would be great if you could forward a summary to Mark ahead of today's meeting.

Kind regards,

Remi

---

**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 16:37  
**To:** Adeyemi,R  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Thanks Remi

do you think Mark would like a summary before the meeting rather than plough through the emails?

Clive

---

**From:** Adeyemi,R  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 13:59  
**To:** Cerny,MW; Wilson,Clive; Kelloway,C; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Thanks to everyone for responding, would you like me to book a meeting room for 11am on Monday.

Regards,

Remi

---

**From:** Cerny,MW  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 13:17  
**To:** Wilson,Clive; Kelloway,C; Adeyemi,R; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Hi there. 11a-12pm and 3pm-4pm are good for me.

Thanks  
Marcus

**Marcus Cerny**  
*Deputy Director, PhD Academy*  
*London School of Economics and Political Science*  
*Houghton Street*  
*London WC2A 2AE*

**Please consider the environment and do not print this email unless absolutely necessary.**

Please access the attached hyperlink for an important electronic communications disclaimer:  
<http://lse.ac.uk/emailDisclaimer>

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**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 12:38  
**To:** Kelloway,C; Adeyemi,R; Cerny,MW; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Any of those are good for me 😊.

Clive

---

**From:** Kelloway,C  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 12:33  
**To:** Adeyemi,R; Wilson,Clive; Cerny,MW; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Thanks Remi. I can do anytime between 11am and 1.45pm or 3pm to 4pm.

Danny O'Connor is out of the office today but I'll check if he can make it also on Monday. If not, I can I can pass on any comments.

Many thanks,  
Charlotte

---

**From:** Adeyemi,R  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 12:15  
**To:** Kelloway,C; Wilson,Clive; Cerny,MW; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Dear All,

Mark's availability on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June are as follows:-

- 9am – 10am
- Anytime between 11am to 1.45pm
- 3pm to 4pm

Kind regards,

**Remi Adeyemi**

**Executive Assistant to the Academic Registrar,**  
Academic Registrar's Division  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE  
[r.adeyemi@lse.ac.uk](mailto:r.adeyemi@lse.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)20 7955 7121

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**From:** Thomson,MT  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 11:58  
**To:** Kelloway,C; Wilson,Clive; Cerny,MW; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F; Adeyemi,R  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Colleagues, greetings

I would welcome the chance to meet to be brought up to speed on what the issue is here (I confess I have not had a chance to review the long sets of correspondence).

I could do 30 minutes on Monday – my colleague Remi (cc'd) can advise on precise timings.

All best,

MTT

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**From:** Kelloway,C  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 11:37  
**To:** Wilson,Clive <[CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk)>; Cerny,MW <[M.W.Cerny@lse.ac.uk](mailto:M.W.Cerny@lse.ac.uk)>; O'Connor,D <[D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk)>; Graham1,N <[N.Graham1@lse.ac.uk](mailto:N.Graham1@lse.ac.uk)>; Thomson,MT <[M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F <[F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk](mailto:F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Hi Clive and Marcus,

I agree it would be good for us all to meet about this to discuss next steps.

Would some time on Monday work?

Many thanks,

Charlotte

---

**From:** Wilson,Clive

**Sent:** 21 June 2019 10:38

**To:** Cerny,MW; Kelloway,C; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N; Thomson,MT

**Cc:** Metcalfe,F

**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Thanks Marcus

I feel this is one of those times it would be easier for us all to get together!

I understand the need for caution but she did win her party nomination and the elections are in January so this could run for a bit yet. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was introduced to her office by Fang-long and already have permission from her office to release her information as appropriate. If an amended release would be helpful – both to us and to her – we could therefore seek specific permission on that statement. (And I asked Info Sec to confirm that it was her office.)

I would completely agree that I'm not the person to decide what we might release or to whom. I hope it was clear mine was just a suggestion 😊. I am hoping that if we do receive the promised copy that will kill most of the speculation but then Mike Elliott's name as well as Brian Hindley and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will get out there anyway.

Clive

---

**From:** Cerny,MW

**Sent:** 20 June 2019 16:50

**To:** Wilson,Clive; Kelloway,C; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N; Thomson,MT

**Cc:** Metcalfe,F

**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Dear Clive,

Thanks for this.

I am a bit concerned about providing details about a registration, examination and processes to third parties. I would not release information for any candidates without their approval and even then it would be limited to registration dates and award details.

I understand that this case needs additional consideration because of the public interest aspect but I still feel the need for caution about what we should and shouldn't release. Other than what is in the public domain I would not discuss information with a third party about any current student or a graduate. I believe that these would be matters for them to respond to and would be of the opinion that a review of the file was undertaken by Simeon as the Academic Registrar in 2015 which concluded that he was satisfied that there was not an issue of the registration or award being in any way questionable. I am not sure it is appropriate to enter into discussion about this other than to confirm the award and that LSE is satisfied with this.

I've copied to Mark Thomson as his predecessor was the last person to review the file formally. It may be that either he or I should review this to make sure that any dates we are discussing are definitively correct. What we might release and to whom is a separate discussion but I would be more comfortable discussing this knowing we definitely had the correct timeline.

My main question now is who decides what we release and to whom?

Thanks,  
Marcus

**Marcus Cerny**  
*Deputy Director, PhD Academy*  
*London School of Economics and Political Science*  
*Houghton Street*  
*London WC2A 2AE*

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Please access the attached hyperlink for an important electronic communications disclaimer:  
<http://lse.ac.uk/emailDisclaimer>

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**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 20 June 2019 15:01  
**To:** Kelloway,C; Cerny,MW; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Hi everyone

my experience so far is that about 70% of the enquirers come back with further questions.

I've been through the student record and back through all the mails I had from [REDACTED] at UL and have written the attached summary. I've highlighted in red what I think could possibly make an amended standard reply if we want to do that. It would certainly answer most of the

subsequent questions I've had and could probably be done without seeking further advice.

Everything in black I would assume should remain confidential and I might be pushing it by circulating to all of you. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

And if we do get a copy of the thesis – Fang-long said she would chase it – a line could be added to the effect that it was now available to view in the Women's Library Reading Room at the British Library of Political & Economic Science.

thoughts?

thanks

Clive

---

**From:** Kelloway,C  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 16:59  
**To:** Cerny,MW; Wilson,Clive; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Dear Marcus,

OK – thanks. Yes, happy for you to respond to these with the standard response.

We just ask that you forward any queries from journalists or media outlets to us as we'll respond to these.

Many thanks,

Charlotte

---

**From:** Cerny,MW  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 16:51  
**To:** Kelloway,C; Wilson,Clive; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Dear Charlotte,

We have just received another query seeking the thesis in the PhD Academy but I am intending to simply reply with the standard response. I am assuming that we are not needing to refer these on for response from a single point but please could you confirm.

I have asked for all queries either here or in the Law department to be forwarded to me but I expect that the Library is the standard point of contact for external enquirers requesting a thesis.

Regards,  
Marcus

**Marcus Cerny**  
*Deputy Director, PhD Academy*  
*London School of Economics and Political Science*  
*Houghton Street*  
*London WC2A 2AE*

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<http://lse.ac.uk/emailDisclaimer>

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**From:** Kelloway,C  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 16:40  
**To:** Wilson,Clive; Cerny,MW; O'Connor,D; Graham1,N  
**Cc:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Hi Clive,

Thank you very much for this and for keeping us updated.

It's great to have these ready if we continue to get persistent enquiries. We have replied to [REDACTED] and he has acknowledged receipt of our email. Are you still getting an influx of emails on this to the library account or is it starting to die down?

I agree. I think it would be a good idea to contact [REDACTED] and make him aware of the situation in case he starts to get enquiries. We're happy to do this from the press office?

Many thanks,  
Charlotte

**Charlotte Kelloway**  
**Media Relations Officer | Communications Division**  
The London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE  
t: +44 (0)20 7955 6558  
e: [c.kelloway@lse.ac.uk](mailto:c.kelloway@lse.ac.uk)  
[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)





[LSE is ranked #2 in the world for social science and management. \(QS World University Ranking 2018\)](#)

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**From:** Wilson, Clive  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 16:16  
**To:** Cerny, MW; O'Connor, D; Graham1, N; Kelloway, C  
**Subject:** RE: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Hi everyone

sorry – me again!

After discussion with Rachel Maguire, Sue Donnelly sent me a copy of Tsai Ing-Wen's student file but with the caveat I can't even share it internally without Dr Tsai's further permission.

I have copied two pages from it though and, as I have permission from her office, I think these could be released if it was thought they would be helpful.

[REDACTED]

Clive

---

**From:** Wilson, Clive  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 11:18  
**To:** Cerny, MW; O'Connor, D; Graham1, N; Kelloway, C  
**Subject:** FW: Greetings from the Presidential office of Taiwan

Dear All

we have been sent the title and acknowledgement page (attached) of the thesis from President Tsai's office with the promise we will receive a complete copy later this week. .

Not sure how much these help at the moment although it clearly confirms who her supervisor was. Michael J Elliott passed away in 2016.

<https://www.weforum.org/people/michael-j-elliott>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_J.\\_Elliott](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_J._Elliott)

Also thanked:

Brian Hindley (LSE) passed away in 2012:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/newsletters/pressAndInformation/staffNews/2012/20120614.htm>

However, the Michael Elliott links show he left LSE for the Economist in 1984. This fits with what [REDACTED] from UL sent us (copied again below) that Mr Elliott left both copies with LSE asking LSE to return them to Senate House. It's only circumstantial evidence but one could easily see them being left in his office and that being cleared out ...

I also wonder whether it's worth contacting [REDACTED] to let him know of the interest. Even if we only ever make the print copy available through the archives reading room, his name is still likely to 'get out there'

Clive

Clive Wilson

Enquiry Services Manager (Academic Services)

London School of Economics

Tel.: 020 7955 7475

10 Portugal Street

Fax.: 020 7955 7454

London WC2A 2HD

Email: [Datalibrary@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Datalibrary@lse.ac.uk)  
[clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 June 2015 15:13  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Wilson, Clive; Lsethesonline  
**Subject:** RE: PhD LSE Law Thesis 1984  
**Importance:** High

Dear [REDACTED]

My colleague has now retrieved the file on this student from our Archive Storage. From this I can see the history of chasing for copies of the thesis both by the Research Degrees Examinations office at Senate House and enquiries from Senate House Library too. In 2011 the SHL confirmed that it sent a copy of the thesis to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies. At that time, [REDACTED] established that IALS no longer had a copy of the said thesis.

The Research Degrees Examinations office had also chased both examiners (appointed for the PD examination) and the supervisor (Mr M J Elliott) for the return of the copies of the thesis. Apparently, the Internal Examiner left his copy of the PhD thesis with Mr Elliott post-viva. Mr Elliott left both copies with the LSE asking the LSE to return these to Senate House. These were never received.

The copy referred to above which went over to IALS would have been the spare third

copy submitted to the Research Degrees Examinations office for examination on 15 June 1983.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

With best wishes,

Lorraine

**From:** [Media.Relations](#)  
**To:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**Cc:** [Metcalf,F](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FYI - LSE PhD thesis - Taiwan president  
**Date:** 11 June 2019 16:03:33  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Hi Danny, Fiona,

Just to let you know the Library has been receiving enquiries about Tsai Ing-wen's PhD at LSE. Taiwan's election takes place in January 2020.

Regards

**Peter Carroll**  
**Media Relations Officer | Communications Division**  
The London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE  
t: +44 (0)20 7955 6939  
e: [p.carroll@lse.ac.uk](mailto:p.carroll@lse.ac.uk)  
[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)



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

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**From:** Wright,NC  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 15:54  
**To:** Pressoffice  
**Cc:** Nadal,L; Hix,S; Thomson,MT  
**Subject:** FYI - LSE PhD thesis - Taiwan president

Dear all,

Just a quick alert that the Library has been receiving queries about this alum and the PhD. This happened a few years ago and Simeon Underwood at that time investigated and established these details. We are responding as per the below text. This could be high profile during the election period in Taiwan.

Best wishes,  
Nicola

---

**From:** Wilson,Clive  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 12:35  
**To:** Bell,M; Bhullar,I; Challis,D; Collings,R; Dawson,H; Fry,AE; Gomes,S; Graham1,N; Hayward,S;

Horsler,PN; Hussain,R; Murphy,GE; Orson,R; Payne1,D; Reid,MJ; Towlson,A; Wilkinson,E;  
Wilson,Clive; Zajasensky,L; Benton,A; Rodriguez; Poulouse,S; Donnelly,S; Wilson1,K; Griffiths,CB  
**Cc:** Lsethesesonline  
**Subject:** LSE PhD thesis - Taiwan president

Hi All

sorry to send this so widely, but I'm trying to cover all bases. Please forward if you think I've missed anyone.

There are presidential primaries in Taiwan this week to decide who the candidate for the DPP will be. One is the current president and LSE alumna Ing-wen Tsai.

Ing-wen Tsai received her PhD from LSE in 1984: Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions. We have had three queries in the last two weeks about it.

There was also great interest in it when she first stood for election and we had to do a lot of digging. LSE Library has never had a copy and Senate House could not find their copy. We tried IALS as some law theses went there but they didn't have it either. The student record was checked and LSE is satisfied that the PhD was awarded correctly.

The standard response to any query about the thesis is as follows:

Thank you for expressing an interest in this thesis. Unfortunately, LSE Library has never had a copy of this thesis. All PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to Senate House Library. As you can appreciate there has been a lot of interest in Dr Tsai's thesis, we have been in correspondence with the University of London about it and extensive checks have been made. Unfortunately Senate House are unable to find their copy.

I am sorry we cannot help further.

But please copy any queries to both me and [lsethesesonline@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lsethesesonline@lse.ac.uk)

thanks

Clive

**From:** [Thomson,MT](#)  
**To:** [Annis,M](#); [Baldwin,CB](#); [Beattie,S](#); [Breare-Hall,WS](#); [Cerny,MW](#); [Evanson,P](#); [Glynn,P](#); [Griffiths,R](#); [Hackney1,S](#); [Hewlett,TW](#); [Ingold,A](#); [Johnson,M](#); [Kaufman,AN](#); [Mackenzie,K](#); [Nicholls,D](#); [Ovens,B](#); [Page,M](#); [Pappa1,V](#); [Pilkington,B1](#); [Plater,S](#); [Sahrle,M](#); [Sandelson,A](#); [Soiza,A](#); [Stoby,VM](#); [Taylor,L](#); [Wadsley,K](#); [Wood,PA](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FYI - LSE PhD thesis - Taiwan president  
**Date:** 11 June 2019 16:58:45

---

Colleagues, greetings

To be aware, please.

All best,

MTT

---

**From:** Wright,NC  
**Sent:** 11 June 2019 15:54  
**To:** Pressoffice <Pressoffice@lse.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** Nadal,L <L.Nadal@lse.ac.uk>; Hix,S <S.Hix@lse.ac.uk>; Thomson,MT <M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** FYI - LSE PhD thesis - Taiwan president

Dear all,

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**Sent:** 11 June 2019 12:35  
**To:** Bell,M; Bhullar,I; Challis,D; Collings,R; Dawson,H; Fry,AE; Gomes,S; Graham1,N; Hayward,S; Horsler,PN; Hussain,R; Murphy,GE; Orson,R; Payne1,D; Reid,MJ; Towlson,A; Wilkinson,E; Wilson,Clive; Zajasensky,L; Benton,A; Rodriguez; Poulouse,S; Donnelly,S; Wilson1,K; Griffiths,CB  
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I am sorry we cannot help further.

But please copy any queries to both me and [lsethesesonline@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lsethesesonline@lse.ac.uk)

thanks

Clive

**To:** [Library.Enquiries](#)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** 17 June 2019 14:40:34

---

Hi there,  
Please see an email below for your information.  
It might have been forwarded already by someone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 03:42  
**To:** Directorate <[Directorate@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Directorate@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:**

Dear Director Shafik:

An LSE alumna, you might be interested in a recent controversy over another LSE alumna, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, amid her efforts to win a 2nd term of her Taiwanese Presidency.

The controversy has been made public and hot in the Taiwanese Press, with the appearance of two letters by an LSE library assistant at Research Support Services, Ruth Orson, who describes Dr. Tsai's Ph.D. thesis two times as "unavailable" and "missing." Required by law, Dr. Tsai's Ph.D. thesis "would have been sent first to Senate House Library," and "would have gone to the IALS," according to Ms. Orson. "Unfortunately, Senate House apparently never received a copy and the IALS are unable to find their copy," says Ms. Orson in one of the two letters.

A candidate seeking her 2nd term in the upcoming Taiwanese presidential election, Dr. Tsai would have benefited should she face bluntly the Press's questioning. Unfortunately, she chose to evade all questions and keep silence regarding the whereabouts of her Ph.D. thesis and the accessibility to the thesis.

Dr. Tsai as the President carries with her a lot of Taiwanese people's hope for a brand-new democracy and with your highly esteemed status in LSE, you are a new hope for the Taiwanese people to keep their hope alive and help Dr. Tsai clarify the controversy by finding an access to her thesis and explain why the thesis should have been missing for so long, over 3 decades. It would be highly regretful should her candidacy be fouled by any suspicion as such.

As you commit to have the "original vision of LSE" remain constant, I am eager, with your very kind and generous help, to get access to the "original version of LSE" Ph.D. thesis by an outstanding alumna, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen.

Your very kind and generous assistance to find the truth behind the whereabouts and why Dr. Tsai's LSE Ph.D. thesis should be missing for so long would be greatly appreciated by the Taiwanese people. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**To:** [taiwan.people.news@gmail.com](mailto:taiwan.people.news@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [twmingbo@gmail.com](mailto:twmingbo@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Correction to your article regarding LSE  
**Date:** 14 June 2019 13:55:00  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[LSE\\_1984-5\\_Calendar.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Sir/ Madam

Further to my message with a more recent statement from the London School of Economics, I note you have not removed the reference to the staff member Ruth Orson from your website. <https://www.peoplenews.tw/news/41075ad6-3253-4db4-a689-38d8ea3e1e1f>

This is leading to her receiving irrelevant enquiries and harassment, directed by your website. As previously stated, she is not in the LSE external relations department and is not the relevant person to contact on this matter.

Once again, please would you edit the story online to remove Ruth Orson's name. We have provided you with the LSE's official statement which can be used.

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](mailto:oconnord@lse.ac.uk)  
[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)



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**From:** O'Connor,D  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 13:54  
**To:** [taiwan.people.news@gmail.com](mailto:taiwan.people.news@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Media.Relations <[Media.Relations@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Media.Relations@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** London School of Economics statement regarding article

**Importance:** High

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am getting in touch from the London School of Economics Media Relations Office in relation to this article:

**Is the doctoral degree of Tsai Ing-wen fraud?** [English translation]

<https://www.peoplenews.tw/news/41075ad6-3253-4db4-a689-38d8ea3e1e1f>

LSE would like to provide the following statement, attributable to an LSE spokesperson:

**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.*

*"Unfortunately, the LSE Library has never held a copy of Tsai Ing-Wen's thesis. All PhDs from that period were awarded via the University of London and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library.*

*"We have corresponded with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Senate House Library are presently unable to find their copy."*

/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.

Futhermore, **please remove reference in your article to the LSE member of staff, Ruth Orson.**

The information in her email is correct but she understood this to be personal communication, not a press statement for general publication.

The statement from the LSE spokesperson (as above) can be used instead.

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](mailto:oconnord@lse.ac.uk)

**lse.ac.uk**



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