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Can One Earn a PhD from LSE without a Thesis?

The Bizarre Story of President Tsai

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Abstract

This is an independent investigation by a Taiwanese-American scholar, spanning a period of three months. It was inspired by Taiwanese people’s deepened worries about whether Taiwan’s President Ing-wen Tsai was truly awarded a PhD in law 35 years ago (1984) at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). It proceeded with difficulties, such as information asymmetries and data protection of personal data. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of the United Kingdom was helpful to some extent, however. The investigator contacted numerous university staff from the libraries, Diploma Production Office, and Data Protection and Compliance, among others. The investigator also flew to the U.K. this August, visiting the LSE Library for reviewing the mysterious, tardy doctoral thesis that President Tsai submitted recently (June 2019). The report concludes that President Tsai was not awarded a doctoral degree in 1984 and that she was at best a doctoral candidate without passing an oral examination at that time. However, recently, LSE unduly endorsed Tsai’s doctoral degree by issuing an unwarranted statement on October 8, reminiscent of the Gaddafi scandal that just happened about a decade ago.

Downloadable at: https://www.facebook.com/hwanclin/

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Acknowledgments

This report is mainly a translation of my earlier Chinese-language report, published on August 27, 2019 on my Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/hwanclin/. The English report is a bit more extensive with additional data, such as the student record that Ms. Ing-wen Tsai’s presidential office displayed recently on September 4, 2019 and the LSE statement that was issued recently on October 8, 2019. As a professional and pleasant translator, Ms. S. Hu worked out the first draft for me to edit, refine, and extend so as to make possible the final version of this English report. I am grateful for her tremendous effort, patience, and assistance. I also acknowledge gratefully that Jenny Tsai, a Taiwanese-American, offers financial support for the translation. All remaining errors are my own.
1 Introduction

The integrity of a nation’s leader is a vital character-trait. Simply put, “integrity” is the practice of being honest and trustworthy. When a leader’s integrity is questioned by the public, the democratically-mandated leadership can no longer possess its credibility and authority. Such a leader would find it difficult to push ahead with matter of state, promote national development, and enhance people’s well-being.

Has Ms. Ing-wen Tsai, now Taiwan’s president, successfully completed her doctoral thesis, defended it in front of a committee, and earned her PhD in law from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), as she so claimed? Doubt has been repeatedly cast on the veracity of her doctoral degree in the past couple of years. What should have been a simple, legitimate question has incited more controversy as President Tsai steadily refused to provide a plausible explanation. Doubts and questions have lingered and deepened over time as people began to wonder about president Tsai’s integrity and credibility. As such, how would President Tsai convince the people of Taiwan that she can be a strategically capable, morally responsible, and politically visionary leader to inspire reform, tackle corruption, bring about transitional justice, and ward off China’s growingly naked aggression to annex Taiwan?

As an economics scholar at University of North Carolina at Charlotte, I embarked on an independent investigation into the myths of Ms. Tsai’s thesis and diploma in May, 2019. Subject to information asymmetries, my investigation was fraught with stumbling blocks as soon as it was launched. At the outset, I released some preliminary findings to some media outlets so as to prompt related parties to respond to the thesis/diploma matter, thereby enabling me to acquire more bits of information. In addition, to better understand the process and academic criteria of how to earn a doctoral degree at LSE, I reached out to different parties of interest (including professors and doctoral candidates) back to the early time when President Tsai had been studying in London. To further establish the validity of my findings, I flew to London to visit the LSE Library in early August, 2019 to review the long-missing thesis that
Ms. Tsai submitted on June 28, 2019, while also examining some other doctoral theses cataloged in 1984.

I am not affiliated with any political parties. With a PhD in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I have dedicated myself to academic research and teaching at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where I teach both undergraduate and graduate courses. My graduate teaching has been devoted to two graduate programs in economics and mathematical finance. My research interests focus on economic growth, international trade, and computational economics. To some extent, they overlap Ms. Tsai’s academic pursuit at the LSE. However, unlike Ms. Tsai’s dissertation, my dissertation titled “Commercial Policy Intervention in Intra-Industry Trade: A Dual Approach to General Equilibrium Analysis” is searchable even using LSE Library’s online inquiry system and its digital copy can also be purchased online.

This investigation is independent from any influences from any political parties. It is not a work of commission by any media, nor is it connected to any red-China interest. I believe that academic honesty and political integrity are universal values in modern civilized society. It is my sincere hope that the investigation be the light shining upon the darkness hanging in Taiwan’s political skies so that nothing can cover the truth any more.

The investigation obtained multisource evidence, showing that President Tsai was not awarded a doctoral degree in 1984, in contrast to what she claimed. At that time, she was at best a doctoral candidate who had completed her thesis, but did not pass the thesis’s oral examination. This is the central conclusion of the entire investigation, grounded in the following findings:

1. Senate House has never received the final copy of Ms. Tsai’s approved thesis for deposit in the designated university libraries.

2. Ms. Tsai’s handheld diploma at Dcard was a fake replacement certificate, as it bore an incorrect Vice Chancellor’s signature.
3. Ms. Tsai had obtained two replacement certificates in 2010 and 2015, respectively, so they both must be fake for the university policy allows only one replacement certificate ever to be issued to any applicant.

4. All other 108 PhDs of the academic year 1983-84 have their metadata in Senate House Library, but Ms. Tsai is the only exception.

5. While Ms. Tsai’s theis has its metadata in the British Library, it hadn’t actually existed prior to June, 2015.

6. Ms. Tsai’s student record has nothing entered to indicate that she did pass an oral-defense examination or submit an approved thesis in 1983-84.

7. The student record also indicates that Ms. Tsai withdrew from the course of the Mphil/Phd programme on November 10, 1982 and henceforth became de-registered.

On June 28, 2019, the president of Taiwan sent a facsimile copy of her mysterious thesis to LSE Library. Ironically, this dubious thesis was already 35 years overdue. The library then enforced a unusual restricted access limitation on the thesis, preventing anyone from copying and quoting its contents. On July 9, or 11 days after the tardy thesis’s arrival, Ms. Tsai, in a rather flippant manner, flashed a doctoral diploma at Dcard, a social-media company based in Taipei, Taiwan. This diploma is dubious for it bears the signature of Adrian Smith rather than that of Lord Randolf Quirk. Note that Adrian Smith was Vice Chancellor of the University of London from 2012 to 2018, whereas Lord Randolf Quirk was Vice Chancellor from 1981 to 1985 when Ms. Tsai was an LSE graduate student. According to Ms. Tsai’s presidential office, the PhD diploma she displayed in person is a replacement certificate issued in 2015, so it bears the signature of Adrian Smith.

However, according to Diploma Production Office of the University of London, any replacement certificate must be identical to the original diploma; i.e. same wordings, same signatures. Further, Ms. Tsai has obtained two replacement certificates for her so-called PhD diploma, but the university policy allows only one replacement certificate
ever to be issued to any applicant. Thus her replacements certificates must have come from unknown sources, and they are fake.

Regardless, if she can, Ms. Tsai is welcome to refute the conclusion of the investigation. But I must remind Ms. Tsai that as she displayed a replacement copy, it is likely that the original PhD certificate was either damaged or lost, or that it never existed. To restore the public trust, we urge Ms. Tsai to come to defend her case by presenting the following three kinds of official documents:

1. A photocopy of her original PhD diploma that Ms. Tsai submitted to National Chengchi University (NCCU) for an associate professor position in 1984. If this document is unfortunately unavailable at NCCU, we shall turn to Soochow University, or the Central Election Commission, or the Ministry of Education for the same document.

2. The notarized replacement application that Ms. Tsai submitted in 2015 to request a replacement certificate from the Diploma Production Office of the University of London as well as the replacement-issuance notification from the same office.

3. The original official letter from the University of London informing that Ms. Tsai had passed the thesis-defense examination (viva) as well as the official receipt verifying that the Senate House Library of the University of London had received a copy of Ms. Tsai’s approved thesis.

Worry not, if Ms. Tsai has indeed been awarded a doctorate but has no longer kept the aforementioned documents: The University of London is a top-tier university in the world and must have kept all the related official records and documents in its well-preserved archive. Otherwise, how would the University process, for instance, the issuance of replacement certificates?

However, recently, LSE unduly endorsed Tsai’s doctoral degree by issuing a unwarranted statement on October 8, 2019, reminiscent of the notorious Gaddafi scandal that forced the then LSE director Sir Howard Davis to step down in 2011. As such, we do not think that any non-official documents or announcements coming unilaterally
from the University of London or LSE can suffice to substantiate the thesis/ diploma issue. If Ms. Tsai indeed earned a bona fide PhD from LSE, we are sure that she would not have any problem presenting the three kinds of documents we mentioned above.

We do not make groundless speculation in this report. All the arguments and proofs will be presented in a systematic manner so that they can speak for themselves. The rest of this report is organized as follows: Section 2 explores the mysteries surrounding Ms. Tsai’s Ph.D. thesis, and provides a detailed account of numerous findings from my review of Ms. Tsai’s alleged thesis in LSE Library. Section 3 discusses the many riddles in relation to Ms. Tsai’s PhD diploma. Section 4 emphasizes the intention of the investigation to challenge the veracity of Ms. Tsai’s doctoral diploma. Section 5 describes the North Africa Research Programme, established at LSE, and the Gaddafi scandal that damaged LSE’s reputation. Section 6 takes a look at the Taiwan Research Programme established at the LSE. Section 7 explains the PhD-awarding procedure and requirements at LSE. Section 8 presents and analyzes an array of evidence obtained from multiple sources. Section 9 draws conclusions, summarizes some internally conflicting views from London, and highlights the three kinds of formal documents that must be provided if Ms. Tsai chooses to defend her case. Lastly, concluding remarks are given in Section 10.

2 Mysteries of Ms. Tsai’s PhD Thesis

For more than three decades, Ms. Tsai has been laureled with an LSE PhD in law in her entire career starting as a university scholar and later escalating to a supreme leader in Taiwan. Ms. Tsai claimed that her doctoral thesis titled “Unfair Trade Practices and Safeguard Actions” was so well-received by the thesis committee after she defended her work. She also claimed that the committee decided not just to award her a PhD in law in 1984, but also to add the remark “she has extraordinarily strong academic background in international trade” to her PhD diploma. She went on to say
that the thesis committee lionized her work as “worthy of 1.5 PhD degrees.”

Such an outstanding thesis should have been circulated extensively, but the thesis vanished into thin air. The investigation found in early June that be it in physical or digital form, the so-called “PhD thesis” was never in existence anywhere in the University-of-London and LSE libraries over the past 35 years. This finding was first made public by independent commentator Mr. Cao Changqing on June 10 (EST) on his Facebook and then published on June 11 in Taiwanese media outlets, thereby sending shock waves throughout Taiwan and prompting Ms. Tsai take action to respond.

2.1 Tsai submitted 35-year overdue thesis in June, 2019

For instance, Ms. Tsai, at long last, submitted her thesis on June 28, 2019 (Friday, British Summer Time) to the LSE Library. LSE’s Information and Records informed me by email about this thesis submission after I made a Freedom-of-Information-Act (FOIA) request. About two weeks after the submission, the thesis became an online searchable item for it was made into LSE Library’s digital archives system on July 13. To be clear, the thesis being currently in LSE Library’s possession was because the library received a tardy submission that was 35 years overdue, but not because the library found it in its bookcases. Funnily enough, The Liberty Times on July 19 reported that Taipei Representative Office in the U.K, an overseas governmental unit of Taiwan’s Ministry of Education, had checked with the LSE and verified Ms. Tsai’s thesis being archived in LSE Library’s Special Collections. This reportage misled the public on purpose because it did not mention the fact that the thesis was just submitted on June 28, 2019.

\[1\text{ see From Scrambled Eggs with Onions to her Bento Box: Tsai Ing-wen's Taste of Life}, 2011, interview and compilation by Liu Yong-yi, BookLife Publishing.\]

\[2\text{ see Is Tsai Ing-wen's Doctoral Degree Bogus?}, \text{Min Pao, June 11, 2019.}\]

\[3\text{ It says that anyone has the right to access recorded information held by public sector organizations. (The Freedom of Information Act 2000)}\]

\[4\text{ Click on http://www.lse.ac.uk/library and type in Ing-Wen Tsai to locate the thesis.}\]

\[5\text{ see “The Education Ministry Verifies Tsai’s Distinction in Scholarship as Her Doctoral Thesis and Faculty Publication for Promotion Successfully Recovered,” Liberty Times, July 19, 2019}\]
2.2 Discoveries from my review of theses at LSE

I boarded a flight from the U.S East Coast to London on August 5 (British Summer Time), and spent the next three days, starting from August 6, reviewing the overdue PhD thesis that she had submitted to LSE Library recently. I found this thesis a freshly hard-bound thesis with black covers, including pages copied from another thesis and faxed to LSE for binding. Ms. Tsai’s hardcover thesis is in black. In contrast, all other hardcover theses I reviewed in LSE Library are in blue (see Figure 1), and they were formally approved and cataloged in 1984.

2.2.1 Why is the thesis so confidential?

We cannot understand why this freshly-bound thesis is so confidential? The thesis is enwrapped with a white strip of sleeve, on which unrealistic restrictions are written as follows (see Figure 2):
The Copyright Declaration on all our theses states: “I recognise that the copyright of this thesis rests with the author and that no quotation from it or information derived from it may be published without the prior written consent of the author.

Therefore, although fair use copying is normally permitted, given the current interest in this thesis, we have therefore taken the decision to restrict copying of any part of this thesis unless the researcher already has the author’s permission.”

The first paragraph of the statement says that Ms. Tsai is the sole copyright owner of this thesis so that no one is permitted to quote or use information from the thesis
unless the user has the written consent of Ms. Tsai. Furthermore, by adding the second paragraph, the LSE Library took it upon itself to prohibit anyone from copying any part of the thesis unless the user has Ms. Tsai’s permission.

I hereby wish to point out that the aforementioned statement by the LSE Library is excessive, a blatant violation of the international dissertation/thesis citation practices and an overt breach of LSE’s own copyright guidance.6

Stated explicitly on page 3 of LSE’s Copyright Guidance is that “there are certain so-called ‘fair dealing’ exceptions which permit copying for a number of specific purposes. These include criticism, review and news reporting.”

However, as I sat in the reading room on the 4th floor to have a read of Ms. Tsai’s thesis, stashed in Special Collections, I was asked to sit in a pre-designated seat in close proximity to the prying eyes of the librarians. When I reviewed the thesis, I was reminded repeatedly NOT to make copies of the text in any way except that I could take notes with a pencil. In stark contrast, I could freely make copies of all other LSE PhD theses submitted in the same year in the library. Why was Ms. Tsai’s tardy thesis the only exception?

2.2.2 The Acknowledgments page likely being retyped on purpose

Added to the mystery of Tsai’s tardily-submitted thesis is the suspicion that the page of “Acknowledgments” in the thesis is very likely a retype. As I stated earlier, this particular thesis is in all likelihood a compilation of pages copied from another dissertation and bound into a hardcover book as an imposture. My conjecture is based on the noticeable, dark shadows along the edges of or at the corner of every page, except for the very first two leaves of the thesis, which were free of any dark shadows. The first leaf was the title of the thesis, while the second leaf was “Acknowledgments.” Some may want to justify the lack of shadows on the first two leaves by arguing that they are exactly the top two pages of the thesis. Yet, this argument cannot hold at all.

Note that the hard-bound covers of the thesis have a certain degree of thickness. So, it is impossible that coping any page on a printer would not leave any dark shadows on its copied page. Accordingly, I noticed that even for the very last two pages, they were found to have dark shadows clearly on their edges and corners.

Why did I pay special attention to the Acknowledgments page? This is because that page reveals Tsai’s thesis supervisor and the other two professors to whom she wished to express her appreciation. This page mentions two LSE professors, including her supervisor Mr. Michael Elliot, who was once listed as a co-author of Tsai’s thesis in its metadata created in July, 2019. As if it wasn’t coincidental enough, Mr. Elliot is now deceased, and so is the other LSE professor. There is no way to contact the two professors for corroboration. However, since the Acknowledgments page appeared to be a retype, we have every reason to be suspicious of Ms. Tsai’s motivation.

Some additional clarifications are necessary here. First, Mr. Michael Elliot held a bachelor degree from the University of Oxford. He did not hold a doctoral degree. Furthermore, Mr. Elliot was a young lad in his early thirties back in 1984. According to a retired LSE professor, Mr. Elliot was on secondment in 1983 to the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS), a think tank, in the Cabinet Office. This retired professor also mentioned that Michael Elliot actually left LSE at some point in time in 1982.

It is bizarre to imagine that a celebrated university like the London School of Economics would allow a bachelor like Mr. Elliott, who never penned a Ph.D. dissertation, to be the sole supervisor for directing Ms. Tsai’s thesis.

2.2.3 Tsai’s thesis was a draft for oral defense only

The freshly hard-bound thesis has an embossed year of 1983. Yet, Ms. Tsai claimed that she graduated in 1984. We can therefore logically deduce that the thesis was only a draft completed in 1983 and submitted to the examiners for her oral-defense examination. So, it cannot be the final-version thesis approved for deposit. As I have noticed, all PhD candidates were required to book-bind the drafts of their theses with cardboard covers while delivering them to their examiners for oral-defense examinations.
Figure 3: Ing-wen Tsai’s student record at LSE, supplied on September 4, 2019

This requirement applies to the past and the present as well.

The reportage in Wikipedia notes that Ms. Tsai obtained a Master of Laws at Cornell Law School in 1980 and passed the bar exam as she spent a post-graduation year in the U.S (See Figure 4 ). By our calculation based on this thumbnail bio in Wikipedia, it took just about two years or for her to complete a draft for her doctoral thesis.

Even based on her student record (see Figure 3), which Ms. Tsai’s presidential office showcased in September, 2019, the course length of her MPhil/PhD programme was registered as 21 months only.\(^7\) Finishing a Ph.D. thesis with 365 pages, 778 footnotes, and some unnumbered pages in a two-year time frame, how did Ms. Tsai manage that on top of her class load for the doctoral courses?

\(^7\)A detailed analysis of Ms. Tsai’s student record is given in Subsection 8.5
2.2.4 Thesis has six missing pages and other technical oversights

Let me say one more time to emphasize this important finding: the freshly-bound thesis with its black hardcovers should be a preliminary draft for the oral-defense examination, rather than the finalized thesis to be archived in the university’s libraries so as to signify the conclusion of Tsai’s journey to a PhD in law.

The above emphasis is grounded not only in the discrepancy of the dubious thesis between publication year 1983 and awarding year 1984, but also in a number of technical problems including:

1. The thesis contains a surprisingly large number of typos, which are marked with hand-written corrections by someone (perhaps Ms. Tsai herself) but have never been retyped. Therefore, these typos have remained in the tardy thesis;

2. Throughout the thesis, every footnote is labeled with an asterisk (*) followed by a corresponding number and the footnote label is not typed as a superscript at all. For instance, footnote 6 is simply typed as “*6.” The thesis treated in such a shoddy and unprofessional manner should not be a finally approved doctoral-level thesis ready for deposit in university libraries.

3. The thesis has some inconsistencies between the table of contents and the naming
of their corresponding chapters and paragraphs. Most absurd of all, six pages (i.e. pages 5 through 10) are missing in Chapter One.

4. The thesis does not end with an overall concluding chapter. This does not seem to fit in the norm of all PhD dissertations.

Some people might argue that the aforementioned problems are just about typing errors, proofreading and editing oversights, and some other technical negligence in printing and binding. But should we not be gravely concerned about these glitches in a finalized Ph.D. thesis?

What is more, Ms. Tsai always refers to herself, the author, as “this candidate” in third person. This is another evidence that at that time Ms. Tsai was a PhD candidate and the thesis was merely a draft that Ms. Tsai put forward for a likely upcoming oral-defense examination.

Surely, the investigation does not stop at these technical slip-ups. The grand finale of this investigation will reveal whether Ms. Tsai did submit a finalized thesis - or not - to the Senate House Library of the University of London. At that time (1984), this was the very last and necessary step for any PhD candidate to earn a doctoral degree.

2.3 The thesis was not cataloged in university libraries

Let us hypothesize for a minute that the thesis is not a draft for her oral-defense examination, but the finalized edition to be submitted to the Library after Tsai passed her oral defense in 1984. We would still like to ask why it took as long as 35 years for Ms. Tsai to file her work – a magnum opus in her own words – to become a searchable item? Moreover, the KMT raised similar questions in 2015, a year before the 2016 Presidential Election, on the veracity of Tsai’s doctoral thesis. Tsai never provided any clarification at that time, nor did she submit her so-called “thesis” in a timely manner. Shouldn’t we be equally skeptical of her reticence?

Besides, even if the hardcopy of the thesis was lost for good, how come its catalogue information or metadata has vanished simultaneously in every library within the
University of London? The thesis is simply unsearchable online using the thesis search systems of the University of London and LSE. Some university staff (including LSE’s public-relation representatives) came to Ms. Tsai’s defense, claiming that her thesis can be accessed in the EThOS system of the British Library and that it suffices to substantiate the actuality of Tsai’s thesis.

We can nullify these claims, however. Note that EThOS of the British Library is an independent catalog service, not affiliated with any of the libraries under the University of London. Yet how did this library manage to have an archive entry of Ms. Tsai’s doctoral thesis? Also, when did that catalog entry appear for the first time? My investigation reveals that the British Library created metadata for Ms. Tsai’s then non-existent thesis in June 2015 by consulting LSE Library. Coincidentally enough, the KMT had just launched its own inquiry into the legitimacy of Tsai’s thesis in the same year (2015). Yet what is perplexing to readers was that all the libraries under the University of London had no entry record of that thesis at that time – and the time before then. So how could it be possible that the LSE filed something non-existent with the British Library? To verify this, I obtained a proof from the British Library’s Manager of Data Protection and Information Compliance by citing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of the United Kingdom. Later, I will present and explain this proof.

We let evidence back every conclusion reached and presented in the investigation. However, to expound all the proofs in a systematic fashion, we shall raise an array of related questions and queries, first, before unveiling and analyzing each of these proofs.

3 Mysteries of Tsai’s Ph.D. diploma

Another array of mysteries involve the critical question of whether Ms. Tsai was awarded an LSE Ph.D. in law in 1984.
3.1 Tsai’s diploma on Prof. Chung-Chih Li’s Facebook

The investigation found a bizarre development involving Chung-Chih Li, a professor of the School of Information Technology with Illinois State University, who displayed Tsai’s so-called “Ph.D. diploma” on his own Facebook page at 12:20 pm on June 10 (Eastern Standard Time), 2019 (See Figure 5). But note that June 10 happened to be the first day of a series of nationwide opinion polls conducted by the DPP for its presidential preliminary, which lasted until June 13. As if that strange declaration of “certificate authenticity” did not suffice, Taiwan’s Taro News and Fount Media published Tsai’s credential on their own outlets. A day later, Democratic Progressive Party’s legislator Wang Ting-yu also posted this diploma of interest, while making an audacious accusation by relating anyone who questioned the diploma’s authenticity either to the action of saboteur against the Preliminary or to the mudslinging of China-controlled media. Mr. Wang had never been reticent about him being a mouthpiece for Ms. Tsai. Yet, these unsupported allegations seemed inadequate and malicious, given Mr. Wang’s standing as a legislator of Taiwan’s legislative branch.

PhD diplomas attest to one’s scholarship and are so personal. Nevertheless, a diploma of such sensitive nature was first made public on professor Li’s Facebook. We have a lot to think over why the diploma was handled this way. This handling approach was in fact in conformity with Tsai’s prudent character: perhaps she wanted to test the waters first, hoping to see how other truth hunters would respond to the initial display of her dubious diploma.

To be certain, we have landed several incriminating proofs against Tsai during DPP’s presidential preliminary. The doctoral certificate showcased on Professor Li’s Facebook was by no means the original copy issued 35 years ago, but a counterfeit, as we will explain later in the report. Going back to the certificate shown on Li’s Facebook: Because Ms. Tsai had never acknowledged her ownership of that credential, the investigation took a wait-and-see approach and decided not to challenge the veracity of that certificate in hopes that Ms. Tsai would make her next move.
3.2 Tsai’s diploma displayed at Dcard

Patience bears fruit. A month later, Dr. Dennis Peng, host of True Voice of Taiwan, declared on his own Facebook and later his popular YouTube talkshow that the credential displayed on professor Li’s Facebook bore the wrong signature. This proclamation was an indirect challenge to the legitimacy of Ms. Tsai’s doctoral degree. A month after professor Li showcased the diploma in question, Ms. Tsai perhaps believed that Dr. Peng’s indirect challenge did not truly pose a threat to her. Therefore, at last, she showcased a doctoral certificate bearing an embossed stamp of certificate attestation on July 9 in front of the staff of Dcard, a social-media company based in Taipei, Taiwan. A day after (July 10), she also displayed that certificate on her own Facebook page (see Figure 6). The certificate Ms. Tsai showcased at Dcard was contained in a clear plastic bag, which caught glare from light reflection. Yet many photos were taken in the Dcard visit and posted publicly on her Instagram. There, I was able to obtain a clear photo of the same certificate sans the glare (see Figure 7) for the purpose of
making comparison below.

It does not take a genius to recognize that the doctoral certificate displayed on Prof. Chung-Chih Li’s Facebook on June 10 – and later, reposted on legislator Wang Ting-yu’s Facebook – are identical to the one that Ms. Tsai showcased during her visit to Dcard (see Figures 5 & 7). The only difference between these two diplomas is that one was a copy and the other was an original. Be it the logo, the text, the layout, the signature, or the date, the two certificates were demonstrably identical.

However, Professor Li was not on the payroll of the presidential staff, neither was the DPP chairman, the secretary-general, or the spokesman. Why would Ms. Tsai allow a private certificate of hers displayed on Li’s Facebook page? What motivated her to do so? Shouldn’t Ms. Tsai offer an explanation to Taiwan’s general electorate? Was she concerned with the political ramifications and legal risks that might burst immediately if she exhibited the certificate on her own Facebook without going through a testing phase? We have reason to deduce that Ms. Tsai wanted to wait a while to see if truth-seekers were able to disclose fresh proofs compelling enough to threaten the certificate’s legitimacy. This is the only explanation for the one-month interval between the two diploma exhibits by Professor Li and Ms. Tsai, respectively.

Alas, Ms. Tsai has finally displayed her doctoral certificate in person, etched with her name, “Ing-Wen Tsai.” As far as the progress of this investigation, Ms. Tsai’s diploma shown at Dcard was the game-changer. The situation became irreversible in that she acknowledged that the copied certificate from Professor Li’s Facebook is her own.

### 3.3 Tsai and Li showed the same diploma

Here, I’d like to stress one more time that the doctoral certificate Tsai proudly displayed at Dcard was a counterfeit. If it were the genuine article, the signature scribbled on the certificate would be that of Lord Randolph Quirk, Vice Chancellor of the University of London from 1981 to 1985. Nonetheless, the signature on Tsai’s certificate was Adrian Smith (see Figure 7), Vice Chancellor of the same university from 2012 to
2018. How did Smith’s signature resurrect itself on a diploma awarded 35 years ago? This signature is a telling clue that this certificate is bogus.

Less than a week after Ms. Tsai showcased her certificate at Dcard, Ho De-fen, professor emeritus at National Taiwan University, held a de facto press conference on True Voice of Taiwan on July 12. There, she accused that the diploma was a counterfeit. Professor Ho’s press conference posed a direct challenge against the validity of Tsai’s PhD diploma. Our investigation is one hundred percent behind Professor Ho’s press conference statements in that we have airtight proofs to substantiate Dr. Peng and Professor Ho’s testaments. Later, we will present them in a thorough breakdown.

Professor Ho’s accusation carries a lot of gravitas, as it concerns academic honesty, law compliance, and political integrity with respect to a figure who is both a scholar and a national leader with supreme power. Nonetheless, Ms. Tsai had never responded to these allegations as of the initial publication date of the report on August 27, 2019.

Interestingly, Dr. Fang-Long Shih as co-director of LSE’s Taiwan Research Programme and DPP legislator Wang Ting-yu came together to defend Ms. Tsai in their

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8Watch True Voice of Taiwan, July 13, 2019: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR1lfmILYSA
Figure 7: Tsai’s handheld PhD diploma at Dcard (2), July 10, 2019
respective Facebook posts. They both argued that the doctoral certificate Ms. Tsai showed at Dcard was a 2015 replacement so that it bore the signature of Adrian Smith, Vice Chancellor of the University of London from 2012 to 2018. And that led us to wonder: did President Tsai approve, or disapprove, the song and dance that Shih and Wang came up with? Also, didn’t Ms. Tsai submit her credentials prior to running for presidential elections in 2012 and 2016, respectively? Why did she need the 2015 replacement? Moreover, both LSE and the University of London had a vigorous replacement application process in place. Was the certificate Ms. Tsai presented – with Arian Smith’s signature – truly a replacement from the University of London rather than a counterfeit? For these questions, we do not think that Ms. Tsai can get around them with no explanations to the people of Taiwan.

When we looked for Ms. Tsai’s PhD thesis, it had been missing until she sent a dubious copy — 35 years overdue — to the LSE library. When the tardy thesis was cataloged finally in the library, it was ridden with excessive copyright restrictions. On the other hand, when we looked for Ms. Tsai’s doctoral diploma, it was nowhere to be seen. Yet, once it was displayed in public, it bore an incorrect Vice-Chancellor signature. All these mysteries about Tsai’s doctoral thesis and diploma cannot pass muster with anyone’s common sense. Yet, with the investigation, the rays of light have begun to shine and the truth will surface from ambiguous darkness.

4 A Direct Challenge to Tsai’s PhD Problems

From the investigation, we have gathered plenty of proofs to pose a direct challenge to the authenticity of Ms. Tsai’s PhD diploma. Simply put, is Ms. Tsai’s a genuine or fake PhD? We shall let proofs speak for themselves. We are deeply convinced that academic honesty and political integrity are universal belief and values shared in modern civilized society.

But before we let proofs speak for themselves, it is conducive to discuss briefly LSE’s North Africa Research Programme (NARP), Taiwan Research Programme (TRP), and
regulations for awarding doctoral degrees. Understanding an institute’s system and regulations would help with the presentation and breakdown of our proofs in later sections.

5 North Africa Research Programme (NARP)

First, let us notice the Gaddafi PhD scandal that tarnished LSE’s reputation a decade ago.\(^9\) The core of the scandal was a donation of £1.5m from a charitable foundation – The NGO Gaddafi Foundation — run by Muammar Gaddafi’s son, Saif al-Islam, who studied at the London School of Economics. The donation was used to set up a North Africa Research Programme. Saif al-Islam Gaddafi was studying for a doctorate at LSE’s Department of Philosophy, and was awarded a PhD in 2008.

However, Saif al-Islam’s doctoral thesis was called into question as allegations circulated that it was ghostwritten and likely plagiarized from other sources. An independent inquiry effort led by former Lord Chief Justice Harry Woolf was established to look into the matter and the international donations involved. As a result, LSE director Sir Howard Davies resigned on March 3, 2011 to take full responsibility over the school’s shady dealings, while the North Africa Research Programme was also suspended.

Indeed, LSE’s academic ranking is impressive, but this cannot guarantee that administrative management and decision making in this university are by no means challengeable. Otherwise, the Gaddafi PhD scandal would not have taken place just about a decade ago.

6 Taiwan Research Programme (TRP)

Earlier than the North Africa Research Programme, the Taiwan Research Programme was established at LSE in 2003. I do not know whether TRP received monetary donations from Taiwan. However, I noticed that the Co-director of TRP, Dr. Fang-long

Shih, has been vocal lately in defending Ms. Tsai by baiting Taiwan’s media outlets for creating inaccurate news. While Dr. Shih has every right to exercise her freedom of speech, her official duties at LSE have nothing to do with the school’s thesis acquisition or issuance degrees. Dr. Shih often overstepped her bounds, rendering inappropriate remarks and making people mull over her motivations.

Several media outlets in Taiwan have violated journalistic objectivity to circulate news released by Dr. Shih as the TRP Co-director. For instance, Taiwan’s Liberty Times published a sensational report on July 12 in an irresponsible and discretionary manner. This report was headlined “Tsai’s Opponents and Pro-Independence Supporters Contend Fake Diploma; TRP Co-director Calls an End to Slandering” and used Dr. Shih’s Facebook posts in part as the basis of its reportage, with the intent to make distorted reports on the thesis/diploma issue. For instance:

1. Dr. Shih claimed on her Facebook page that the doctoral certificate displayed by Tsai on her visit to Dcard was a replacement issued in 2015. Yet, citing this news source, Liberty Times fine-tuned Dr. Shih’s claim by saying that the replacement was issued at a point in time between 2012 to 2018. Why the fine-tuning?

2. Dr. Shih stated: “As to the question of why Ms. Tsai did not present the original certificate of her PhD issued in 1984, it is up to her choice, and the LSE does not intend to inquire her personal business and is not obligated to provide a clarification.” I would like to ask Dr. Shih to review the official requirement and procedure for issuing a replacement for a lost or damaged diploma before making her irresponsible remarks. For Ms. Tsai’s inability to display an original PhD diploma, anyone with reason can easily deduce that there are only three possibilities including: (a) Ms. Tsai never earned a Ph.D. from the LSE; (b) Ms. Tsai lost her degree certificate; or (c) Ms. Tsai’s certificate was damaged beyond repair. These possibilities were never about Ms. Tsai’s personal rights. Can Ms. Tsai have an explanation about the fake replacement?

See Liberty Times, “Tsai’s Opponents and Pro-Independence Supporters Contend Degree Certificate Validity; TRP Co-director Calls an End to Slandering”, July 12, 2019
3. Dr. Shih stated: “No matter the reason for the replacement, it is completely within the reasonable range of an individual’s life experience. If anyone questions Tsai’s degree legitimacy, it is tantamount to questioning LSE’s academic integrity.” In fact, any school in the U.K has its own regulations and requirements for certificate re-issues. Dr. Shih’s remarks on “reasonable range of an individual’s life experience” and “questioning LSE’s academic integrity” can only be described as Orwellian nonsense.

Dr. Shih has served as Co-director of TRP for years. Her work with the Taiwan Research Program has absolutely nothing to do with student theses or issuance of degrees. Yet, how can she act as if she were the spokesperson for the London School of Economics?

7 Procedure of Awarding LSE Degrees

Now, let us pause a while to review LSE’s regulations for PhD awards, before we present and analyze all the proofs we have obtained. To better understand the analysis of these proofs, we find it important to notice that LSE is a member institution of the Federal University of London. To be certain, the 2007-2008 academic year marked the beginning of an organizational shift, making the University of London more decentralized.

Centralization of organization  Prior to the 2007-08 academic year, it was the University of London that awarded all degrees from any of its subordinate colleges. At that time, all Ph.D. candidates were required to submit the final copies of their theses to the University’s Senate House Library after passing their viva examinations (i.e. oral-defense examinations). Meanwhile, another copy of every Department-of-Law thesis was also required to submit to the University’s Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) for deposit in its own library. The University of London took charge of the awarding of all degree and their certificates bore its Vice Chancellor’s signature.
Decentralization of Organization  However, beginning with the 2007-08 academic year, LSE became a de facto independent university, drifting away from the University of London. As such, all Ph.D. candidates have no longer been required to submit the final copies of their approved theses to Senate House Library. Though degree certificates would still bear the signature of Vice Chancellor of the University of London, LSE has since then awarded all its own degrees by itself.

Ms. Tsai was enrolled in an MPhil/PhD program in LSE’s earlier days. Therefore, she would have been required to submit a final copy of her approved thesis to Senate House Library if she had passed her viva examination while also delivering another copy of the same thesis to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. Only when Ms. Tsai fulfilled these old-time requirements could she be awarded a PhD degree by the University of London.

However, with the development of organizational decentralization as mentioned above, Senate House Library has no longer kept any hard copies of theses in its archives, even though this library has continued to keep an official catalog for all previously submitted theses. Today, all hard copies of theses are instead stored in the libraries of all subordinate colleges within the University of London.

8 Analysis of Multisource Proofs

This investigation benefits from my persistent efforts to consult staff at LSE, the University of London, and the British Library by emails. Some critical information was obtained by citing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of the United Kingdom. As noted earlier, the investigation is to pose a direct challenge to the question of whether Ms. Tsai holds a bona fide PhD in law through her graduate study on LSE’s MPhil/PhD programme or a fake degree through her long-term deceit? My email of May 29, 2019 ushered in the entire investigation (see Figure 8).

In the investigation we have obtained five major proved findings and they are summarized as follows:
1. Senate House Library and IALS have never received the final copy of Ms. Tsai’s doctoral thesis;

2. The PhD diploma that Ms. Tsai displayed in person was a counterfeit or forgery;

3. Bar Ms. Tsai, all other 108 LSE PhDs of 1983-84 had their PhD theses cataloged in Senate House Library;

4. Ms. Tsai’s thesis had never been cataloged in the British Library prior to the month of June, 2015; and

5. Ms. Tsai’s student record has nothing entered to indicate that she passed an oral-defense examination in 1983-84 or that she submitted the final copy of an approved thesis to the designated university libraries.

These proofs suffice to corroborate that LSE did not award to Ms. Tsai a PhD in law in 1984. My detailed analysis of these proved findings are given in the following subsections, respectively.

### 8.1 Senate House never received Tsai’s thesis

At the outset, I sent my first inquiry e-mail to the LSE Library on May 29, kicking off the investigation (see Figure 8). This email addressed LSE Library staff: why is
the PhD thesis by Ing-wen Tsai searchable using EThos, an online search system of the British Library, but not using the LSE library inquiry system?

Shortly, Ms. Ruth Orson, a library assistant from LSE’s Research Support Services replied on June 4 (see Figure 9). Her reply provided critical information for my investigation in that she made three unambiguous messages as follows:

1. LSE Library has never had a copy of Ms. Tsai’s PhD thesis;

2. At the University of London, Senate House Library has never received a copy of Ms. Tsai’s PhD thesis;

3. At the University of London, IALS Library does not have Ms. Tsai’s PhD thesis, either.

These messages are unambiguous and important to the investigation. Now, it is clear that be it a hard copy, a digital file, or its metadata, Ms. Tsai’s PhD thesis has never existed anywhere in each of the three school libraries with Senate House, IALS,
and LSE, respectively. These messages were leaked out to the public through Mr. Chang-qing Cao publishing an article in Taiwan’s news outlets on June 11.\textsuperscript{11}

This helpful library assistant made it explicitly clear in her reply e-mail, dated June 4, that all doctors of philosophy from that period were awarded under the University of London Banner, and their theses would have been sent first to Senate House Library; and they would have also gone to IALS, as required by law. However, neither Senate House Library nor IALS has received a copy of Ms. Tsai’s thesis.

As noted earlier, LSE Library did receive a tardy and sloppily edited thesis from Ms. Tsai on June 28, 2019 after it had been missing for 35 years. As such, the thesis became a searchable item in the LSE Library’s inquiry system for the first time over the past 35 years. This sudden development was nothing but an echo of Ms. Ruth Orson’s reply email.

Apparently, Ms. Ruth Orson’s reply of June 4 implied that Ms. Tsai did not submit the final copy of her thesis, if approved, to Senate House Library and IALS Library in 1984. Therefore, it was impossible that she could have been awarded a PhD in law at that time.

To ensure the foolproof of our findings, I emailed Ms. Ruth Orson immediately on June 4 (see Figure 10) as soon as she made her reply. In the email, I asked: How

\textsuperscript{11}see footnote 2.
come Tsai’s thesis just vanished anywhere in the Senate House Library, IALS Library, and LSE Library? This helpful library assistant wrote me back on June 6 (see Figure 11), saying that no further information can be provided. She also emphasized that the LSE Library, Senate House Library, and IALS Library have all searched extensively for this so-called “thesis” and unfortunately it is missing.

8.2 Ms. Tsai’s handheld PhD diploma was a forgery

As mentioned earlier, the reply email from Ms. Ruth Orson on June 4 was so powerful a proof that forced Ms. Tsai to send a facsimile copy of her highly confidential and dubious thesis to LSE Library on June 28, 2019. It also compelled her to display a forged PhD diploma at Dcard on July 10 (see Figure 7). At that time, her handheld diploma came in the media spotlight in Taiwan and she was fearsome. That was why this forged copy made a debut earlier on June 10 on a seemingly unrelated person’s Facebook page for a one-month testing for public response. As noted earlier, this person refers to Professor Chung-chih Li of computer science, who teaches in a U.S. university. From our investigation, Ms. Tsai’s handheld PhD diploma is fake for the following four reasons:
First, Tsai claimed that she obtained a Ph.D. in law at LSE in 1984. However, the signature shown on the certificate did not belong to Lord Randolph Quirk, Vice Chancellor of the University of London from 1981 to 1985. Rather, the certificate bore a signature from Adrian Smith, who served as Vice Chancellor of the University of London recently from 2012 to 2018. To corroborate this point, we found a roster of vice chancellors at the University of London over the years, sourced from Wikipedia (see Table 1).

Second, Although Dr. Fang-long Shih (TRP Co-director) and DPP legislator Mr. Wang came to explain that Ms. Tsai’s handhold certificate showed on July 10 was a replacement, their explanations are groundless. In fact, as early as Professor Li posted the same questionable certificate on his Facebook on June 10, I reached out to the University of London, and Ms. Teresa Byrne as Head of the University’s Diploma Production Office replied on June 12 with an unambiguous clarification given below (see Figure 12):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Vice-Chancellor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1886-1842</td>
<td>Sir John William Lubbock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842-1862</td>
<td>Sir John Shaw Lefèvre FRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862-1871</td>
<td>George Grove FRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872-1880</td>
<td>Sir John Lubbock (Later Lord Avebury, son of the 1st Vice Chancellor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881-1883</td>
<td>Sir George Jessel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883-1895</td>
<td>Sir James Paget FRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885-1899</td>
<td>Sir Julian Goldsmid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896-1902</td>
<td>Sir Henry Roscoe FRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902-1903</td>
<td>Archibald Robertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-1905</td>
<td>Philip Henry Pye-Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1907</td>
<td>Sir Edward Henry Bask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-1909</td>
<td>Sir William Collins KCVO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909-1911</td>
<td>Mclsiach John Muller Hill FRs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911-1912</td>
<td>Sir William Collins KCVO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912-1915</td>
<td>Sir Wilfrid Herringham KCVO CB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916-1917</td>
<td>Sir Alfred Pearce Gould KCVO CB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-1919</td>
<td>Sir (Edwin) Cooper Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-1922</td>
<td>Sir Sydney Russell-Wells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922-1924</td>
<td>Sir Holbert Jacob Waring Bl CBE FRCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-1926</td>
<td>Ernest Arthur Gardner</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926-1929</td>
<td>William Beveridge, Baron Beveridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-1930</td>
<td>Sir Gregory Foster</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930-1932</td>
<td>J. Scott Liddell</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932-1933</td>
<td>John Leigh Streatfeather Hatton</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933-1935</td>
<td>Louis Napoleon George Fiton FRS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935-1937</td>
<td>Sir Herbert Lightfoot Eason CMG CB</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937-1939</td>
<td>Sir Robert Howson Pickard FRS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939-1945</td>
<td>Frank Horton FRS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945-1948</td>
<td>Sir David Hughes Parry</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946-1951</td>
<td>Dame Lilian Penson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951-1956</td>
<td>Hugh Hale Bellot FRS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1953-1956</td>
<td>Sir Arthur Shelford Maxwell Hill MC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955-1958</td>
<td>Sir John Francis Lockwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956-1961</td>
<td>Sir Charles Felix Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961-1964</td>
<td>Sir Peter Scott Noble</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964-1967</td>
<td>Sir Thomas Percival Creed KBE MC KC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-1969</td>
<td>Sir Owen Saunders FRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-1972</td>
<td>Sir Brian Windmeyer FRCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-1978</td>
<td>Sir Cyril Phillips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-1978</td>
<td>Sir Frank Hartley CB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-1981</td>
<td>Noel Annan, Baron Annan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-1985</td>
<td>Sir Randolph Quirk CB2 FBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-1990</td>
<td>Brian Flowers, Baron Flowers FRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1994</td>
<td>Stewart Sutherland, Baron Sutherland of Houndwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-1997</td>
<td>Andrew Rutherford CB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-2003</td>
<td>Graham J Zellick CB2 QG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2010</td>
<td>Sir Graeme Davies FRSNZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2012</td>
<td>Geoffrey Crossick FRHistS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2018</td>
<td>Prof Sir Adrian Smith FRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2018</td>
<td>Peter Kaplan (Interim/Acting)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Roster of Vice Chancellors of the University of London over years: Wikipedia
“Replacement certificates are only issued in cases of proven loss, or accidental destruction, and they will still of course be identical to the original document – same wording, same signatures, etc.”

As mentioned earlier, Dr. Shih attempted to exculpate Ms. Tsai by saying: “It is within the rights of Ms. Tsai to not present the original doctoral certificate. The LSE has no intent to question her personal business, and is not obligated to provide a clarification.”

Dr. Shih went on to say that “No matter the reason for the replacement, it is completely within the reasonable range of an individual’s life experience. Any questions against Tsai’s degree legitimacy are tantamount to questioning LSE’s academic integrity.” In contrast to the clear and professional email from Ms. Teresa Bryne, Head of Diploma Production Office, I must express my strong disapproval of Dr. Shih’s obscurity and equivocation, which attempted to sidestep all the crucial questions. Dr. Shih should do right by herself to have a thorough read of the Application for a Replacement Degree Certificate (See Appendix A) available in the LSE website.

Third, in Ms. Tsai’s autobiography titled “From Scrambled Eggs with Onions to her Bento Box: Tsai Ing-wen’s Taste of Life” published in 2011, it is mentioned that her thesis and oral defense were so impeccable that the dissertation committee decided in
1984 to award her a PhD in law with an added note emphasizing “She has extraordinary scholarship in international trade.” Nonetheless, nowhere on the certificate shown by Ms. Tsai on July 10 can we find any wordings similar to “extraordinary scholarship in international trade.”

**Fourth**, according to A, *only* one replacement certificate will ever be issued to an applicant. However, Ms. Tsai had obtained two replacement certificates, one in 2015 and the other in 2010. So, these two replacement certificates must be fake documents, which Ms. Tsai somehow obtained from unknown sources.

Clearly enough, these four attestations mentioned above provide strong evidence that the doctoral certificate displayed by Ms. Tsai is a counterfeit or forgery. According to Ms. Teresa Byrne, the Diploma Production Office of the University of London can never issue a replacement certificate that differs from the original document, for instance, in terms of wording and signatures. The forging problem is gravely serious: Not only does Ms. Tsai bear legal liability to possible forgery, but also Professor Chung-chih Li is also complicit in this shady deal unless he was completely in the dark. We would hereby make two requests: *first*, the University of London should provide an official copy of its replacement processing notification issued to Ms Tsai; and *second*, Ms. Tsai should present an official document for her replacement application. We do not think that any unilateral acknowledgment from either side would suffice or have any credential.

### 8.3 Bar Ms. Tsai, all other 108 PhDs have their metadata

Recall that Ms. Ruth Orson (Library Assistant of LSE’s Research Support Services) said in her June 4 email (Figure 9) that Ms. Tsai has never submitted her thesis to both Senate House Library and IALS Library. This implies that Ms. Tsai did not earn an LSE Ph.D. in law in 1984. 

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12 There is a strong likelihood that Ms. Tsai was lying about her PhD degree in her autobiography titled “From Scrambled Eggs with Onions to Her Bento Box: Tsai Ing-wen’s Taste of Life.” Certainly, the absence of a diploma must negate the existence of such a mention.

13 Every PhD candidate must submit a finalized thesis to a designated library for deposit. This is the very last step required before a university can award a PhD diploma and has been the protocol that every
Ms. Tsai’s doctoral certificate. Unfortunately, Ms. Ruth Orson no longer answered my follow-up emails for reasons unknown to me. Instead, on June 14, Mr. Daniel O’Connor (Head of Media Relations of LSE’s Communications Division) took over to correspond with me (see Figure 13).

In his email, Mr. Daniel O’Connor as a PR personnel provided messages opposite to what Ms. Ruth Orson, as a library professional (Library Assistant, Research Support Services) said in her June 4 email. According to Mr. Daniel O’Connor, records from the University of London and LSE confirm that Ing-wen Tsai was awarded a PhD in law in 1984, and her student record shows that the thesis was submitted. Now, let us examine this PR personnel’s “proofs” in an in-depth analysis:

First, Mr. Daniel O’Connor, a PR personnel, said that the name “Ing-Wen Tsai” appeared in a 1983-84 award roster, which he sent to me as an attachment by email; see Appendix B.

accredited university has followed in the world. It has been so, either for the past or for the present.
According to the roster, a total of 107 students (including Ing-wen Tsai) graduated with a PhD in year 1983-84. There were 3 PhDs in law, 6 in Arts, and 98 in Economics. I spent much time looking into the metadata of these graduates’ PhD theses through Senate House Library’s online inquiry system. As the roster is lengthy, I summarized my findings in three tables (Tables 2, 3, and 4). To facilitate the analysis, I provided online links in each Table so that readers can click on the link of each graduate to look up his/her PhD thesis cataloged in Senate House Library. If the thesis is cataloged, the specific thesis is a searchable item and the result is labeled as “Yes” in the Table’s Searchable column. If not, the result is instead labeled as “No” in the same column.

I noticed in the curation process that out of the 107 graduates, the doctoral degree of Pauline Frances Creasey (Table 2) was revoked in 1992. This can be verified by clicking on the online LSE link. This is why Senate House Library no longer has thesis record in the case of Pauline Frances Creasey.

After eliminating Pauline Frances Creasey from the award roster, the investigation finds that out of the remaining 106 graduates, all but Ing-wen Tsai have a complete record of their PhD theses in Senate House Library. These findings confirm that the library professional Ms. Ruth Orson was right all along, in contrast to what the PR personnel Mr. Daniel O’Connor said in his June 14 email.

Furthermore, out of the remaining 106 graduates, three were Ph.D. in law. They are Jose Enrique Molina Vega (Table 3), Michael Francis Smith (Table 4), and Ing-wen Tsai (Table 4). As required at that time, all PhD theses in law had to be submitted to IALS Library, in addition to Senate House Library. Unfortunately but not surprisingly, Ms. Tsai’s thesis is unavailable in IALS Library, either. In contrast, for Dr. Molina Vega and Dr. Smith, their theses can easily be accessed through IALS’s inquiry system. Moreover, their hardbound theses are stored and archived in IALS Library. To verify these findings, we can click on each of the following three online links:

- Molina Vega, Jose Enrique [link]

\textsuperscript{14}As we show later, three other PhDs in economics are missing from the roster of 1983-84.
Smith, Michael Francis [link]

Tsai, Ing-Wen [link]

In the investigation, we also found three other PhDs in economics who are missing from LSE’s 1983-84 award roster. These missing PhDs given below:

• David Barr [link]
• User Enis [link]
• Thomas Paul Gibson [link]

where one can click on each link to see the metadata of each PhD thesis.

Our search results using the inquiry system of Senate House Library indicate that the situation of Ing-wen Tsai is too peculiar to accept the hypothesis that she passed the oral examination and was awarded a PhD in law in 1984. It is clear that Ms. Tsai has been lying all along. It is also clear that the "proofs" provided by Mr. Daniel O’Connor as Head of Media Relations do not speak for themselves to support the hypothesis.

Here, we are compelled to question the accuracy of the award roster of the 1983-84 academic year (see Appendix B). Its dubious accuracy is also evidenced by the fact that one of the PhDs awarded was revoked in 1992 and three other PhDs in economics are missing from the award roster.

In this report all the analyses are based on facts. We have made screenshots or image files of all the search findings for fear of anything unexpected happening to undermine the report’s accuracy or reliability.

8.4 Not cataloged in British Library prior to June 2015

Let us now look at our fourth finding from the investigation. This finding can confirm that reality does not support what the PR personnel Mr. Daniel O’Connor said in his June 14 email (see Figure 13), either. In this email, Mr. Daniel O’Connor claimed that Senate House Library did receive a copy of Tsai’s thesis and he justified such a
claim by arguing this way: if Senate House Library did not, the thesis would not have appeared on the library’s catalog and then on the British Library catalog.

Before we demonstrate our fourth finding, let us recall our third finding, which has spoken for itself: the theses of two other PhDs in law of 1984 have been cataloged in both Senate House Library and IALS Library, and their hard-bound theses are available in the latter library. In stark contrast, Ms. Tsai’s thesis has been nowhere to be found, be it the cataloged metadata or its physical hard copy.

Now let us go on to look at our fourth finding. It is clear that the PR personnel Mr. Daniel O’Connor attempted to validate Tsai’s thesis submission to Senate House Library in 1984 by claiming that the British Library has a cataloged entry of Tsai’s work. To challenge Mr. Daniel O’Connor’s claim of this sort, I have obtained an indisputable proof from the British Library by citing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This proof is powerful enough to invalidate what Mr. Daniel O’Connor claimed, as I elaborate below:

First, I wrote on June 21 an email to Mr. James Courthold, who was Information Compliance Manager of the British Library. He wrote back on July 18 to address my FOIA inquiry. His reply email is attached in Appendix C. This FOIA inquiry addressed two key questions:

- How come this thesis’s metadata can be found using the British Library’s EThOS inquiry system, given that Ms. Tsai’s doctoral thesis does not exist in the repository catalog of Senate House Library, IALS Library, or LSE Library within the University of London?

- Who let the thesis enter EThOS?

To answer these two questions, let us quote the Information Compliance Manager’s critical messages adapted from the second paragraph of his July 18 email:

“We have considered your request, and can confirm that we hold a record in EThOS of the thesis but not the full file. The record was added in June 2015 by a member of staff in response to a user’s speculative request for the
thesis. We have a note on the EThOS record stating that the item is ‘missing from university’. When an item is not held but a request for it is made, the EThOS Admin Team will contact the institution to request a copy for digitisation and it is likely the institution who advised the copy was missing which has resulted in the note being placed on the record. The Admin Team also usually verifies requests to check they are valid thesis titles at the time of the request, however, the Library holds no documentary records of what checks were carried out in 2015.”

It is clear from the above statement that the record of Tsai’s thesis was added in June 2015 to the British Library catalog so that the thesis became searchable (just four years ago) using the library’s EThOS system. The same statement also mentions that the British Library made this addition to its repository system after its librarian consulted LSE Library upon a user’s speculative request for the thesis.15

Here is another conundrum: at that time (June 2015), given that all the University-of-London libraries (including LSE Library) did not possess any record of Ms. Tsai’s thesis, how could it be possible that LSE Library managed to submit the metadata of Tsai’s thesis to the British Library? I hope that LSE Library has an answer for this critical question. I also noticed that some people in Taiwan were starting to investigate Tsai’s thesis in 2015 prior to the presidential election of 2016. Why was this timing so close to the creation of metadata for Ms. Tsai’s thesis in the British Library? This seems another interesting question, isn’t it?

8.5 Tsai’s student record revealing no thesis submission

Lastly, the fifth piece information came from Ms. Tsai’s student record, which Taiwan’s presidential office displayed recently on September 4 (see Figure 3, page 11).

15In the July 18 mail from the British Library, the term “institution” should refer to LSE Library because the newly added record says that Tsai’s thesis was archived in the LSE Library, but with the status of “restricted access.”
Ms. Tsai’s *student record* also points to the implausibility that she was awarded a PhD in 1984. We can ascertain that all the findings we have mentioned above are in conformity with her student record. This student record contains several pieces of critical information that merit our attention:

- First, Ms. Tsai was registered as a graduate student of the MPhil/PhD program at LSE for two academic years (1980-81 & 1981-82), and the course length was only 21 months;
- Second, after the 21-month course length, she withdrew from the course of the MPhil-PhD programme on November 10, 1982;
- Third, after November 10, 1982, she was de-registered and therefore had no active sessions in the academic years of 1982-83 and 1983-84 (for instance, no record of fees paid);
- Fourth, surprisingly, given that she became de-registered, Ms. Tsai’s title of thesis was approved to make a change on June 19, 1983 and this change was for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Laws;¹⁶
- Fifth, more surprisingly, she was awarded an unknown degree in February, 1984 (the specific date is unknown).

What was the awarded degree on Ms. Tsai’s student record? It was not disclosed there at all. However, the undisclosed degree can never be a doctoral degree on account of the student record having nothing entered to indicate that she passed an oral-defense examination or that she submitted the final copy of an approved PhD thesis for deposit in the designated school libraries. It is very likely that the unknown degree should be a Bachelor of Science or a Master of Philosophy, which was often awarded to a PhD candidate who did not pass his or her oral-defense examination. So, was Ms. Tsai awarded a PhD at LSE? The answer is absolutely “NO”, as her own student record has said it all.

¹⁶Here, we interpret the term B/S Laws in the student record as the degree of Bachelor of Science. It may refer to the Board of Studies, instead. Regardless, the approval of the thesis’s title was highly dubious, as Ms. Tsai’s withdrawal from the course of studies was a permanent one and cannot be reversed.
9 Central Conclusion and Procedural Justice

We have demonstrated and analyzed our multisource findings in the preceding section. In what follows, we summarize (1) the central conclusion of our investigation, (2) the internally conflicting views from LSE and the University of London, and (3) the procedural justice required for resolving the mysteries of Tsai’s dubious thesis and diploma.

9.1 Fact-based conclusions

From the above analysis of our multisource proofs, we come to the central conclusion that Ms. Tsai did not obtain a Ph.D. in law from LSE in 1984 and that her student status at that time was at most a PhD candidate who completed her thesis but did not pass an oral-defense examination.

Only with this conclusion can we explain why all the 108 PhDs of 1984 excluding Ms. Tsai have their metadata cataloged in Senate House Library and why Ms. Tsai’s theis does not have its metadata and hard-bound copy in IALS Library, as opposed to the other two PhDs in law in 1984. Otherwise, you would have to tell me where her student record says the opposite, where her formally approved hard-bound thesis is, and how come such a thesis has not been cataloged in any library of the University of London and LSE.

9.2 Internally conflicting views from London

Our conclusions are fact-based. However, during the course of my investigation, I received some internally conflicting views from LSE and the University of London. In particular, in contrast to Ms. Ruth Orson (Library Assistant, Research Support Service, LSE) and Ms. Teresa Byrne (Head of Diploma Production Office), some PR personnel from either LSE or the University of London delivered some confusing messages to me by email. These messages are summarized below:

- First, Mr. Daniel O’Connor (Head, Media Relations, LSE) said in his June 4
Figure 14: Email from Mr. Kit Good, Data Protection and Information Compliance Manager from the University of London, June 19, 2019

email (Figure 13) that “the student record shows that Ms. Tsai submitted her thesis.” However, the student record (Figure 3) does not have this record at all. Recall that Ms. Ruth Orson said that Senate House Library has never received Ms. Tsai’s PhD thesis (Figure 9).

- Second, Mr. Kit Good (Data Protection & Information Compliance, U of London) emailed me on June 19 in response to my FOIA inquiry. He said (Figure 14) that the University did not have any formal acquisitions records for theses from the 1980s. However, from my investigation, except for Ms. Tsai, all other 108 PhDs have metadata created for their theses in Senate House Library (see Tables 2, 3, & 4).

- Third, Ms. Binda Rai. (Associate Director of External Relations, Media, and PR from U of London) emailed me on July 19 (Figure 15) and July 23 (Figure 16), respectively. She said that the University of London did not hold a vice chancellor’s signature for more than 20 years. Therefore, for a PhD holder who
obtained his/her degree more than 20 years ago, the signature on the replacement certificate would bear the signature of the incumbent Vice Chancellor. This is quite odd to me: a PR officer overstepped her bounds to actively reach out to me and refuted what Ms. Teresa Byrne, told me a month ago in her June 12 email (see Figure 12). Can a PR representative be more authoritative than Ms. Teresa Byrne in terms of diploma issuance?

* Fourth, as a matter of fact, as soon as I received the first email from Ms. Teresa Byrne on June 12 (Figure 17), I emailed a thank-you note (Figure 18 while taking the chance to mention the replacement issue for a 1984 diploma, she was just curious about the reasons for my inquiry without saying anything else. I do not understand why the PR personnel was eager to tell me something about “20 years
However, more absurd is a recent statement LSE issued on October 8, 2019 (see Appendix D). In this statement, LSE unduly endorsed Tsai’s doctoral degree, which it did not actually award in 1984. Reminiscent of the notorious Gaddafi scandal that forced the then LSE director Sir Howard Davis to step down in 2011, the LSE endorsement was absolutely undue and unwarranted in terms of our multisource proofs, which we have demonstrated.

9.3 Three official documents for procedural justice

In stark contrast to the LSE endorsement of October 8, 2019, the investigation comes to the central conclusion that Ms. Tsai was not awarded a PhD in law at LSE in 1984. We respect procedural justice. Therefore, if anyone wants to challenge the central conclusion, he or she should first turn to President Tsai and ask whether President Tsai is able to put forth the three kinds of official documents requested below:

1. A photocopy of her original PhD diploma that Ms. Tsai submitted to National Chengchi University (NCCU) for an associate professor position in 1984. If this document is unfortunately unavailable at NCCU, we shall turn to Soochow Uni-
versity, or the Central Election Commission, or the Ministry of Education for the same document.

2. The notarized replacement application that Ms. Tsai submitted in 2015 to request a replacement of her Ph.D. certificate from Diploma Production Office of the University of London as well as the replacement-issuance notification from the Diploma Production Office.

3. The original official letter from the University of London informing that Ms. Tsai had passed the thesis-defense examination (viva) as well as the official receipt verifying that the Senate House Library of the University of London had received a copy of Ms. Tsai’s approved thesis.

If Ms. Tsai is indeed a bona fide Ph.D. from LSE, there should be no problem presenting these documents requested above for procedural justice.

10 Concluding Remarks

This report has described all the mysteries surrounding Ms. Tsai’s so-called “PhD thesis and diploma” and analyzed all the multisource findings from my three-month investigation. This investigation should not have taken this much time and effort. Yet, subject to information asymmetries and legal protection of personal data, much of critical information was hardly accessible as it was in the hands of universities in both the U.K. and Taiwan. So, the investigation was a difficult task and could proceed only
at a slow pace. Thankfully, patience and persistent effort via multiple channels allowed me to obtain substantial findings. These findings are powerful enough to unveil the mystery of Ms. Tsai’s alleged Ph.D. degree.

Regrettably, the three-month investigation concludes that Ms. Tsai did not obtain an LSE PhD in law in 1984 and that at that time Ms. Tsai was at most a PhD candidate, who completed a thesis, yet without passing an oral-defense examination.

These conclusions are not surprising, albeit unfortunate. After all, it was often difficult for anyone to obtain a PhD degree at any prominent, top-rated university over the course of about two years. Ms. Tsai claimed that she completed her PhD thesis in 1983. The investigation therefore infers that she spent about two years or so working to complete a PhD thesis with 365 pages and 778 footnotes, in addition to its unnumbered pages. It was hard to imagine how she managed that in so short a time frame.

Ms. Tsai’s student record also points to the implausibility of being awarded a PhD in 1984. According to her student record, Ms. Tsai withdrew from the course of the MPhil-PhD programme at LSE on November 10, 1982 and therefore became de-registered. However, given that Ms. Tsai was already de-registered, the student record still shows surprisingly that she was awarded an unknown degree in February, 1984.
What on earth was this awarded degree? It was not disclosed at all on the student record. However, the undisclosed degree can never be a doctoral degree, as the student record has nothing entered to indicate that she passed an oral-defense examination or that she submitted as required the final copy of an approved PhD thesis for deposit in the designated school libraries.

Therefore, it does not come as a surprise to us that the metadata of Ms. Tsai’s so-called “PhD thesis” has never existed in any of the libraries affiliated with the University of London or LSE. Although the British Library’s electronic inquiry system contains a record of Tsai’s thesis, this record had actually been unavailable in the British Library until the month of June in 2015.

LSE Library had no record of Ms. Tsai’s so-called “PhD thesis” for the past 35 years. From the investigation, this mysterious thesis was sent to the LSE Library on June 28, 2019, thereby becoming searchable on the library’s online inquiry system in July, 2019. So, how could it be possible that the LSE Library provided the British Library in June, 2015 with the record of Tsai’s mystery thesis that was actually non-existent at and prior to that time? Can LSE have an answer for this bizarre situation?

Sadly, LSE issued a statement on October 9, 2019 unduly endorsing Tsai’s doctoral degree, which it did not actually award in 1984. The LSE endorsement was absolutely undue and unwarranted in terms of our multisource proofs, reminiscent of the notorious Gaddafi scandal that occurred a decade ago.

For academic honesty and political integrity, we have asked Ms. Tsai to defend her bizarre story by displaying the three kinds of official documents requested in the report. However, three months have passed by, and the bizarre story of her mysterious thesis and doctoral degree has remained hidden in the dark. This is a solemn insult to Taiwan’s emerging democracy, while harming the many hearts of the Taiwanese people.
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<td>2. Caroline Anstey</td>
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<td>3. Gholamreza Arabsheibani</td>
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<td>4. Maria Del Rosario Pilar Arezaga Aguirre</td>
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<td>5. Muhammad Omar Laique Azam</td>
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<td>6. Sundat Balkaran</td>
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<td>40. Charles Randall Grant</td>
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Table 2: Students awarded PhDs at LSE in 1983-84 academic year: 1 - 40
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<td>51. Andrew John Kendrick</td>
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<td>76. Michael Stephen Partridge</td>
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<td>80. Rafael Repullo Labrador</td>
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Table 3: Students awarded PhDs at LSE in 1983-84 academic year: 41 - 80
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<td>Stephen Ryan</td>
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<td>Ellie Elizabeth Julia Scrivens</td>
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<td>Lance Hilary Secretan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Allen Stanton</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Taplin</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Teague</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mun Heng Toh</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ing-Wen Tsai</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Tweedale</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harbans Lal Vaid</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wesley Kenneth Wark</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Weiss</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Edgar Weissenberger</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Margaret Wilson</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
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<td>Michael Patrick Wood</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Wyer</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuala Barbara Zahedieh</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>link</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Students awarded PhDs at LSE in 1983-84 academic year: 81 - 107
Appendix

A Application for a Replacement Degree Certificate (two pages)
Application for a replacement degree certificate

Important information
- Please note that this form can only be used by students who graduated from LSE in 2006 onwards.
- Please read the guidance notes on the reverse before completing this form.
- All sections of this form must be completed before submitting to the Student Services Centre.
- MPhil/PhD students should return their completed forms to the Research Degrees Unit, Room V600. Please address any queries to Researchdegrees@lse.ac.uk

Section A - Personal details at the time of graduation
Surname
First name(s)
Student number
(if known)
Year of award
Programme of study
Current postal address (this is the address that the replacement certificate, if issued, will be sent to)

Telephone
Email address

Section B - Reason for the application (see Part 1 of the notes)
Non-receipt
Damaged
Destroyed
Stolen
Lost

Supporting evidence attached:
Crime reference no.:________________________ Original certificate:__________ Other:__________________________
(if stolen or destroyed) (if damaged/defaced) (please specify)

Section C - Declaration (see Part 2 of the notes)
The following statutory declaration must be completed for all applications for a replacement certificate except those where the original certificate was damaged or destroyed:

I (full name)_________________________ do solemnly and sincerely declare that I undertake to return the replacement certificate should the original be recovered, and I make this Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the "Statutory Declaration Act, 1835".

Your signature:_________________________ Date:_________________________
Declared at:_________________________ Date:_________________________
(location)

THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO RETURNING TO THE SCHOOL:
Before me (Magistrate, commissioner for oaths, or practising solicitor): (see Part 3 of the notes)
Full name:_________________________ Official Stamp_________________________
Signature:_________________________
Notes

- Prior to 2008, all degree certificate were produced by the University of London, and not LSE. If you graduated prior to 2008, please contact the University of London’s Diploma Production Office on diploma.enquiries@london.ac.uk to request a replacement certificate.

- The certificate that is issued by the London School of Economics as proof of the conferment of an award of a degree is a unique and valuable document, and under no circumstances will the School issue additional copies or replacements to any applicant holding the original certificate.

- Only one replacement certificate will ever be issued to an applicant.

- The completed form and any required supporting evidence should be returned to: Registration and Assessment, Student Services Centre, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Replacement certificates will be despatched within 3 working days of receipt of the completed application.

- Applications received without all of the required evidence and signatures will not be processed until applicants supply all missing criteria.

- A fee of £10 may be charged for issuing a replacement certificate. Please use the following web link to pay this fee http://eshop.lse.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&prodid=489 prior to submitting this completed form.

- Refunds are offered if the fee is waived, or if you decide to cancel your request for a replacement certificate.

- Any queries about this procedure should be sent to registry@lse.ac.uk

- MPhil/PhD students should direct their queries to the Research Degrees Unit, Room V600. Researchdegrees@lse.ac.uk

Part 1

The School, at its discretion, will only issue a replacement certificate in the following circumstances:

i. Non-receipt of the original. A replacement will be issued on receipt of a written statement by the applicant attached to this form declaring that the original certificate was never received. Applicants must allow eight weeks from the time of despatch of the original certificate before applying for a replacement. Please consult www.lse.ac.uk/student/centre/ for details of when the certificates were posted.

ii. Damage or defacement. A replacement will be issued on receipt of the damaged or defaced certificate together with a written statement by the applicant attached to this form outlining the circumstances of the damage or defacement.

iii. Loss by Destruction. If a fire, flood or other such occurrence destroys a certificate; a replacement will be issued on receipt of a written statement by the applicant attached to this form outlining the circumstances, and any supporting evidence such as a police, fire or insurance report confirming the destruction.

iv. Loss by Theft. If a certificate is stolen, a replacement will be issued on receipt of a written statement by the applicant attached to this form outlining the circumstances, and any supporting evidence such as a police report or crime reference number confirming the theft.

v. Accidental Loss or Misplacement. The School will not normally grant a request to replace a certificate that has been lost or misplaced, or that the applicant does not have ready access to. Any special requests relating to loss of the certificate under circumstances not covered above should be made according to the instructions for iii. above

The School reserves the right not to issue a replacement certificate.

Part 2

The declaration in Section C must be witnessed and signed by a Magistrate, commissioner for oaths or practising solicitor. For those applicants who reside overseas, the declaration can also be witnessed and signed by the British Embassy, Consulate or other representative of the Crown.

Part 3

As a Magistrate, commissioner for oaths, practising solicitor, or other representative of the Crown you should request to see photographic ID of the applicant prior to signing this form.
B  A Roster of LSE Graduates in 1983-84 academic year (four pages)
THIRD CLASS
Richard Peter Jonnett
Cyrus Parsoon Merchant
Kamlesh Varavan Modi
Rosemary Iniama Ogbonna
PASS
Teck Wah Koh
Vipul Bhanaria Vaid
B.A. French Studies
SECOND CLASS
(Upper Division)
Valerie Ann Edge
Juliet Humphrey
Elizabeth Anne Jarrett
Timothy Jerome Lamb
Jean Noel Antoine Marie
Ann Murmans
Sally Ruth Spiers
SECOND CLASS
(Lower Division)
Paul Derek Gorton-Brown
Elizabeth Sheila Hicks
THIRD CLASS
Mary Patricia Loftus
Shirley-Anne Rodrigues
B.Sc. Main Field
Actuarial Science
FIRST CLASS
Nigel Taylor
SECOND CLASS
(Upper Division)
Paul Anderson
Lawrence Chan Woe Lee
Ooi Lee Meng
Louise Tinka Koon Kian
SECOND CLASS
(Lower Division)
Koh Meng Leys
Yang Chew Ooi
B.Sc. Main Field
Mathematics with Computing
THIRD CLASS
Phillip Ashley Minas
Soh Kim Hock
Hoong San Tan
PASS
Lye-Huat Lim
B.Sc. Main Field
Actuarial Science and Statistics
SECOND CLASS
(Lower Division)
Neil John Taylor
SECOND CLASS
(Upper Division)
Nina Susanne Dixon
SECOND CLASS
(Lower Division)
Brinda Margaret Wai Ming Ko
Koan Mi Yap
Siow Wai Yap
THIRD CLASS
Ching Hin Ho
PASS
Lai Yu Chen
Philppe Samuel Van Messel
B.Sc. Main Field
Mathematics
SECOND CLASS
(Upper Division)
Kate Stuart Ainsley Frankland
B.Sc. Main Field
Mathematics and Computing
FIRST CLASS
Sanjay Kumar Chanderana
B.Sc. Main Field
Geography
SECOND CLASS
(Upper Division)
Stephen Maurice Barton
Michael Andrew Jorgen Bolz
Patrick Julian Chaffey
Nicholas George Corrigan
Judith Catherine Flight
Verity Frances Vernon Jones
Marc Philippe Pattinson
Simon Bentinck Thomas
SECOND CLASS
(Lower Division)
Stephen John Brown
Chi-Wai Sabrina Ho
Amanda Clare Jackson
Jacqueline Faith Lewis
Pamela Catherine Mattelberry
Garry Michael Pain
Kathryn Ruth Rodway
Julian Anthony Siedlecki
THIRD CLASS
William Clayton Smith
PASS
William Andrew Marcus Buck-Wood
Christopher Frank Thompson
B.Sc. Main Field
Management Sciences
FIRST CLASS
Jonah Min Yee Chow
Ainah Satry Samantha
SECOND CLASS
(Upper Division)
Domingos Elizabeth Bertel
Nicholas David Burt
Ed Vee Catherine Chung
Thomas Ferrar
June Gurney
Wai Fan J
Manileh Jamshidzadeh
Wai Sum Liu
Nilesh Praaprai Mehta
Kostas Menigos
Chau Ho Poon
Moe Sae Yu

SECOND CLASS

(Lower Division)
Hisao Hui Chang
Sin Ching Chiu
Clive Patrick Heathcote
Michael Kratza
Marie Anne Polengaris
Choon Sam Phoon
Bhinder Singh Sangha
Chiah Min Shi

THIRD CLASS

Yin King Olive Chow
Kim Wah Leung
Mau-Ling Liu
Eka Uti Nkere
Nirad Buddhichand Shah
Chrysostomos Stephanou

PASS

Tse See Chee

B.Sc. Main Field
Mathematics and Philosophy
SECOND CLASS

(Lower Division)
Alfons Charles Haxall Dance

B.A. Main Field
Social Anthropology
SECOND CLASS

(Upper Division)
Rachai Helen Carroll
Peter Kershaw Dalby
Joanne Elizabeth Dan Evans
Karen Lindsey Jacobs
Sotila Natasha Elizabeth Solomon
Susan Carroll Walsh

SECOND CLASS

(Lower Division)
Carolyn Elizabeth Hayson

THIRD CLASS

Simon Gerry Ernest Tiffin

B.Sc. Main Field
Social Anthropology
FIRST CLASS

Jan Cecilia Savage

SECOND CLASS

(Upper Division)
Marian Robertson
Paul Gerard Sander
Donna Sookoo-Herbert
Susan Ann Young

B.Sc. Main Field
Social Anthropology and Medieval History
SECOND CLASS

(Upper Division)
Timothy Edwin Powell

B.Sc. Main Field
Social Psychology
FIRST CLASS

Linda Mary Bell
Caroline Margaret Morrissey

SECOND CLASS

(Upper Division)
Chloe Margaret Baveystock
Sandra Calvert
Catherine Marie Cassell
Susan Edwina Hayward
Megan Olive Jones
Wendy Lee
Françoise Michael Nugent
Chiu Yan Tang
Julia Susan Thornton

Paraskevi Tsouflis
Robert Frederick Wareing

SECOND CLASS

(Lower Division)
Gillian May Lockett
Shirley Aaron May
John Matthewson Morrison
Chayudi Uchera

THIRD CLASS

Dragica Gostic

B.Sc. Main Field Sociology
FIRST CLASS

Katherine Yarima Gunaratnam
Matthew John Price

SECOND CLASS

(Lower Division)
Evelyn Marion Cantor
Richard Ion Arthur Colenso
Marianne Louise Jacqueline Ecker
Jane Anne Hoad
Vera Lucia Mello Joseyns
Susan Mary Mullan
Julia Louise Nibolls
Jonathan Adrian Priest
Margot Roberts
Sheila Mary Vent

SECOND CLASS

(Lower Division)
Angela Elizabeth Roseler Cooper
Melanie Yvette Oddiele Palmer
Anne Bernadette Randles
Sharon Ann Taylor

Higher Degrees Awarded
1983–84

Ph.D.

Michael Hope Allen
Carolyn Amaryllis
Gholamrez Arbabian
Maria Del Rosario Pilar Arezina
Agirre
Mohammad Omar Laique Azam
Sundar Balkaran
Helen Julia Balkhatshet
Elleen Vartan Barker
Diane Claire Baron
Ian James Beardwell
Alistor Lee Booth
Stephen C. Bosworth
Paul Edwin Bowles
Gordon Hilary Boyce
Jocelyn Alyn Boyden
Christopher John Brewer

B.Sc. Social Science and Administration

FIRST CLASS

Song Shi Tan

SECOND CLASS

(Upper Division)
Boudhija Croomskcvic
Alan Dixon
Mary Simone Harry
Catherine Ann James
David Phillip Lambert
Alan Michael Mills
Caroline Janet Morgan
Frances Lydia Morgan
Jonathon Crawford O'Neil Good
Shelby Quinn
Patricia Eileen Richards
Hamutal Stiffpine
Christine Mary Tuyle

SECOND CLASS

(Lower Division)
Angel Elizabeth Roseler Cooper
Melanie Yvette Oddiele Palmer
Anne Bernadette Randles
Sharon Ann Taylor
Thomas Cotoulas
Ann Zillah Cotterell
Ian Thomas Cowie
Alain Joseph Edmond Cram
Roger Stephen Crouch
Terence James Cryan
John Keiller Cunningham
Schleshera Donaldukh
*Kenes Linda Danziger
Taylor Evans Dark
Thomas Sidney Daversport
Winston Paul David
Vicki-Marie Davidson
Karen Kimberly Davis
Michael Stuart Davis
Pauline Adelaide De Boer
Diane De Cordova
Danielle De Giovannini
Carlos De La Serna
Alison Dean
Reid Hernandez Debuque
Virginia Lynne Delty
Arshad Singh Dhaliwal
Michael Jeremy Dicks
Damaris Jessica Jane Dodd
Giesta Dominguez
Sally Donnelly
Samuel Dota Medina
Olga Dourou
Michael Anshel Dower
Norah Daddick
Peter Richard Dunn
Brian George Dunlop
Terese Ruth Dyble
Ioanna Azouka Ebeidie
Malcolm Lawrence Edey
David Christopher Edwards
Jose Efremides
*Christopher Ekholm
Laura Manuela El-Khazen
Mark Jeremy Elkin
Andi Elkins
Kenneth Mervyn Elmes
Margaret Escalante-Mandelis
Anna Akos Abromeit Niall Eakin
Owen Glendower Evans
Richard Michael Evans
John Andrew Eyson
Maria Susan Exall
Kevin John Fairholm
Jose Carlos Farinas
Antony Robin Farr
Jaime Ferrer
Omer Feygolag
Judith Mary Fido
Lorenzo Figiakulli
Barbara Anne Finch
Karen Ann Fitzner
Thomas Alexander Flax
Geraldine Flanagan
Robert Charles Fornow
William Francis Fowler
Kenneth Arthur Fowler
Elizabeth Mary Francis
Bevery Lee Franz
Dominique Frequent
*Mark James French
Sarah Fuller
Elizabeth Cecilia Fussick
Pang Shuk Yun
Bernard Gallagher
Gerald Brian Glaser
Luis Julian Garcia-Ureña
John Spencer Gardiner
William David Gave
*Gregory John Geen
Dimitris Georgakopoulos
Jacqueline Anne Gillchrist
Isabella Anne Gillies
Nasia Cristina Gonzales Ginsen
Niccolo Dimitri Gios
David William Gittings
Nilus Ewin Simon Victor Gikman
Sara Yolanda Gomez-Ortigosa Basteraches
Mondra Gonzalez-Hibbert
Judith Goodwin
*James Peter Fraser Gordon
David Harry Grans
Amanda Jane Grantam-Hill
Andrew Mark Green
Stephen Charles Greenfield
Michèle Rene Gregory
Steven Richard Grills
David MacKenzie Grimes
John Patrick Groarke
Hastia Jacob Gulben
Dwa Contrares Guingundo
Naveen Gupta
Nancy Anthony Hadad
Maria Hadjipetras
Asfia Haimaram
Siti Faridah Binti Haji
Abdul Rahaman
Deborah Hall
Woo Han
Catherine Hanouni
Maureen Elizabeth Harangody
Akin Paul Harding
*Mark of Distinction awarded
Dawn Harding
David Paul Harrison
Aqil Mohamed Hadi Hassan
Mark Oliver Winston Hastings
William Wentzell Hatch
Martha Stacey Hawver
Stephen Haybury
Francisco Hernandez Pedra
Joshua Mark Herschlag
Owen Jeremy Hicks
Julie Elizabeth Hill
Andrew John Hirst
Jefferson Sidney Hofgaard
*Andrew Bernard Holland
James George Mark Holland
David Robert Hollands
Hilary Hopkinson
Jonathan David Hopper
Dennis Horak
Motoko Hori
Vernon Christopher Horne
*Hilary Ann Howard
*John Leonard Hoy
Louise Hubbard
Malcolm Hudson
Jacqueline Andrea Hunt
Stephen John Hunt
Hugh Ian Hutchings
Brendan Hunter
Ajanman Ibrahim
Patience Obijaka Igwara
*Carla Hilda Ineichin Mucino
Peter Nigel Ingram
Maatrizo Imamorad
Constantine Paraskevas
Joanina
Anna Maria Justissides
Ignacio Erazamal
Linda Monique Iskow
Laura Ann Jackson
Alastair Mark Jackson
*Maya Lakshami Jaggi
Timothy James
Serge George Jeanneau
Milanko Jevdovic
Sia Lynn Johnson
*Helin Elizabeth Johnys
Robert Andrew Jones
Wendy Joyce Jones
Stephen Morris Joseph
Peter Kaka Judar
Richard George Kabrt
Friedrich Wilhelm Kaltenhoff
Ulrich Woalign Kamele
Takaaki Kaneko
George Karageorgos
Panayias Karatza
Georgia Louise Kaufman
Arimenios Kavalkaki
Margaret Rosemary Keefe
Danielle Christiane Keffer
Denise Kenna
Salome Macemonai Khai-Bari
Amor Khier
Ehso Soo Sek
Francis Kunji Kimani
Viviane Elizabeth Martin King
Roger David Kingston
Paul Kingdon
Andrew David Klein
Timothy Knight
Philip James Knowles
William Scott Koenig
Helen Kerbel
Edmund Koroma
Helena Horina Kotsa
Tom Paul Kovatsch
Richard Allen Christian Krasnow
Alfonso Kratzer
Karen Ginger Kraus
Irene Kral
Theodosia Whitney Kommerfeld
Stephen Andreas Kua
Yee Man Kwong
Gregorios Kyriazopoulou
Richard Donald La Belle
Brian Edward Lassy
Shih Leung Lai
Jane Heather Lalloo
Billy Lam
Virginia Wai-Man Lam
Abdulwahab Lamkanra
Catherine Rachel Lander
Kirsty Lang
Lee Lawrence
Dorothy Anne Mary Last
Urvala Laube
Theodore Lance Lauber
Shawn Charles Kenneth Lavery
Robin Ann Lawther
William Harden Lay
*Simon Robert Brough Leatbeater
*Christopher Hugh Ledger
Kamik Wai Lee
Wai Sing Lee
Siew Peng Eddie Lee
Lee Ling Lian Lee
*Mark of Distinction awarded
C  Reply emails from Information Compliance Manager with the British Library, July 18 (two pages)
18 July 2019

Dear Hwan C. Lin

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – REQUEST 1936

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 21 June 2019. You asked us for information related to a thesis entitled "Unfair Trade Practices and Safeguard Actions". Specifically you asked:

1. How this thesis is searchable in the EThOS system if a copy does not exist?
2. Who uploaded the information about the thesis?
3. If it is verified that it doesn’t exist can it be removed?

We have considered your request, and can confirm that we hold a record in EThOS of the thesis but not the full file. The record was added in June 2015 by a member of staff in response to a user's speculative request for the thesis. We have a note on the EThOS record stating that the item is ‘missing from university’. When an item is not held but a request for it is made the EThOS Admin Team will contact the institution to request a copy for digitisation and it is likely the institution who advised the copy was missing which has resulted in the note being placed on the record. The Admin Team also usually verifies requests to check they are valid thesis titles at the time of the request, however, the Library holds no documentary records of what checks were carried out in 2015.

For context, EThOS is a repository system designed to help institutions meet the expectations of the UK Research Councils that PhDs supported by a Research Council Training Grant should be made freely available in an open access repository. There are approximately 500,000 records relating to theses awarded by over 120 institutions. Around 260,000 of these also provide access to the full text thesis, either via download from the EThOS database or via links to the institution’s own repository. Of the remaining 220,000 records dating back to at least 1800, three quarters are available to be ordered through the EThOS digitisation-on-demand facility.

The EThOS Admin Team have contacted the awarding institution, the London School of Economics (LSE), again who were unable to provide any further guidance but have advised you can contact them directly in relation to their records. Any request regarding the award itself or details as to the awarding institution’s record would be more appropriately directed to LSE.

James Courthold
Information Compliance Manager
T +44 (0)20 7412 7565  james.courthold@bl.uk
In respect of your request to having the thesis entry removed from the EThOS database this would not fall under the scope of Freedom of Information law. However, the EThOS Admin team have confirmed that it will be removed once they have received permission from the university to do so.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to:

The Chief Executive
The British Library
96 Euston Road
London
NW1 2DB

Please note, complaints and requests for internal review received more than two months after the initial decision will not be handled.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may appeal directly to the Information Commissioner at the address given below. You should do this within two months of our final decision. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Further information on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is available from the Information Commissioner's Office:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 54 57 45

Website https://ico.org.uk/

Yours sincerely

James Courthold

---

James Courthold
Information Compliance Manager
T +44 (0)20 7412 7565  james.courthold@bl.uk
D LSE statement on PhD of Dr Tsai Ing-wen (three pages)
LSE statement on PhD of Dr Tsai Ing-wen

TUE 08 OCT 2019
LSE has received a number of queries regarding the academic status of our alumna, Dr Tsai Ing-wen, President of Taiwan.

We can be clear the records of LSE and of the University of London - the degree awarding body at the time - confirm that Dr Tsai was correctly awarded a PhD in Law in 1984.

All degrees from that period were awarded via the University of London and the thesis would have been sent first to their Senate House Library.

The Senate House Library records confirm that a copy was received and sent by them to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS). There is a listing of Dr Tsai’s thesis ‘Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions’ in the IALS index document “Legal Research in the United Kingdom 1905-1984”, which was published in 1985.

Dr Tsai recently provided the LSE Library with a facsimile of a personal copy of the thesis, *Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions* which is available to view in the Library Reading Room. We understand Dr Tsai has also provided a digital version of her personal copy to the National Central Library of Taiwan.