**Zhao Corrections**

*This list explains the corrections and re-writing that had been done in the main body of the thesis. All changes in the main text are also highlighted in green and blue. Stickers were also put in those highlight text for examiners’ convenience.*

1) The author needs to clarify in which literature/field the current research is located. It is unclear what theoretical questions the research is answering. A consequence of this is that the thesis fails to theorize the empirical data the candidate has got and what is discussed in the thesis still tends to look like raw material.

The scope of the literature review can be broadened. For example, we feel some discussion about the social background and the media system of China is necessary. It is not logical for Chapter 4 to appear after the methodology chapter. We would suggest the candidate could add one distinct chapter on the theoretical framework for the thesis. If the candidate has established a solid theoretical framework at the start of the thesis, he will feel easier and have more confidence in the data analysis. This chapter would deal with the missing theoretical discussions listed:

One distinct chapter of theoretical framework has added as chapter 2, some part of literature review on construction of Chinese online news has moved to this chapter. New sections such as definitions of censorship and self-censorship had been added to chapter 2. At the beginning of this chapter, clarified the areas of literature that this study aims to fit. Identifying key fields, including news values, gatekeeping and professionalism.

1a) - The candidate should deal authoritatively with the construction of news values from a theoretical perspective including major literature currently absent from discussions and explaining how news values in China fit within or depart from other global models.

From page 41 to 46, 230, and 247, made discussion on how news values in China depart from other global models and the importance of the interests of the Party that dominant other values, and how media transformation in China has brought to the shift of judgment of news values.

1b) - The issue of how and to what extent Western models of critique can be legitimately imported into a Chinese context need to be addressed specifically at an early stage.

On page 35, 42-43, 218, 221, 244 etc. explained that China’s journalists are differ from other models because Chinese news workers work with norm other than objectivity.

1c) - The concept of professionalism needs to be contextualized and explored within a Chinese context. The concept is problematic in Western literature so it is even more important that it is not merely adopted without some serious theoretical consideration.

From page 34 to 36, 249 and 256, discussed and contextualised journalistic professionalism in China’s context.

1d) - Likewise the normative frameworks for journalism are too often accepted as unproblematic.

From page 34 to 37, discussed normative in China’s context.

The candidate should combine the existing chapters 2 and chapter 4 into one chapter.

The previous chapter 2 and 4 are combined as chapter 3: literature review.

2a) Although the thesis has produced a number of interesting findings, the analysis and discussions in the thesis are a bit descriptive. In addition, there is little integration/synthesis between the three sets of data as well as between theory and evidence. In conducting qualitative research, one of the most important things is to find meaningful patterns across different sets of qualitative data and to generate theories out of them. Merely describing what the candidate has found is not enough. Therefore a sound theoretical framework established earlier in the thesis would be helpful. The main arguments of the thesis in the current form are not very prominent and convincing. What are the most important things emerging from the data? The candidate needs to polish and tighten up the arguments. Therefore ideally the Chapters 5-7 probably need to be rewritten in the light of the comments above, building upon and drawing conclusions from a more systematized and theorized set of data. This will overall allow the candidate to make a legitimate claim that he is adding to theory in the field through his research approach and his data.

From chapter 5 to 7, the data analysis had been re-written in the light of suggestion above. Discussions are integrated with the data and referenced with theories which had been addressed in theoretical and literature review chapters. The re-writing are highlighted from page 167 to 287.

3a) The candidate should have given a stronger rationale for why most interview participants are from elsewhere in China rather than in Wenzhou where the candidate has done the observation.

On page 140, explained the rationale of selection of interview participants.

4a) If Confucianism is very important for this study, then in the discussion part of the thesis why is such limited discussion linked back to Confucianism? And what might the evidence be for such opening assertions and where are they considered in the present analysis of data?

On page 65, 172-173, 175-175, 178, 227, 236, 248, 259 and 270, further discussions on Confucianism and its relation to current online news industry in China has made.

5a) We feel the candidate has taken for granted that news workers have accepted 'censorship' and 'self- censorship'. Is there general acquiescence in the newsroom? No autonomy at all? Any struggles? There is limited discussion on this. We think the candidate should have more critically examined and evaluated the mechanism of 'censorship' and 'self-censorship' and further discussed the implications for our understanding of Chinese journalism.

On page 249, 255, 269 and 311, address the resistance of China’s online news workers, and how they acquire autonomy in newsroom.

6a) The conclusion is too repetitive of what has gone before and does not draw out the most interesting potential of the work to add to our understanding of the field. This is possibly because of the previous observations that the theory needs fleshing out to understand what the work is actually exploring and because of the lack of data analysis as opposed to data description mentioned under point 2 above.

From page 291 to 313, the conclusion has been re-written, in order to authentically pinpoint the contributions that this study has made. Some repetitions have been deleted.

**Apart from these main points, there are a number of minor things:**

1i) The candidate needs to explain the connection between the different types of data he has collected.

On page 14, emphasised the role of supervisors in online news media and its relation to investigating ideology control. Explained the reason to investigating different types of readership. On page 17, explained the relation between censorship methods and editorial processes. In chapter 5 and conclusion, explained the aim of studying cyber police is to link its existence to internalisation of Chinese online news media.

2ii) The thesis may need clear definitions for key concepts such as censorship and self-censorship

From page 32-34, defined censorship and self-censorship.

3iii) On page 2, my impression is China does not have media law. So could the candidate explain the first sentence of the second paragraph.

On page 2, explained that ‘free speech’ can be found in the Constitution of China rather than any media law in China.

4iv) Some references are missing in the bibliography, such as the works of Tong.

Missing reference added from page 319-327.

5v) More information about observation at online newsroom and about the interviews should be given to increase research transparency.

Information of interviewees and observation on page 138 and 204.

6vi) How discussions about 'the southern media' link to your own study needs to be made clearer.

On page 114, 276 and 310, stated the relevance of discussing southern media in this study.

7vii) Some discussions in Chapters 5-7 can be moved to the methodology chapter.

On page 149, discussion of how to analyse data is moved to method chapter as the discussion here is more of methodological.

8viii) On page 151, how is the first paragraph relevant to your study?

On page 167 and 170, explained how this discussion of cyber police’s treatment of mobile device is relevant.

9ix) On page 188, different departments' competition needs to be elaborated

On page 210, given an example of departments’ competition which is for gaining more financial profit.

10x) On page 189, how discussions about the layout contribute to the main theme needs to be stressed

On page 211, explained the discussion on the layout contribute to this study as it demonstrates the lack of autonomy in the newsroom assists the stability of hierarchical dominance.

11xi) On page 191, in the quotation, "ranked top"? what criteria?

On page 215, changed ‘ranked top’ to ‘the most popular story’

12xii) On page 224, consent from Tencent for using the picture?

On page 258, picture has deleted due to the absence of consent.

13xiii) On page 244, the table is interesting, but needs further interpretation

The table is deleted as due to its lack of clarity and relevancy.

14xiv) On page 200, the examples are interesting, but need further discussions.

On page 230, mad discussion on inclusion and exclusion that had been influenced by Chinese journalists’ understanding of socio-political situation.

15xv) As a former journalist, is there any ethical issue for the candidate to interview his former colleagues? Any reflections?

On page 142, 148 and 205, stated the ethical protocol that this study was following.

16xvi) We feel the title misrepresents the study which is a case study and cannot claim to represent the situation in China.

On the front page, the title has changed to *Protocols of Control in Chinese Online News Media: The Case of Wenzhou News*