

Tuan Nguyen, PhD

me@vutuannguyen.com

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/tuan-nguyen-6691b461/>

Career overview

Dr Tuan Nguyen is a museum and archive researcher and professional. In his research, he has investigated the inclusion of LGBTIQ communities in museum management approaches, collections, exhibitions and collaborations. The results of this project have been published in high-rank journals and presented at national and international conferences. At the same time, he has developed his skills in museum and archive practice in both front- and back-of-house capacities. He has exceptional experience working with collections through object handling and installation, digitisation and cataloguing at the National Archives of Australia and Sydney University Museums. Across his research and practice, Tuan has been driven to assist diverse audiences and communities to access empowering museum experiences.

Qualifications and training

Doctor of Philosophy (Museum Studies)

Feb 2014–May 2018

The University of Sydney

- Undertook primary research using archives and conducted 25 interviews in museum and community contexts.
- Presented at several state, national and international conferences.
- Published in high-rank national and international museum and heritage journals.
- Completed professional development through the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Teaching Development Programme.
- Successfully applied for four competitive internal and external scholarships and grants.
- Helped to facilitate the 2017 International Conference on the Inclusive Museum, receiving an Emerging Scholar Award.
- Consulted on developments in Australia from the Swedish Exhibition Agency.

Master of Museum Studies

Jul 2012–Jun 2013

The University of Sydney

- Obtained high distinctions for all subjects (including Artefact Studies, Ethics of Cultural Property and Information and Collection Management) and two internships (one focussing on Indigenous artefacts at the Australian Museum, the other involving collection management at the Fairfield City Museum & Gallery).
- Completed a dissertation receiving a high distinction mark of 92%; examiners' reports stated that it '[raised] a clarion call to the profession for museums to be queer allies.'

Bachelor of Arts (Gender Studies and Digital Cultures)

Jul 2008–Jun 2012

The University of Sydney

- Maintained a high distinction average.
- Placed on the Dean's List of Excellence in Academic Performance (2010) and awarded the Walter Reid Memorial Prize (2009 & 2010).

Employment history

Archival officer (digitisation and audiovisual preservation)

Feb 2018–current

National Archives of Australia

Responsibilities: Handled documents, operated scanners and performed preservation work to digitise paper records. Worked with the database Mediaflex in order to upload thousands of audio files.

Key results:

- Worked with complex multimedia database Mediaflex as part of a project to upload 20,000 audio files from the vulnerable magnetic tape collection.
- Participated in the refinement of project procedures as issues arose.
- Accessioned transfers from the ABC onto Mediaflex using correct cataloguing and titling procedures.
- Maintained efficiency, accuracy and archival standards in the digitisation of 15,000 documents.

Tutor (gender studies)

Feb– Jun 2015

The University of Sydney,
The Department of Gender and Cultural Studies

Responsibilities: For 50 students, prepared class plans, marked essays and liaised with tutors and coordinators on teaching strategies.

Key results:

- Achieved anonymous reports statistically measuring that 100% of students agreed or strongly agreed that I came to class prepared, gave helpful feedback and motivated students to learn.
- Success in providing tailored engagement with students including international students, and those who were especially motivated to learn beyond the assigned material.

Collection assistant (volunteer)

Feb 2014–Jun 2016

Sydney University Museums

Responsibilities: Assisted with the movement, storage, documentation and installation of museum collection items.

Key results:

- Finalised the documentation of an infrequently used collection, allowing it to be loaned out.
- Contributed to making the collection more accessible by writing succinct artist biographies that were uploaded onto the online collection database.
- Assisted in the timely installation of artworks while maintaining professional standards regarding installation and documentation.

Research assistant

Jun–Aug 2013

The University of Sydney, Dr Chiara O'Reilly

Responsibilities: Produced a literature review of museums and communities, liaised with chief investigators, assisted with the running of a symposium and travelled to museums to inspect their exhibition archives.

Key results:

- Read, annotated and developed a database of over 100 references, contributing the publication of a scholarly journal article.
- Helped to deliver a successful symposium attended by interstate and international delegates.

Skill summary

- Demonstrated excellence at undertaking research in interdisciplinary areas involving GLAM (gallery, library, archive and museum) professionals, community members and academics.
- Ability to design and manage complex projects in consultation with supervisors and incorporate feedback.
- Skills to communicate and engage with diverse audiences including visitors, students, academics and museum professionals through visitor service, scholarly publications, teaching and consultation.
- Extensive experience with object handling and collection management systems including KE EMu, Mediaflex, HP Content Manager, MOSAiC, Access and eHive.
- Attention to detail, accuracy and efficiency needed to undertake high-volume digitisation and data processing.

Selected publications and conference presentations

- Nguyen, T. (2018). *Queering Australian Museums: Management, Collections, Exhibitions, and Connections* (Doctor of Philosophy), The University of Sydney. <http://hdl.handle.net/2123/18169>
- Nguyen, T. (2018). Co-existence and Collaboration: Australian AIDS Quilts in Public Museums and Community Collections. *Museum and Society*, 16(1), 41-55.
- Nguyen, V. T. (2017, September 15-17). *Museums as Queer Allies*. Paper presented at the International Conference on the Inclusive Museum.
- Nguyen, V. T. (2016). Mediating Queer Controversy in Australian Museum Exhibitions. *Historic Environment*, 28(3), 36-48.
- Nguyen, V. T. (2014, May 16-19). *How Can Museums Become Queer Allies?* Paper presented at the Museums Galleries Australia National Conference, Launceston.

Professional memberships

- Australasian Registrars Committee (2018–present)
- Museums Galleries Australia (2013–present)

Referees

Available upon request.