

Tuan Nguyen, PhD

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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, 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 exceptional experience working with cultural collections. As an Audiovisual Data Officer at the National Archives of Australia, he contributed to a multi-million dollar project to digitise audio on vulnerable magnetic media, and accessioned audiovisual consignments from agencies including the ABC and Film Australia. Across his research and practice, Tuan has been driven to enable diverse audiences and communities to access empowering cultural experiences.

Employment history

Audiovisual data officer

Feb 2018–current

National Archives of Australia

Responsibilities: Ingest of files from outsourced AV collection items, accessioning of agency consignments, and enrichment of the database.

Key results:

- Accessioned audiovisual transfers from agencies including the ABC and Film Australia, resulting in the creation of over 2,000 titles onto the Mediaflex and RecordSearch databases.
- Assumed primary responsibility for the ingest of 14,000 audio files resulting from the digitisation of the vulnerable magnetic tape collection.
- Created and enriched thousands of records by consulting agency FileMaker and Excel databases, agency lists, and locating and examining AV items in the repository.
- Performed an audit within the repository involving extensive location and handling of videotape collections. U-matic, VHS, Betacam, and 1” videotape were prepared for digitisation by performing essential data clean-up and by accessioning un-accessioned items.
- Led to the adoption of new procedures increasing quality and efficiency while digitising 15,000 paper documents including of the Australian Women’s Land Army.

Collection assistant (volunteer)

Feb 2014–Jun 2016

Sydney University Museums

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

Key results:

- Independently finalised the documentation of an infrequently used art collection, allowing it to be loaned out to staff members.
- 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 ensuring appropriate display conditions.

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.

Qualifications and training

Doctor of Philosophy (Museum Studies)

Feb 2014–May 2018

The University of Sydney

- Recognised as an expert on the inclusion of LGBTIQ communities in Australian museums, requiring an comprehensive understanding of museum theory and practice.
- Conducted 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 including *Museum & Society* and *Historic Environment*.

Master of Museum Studies

Jul 2012–Jun 2013

The University of Sydney

- Obtained high distinctions for all subjects including the Artefact Studies, Information and Collection Management, and the Ethics of Cultural Property.
- *Repatriation assistant, Australian Museum (internship):* audited the secret / sacred / ancestral remains collection and corrected inconsistencies on the KE Emu database. In addition, produced three case studies on the museum's repatriation efforts, available through on the museum website.
- *Collection assistant, Fairfield City Museum & Gallery (internship):* undertook a deaccession audit of the social history collection, identifying duplicates, and items with no provenance or of low significance. Also, wrote a statement of significance for an important museum collection item.

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.
- Extensive experience with databases including Mediaflex, FileMaker, HP Content Manager, and KE Emu.

- Ability to accession archival material according to established data models, and in consultation with multiple databases and staff members (e.g. transfers and storage staff).
- Advanced Excel skills required to manipulate large data sets.
- Broad understanding of core principles of object location and handling, preventative conservation, and audiovisual preservation.

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, June 6). *LGBTIQ Inclusion in Australian Museums: Past and Future*. Paper presented at the Museums Galleries Australia national conference.
- 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). *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.

Professional memberships

- Australasian Registrars Committee (2018–present)
- Australian Society of Archivists (2018–present)
- Museums Galleries Australia (2013–present)

Referees

Available upon request