

Tuan Nguyen

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Career objective

To assist diverse audiences to access transformative museum experiences.

Qualifications

Doctor of Philosophy (Museum Studies)

Feb 2014 – 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 a peer-reviewed journal ranked 'A' in Excellence in Research (ERA) tables.
- Completed professional development through the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Teaching Development Programme.
- Successfully applied for four competitive 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 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 '[t]his thesis displays evidence of significant insight and constructive, original thought throughout.'

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

Collection assistant (volunteer)

Feb 2014 – Jun 2016

Sydney University Museums

Responsibilities: Assisted with the movement, 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.

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 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.

Copyeditor

Nov 2014 – Apr 2015

Sykes Peer Review

Sykes Peer Review is a consultant for government organisations and NGOs. It supports activities including community engagement, project peer review and organisational growth.

Key results:

- Maintained a rapid turnaround in the copyediting of reports, requiring working outside of business hours.
- Produced well-structured and clear prose which involved consulting with the employer, and quickly grasping new policy and regulatory frameworks outside my area of specialisation.

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.

Collection assistant (internship)

March – May 2013

Fairfield City Museum & Gallery

Responsibilities: Used best practice in regard to collection care to conserve and interpret the historical collection.

Key results:

- Undertook a deaccession audit of the collection, identifying duplicates and items with no provenance or little significance. This was subsequently used by the museum to develop its collection.
- Produced a statement of significance for a collection item, using the *Significance 2.0* methodology, which was added to the MOSAiC database.

Repatriation assistant (internship)

Sep 2012 – Jan 2013

Australian Museum

Responsibilities: Supported the repatriation efforts of the Australian Museum through online communication and updating catalogue information.

Key results:

- Drawing on archival sources, produced three case studies on the museum's repatriation efforts. These were published online and made available to a broad audience.
- Through auditing and cross-referencing catalogue cards and the EMu database, corrected inconsistencies in information relating to the secret / sacred / ancestral remains collection.

Skill summary

- Demonstrated excellence at undertaking research in an interdisciplinary area involving museum professionals, community members and academics.
- Ability to design and manage complex projects, and work independently towards their completion.
- Skills to communicate to diverse audiences including students, academics and museum professionals through scholarly publications, teaching and consultation.
- Competence at promoting projects in order to attract funding.
- Capacity to synthesise large amounts of data in order to craft arguments, including from interview data, material from comprehensive literature reviews, policy documents and archival records.
- Adeptness at navigating ethical terrain with a diverse range of stakeholders, all within a formalised ethics framework.
- Experience with object handling and collection management systems including EMu, MOSAiC, Access and eHive.

Selected publications and conference presentations

- Nguyen, V. T. (submitted). Co-existence and Collaboration: Australian AIDS Quilts in Public Museums and Community Collections. *Museum and Society*.
- 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

- Museums Galleries Australia (2013 – present)

Referees

Available upon request.