

Stats 186: Careers in Statistics

Dr. Irina Kukuyeva

May 5, 2026

AI Due Diligence



AI Due Diligence

FEBRUARY 2025

When High Accuracy is not Very Accurate

Advice for AI diligence



FEB 3, 2025 · IRINA KUKUYEVA PHD

"Half the money I spend on advertising is wasted; the trouble is, I don't know which half."

ikukuyeva.substack.com/p/when-high-accuracy-is-not-very-accurate

AI Due Diligence | Mentor | Advisor



FOUNDER
INSTITUTE



VENTURE
ACCELERATOR
AT UCLA ANDERSON

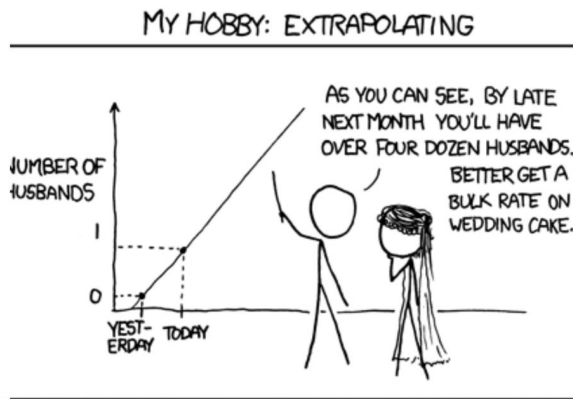


techstars_



DEAR ADVISOR: HOW DO I AVOID THE BIGGEST DATA/AI/ML MISTAKES OTHERS MAKE?

Post was originally published in June 2020 and has been updated in August 2020, September 2020, April 2021, and April 2022 for relevancy.



Inventor



Ph.D. in Statistics



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology



[[ref](#), [ref](#)]

Invented, Implemented, Scaled AI Globally



Ph.D. in Statistics



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology



Invented, Implemented, Scaled AI Globally



Ph.D. in Statistics



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

FashionTech
eCommerce
Hospitality
FinTech
SaaS
IoT



Transferable Skills

<action verb> **X** in <client> industry
~X <another>

Transferable Skills

<action verb> **X** in <client> industry
~X <another>

EX: AdTech → Healthcare

Transferable Skills

<action verb> **X** in <client> industry
~X <another>

EX: FashionTech → FinTech

Framework

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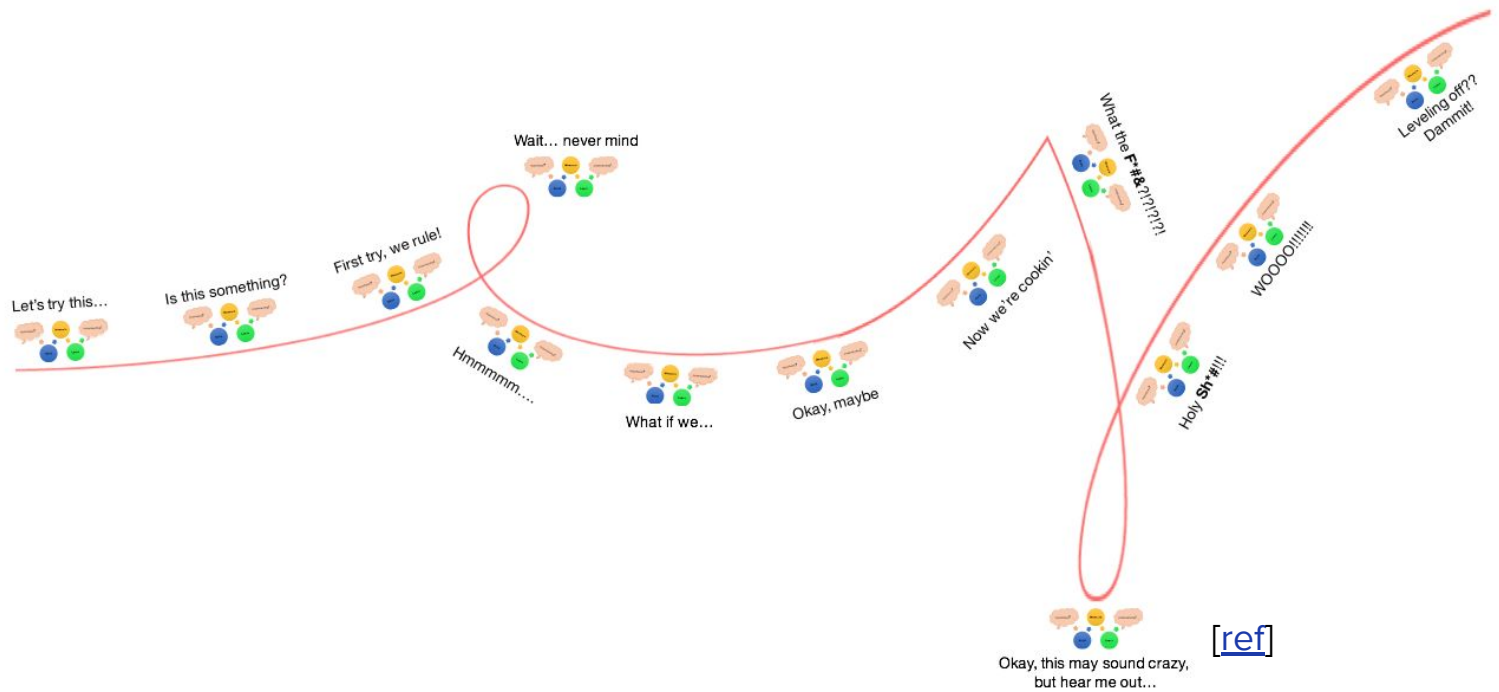
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My Career Journey



[ref]

Non-Linear Path 307: Lean into *Interests*



+



Girls in Tech Meetup

Ladies Get Paid

Non-Linear Path: *Raise Hand*

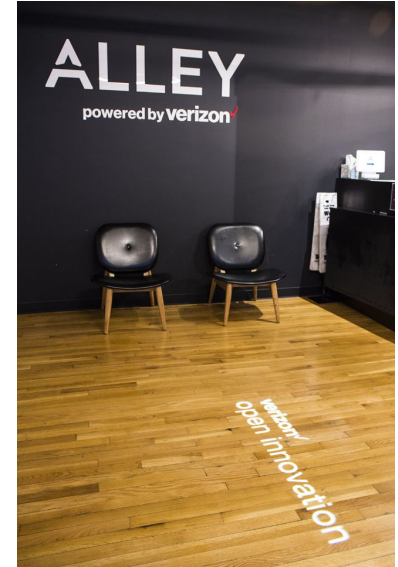


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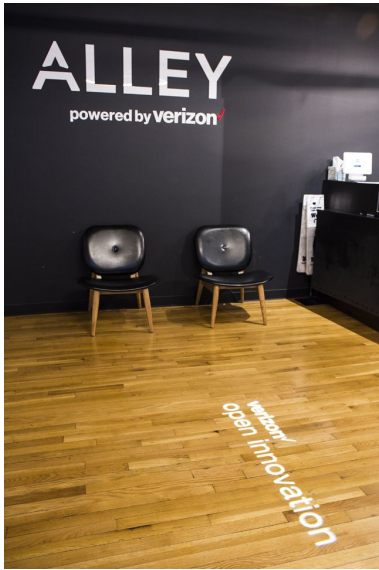
Girls in Tech Meetup

Ladies Get Paid

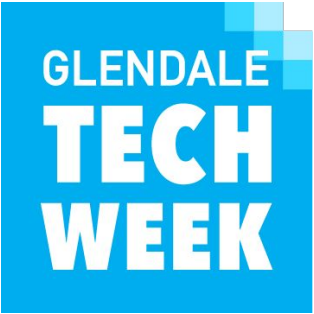
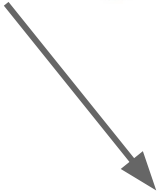


→ Raise Hand

Non-Linear Path: *Raise Hand*



Non-Linear Path: *Raise Hand*

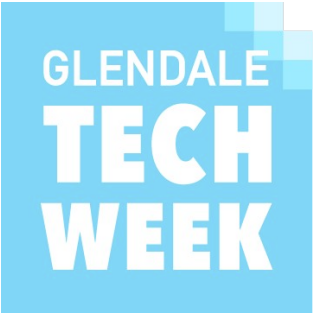


City of Glendale [Newsletter](#)

Non-Linear Path: *Raise Hand*

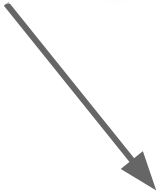


Newsletter +
Raise Hand

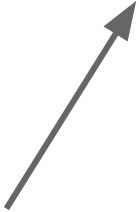


City of Glendale Newsletter

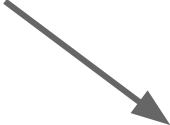
Non-Linear Path: *Lean into Asks*



City of Glendale Newsletter



Newsletter +
Raise Hand



Non-Linear Path: *Lean into Asks*



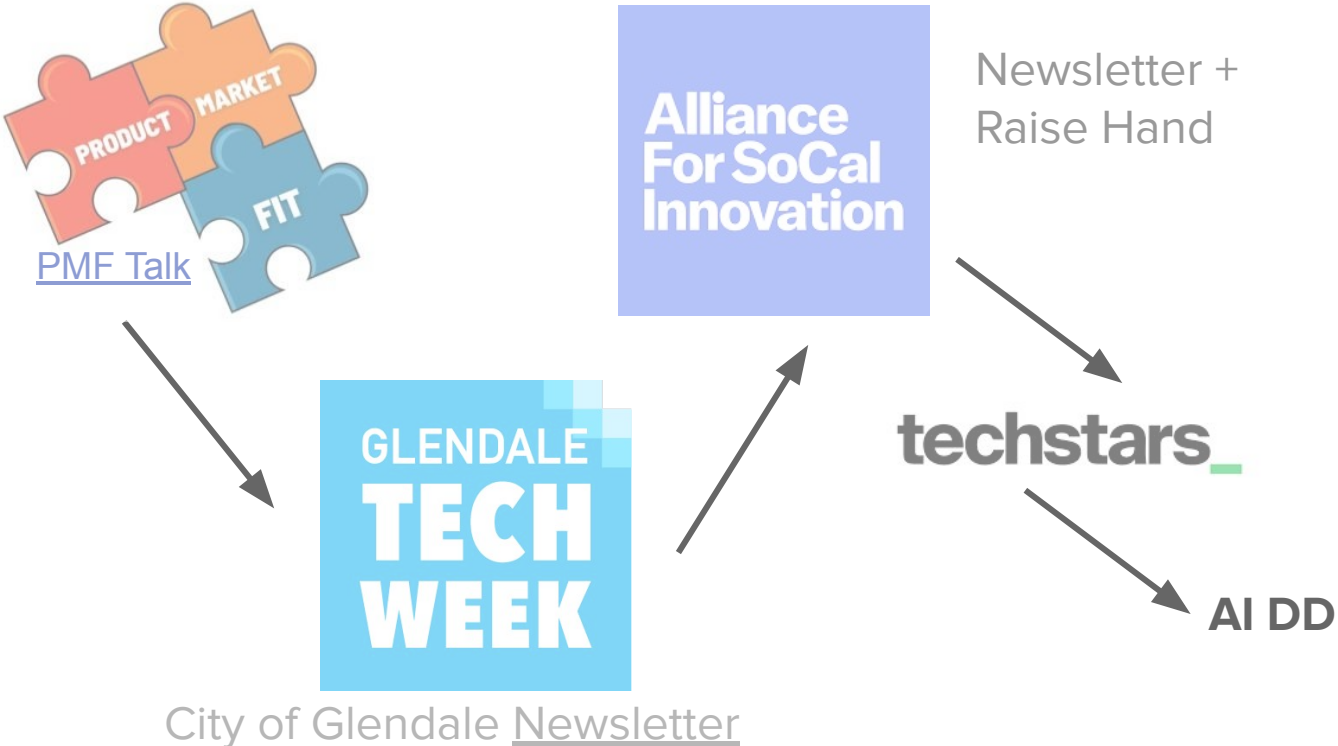
Newsletter +
Raise Hand



City of Glendale Newsletter



AI DD



Non-Linear Path 308: *Lean into Interests*



Non-Linear Path 308: *Raise Hand*



OC Impact
Conference

Non-Linear Path 308: *Raise Hand*



OC Impact
Conference

Non-Linear Path 308: *Raise Hand*



OC Impact
Conference



Non-Linear Path 308: *Lean into Asks*



OC Impact
Conference



Non-Linear Path 308: *Lean into Asks*



OC Impact
Conference



Apply!

Where to Get Experience: On Campus

- Experience:
 - UCLA [DataFest](#)
 - Stats 140 + 141: Practice of Statistical Consulting
 - Stats 99 + 199: Directed Research in Statistics
 - [Google Summer of Code](#)
- [Handshake](#): internships

Apply!

Where to Get Experience: On Campus

- Accelerators on campus:
 - [Bruin Entrepreneurs](#)
 - [Magnify at CNSI](#)
 - [Startup-in-a-Box](#)
 - [Startup UCLA](#)
 - [UCLA Anderson Venture Accelerator](#)
 - [UCLA Biodesign](#)
 - [UCLA Health TechQuity](#)
- More resources: [UCLA Entrepreneurship Lab](#) + Events: [Nucleate](#)

Advice to Break-in: VC

- Opportunities
 - UCLA Tech Transfer Office: TDG ([Careers page](#))
 - [Women Founders Network Due Diligence Analyst Program](#)
 - Ivelina Dineva's [list](#) of 150 VC fellowships
 - [PledgeLA's VC Fellowship](#) for grad students
- [Girls into VC](#) at UCLA ([LinkedIn group](#))
- More resources on [Where to Find Roles](#) + [What to do as a Student](#)

More Advice to Break-in: Mentors on Campus

- Mentorships
 - [UCLA Stats Club](#)
 - [UCLA Alumni Mentor Program](#)
 - [Learn Teach Code](#) (monthly)
 - [Advice on how to be your own mentor](#)

More Advice to Break-in: Networking

- Network
 - UCLA Career Center ([events](#))
 - [UCLA Clubs and Organizations](#)
 - [Newsletters](#) → Communities → Slack/Discord
 - LinkedIn: *follow* (recruiters, managers, etc.)
 - Volunteer ([Women in CleanTech + Sustainability](#))

More Advice to Break-in: Networking

- Goal: Build relationships!
 - Book: “Networking for People Who Hate Networking”
 - Reach out with specific question(s)!
 - Goal: Learn and NOT to ask for job!
- Follow-up

More Advice to Break-in

- [H1B Salary Database](#): salaries + companies hiring w/visa
- [Technical Interview 2026](#) + Steve's [Learnings from 1000 Amazon Interviews](#)
- Next Play's advice on [how to add value](#) and break in
- [How to Break into a Data Role in Industry?](#)
- [Tailor project to answer business question](#)
- *Lean into Interests + Asks + Raise Hand*



Questions?

<https://www.ikukuyeva.com/community/guest-lecturer>

Apply!

Where to Find Full-Time Roles

- Start-ups:
 - [Wellfound](#), [Built in LA](#), [a16z Alpha Fellowship](#)
 - Accelerator cohort job boards: [Techstars](#), [Cedars-Sinai](#), [Alchemist](#), [YC \(LA\)](#), [MedTech Innovator](#)
 - Investors' portfolio company job boards: [a16z](#), [Alumni Ventures](#), [Bessemer Ventures](#)

My Resume (Junior Year)

- Included objective, languages, activities
- “IrinaK resume mm-dd-yy.doc”
- <DOs>
- <DON'Ts>

University of California, Los Angeles

Expected Graduation June 2011

BS in Statistics and BA in Economics; Minor in Mathematics

- Coursework includes: Introduction to Probability Theory, Introduction to Mathematical Statistics, Regression Analysis, Introduction to Econometrics, Microeconomic Theory, Macroeconomic Theory,
- Overall GPA: 3.52; Statistics major and Mathematics minor: 3.62; Economics major: 3.67

WORK EXPERIENCE:

University of California, Los Angeles: Statistics 199

August 2009 - Present

Research Assistant

Los Angeles, CA

- Investigate whether or not global warming takes place and if it may have an effect, if any, on the early snowmelt for the California's rivers.
- Use statistical methods for the data collected on California's rivers runoff

Oversee.net

November 2009 - Present

Analyst – Intern

Los Angeles, CA

- Analyzed trends in revenue based on online advertising campaigns
- Explored parallels between targeting voters in election campaigns and targeting internet users to click on online advertisements
- Looked at individual advertising campaigns since the time they were launched to determine at what point they converge to their yearly expected revenue
- Studied what time of day/day of week is optimal for launching a new advertising campaign

University of California, Los Angeles: Statistics 140 and 141SL

January 2009 – June 2009

Statistical Consultant

Los Angeles, CA

- Managed a team of three other classmates and collaborated with faculty member and client to frame client's question in statistical terms and addressed client's questions
- Organized, designed, prepared and presented the final report to the client and one of UCLA's Vice Chancellors
- Analyzed confidential data using Logistic models and Classification and Regression Trees (CART)

Cleveland Golf

June 2009 – September 2009

Statistical Analyst – Intern

Huntington Beach, CA

- Worked independently on pilot statistical analysis project
- Consulted directly with President and CEO regarding analysis of statistical data
- Researched and organized purchase of statistical software
- Used SPSS software to generate statistical correlations and perform time series analysis of confidential data
- Acquired, organized, and analyzed data from various sources both internal and external
- Created a PowerPoint presentation for the President and key Vice Presidents

SKILLS and QUALIFICATIONS:

- Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint, Adobe PhotoShop, R, SAS, SPSS, STATA, MySQL