

CAREERS IN DATA SCIENCE

Fireside Chat with Guest Speaker

Wondering where a career in data science could take you? Sit down with an expert in the field, ask questions, explore career paths, and learn how to prepare for success!

Wednesday, Oct. 7
4-5:30 PM



Irina Kukuyeva, PhD
Advisor and Mentor



AI Due Diligence



AI Due Diligence

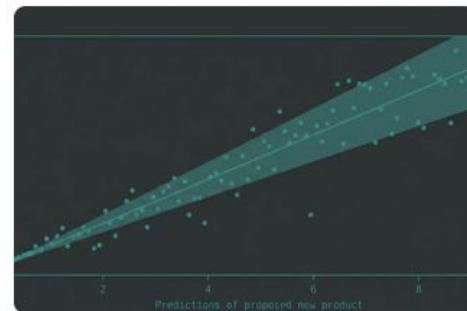
APRIL 2026

Validation Fail: Why Fan-Shaped Validation Plots Betray the Team

We all want healthcare procedures to be less invasive and more informative! Fan-shaped validation plots tell us this...



APR 27 • IRINA KUKUYEVA PHD



ikukuyeva.substack.com/p/validation-fail-why-fan-shaped-validation

AI Due Diligence

#1 AI Risk in Healthcare Diagnostic Start-ups

Advice for Diligence



JAN 26 • IRINA KUKUYEVA PHD



<https://ikukuyeva.substack.com/p/1-ai-risk-in-healthcare-diagnostic>

AI Due Diligence | Mentor | Advisor



FOUNDER
INSTITUTE



VENTURE

ACCELERATOR

AT UCLA ANDERSON

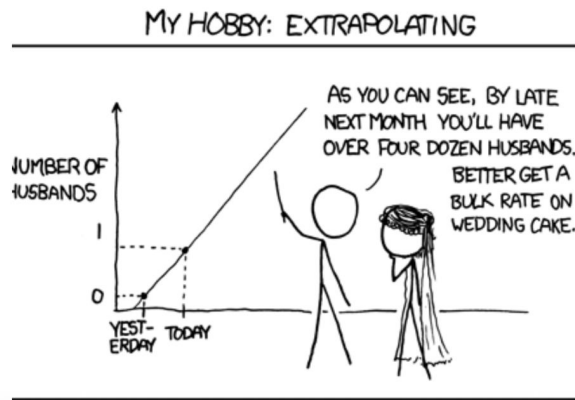


techstars_



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](#)]

Inventor



Ph.D. in Statistics

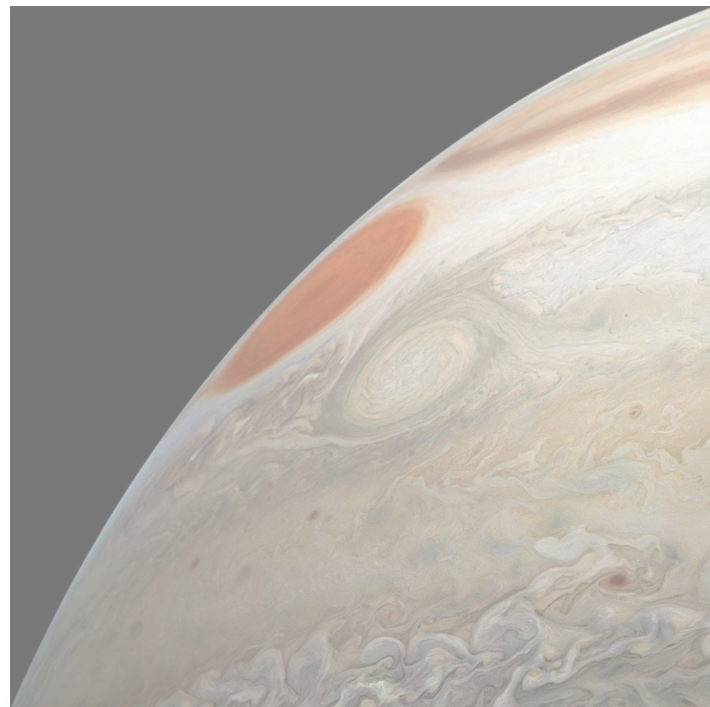


Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

MS in Statistics

*B of A and S: Statistics + Economics,
Math minor*

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



Scaled AI Globally | Led Global Teams



Ph.D. in Statistics



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

sabio 



netlify

Invented, Implemented, Scaled AI Globally



Ph.D. in Statistics



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

FashionTech
eCommerce
Hospitality
FinTech
SaaS
IoT

sabio 



netlify

Networking

Networking Tips

- Goal: Genuine conversation
- “Repeatability”
- Follow-up/check-in!

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 - Tip: Reach out with specific question(s)!
 - Goal: Learn and NOT to ask for job!

Networking Tips

- Goal: Genuine conversation
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- Follow-up/check-in!
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 - Tip: Reach out with specific question(s)!
 - Goal: Learn and NOT to ask for job!
- Book: “Networking for People Who Hate Networking”

More Advice on Networking

- [Newsletters](#) → Jobs + Communities → Slack/Discord
- LinkedIn: *follow* (recruiters, managers, etc.)
- Volunteer ([Women in CleanTech + Sustainability](#))

Networking On Campus

- Accelerators on campus:
 - [Magnify at CNSI](#)
 - [Internship opportunity](#) (application due Oct 23)
 - [Startup-in-a-Box](#)
 - [Startup UCLA](#)
 - [UCLA Anderson Venture Accelerator](#) (event on [Oct 22](#))
 - [UCLA Biodesign](#)
 - [UCLA Health TechQuity](#)
 - [UCLA TDG](#)*
- More resources: [UCLA Entrepreneurship Lab](#) + Events: [Nucleate](#)

Networking On Campus (cont'd)

- UCLA Career Center ([events](#))
- UCLA [DataFest](#)
- [UCLA Clubs and Organizations](#)
- [UCLA Health Recruiter Meet & Greet](#)

Networking Off Campus

- [TechWeek LA](#) (annual, next week!) – 1000+ events all over LA
- [DataCon LA](#) (annual)
- [OWASP LA](#) (monthly)
- [UCLA Alumni Events](#)

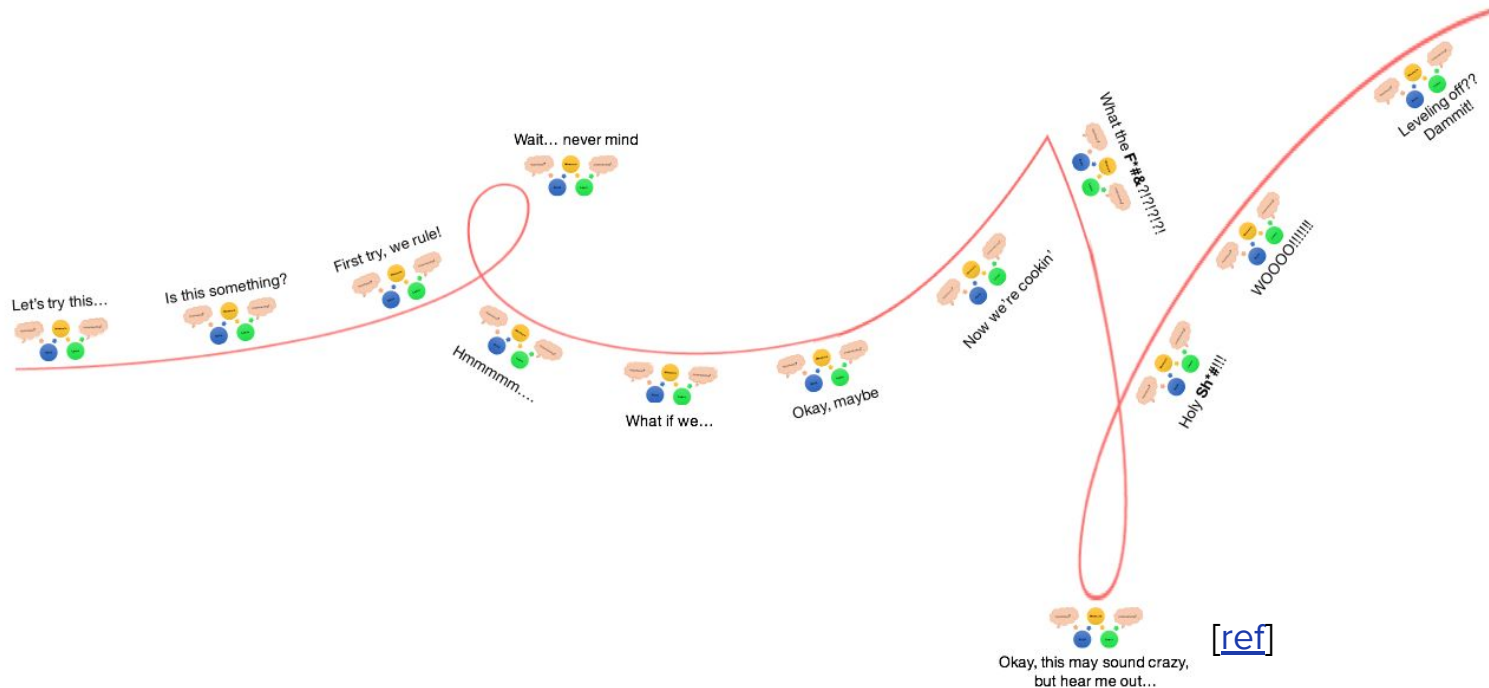
Networking with Mentors

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

Show Up!

Non-Linear Paths 196 – 199

My Career Journey



Non-Linear Path 196



MS referral, June

1 DR, 2+ IR

64 countries

Non-Linear Path 197



R Meetup newsletter

3 ICUs, 20+ clinicians

100+ hospitals

Non-Linear Path 198



Try #1

1st Client: Women Who
Code newsletter

Startup C-Suite

Non-Linear Path 199



LinkedIn

Fortune 500 C-Suite

Transferable Skills

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

<what exists>

<what exists>

<gaps>

<what exists>

<gaps>

<POC>

<what exists>

<gaps>

<POC>

<(in)validate>

<what exists>

<gaps>

<POC>

<(in)validate>

<next hypothesis>

<what exists>

No surprises!

<gaps>

<POC>

<(in)validate>

<next hypothesis>

Nonlinear Path 307

Non-Linear Path 307: Lean into *Interests*



+



Girls in Tech Meetup

Ladies Get Paid

Non-Linear Path: *Raise Hand*

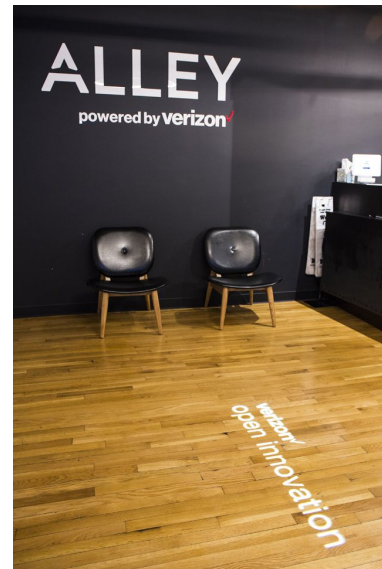


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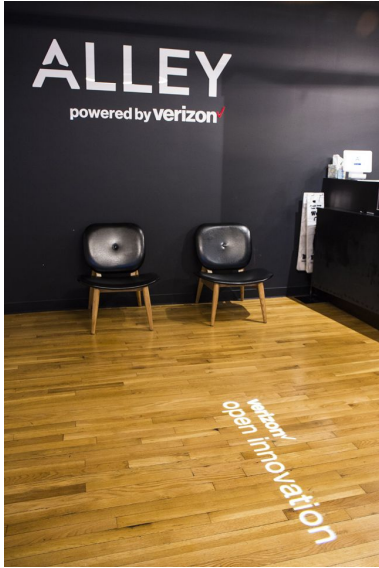
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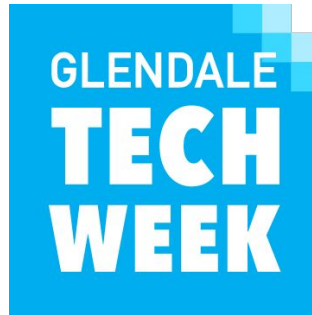
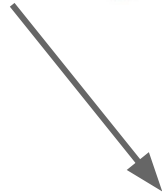
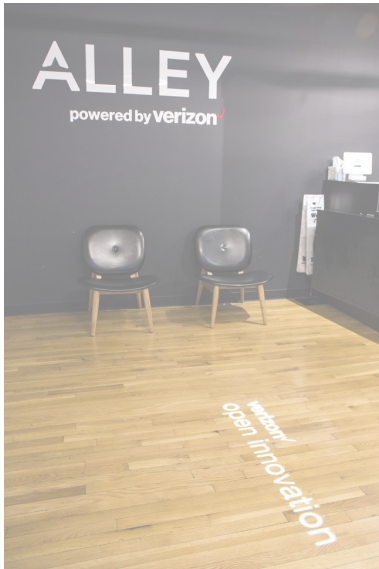


→ Raise Hand

Non-Linear Path: *Raise Hand*

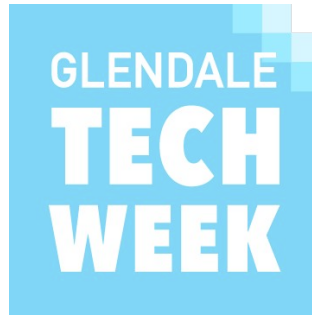
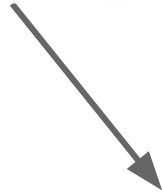
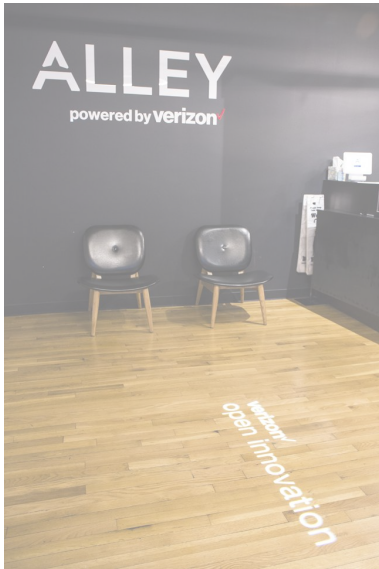


Non-Linear Path: *Raise Hand*



City of Glendale [Newsletter](#)

Non-Linear Path: *Raise Hand*

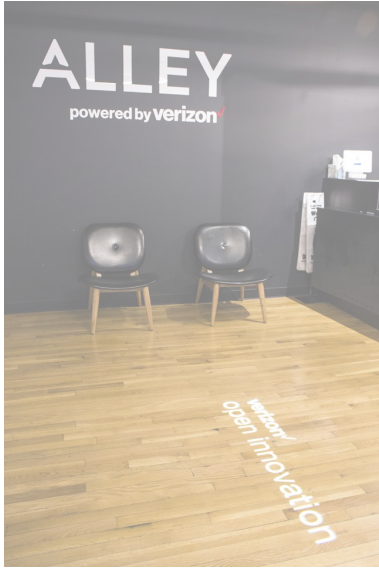


City of Glendale Newsletter



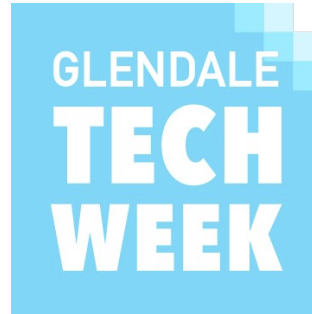
Newsletter +
Raise Hand

Non-Linear Path: *Lean into Asks*



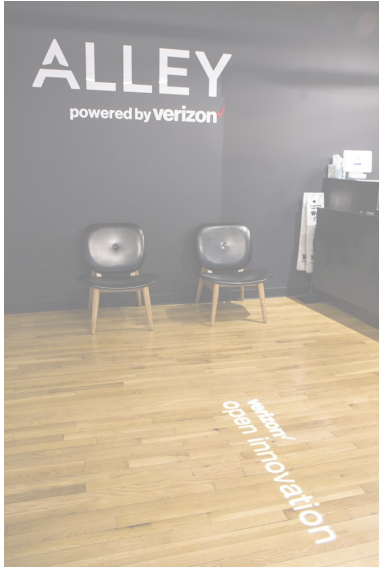
Newsletter +
Raise Hand

techstars



City of Glendale Newsletter

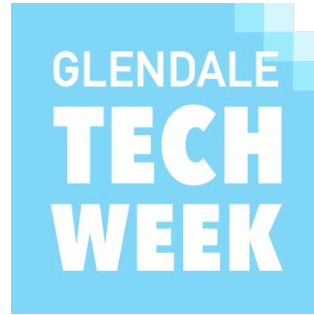
Non-Linear Path: *Lean into Asks*



Newsletter +
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techstars

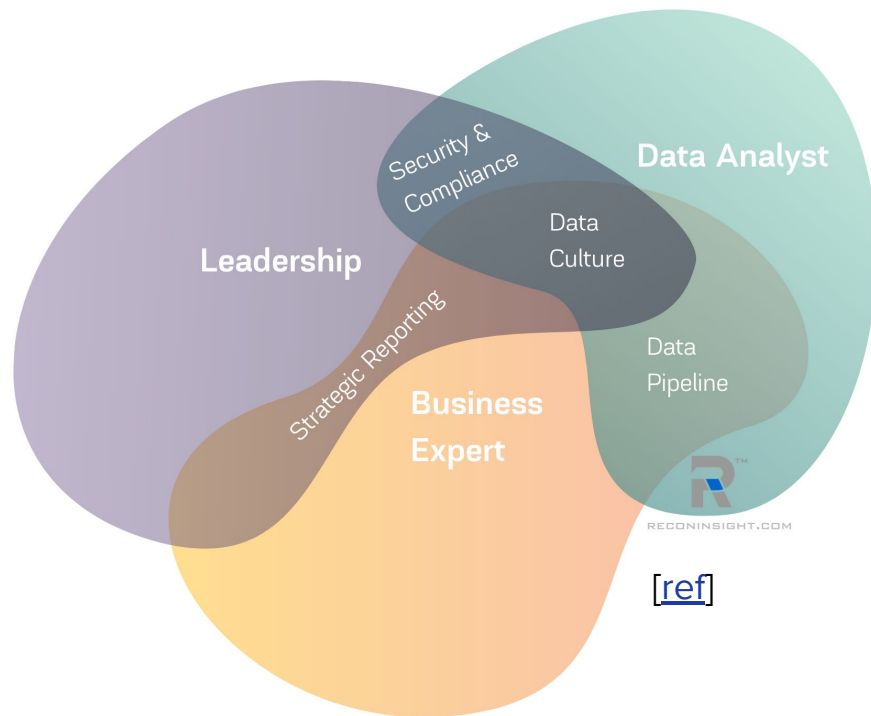
AI DD



City of Glendale Newsletter

Find/Create Own!

- How you learn?
- Enjoy?
- Near future?
- Gaps?



→ [Advice on how to be your own mentor](#)

More Career Advice: Communication

Symptoms of Communication Problem



what
stakeholder
described



what data
looked like



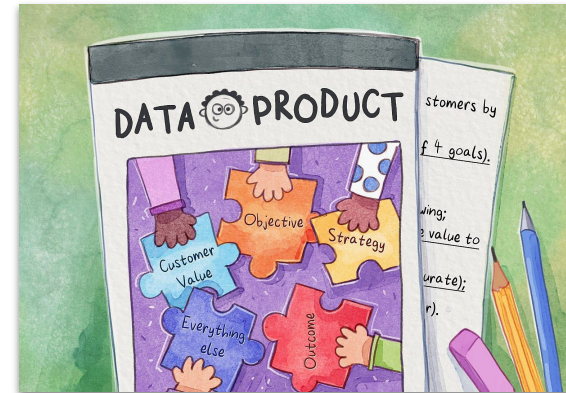
what we
delivered



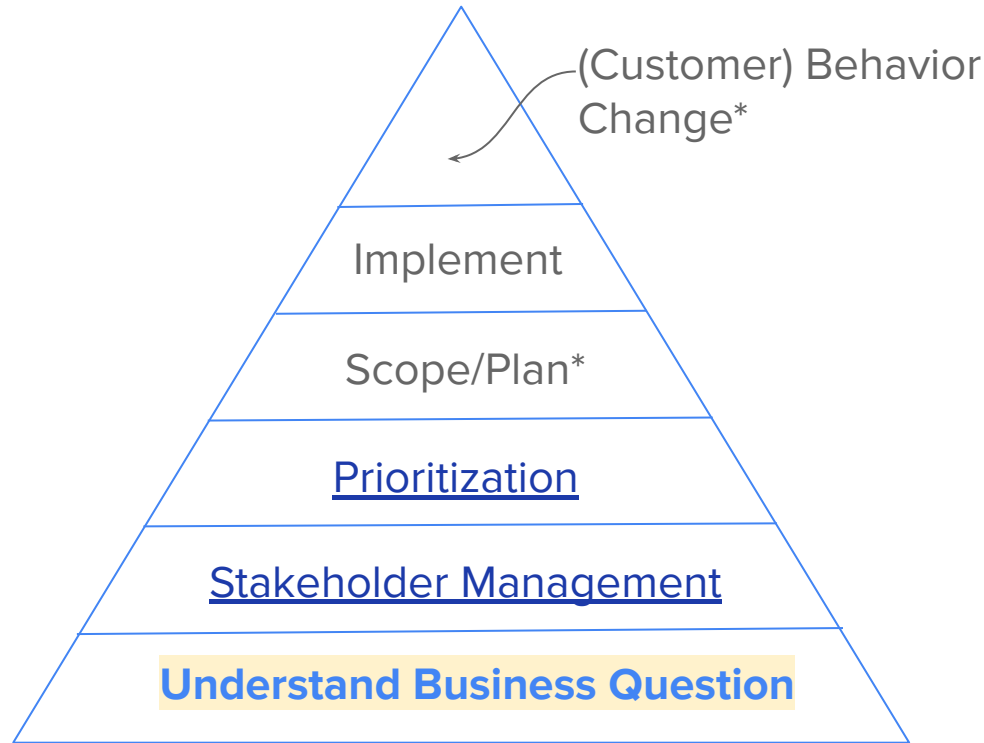
what
stakeholder
wanted

Communication

- No surprises!
- Outcomes: Tailor project to answer business question
- “Dark Arts” of Stakeholder Management



Data Product (POC) Hierarchy of Needs



More Career Advice: Breaking in

Advice to Break-in: VC

- Opportunities
 - [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

- [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?](#)
- *Lean into Interests + Asks + Raise Hand*

Apply!

Where to Find Full-Time Roles

- Start-ups:
 - [Sr DE at Plug](#)
 - [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](#)

Questions?

ikukuyeva.com/community/presentations/Talk-nonlinear-career-path