

# Careers in Academia & Industry

Timing Research Forum  
Virtual Journal Club

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[linktre.ee/sundeepteki](https://linktre.ee/sundeepteki)

# Agenda

**1** Introduction

**2** Academia vs. Industry

**3** Career Decisions

**4** Advice

**5** Alt Careers

**6** Q & A

# Introduction

## 1 EDUCATION (2003–13)

- BE Electronics, **Delhi University**
- MSc Neuroscience, **Oxford**
- PhD Neuroscience, **UCL**

## 2 ACADEMIA (2013–2018)

- Postdoc, **UCL**
- Postdoc, **ENS, Paris**
- Wellcome Trust Postdoc, **Oxford**

## 3 INDUSTRY (2018–20)

- AI Scientist, **Amazon Alexa, Seattle**
- AI Team Lead, **Swiggy, Bangalore**

## 4 STARTUPS (2015+)

- **EduChroma.com, 2015+**
- **Timing Research Forum, 2016+**
- **WIP/Advisor, 2020+**

# Decisions

1 Engineering → Neuroscience

3 Academia → Industry

2 Neuroscience → AI

4 Industry → Startups

5 5 Country moves

# Academia vs. Industry

1 Skills

2 Mindset

3 Work Culture

4 Career Growth

5 Impact

6 Ownership

7 Flexibility

8 Autonomy

9 Feedback

10 Work-life balance

# Academia vs. Industry

11 Job stability

12 Compensation & Benefits

13 Skills: Supply & Demand

14 Products/Services vs. Papers

15 Learning & Development

16 Incentive system

17 Short-term vs. Long-term

18 Funding & Infrastructure

19 Supervisor vs. Manager

20 Individuals vs. Teams

Leaving  
Academia

≠

Leaving  
Science

## Qs for Self

1 Why do you want to leave academia?

2 Why do you want to join industry?

3 What work do you enjoy doing most?

4 Who do you want to work with?

5 What do you deeply care about?

6 What are your unique skills/talent?

7 What impact do you want to create?

8 What works best for you + family?

9 Where do you want to live?

10 Who do you want to be?



**1** Take time to build internal conviction

**2** Talk to a lot of folks on both sides

**3** Do not follow trends/others are upto

**4** Focus on your unique skills and goals

**5** Once convinced, keep trying & failing

**6** Patience: don't expect quick results

## Advice

**7** Scientific thinking needed in industry

**8** Career: allows you to learn & grow

**9** Career: be authentic, earn respect

**10** Minimize future regret, YOLO!

# Alt Careers

1 Tech: AI / Data Science

2 Research institutes / Uni spin-offs

3 Tech: UI / Design / Software Engg.

4 Consulting: Biology / Health / Pharma

5 Venture Capital: Domain expert

6 Public Policy: Science & Tech

7 Grant Agencies/NGOs: Program Mngt

8 Law: Tech, IPR, Ethics

9 Media: Marketing & Communication

10 Build own startup / business

# Follow-up

1 1:1 Coaching

2 Structured course

3 Talk at University

# Q & A

Slides:  
[sundeepteki.org/talks.html](http://sundeepteki.org/talks.html)

Recording @TRF YouTube:  
<http://tiny.cc/mt2ytz>

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1 Basak

2 Lucila

3 Erika

4 Andrew

5 Frank

6 Aysha

Thank you!

7 Mitra

8 Laetitia

9 Mukesh

10 Argie + Martin