

EXCERPT Practical strategies for moving into industry

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Why This Workshop?

Reflecting on my own transition, a few questions kept surfacing:

- Could I have been **better prepared** for the shift?
- Why did certain aspects of industry come as such a **surprise**?
- Would my peers **benefit** from my **recent experience**?

The Concept

To create the resource I wish I had back then: in the form of this workshop!

Our Goals

1. Compare academia vs. industry (and navigate current trends)
2. Build confidence in your transferable skills
3. Gain a “reality check” on expectations in the corporate world
4. Think out of the box for finding a position that suits you best

Keep in mind...

This is a space for **reflection, motivation, and mindset shifts**, not a technical “how-to” guide.

The Cold Plunge

*May your choices
reflect your hopes, not
your fears.*

Nelson Mandela



Here are four situations inspired by my own experience.
How would you handle them?

**Defining the Landscape:
Industry Fundamentals
(based on the book “It’s a
game, not a formula” David M.
Giltner)**

Difference in How One Succeeds

Academia: **Independence**

Industry: **Interaction**

Successful leaders in industry don't try to be the experts. They become skilled at finding people who can help them.

The PhD Stereotype: Internal & External Views

Yellow Note: Original Spark

The Goal: What was your original wish, goal, or motivation for starting the PhD?

Blue Note: Pre-PhD Lens

The Concern: What prejudgments or concerns did you see about the PhD lifestyle or “PhDs” in general before you started?

Red Note: Pinch of Honesty

The Confirmed Reality: Which wishes and concerns actually turned out to be true during your journey?

External Judgment

A word cloud titled "THE PhD STEREOTYPE: CORPORATE VIEWS" illustrating various perceptions of PhDs from a corporate perspective. The words are arranged in a cloud shape, with colors ranging from dark blue to orange. The central text is "THE PhD STEREOTYPE: CORPORATE VIEWS". Other prominent words include "OVERQUALIFIED", "HYPER-SPECIALIZED", "PERFECTIONIST", "TOO ACADEMIC", "SLOW-PACED", "LACKS BUSINESS ACCUMEN", "NOT A TEAM PLAYER", "INACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE", "THEORETICAL FOCUS", "ISOLATED", "RESISTANT TO CHANGE", "MICRO-FOCUSED", "EXCEPTIONAL ANALYTICS", "DATA-DRIVEN", "PROBLEM SOLVER", "DEEP DISCIPLINE", "RAPID LEARNER", "CRITICAL THINKER", "INNOVATIVE", "RESILIENT", "RIGOROUS", "AUTONOMOUS", "EXPERT KNOWLEDGE", "HIGH COMMITMENT", "METHODOLOGY", "PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT", "INVORPATIVE", "asset", "industry view", "perception", "risk", "isolated", "hiring bias", and "perception".

THE PhD STEREOTYPE: CORPORATE VIEWS

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HYPER-SPECIALIZED
PERFECTIONIST
TOO ACADEMIC
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Decoding Your Value for Industry

The logo for 'datascience' is positioned behind the word 'Industry'. It features a stylized 'd' with a yellow-to-green gradient, followed by 'ata' in grey, 'sci' in red, 'en' in green, and 'ce' in grey.

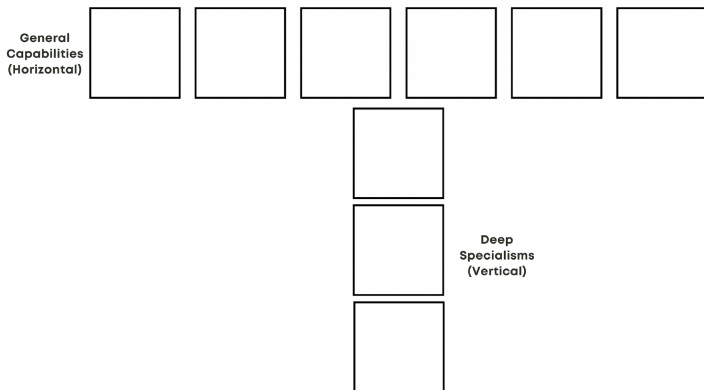
Recap

1. **Reconciled** our original motivations with the reality of the PhD journey.
2. **Navigated** real-world scenarios and common "culture shocks."
3. **Identified** the structural differences between academia and industry.
4. **Transformed** stereotypes into a foundation of professional strength.

The Next Step: Identifying your full skill set and quantifying your impact.

Your T-Shaped Profile

The horizontal bar represents your **breadth** (transferable skills), while the vertical stem represents your **depth** (specialised expertise).



From T-Shape to a High-Impact Story

STAR Method Translation

S – Situation: Set the scene. What was the specific context? *(Keep it brief: 10% of your answer.)*

T – Task: What was the specific challenge or goal? *(What was the “problem” to be solved?)*

A – Action: What **YOU** did. Use active language. *(The most important part: 60% of your answer.)*

R – Result: The quantifiable outcome. Use numbers where possible. *(e.g. “Reduced machine errors by 15%”, “Secured €10k funding”, “Simplified a 3-day process into 4 hours”.)*