



ARCHIT MEHRA

Industry: Data & AI Consulting

CURRENT ROLE

- Data & AI Consulting Lead – Methods Analytics (2024 – Present)

EDUCATION & CAREER PATH

- **BSc in Chemistry with Industrial Experience** – University of Manchester (2012–2016)
- **Industrial Placement:** Domino Printing, R&D (Ink Formulation) (12 months)
- **PhD in Atmospheric Chemistry** – University of Manchester (2016–2020)
- **Research on Air Pollution in Beijing using a Time-of-Flight Chemical Ionisation Mass Spectrometer**
- **Postdoctoral Researcher (Indoor Air Quality)** – University of Chester (2020–2021)
- **Data & AI Consultant** – Chaucer (Bip Group) (2021–2023)
- **Senior Data Strategist** – Methods Analytics (2023–2024)
- **Transition to Data & AI Consulting Lead** – Methods Analytics (2024–Present)

HOW HIS PATH DIFFERED FROM EXPECTATIONS

- "I really enjoyed my time in academia, especially my PhD, but I chose a different path for reasons like stability, pay, and frequent relocations."
- "The transferable skills from a PhD are invaluable—the way of thinking, confidence, and ability to challenge ideas are highly valued in industry."
- "While I loved my research, continuing in academia meant a patchwork of postdoc contracts worldwide, which wasn't sustainable for me financially or personally."

CAREER INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

- "I have enjoyed every aspect of my career, and the blend of experiences I've had enables me to bring a unique perspective to every situation."
- "What I enjoy most is the high-impact nature of my work, spanning multiple high-profile projects."
- "I love that I get to stay up to date with the latest advancements, continuously learning and applying new insights."
- "A key part of my role is critical thinking in AI—asking not just 'what can AI do?' but 'should it do this?'"

FUTURE PLANS

- "I am happy and well-settled in my role leading a specialist Data & AI consulting team."
- "I still get to work on the cutting edge of AI innovations, maintaining the excitement of being at the forefront of research."
- "One of the biggest advantages of industry is the shorter timelines for real-world impact—something I find incredibly fulfilling."
- "Our core value is 'To Solve. For Good.'—which aligns perfectly with my personal and professional goals."

ADVICE FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECRS)

- ✓ Don't undervalue your skills – Your PhD experience is packed with transferable abilities.
- ✓ Reflect on what you enjoyed most – Was it coding, problem-solving, or collaboration? That can guide your next step.
- ✓ Explore your options – There are great careers outside academia that align with your skills and interests.
- ✓ Use your network – Connect with professionals on LinkedIn, attend events, and ask questions.
- ✓ Do your research – Moving out of academia is a big decision, so gather as much insight as possible.