

BDS_episode2_JesusMartinezManso

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Karoun Bagamian: Welcome to "The Business of Doing Science" podcast brought to you by Bagamian Scientific Consulting. On this podcast, we discuss different aspects of pursuing science related careers and just how science is actually done beyond the bench. So stay tuned to find out more.

Hello, everyone. I'm Karoun Bagamian. On today's episode, I'm joined by my co hosts, Lindsey Laytner and Heidi Bolduc, as we explore another career transition. Our guest today is Jesus Martinez Manzo. Jesus has a very unique career trajectory, and I personally find his transition especially relevant in today's technology landscape, and I hope you will too.

Welcome, Jesus, and thank you for joining us. Can you give us a little bit of background about what you're doing these days?

Jesus Martinez Manzo, PhD: Well first of all, I wanna say that really thank you for having me here. It's, it's a big pleasure. And yeah, that, that's a big question. There's lots to unpack there.

But maybe [00:01:00] I'll just give you a short answer, which is the easy answer about what do I do? So, so today, I I lead a, a computer vision team at Planet Labs, which is an earth observation company. Our company designs, builds, and operates satellites in space. They observe the earth every day constantly, and my team builds a software that automatically analyzes those millions of images and extracts information from them automatically.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Really cool. One of the things that we'd like to cover in this podcast as a part of this, is to talk about your education history, because in this case, you have come back to a little bit of how you started, but I know that there was a transition in the middle that we'll talk about a little more.

So, the first thing I'd like to ask you is, can you tell us a little bit about your education and what you did for that?

Jesus Martinez Manso: Sure. Mm-hmm.

Yeah. So I. I did my PhD in astronomy. And that was at the University of Florida. I finished seven years ago, [00:02:00] and back then I was about to go into a postdoc, which is like the natural path in academia.

But at the time, there was this emergent field in the industry called data science. It's a funny name. And at the time it was, it was just emerging. So, it was this huge thing exploding and it was very clear that they needed a lot of people with a skillset that I happened to have. So I thought why don't you just jump into it?

So, it was obviously something very different from academia to industry and this new thing, but it sounded exciting. So, I did that. And I, I traveled to California, to Silicon Valley where there were the most jobs at the time in data science. Actually, I took a very nice road trip. I convinced a friend of mine from Spain to fly over and we, we drove for two weeks there, but

Karoun H. Bagamian: Awesome.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. Different story.

Karoun H. Bagamian: That sounds like an interesting story, maybe for another podcast, right?

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. It was an epic trip for an epic change of career and life. Yeah. And so then I took a job as a data scientist in a digital payments processing platform, which was part of a financial institution, but it was [00:03:00] not about science. It was about basically detecting credit card fraud using machine learning techniques.

So, I did that for a few years, and then I went into Planet Labs, which is the company I'm currently in. Planet Labs is completely different. It's again about space. Although, not like astronomy where you observe the stars. In this case you put things in space, but to observe the earth. A lot of the skills and lot of the processing that you do is very similar to what we used to do in astronomy, so that's why my skillset was a very good match to this new type of work.

Karoun H. Bagamian: So, one of the questions I have- this is for our listeners, to help them if this is something that they would be interested in doing. Do you think there's a particular degree or educational trajectory that can help someone succeed at what you're doing right now?

Jesus Martinez Manso: Mm-hmm. Yeah. So, first, I will define what it is that I do right now.

Karoun H. Bagamian: That would be great. Yes.

Jesus Martinez Manso: So, so I think, broadly, I would put myself in the pocket of people doing data, data science and machine learning.

There's also AI thrown out there, but it's really about the same stuff. [00:04:00] And the basic skillset that you need is, in my opinion, of course, mathematics. Just understand, you know, statistics math, know how to build software, and then, third, know how to do scientific experimentation.

And you can get these three things through many degrees, many paths of life. So, I'm not gonna tell you to do astronomy or whatever, but I think you need those three things. Maybe you don't *need* them, but it helps, it definitely helped me. So the first two might be obvious, like, yeah, you know, math, if you're gonna do like mathy things, and obviously you need to know software because you're gonna be building products. But, the scientific experimentation is one that's not obvious and, and most people actually don't have it. The reason why I think it's very important, because it helps you judge. You know, in any data-related field, you're always tackling new problems, new, different data sets. All data problems are evolving. They're dynamic. You always are facing constantly new things that you haven't seen before.

And that is very similar to the way you do science, right? You try to tackle an unknown problem. You, you create a hypothesis, maybe an explanation. You get information, and then you need [00:05:00] to evaluate that information and then inform next steps. So, there's a lot of judgment going on there based on information.

And that, that way of thinking, which if you've done a PhD, you've been doing that for every year, every day. So, it kind of becomes natural. But, I think it's very, very important for this and probably other professions out there. But, I feel like in data science, machine learning, it's, it's key.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. That actually answered one of the other questions that we like to talk about. We covered this in our first interview, we talked about what originally a PhD was envisioned for- it's to be a professor and to learn certain things. But it's interesting 'cause there's a lot of skills that you learned during that time where, exactly what you said, you probably didn't go to your current job knowing the scientific method is gonna help you in that job. I mean, maybe you would think that, but you don't know that for sure, and you're like, wow, that actually really helped me. So that's what we'd like to hear about,

because a lot of people when they're transitioning into different careers and stuff like that, sometimes feel lost.

For example, someone did a PhD and they don't become a professor. They're like oh, I can't apply my skills. So, [00:06:00] it's really great to hear about the different ways that that works.

So one of the things that we also like to talk about is just like, What your typical workday is like, so that when people listen to this, they can say, oh yeah, that sounds like a good fit for me, or that doesn't sound like a good fit for me. You know?

Jesus Martinez Manso: Right. Yeah. So, the things I do every day are not only related to the field, but also about my position in the company. I have a management position, meaning that a lot of my time is spent in strategy and, and technical management of the team. I still do some individual contributor development work. Maybe like 30% or 40% of my time.

Karoun H. Bagamian: I was gonna ask a question about that. So, do you enjoy managing a team? Is this something that you thought you would do? Is this something that you wanted to do? Or is it something that is an obvious trajectory, cause you know, you were going to the next level in your career, you know what I mean?

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. So I think that if you wanna have an impact in life or anywhere, you are gonna have to manage something, whether you call yourself a manager or not, or you're still a individual contributor, you're gonna be managing projects. You're gonna, you know, you're gonna have to take [00:07:00] decisions at some point. And so, yes, definitely I like doing that because that's the way to, to have impact.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Gotcha. Great.

So, I think you kind of touched on this, but like, I'll include this in one of the questions is, which of your skills that you already had do you feel was the most handy for your job?

And along those lines, was there any skills that you wish you had? So answer both of those if you can. Because maybe they'll go together, 'cause I know you kind of started answering this with the scientific method and all that stuff that you were saying earlier.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Right. Yeah. So I, I think the one that set me apart the most and the one that was most useful most differentiated was coming from a PhD and being, really, being very comfortable tackling very hard problems and making good decisions on them.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Okay, interesting. Yeah.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Then the, the one that was lacking the most was probably software engineering practices.

Karoun H. Bagamian: I see.

Jesus Martinez Manso: So, you know, during the PhD, I did a lot of coding, a lot of very high performance computing, et cetera. But you do it the, the paradigm of coding is very different versus the industry. So in the industry, [00:08:00] you have, you know, you have standard practices. You have the, the good ways of building things so that they're robust, so that they are collaborative.

You build code that others will use. Whereas during your PhD sometimes that's not the case, only you see it. So all that would've been more helpful in the end. I learned that in, on the job.

Karoun H. Bagamian: You did. Okay.

Jesus Martinez Manso: But at the, at the beginning there was some of a learning curve.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. So, for people that maybe want to do something like that, do you think that it would be helpful for them to take a course or, you know, I know there's different like kind of certifications for certain software things. Do you think that's useful? You know, for something like what you're doing?

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. I, yeah, that's I think that's a great question and, and probably the most useful one. As in no, if, if you are, if you wanna be part of this field, what do you do exactly? Where should you look? Yeah, and honestly, the, this field AI ML. It's, it's so broad already. Like three weeks ago, it was like this, these few things, but now there's so many roles it, it has expanded so much. So, I would say that if what you want is to be a machine learning engineer, in particular, [00:09:00] that's that's more of a software engineer.

So, you need to be very strong in software engineering practices. Of course, you need to know all your math and stuff. I guess the short answer is that, is that there's no easy way. I know a lot of people think that, oh, maybe I'll just take this Coursera course and then I will know.

Karoun H. Bagamian: And like, of course, well, no.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah, that doesn't work that way, right?

Karoun H. Bagamian: So, I didn't expect that, but I know, I know, I know that's a problem. And actually you, we'll, we'll bring this up, I think, in the end when we're finishing up- I had asked you a question, you had said some good response to that. I've heard that. 'cause I know that now they test people that come into jobs because sometimes people say they're an expert at something and they're not.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Totally. Yeah. And, and you know what, like exactly. Seven years ago the companies were hiring for data scientists, but because they did not have data scientists in the company, they couldn't interview, they didn't know how to interview. So they, they. You know, it was kind of a mess. And now companies know how to interview for these things and know they know what they want. So it's become more professional versus just like a hype job as it was.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. As it was before. All right, so you talked about one of the, one of the skills, and I, [00:10:00] maybe there's more, just let us know. Maybe not. What skills did you learn on the job? You said it sounds like software skills. Was there any soft skills or other skills that you also learned on a job? Not necessarily technical ones.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Mm-hmm. Particularly, particularly soft skills.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Okay. Alright.

Jesus Martinez Manso: I learned, so, not only from the fact that I'm, I'm a manager, but just the fact that I that our, our company has grown a lot and I was part of a team that's, that was, so I, I was one of the founders of a team, and then we grew the team, and then we grew a product from scratch. So we did a lot of building from, from nothing.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. Wow.

Jesus Martinez Manso: And, and I, I learned a lot about product, about how a company works, how teams work, how to build an efficient team, how to build efficient processes. How to think about strategy of the company and all these things. Yeah, that are not really hard, but just, just, just have to, you just have to live it.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah, exactly.

Jesus Martinez Manso: There's so many things that we cannot learn from, from books or, or records.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Exactly. Just like life experience. I was gonna say, so was this and I, I, I might've[00:11:00] missed it. Was this company a startup when you joined it?

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. So like, where is it in its own business cycle? Let's ask that question.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Mm-hmm. Right? Yeah. So, so when I, so this company was founded in 2010.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Okay.

Jesus Martinez Manso: When I joined in 2017, it was like 400 people, so it was a mature startup. And, and right now we are in, in kind of the, in the, the last stage of, of the life cycle of a company, which is when you you know, become publicly listed in the market. That's gonna happen.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Congratulations.

Lindsey Laytner: Congratulations.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Wow. Congratulations. That's cool.

Lindsey Laytner: That's huge.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah, that is huge.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. The, the company is transforming itself, so it's very interesting to, to see and to do it. Yeah.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. That's really cool. Wow. So, one of the things that we also like to talk about is how *you* do your work or what is your work style, if you know what I mean. And do you think like others with that approach would do well at your job?

It's kind of trying to explain to people like that, you know, they might know how they work and does this sound like, okay, I have the skills, but is this like the type of [00:12:00] thing that my work, let's say, philosophy would fit or something like that. You know what I mean?

Jesus Martinez Manso: So, I think, I think I know what you mean.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Like for example, some people work better on their own, some people like to work in teams.

Lindsey Laytner: Personality traits.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah, personality traits about you that you think you know, that may make your work ideal for you or something like that. You know, like something along those lines. Like, okay, on a daily basis I need to work with people, but I like working with people, and I like having time to myself or, you know, something along those lines. Basically, yes.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Right, yeah, so, so I, I definitely like to work with people and to be part of a team, to be part of something 'cause by yourself, there's only so much you can do, right?

And and maybe I'll speak more about where I came from, which is science and astronomy. I can speak about how some personalities are in that field. And of people there that are in you know, astronomy, it's basically, it's like physics.

And so there's, there's a lot of people that like to go very deep into the research and be very abstracted and work by [00:13:00] themselves. I think that, that that's not a good fit for a, a role leader in the industry, especially if you wanna grow there, ' cause it doesn't matter how smart you are or how well you could do science or whatever, if you cannot work as a team.

And, of course, you need to communicate, you need to know how to listen, how to hear and, and, and know where you're wrong and, and accept it and, and seek

to grow and receive feedback and, and, and all these things that are kind of obvious for lots of people. But, if you come from a PhD where you, for five or X years, you've been like throwing yourself into a very deep problem, you might have your own universe and think that that is it.

And so, yeah. I guess you just gotta be more like open-minded and really understand what is the goal of this. Is the goal to prove someone else that you are smart? No. The goal is get shit done, help people and, you know, be a part of something bigger than you.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah, definitely. That's exactly, that's exactly what we meant by that question. So, that is very helpful because I also know for myself [00:14:00] that there was points in my PhD where I was like that, you know, because you have to be, and then, you kind of get sick of it or you realize and then it's like, wait, can I be another way? So, it's kind of interesting.

So, that's one thing I wanna say to our listeners, even if you think you prefer that- sometimes. Sometimes, yes. And sometimes, maybe it's worth exploring something a little bit different, 'cause you never know, what is a better fit.

So, I think, I think you covered in that and if you have anything else to add, the personality traits or characteristics that would make somebody a good fit at your job.

I think you told us that. Is there any others that you can think of that either would make them a better fit or an ill-fit for your job?

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. So, something that I've seen sometimes in talking about ill-fitting kind of traits... it's about making bets and prioritization.

This is something that I've seen a lot, where I come from, where you have, you really like a question, you really like a problem and you're like, oh, am I, I'm gonna just go at it. And, and it takes two, three years. Doesn't [00:15:00] matter. I'm just, I just really want to go deep down to find the answer.

And then maybe you do or you don't. And if you do, it's just a result. But in, in, in a job like mine or in the industry in general, it matters that, you know, you get things done in a certain amount of time and that those things are helpful. And so this means that you cannot just go after the things that are interesting. You gotta make it work. And you gotta, you gotta know when to say no and when to stop and what to start.

So there's all of judgment that goes in there, that is absolutely necessary, ' cause otherwise, you will just waste all your time.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Great. That's exactly the type of thing we were looking for. Thank you.

So, in this case, one of the things that I like to ask is, what are the top three tips that you would give to someone that's interested in pursuing your career path? You know, just the top three things, and you kind of touched upon this in your email, and I like how you phrased one of those, so please feel free to say what you said in there. So, yeah.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah, so what I would recommend and, and maybe I think this, this also translate to other [00:16:00] other career paths.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Other jobs. Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Jesus Martinez Manso: I think I would say that first and foremost- try to have fun.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Okay.

Jesus Martinez Manso: You feel, you, you, you gotta enjoy something to be good at it, otherwise you will not. So, so pick a path whatever it is available to you that you would like. Then, second, pick something that is differentiated. So, don't just try to do everything. And for example, and in, in the field of data science, you can just try to learn all data science, but that's, you know, there's so many people in that.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Impossible.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. Impossible. So, so pick something like, like a use case or industry that kind of resonates with you.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah, that's good advice. Yeah.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. And third, like go deep in it. And really understand, you know, if, if there's like specific math or specific coding skills, go really try to understand that and become an expert in that. And then maybe you can grow into other things. But yeah, I think it's important that you, you're very good at one thing at the beginning.

Karoun H. Bagamian: That makes sense. Well, you also described it as, "Know your shit", which I also liked that .

Jesus Martinez Manso: Exactly. Yes.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Description.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. You, you gotta know your shit. Yeah, there's [00:17:00] there was a time where you could get away with where, where the hiring process or just like the career progression was a bit more random and stochastic. But, thankfully, things are settling a bit more.

Karoun H. Bagamian: That's great. No, that's great.

Jesus Martinez Manso: And of course you gotta have patience and, and kind of understand that, that you will not get like, like amazing job from day one. The careers can move very fast. You, you can go from step to step fast, but you will, it's unlikely that will, you will just jump over a bunch of steps. At least that's my experience.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. Thank you.

And then one of the fun questions I like to ask the people that come on the show is, who are three people that you would like to have a beer with? Not at the same time. .Anybody. Living or dead.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Well, I've, I've never thought about that. It's, it's hard. You know, I, I've been talking so much about prioritization stuff and now I'm like

Karoun H. Bagamian: I know! It's such switch. I'm sorry. I should have probably transitioned you a little more.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. So many things. Well, I'm [00:18:00] trying to think because it is the people I, I wanna learn about, but then those people might not be the best to have a beer with. So I'm kind of, I'm trying to find out.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Fair enough.

Jesus Martinez Manso: An intersection of who's fun, but also interesting.

Karoun H. Bagamian: I guess, you can mix it up and say one for coffee and one for beer.

Lindsey Laytner: Yeah.

Heidi Bolduc: That's perfect.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah, I know. Maybe, so Richard Fineman, who's a very important physicist.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yes, I know who he is. Yeah, that makes sense. I can totally see that.

Jesus Martinez Manso: That would be my first pick.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Is that coffee or beer? That's the question.

Jesus Martinez Manso: That would be a beer. Yeah.

Karoun H. Bagamian: All right.

Lindsey Laytner: That would be beer.

Jesus Martinez Manso: And then I guess the other two would, I, I I would pick like very folks very far out. You know, back in the time is to just for fun of it, just because it's gonna be so awkward.

Karoun H. Bagamian: That would be funny.

Jesus Martinez Manso: For example, I know like, for example, someone like Eratosthenes and talk about you know, the, the trip that he took to, to measure the coverage of the Earth.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah.

Jesus Martinez Manso: And and third, that's a tough one, 'cause it's, it's my last option, so I gotta be wise.

Karoun H. Bagamian: I, I'll give you a little break and tell, tell, think about it. And I'll say that they asked me that during my qualifying exams.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Really?

Karoun H. Bagamian: That was the last [00:19:00] question. And I actually liked the question and actually I answered it, but it was funny because I was an evolutionary biologist. I think they said scientists, right? I didn't choose Darwin, and they thought that was weird. But I was like, I chose other evolutionary biologists. So one of 'em was J. B. S. Haldane, who's quite a character and that's why, 'cause I'm like, he was a cool guy. I wanna have a beer with that guy. He's interesting. You know what I mean? So, yeah.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. Well, can, can I pick someone from the future, as well?

Lindsey Laytner: Yeah!

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah, sure!

Heidi Bolduc: Yeah! Why not?

Karoun H. Bagamian: I love it. Why not? You're a physicist. It makes sense. Or physics background, you know, so, yeah.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Well, I would like to- let me think about it.

Karoun H. Bagamian: I know it's hard. I, and that's the thing.

Lindsey Laytner: You can even like talk through it, too.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Like you can tell us a few of the ones you're saying, we can vote.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Well, actually, yeah. I would say the first person that we send to Mars.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Ah.

Heidi Bolduc: Oh, that's good.

Karoun H. Bagamian: I like it!

Jesus Martinez Manso: I [00:20:00] would like to know why the hell they're doing it. Because in my opinion, that's terrible. I think going to Mars is, it's like a life sentence, you know? It's like why would you do that?

Karoun H. Bagamian: So that's the first question.

And then how about if they go and successfully come back? Then are you gonna also be like, What was it like? You know, are you gonna nerd out? Is that what it's about? Yeah.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Right. Yeah.

Lindsey Laytner: Go have a beer with them on Mars.

Heidi Bolduc: Yeah, on Mars.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Hopefully, at that point they can teleport you there, you know?

Lindsey Laytner: Yeah.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. Try one of them Martian micro brews.

Heidi Bolduc: I like that. Love it. That is great, man.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. So I think, I think we covered most of the things we'd like to, Lindsay and Heidi, do you have any other questions for Jesus?

Heidi Bolduc: Actually, I kind of do. Way back in the day, I took an astronomy 101 class in college. So hey. But no, it's funny, I was just thinking about it the other day 'cause I got to a lot of people don't know that UCF, [00:21:00] even though it's doesn't have as long of a history as UF, they do have an observatory on campus.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Oh, interesting.

Heidi Bolduc: So, that was cool. I got to visit that.

But, no, I was just wondering if you ever thought about working for NASA or any other large agency like that, or if that was never like on your radar?

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah, good question.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. Yeah. I, I get like, I get that question a lot and yes, totally. Indeed, NASA is obviously a very respected and top institution in astronomy.

But, honestly, it's just one of them. So, what NASA does is that of course, they're the ones that build some of the satellites and telescopes that we all use. But you don't have to be part of NASA in order to use them. Actually, NASA builds all these things sometimes for the public benefit, right. So, at least you just have to be affiliated with maybe some US university at most.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. That makes sense.

Jesus Martinez Manso: So, it's not, yeah, people tend to think about NASA like exclusive club that you're in, but that's not the case. So, as a matter of fact, I, for my PhD thesis, I used data [00:22:00] from the Spitzer Space Telescope, which was built by NASA.

So, but then of course you can, you can be part of NASA, of their institutions as scientists. NASA is probably most known for like building rockets and, and you know, there should be space shuttle on that. And that that would not obviously be my trajectory. I would be just an astronomer doing research for nasa.

So, in a sense it, it, it didn't really add so much compared to other options out there.

Heidi Bolduc: Okay. Cool. That makes sense.

Karoun H. Bagamian: I think that's a great, I think that's a great question 'cause I think listeners would want to know that as well. And then, I have another question that I want to hear about which is are you living in San Francisco right now?

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah.

Karoun H. Bagamian: And what's that like? Pretty awesome. Pretty expensive? Tell us, tell us a little bit.

Lindsey Laytner: Yeah, tell us the deets.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. San Francisco is such, such a strange and unique city. Obviously, yeah, it's, it's like a place like no other in terms of the tech game and the demographics and the mix of people.

It is definitely a place where like if you, if you are young [00:23:00] and rich and single. This is, this is your place. And then, so, yeah, right now I have a, I have a kid, a little child. And I'm already starting to notice how this is not like the best fit because obviously the city is very expensive. It is a city. There's a lot of it's kind of dirty and it's not very secure in, in some places. So, myself, right now, I am paying a premium over what I really need. So

Karoun H. Bagamian: I see.

Jesus Martinez Manso: I'm kind of wondering, should I stay here? But at the same time, this is where very, we have a lot of very cool jobs here.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. So, that's where the action is, especially in what you do and everything like that.

Jesus Martinez Manso: But I would definitely recommend people to, to come at least spend a little bit of time. A couple years.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah.

Lindsey Laytner: You could totally move to Miami. I heard Miami's becoming like the new startup, Silicon Valley...

Jesus Martinez Manso: All cities are saying, are claiming that, but that's true.

Lindsey Laytner: Houston's trying to say that too, and I'm like, nah.

Jesus Martinez Manso: You know what? It, it's true that they, they're, of course they're growing because, because the pandemic and just their, their remote wave, they're gonna gain more [00:24:00] jobs, but they're not gonna de-throne Silicon Valley 'cause.

Karoun H. Bagamian: That's right. No.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah.

Karoun H. Bagamian: So no one, no one is not, not at this point, no. Yeah. But there are like other places that I would say are tech hubs, you know, like for that region, right? Because like another one is like the Raleigh- Durham area has a lot too.

Lindsey Laytner: Yeah, that's true. I was gonna, yeah.

Karoun H. Bagamian: And they actually, I mean, but it's not comparable. It's different. Yeah. Cool.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. But, but yeah, in that sense, like if, if someone wants to pursue a career in tech, you definitely don't have to come to Silicon Valley. You know, if, if it is, perhaps if you're gonna choose a place, it's probably the easier one to find jobs. But you can find bunch of jobs everywhere.

So, and even it might make more economic sense given, you know, the, the high cost of living here. Yeah, you go elsewhere.

Karoun H. Bagamian: But it's cool there.

All right. Thank you so much for coming and talking to us about all that. It's a really different perspective, and I think our listeners are really gonna enjoy hearing about this, 'cause a lot of [00:25:00] people are really interested in astronomy and space and machine learning and stuff like that. And a lot of, you know, I think people going through graduate school have some of the skills that could be relevant to this and would be interested in this type of a job. I definitely do not have skills relevant to this, but I know others that might. So, but I mean, it's growing, definitely.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Yeah. Oh, and by the way, if, if anyone wants more advice or just to talk about this you can reach out to me in through LinkedIn, and I'll be happy to talk to you.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Oh, thank you so much.

Jesus Martinez Manso: Very happy to help.

Karoun H. Bagamian: Yeah. All right, thank you!

Jesus Martinez Manso: Thanks so much for having me.

Lindsey Laytner: Yeah. So nice meeting you, Jesus.

Heidi Bolduc: Yeah, definitely.

Karoun Bagamian: Thank you for joining us and listening to "The Business of Doing Science" podcast. For more information on our guests and access to career development resources, please click on the link to our website below. And remember, you can also visit the website to learn more about how Bagamian Psi can help you see science.[00:26:00]