Working as an anthropologist in the tech industry

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In recent years, anthropologists have been recruited in large numbers by tech companies as user experience researchers. Goals of such research can be as specific as improving a user interface on an app for Google, and as broad as investigating what the future of travel might look like for Uber. In this brown bag, I’ll share my journey from considering a job outside of academia, to getting recruited for an internship at Facebook, where I conducted research on the Indian government’s preparations in relation to social media for the Indian federal elections. I’ll explain how a project gets executed start to finish, the dynamics of working as an anthropologist in a tech company, and offer practical advice for those considering a move into industry.

Ashveer Pal Singh is finishing up his dissertation which examines e-governance, bureaucracy, and political culture in Punjab, India. He has also worked as a Qualitative Researcher at Facebook.

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