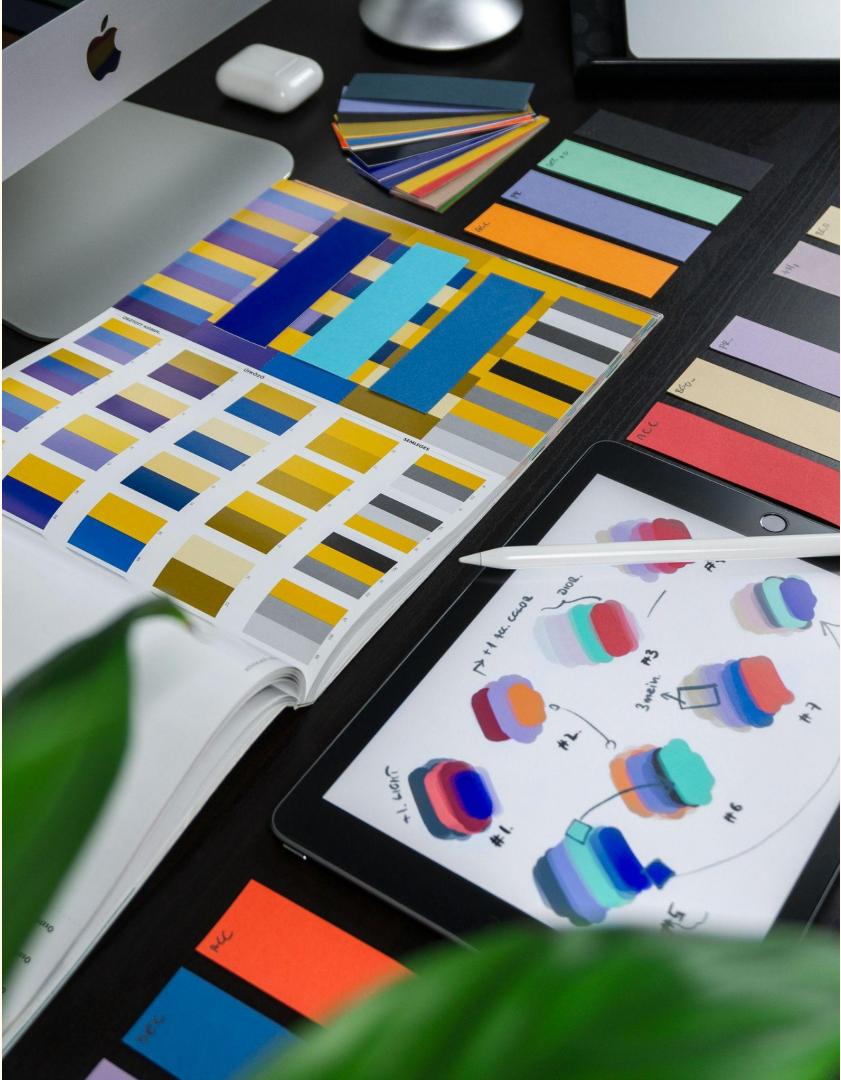


Designing Your Tech Career: Find Your Niche

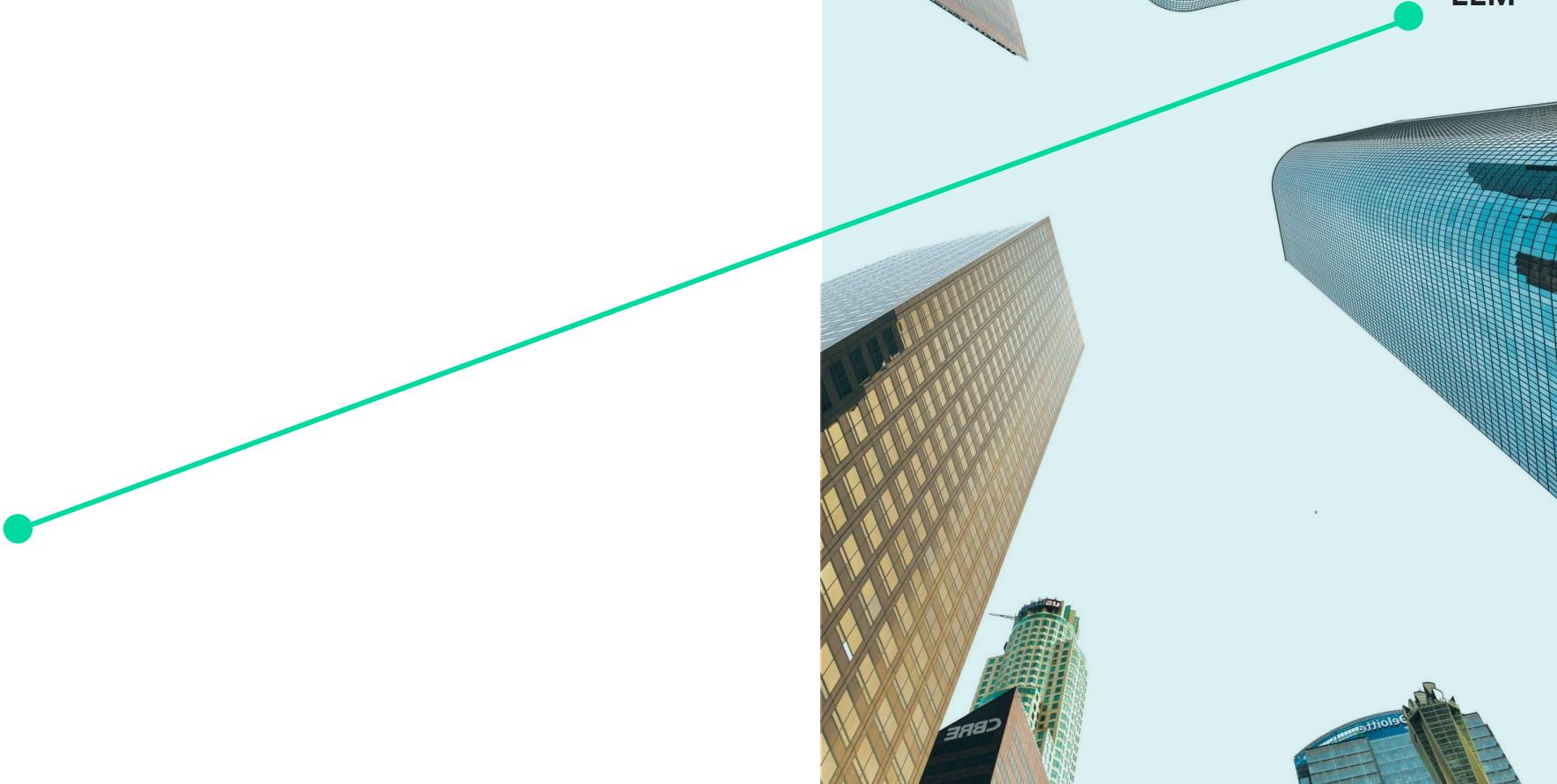
ChengCheng Tan

AI Education & Communications
Cheng2 Designs & FAR AI



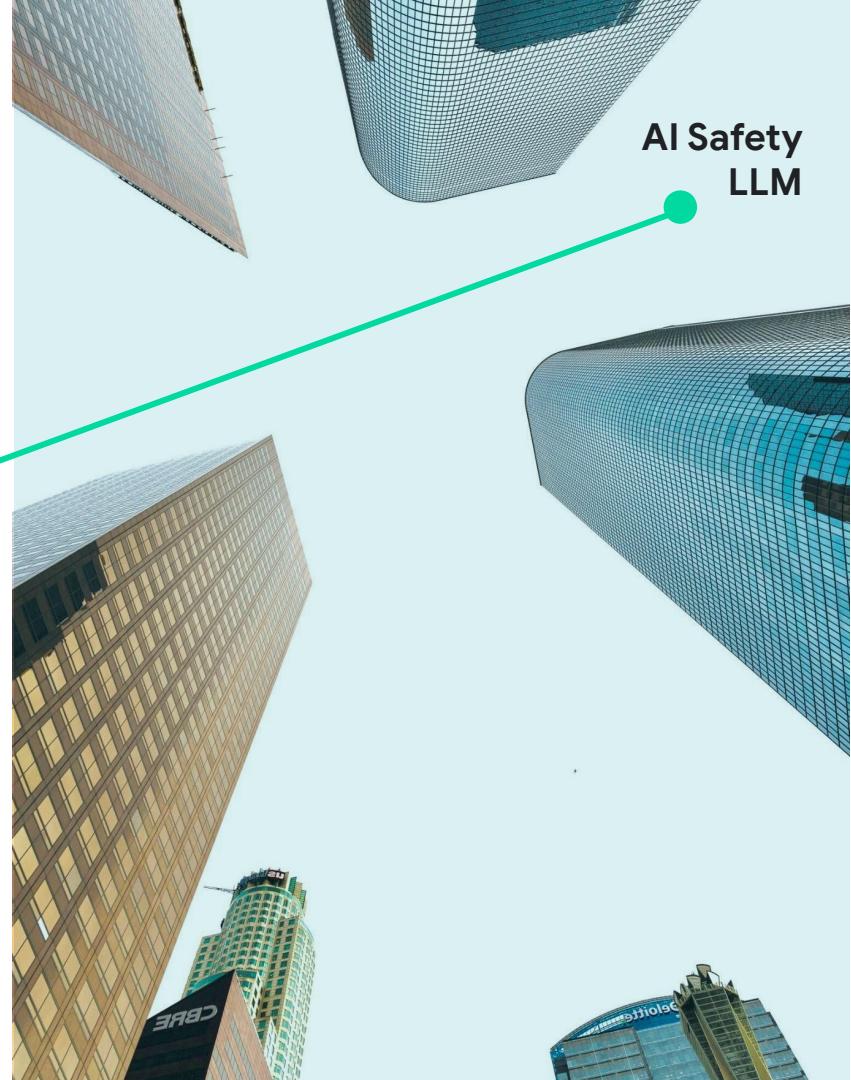
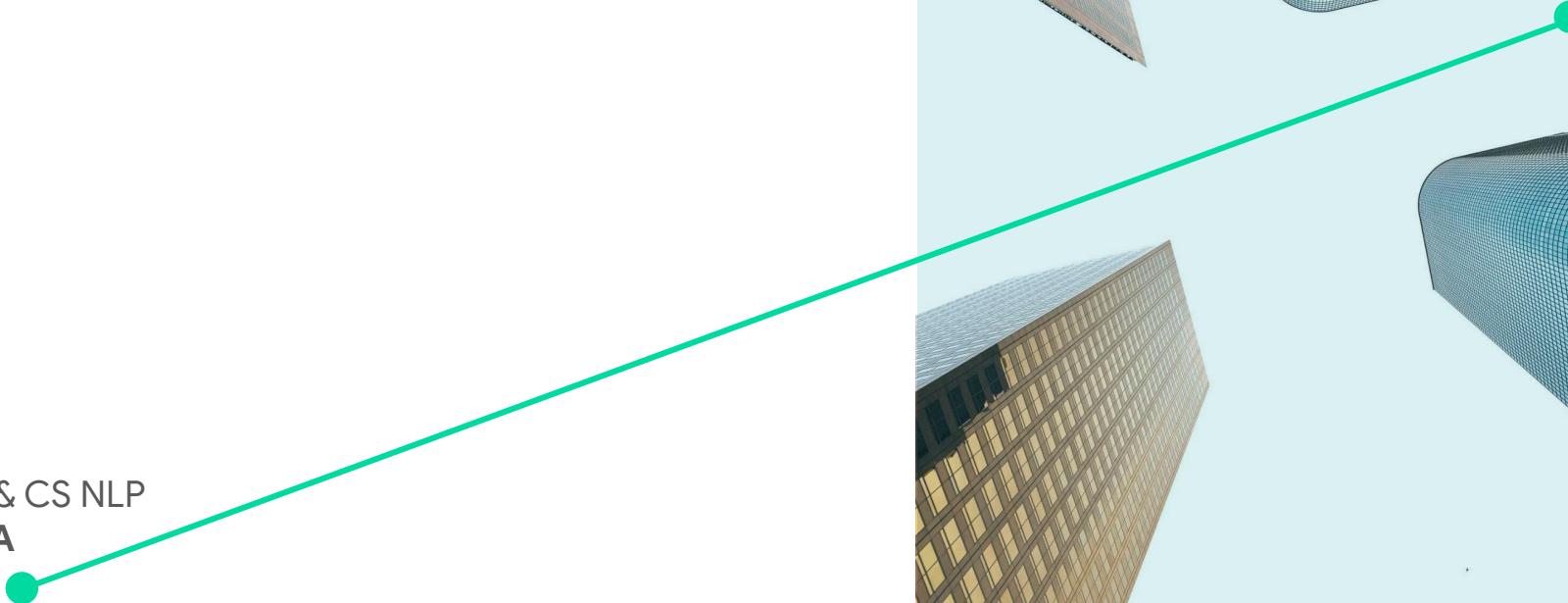
How's it going?

Illustrious Career



Illustrious Career

Ling & CS NLP
UCLA

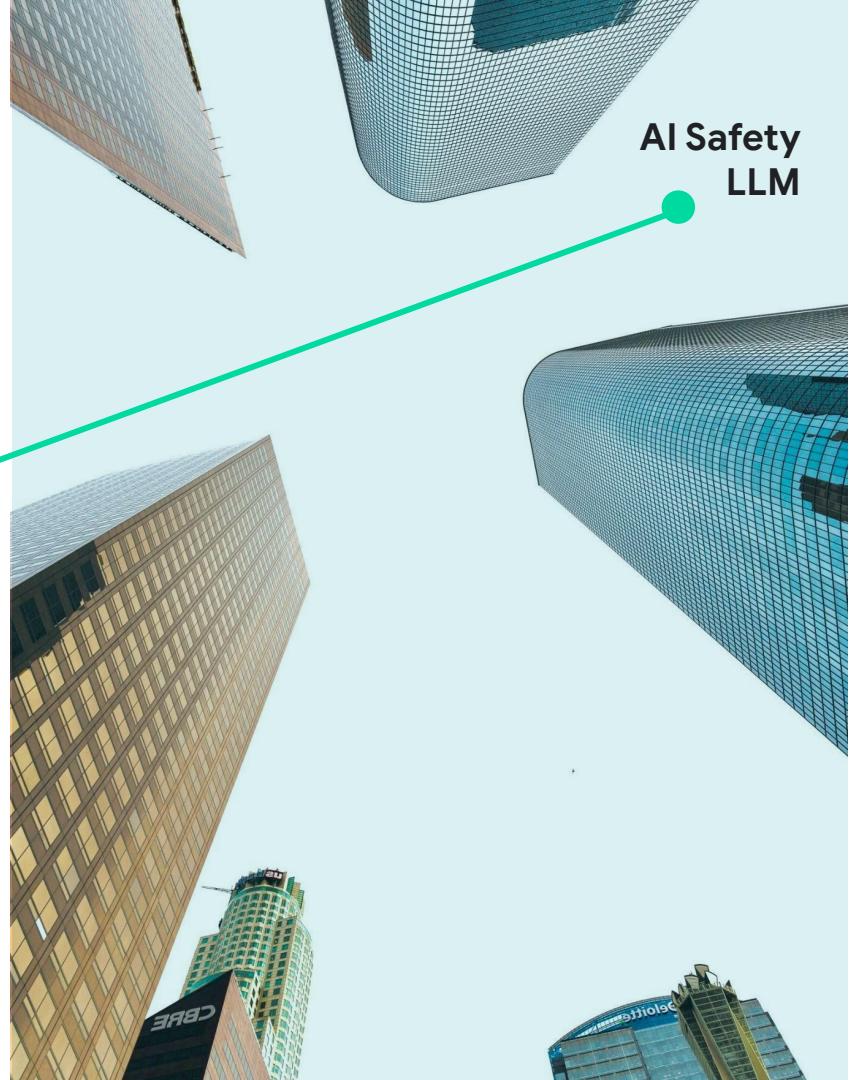


Illustrious Career

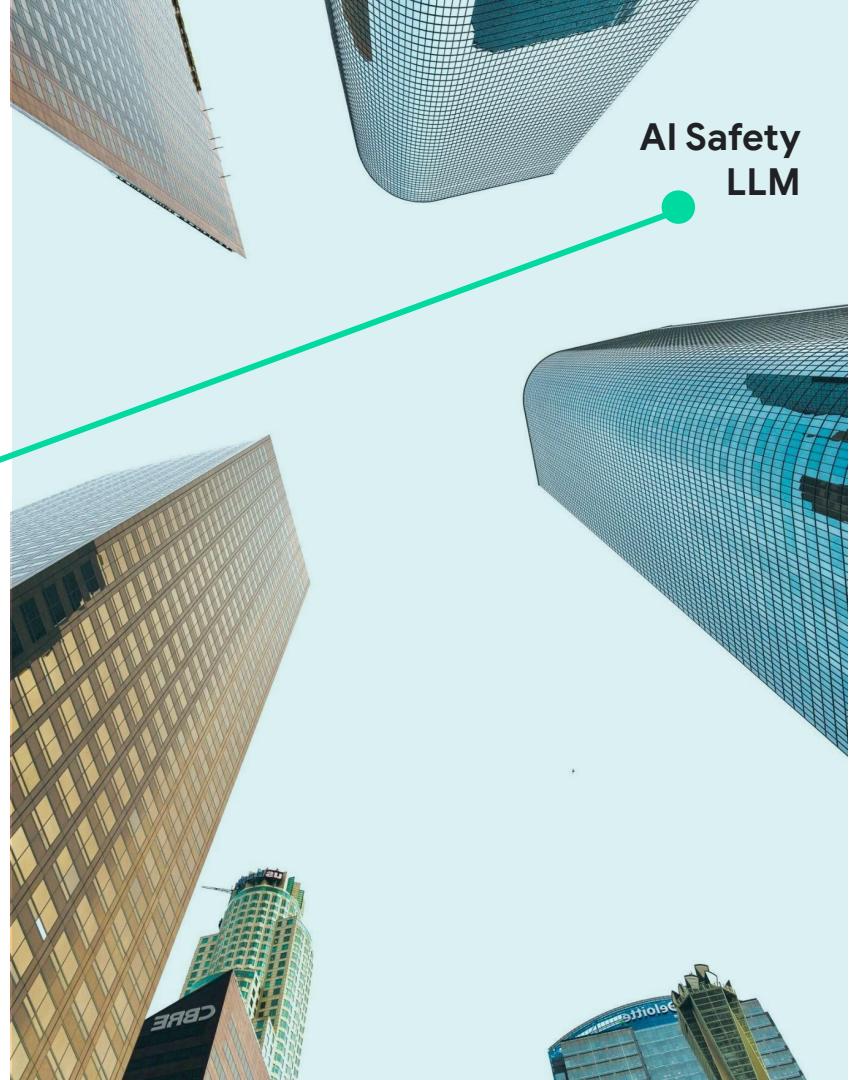
Ling & CS NLP
UCLA

MSCS
Stanford

AI Safety
LLM

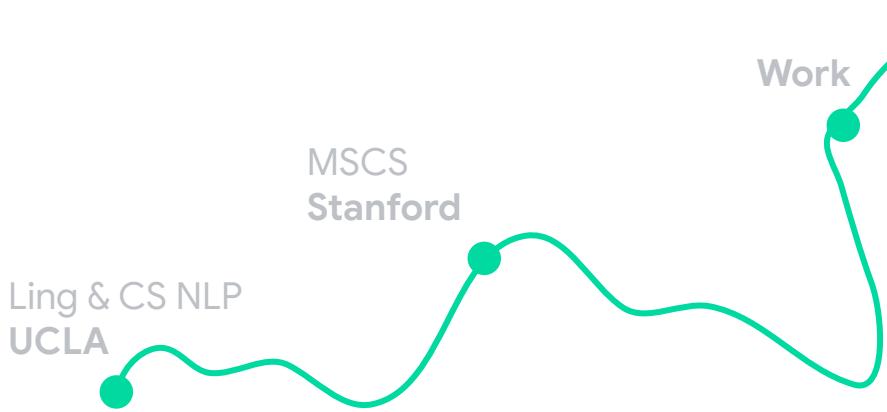


Illustrious Career



AI Safety
LLM

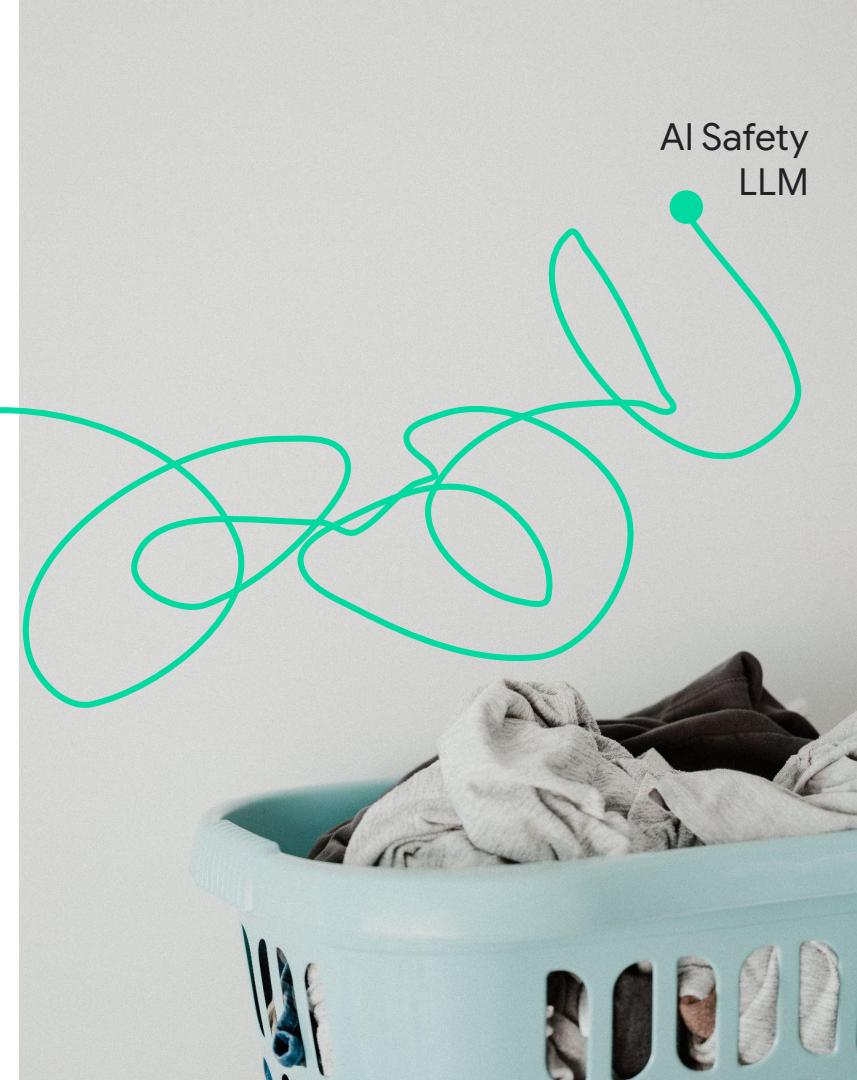
Winding Reality



Ling & CS NLP
UCLA

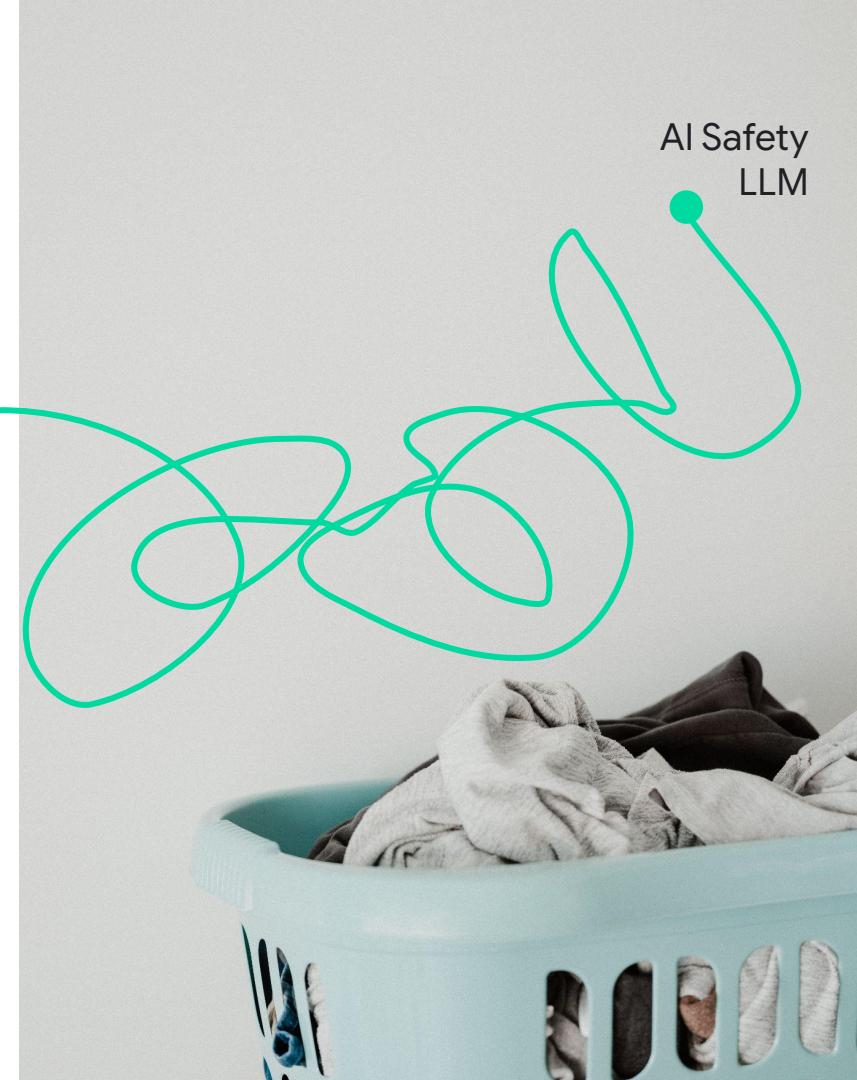
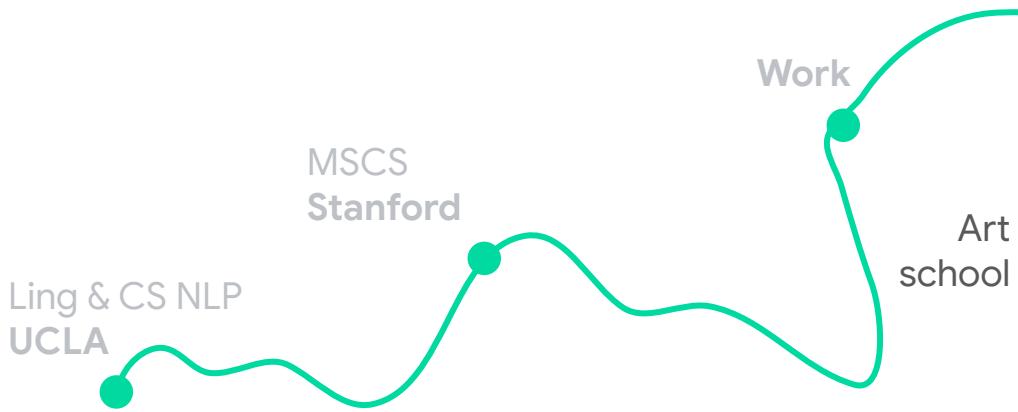
MSCS
Stanford

Work

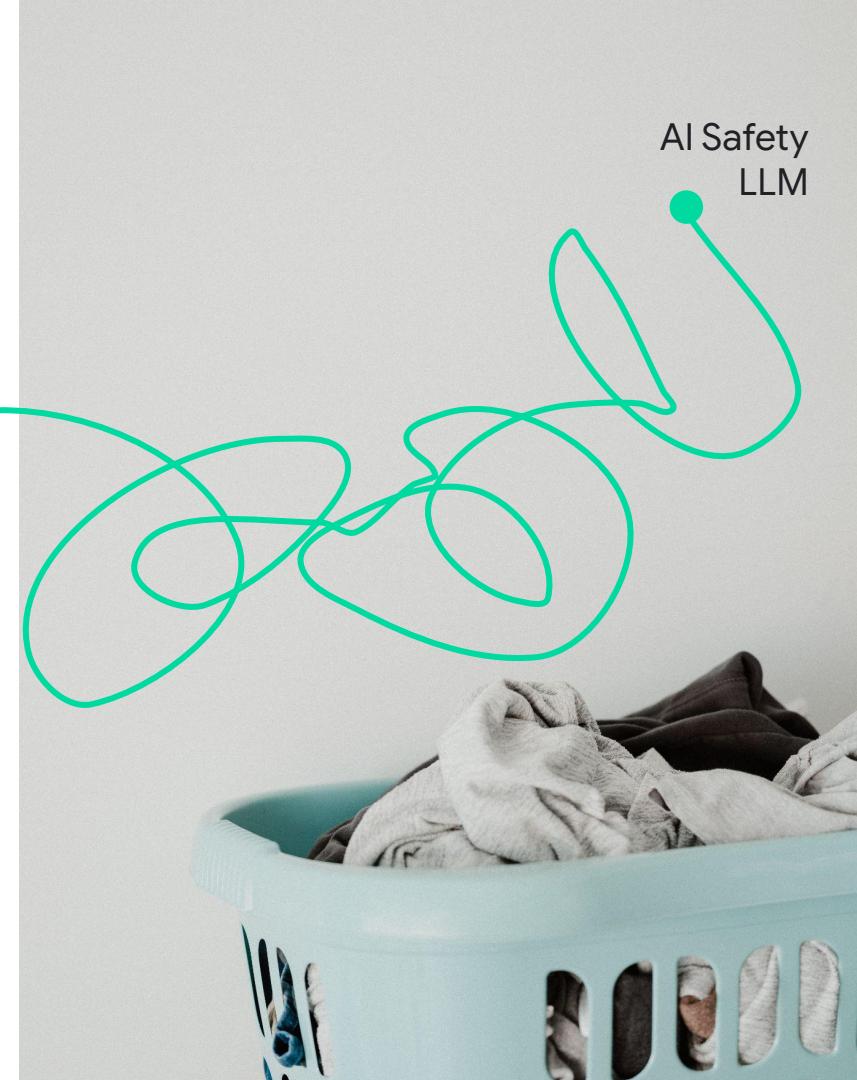
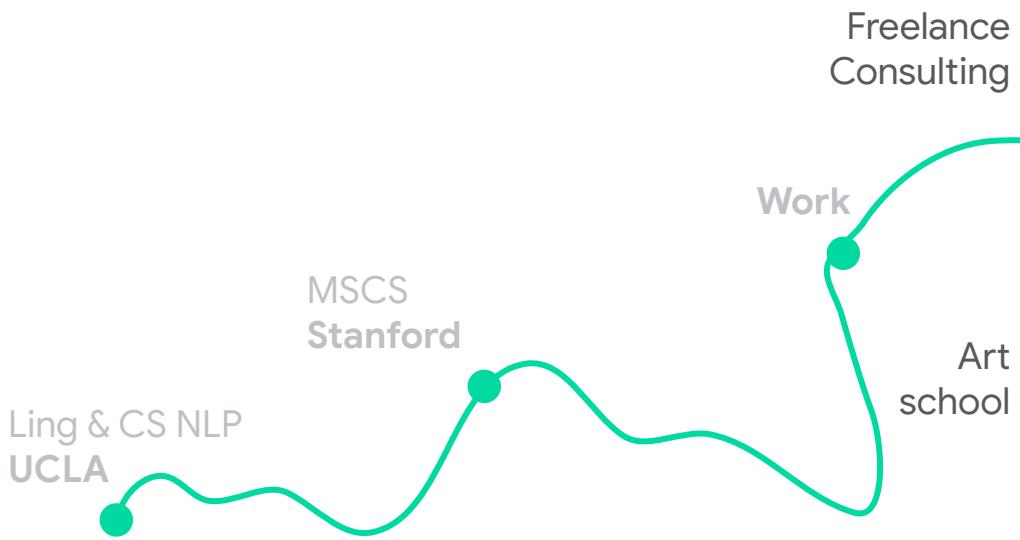


AI Safety
LLM

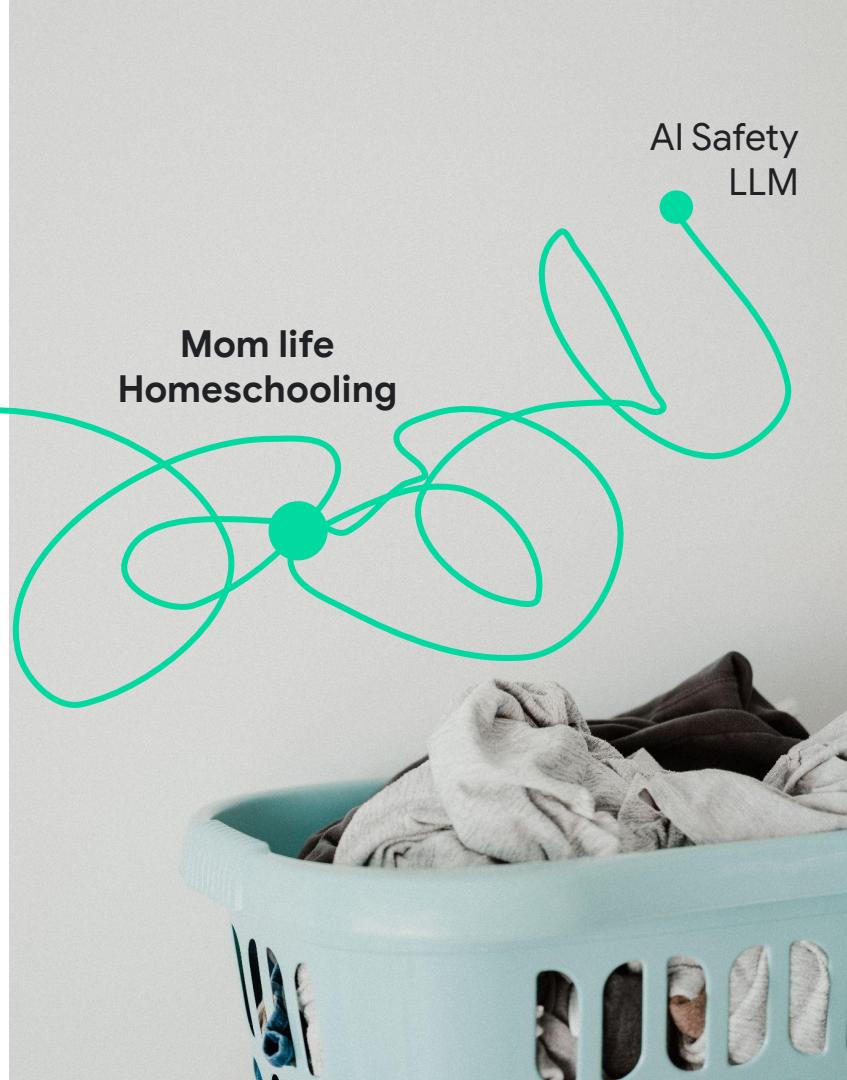
Winding Reality



Winding Reality



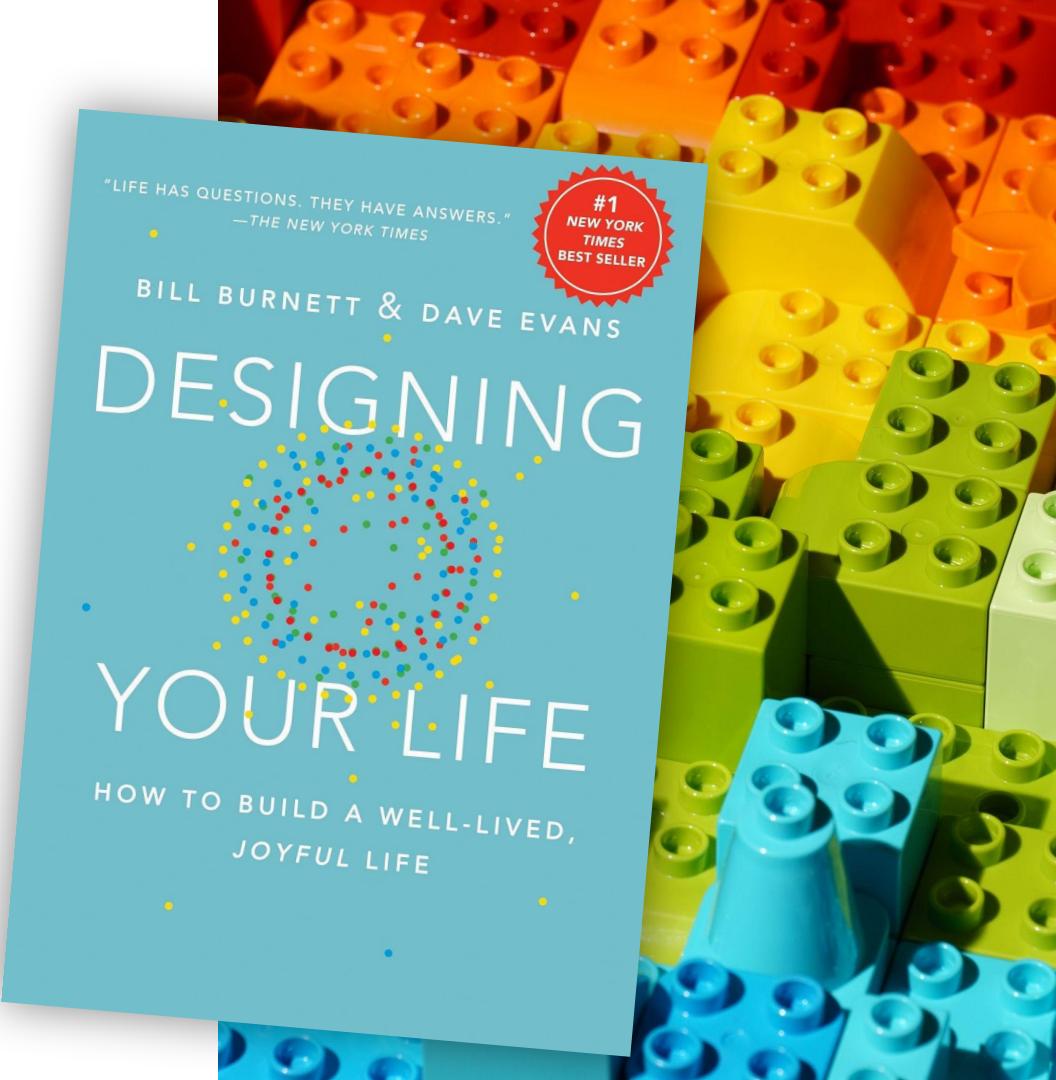
Winding Reality



Key Lessons

Design Thinking

- Be Curious
- Try Stuff
- Reframe Problems
- Know It's a Process
- Ask for Help



Be Curious

- Embrace play
- Invite exploration
- Opportunities everywhere



Try Stuff

- Bias to Action
- Build forward
- Fail often



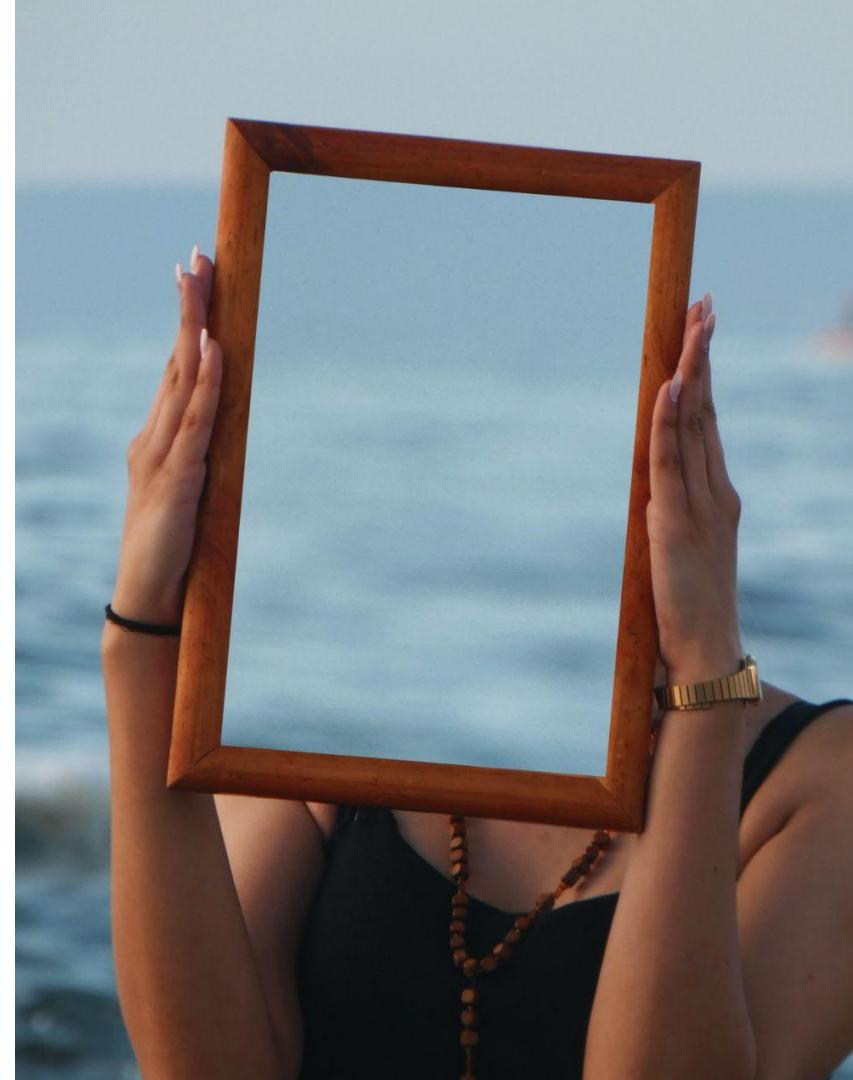
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**Luck is what happens
when preparation
meets opportunity.**

Seneca
Roman philosopher

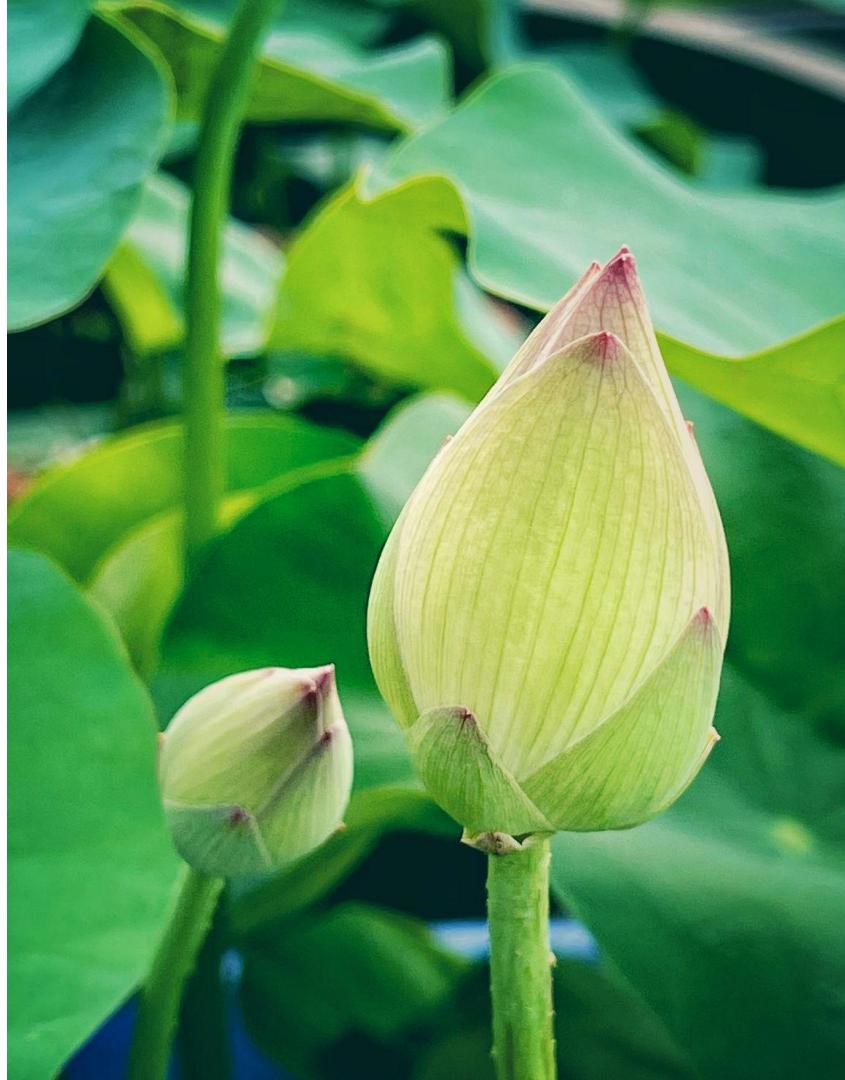
Reframe Problems

- Get unstuck
- Rid dysfunctional beliefs
- Ideas: quantity > quality



Know It's a Process

- Progress not perfection
- Life's a journey
- Judging to exploring



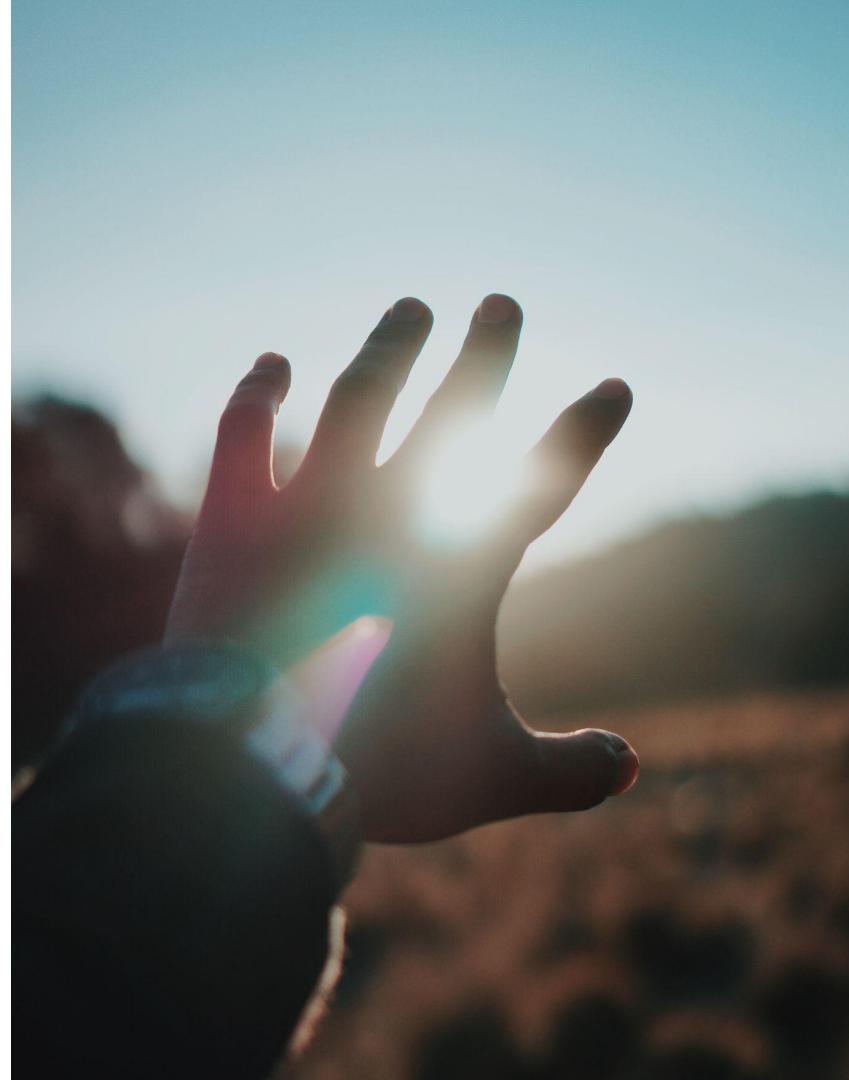
“

The **good life** is a **process**,
not a **state of being**.
It is a **direction**,
not a **destination**.

Carl Rogers
Psychologist

Collaborate

- Ask for help
- Share learnings
- Find your community



Exercises

Life Assessment

- Health
- Work
- Play
- Love



Reflection

- Workview
- Lifeview
- Coherence



“

Be yourself;
everyone else
is already taken.

Oscar Wilde

Odyssey Planning

Assess 3 alternate 5-year plans

- Resources
- Likability
- Confidence
- Coherence



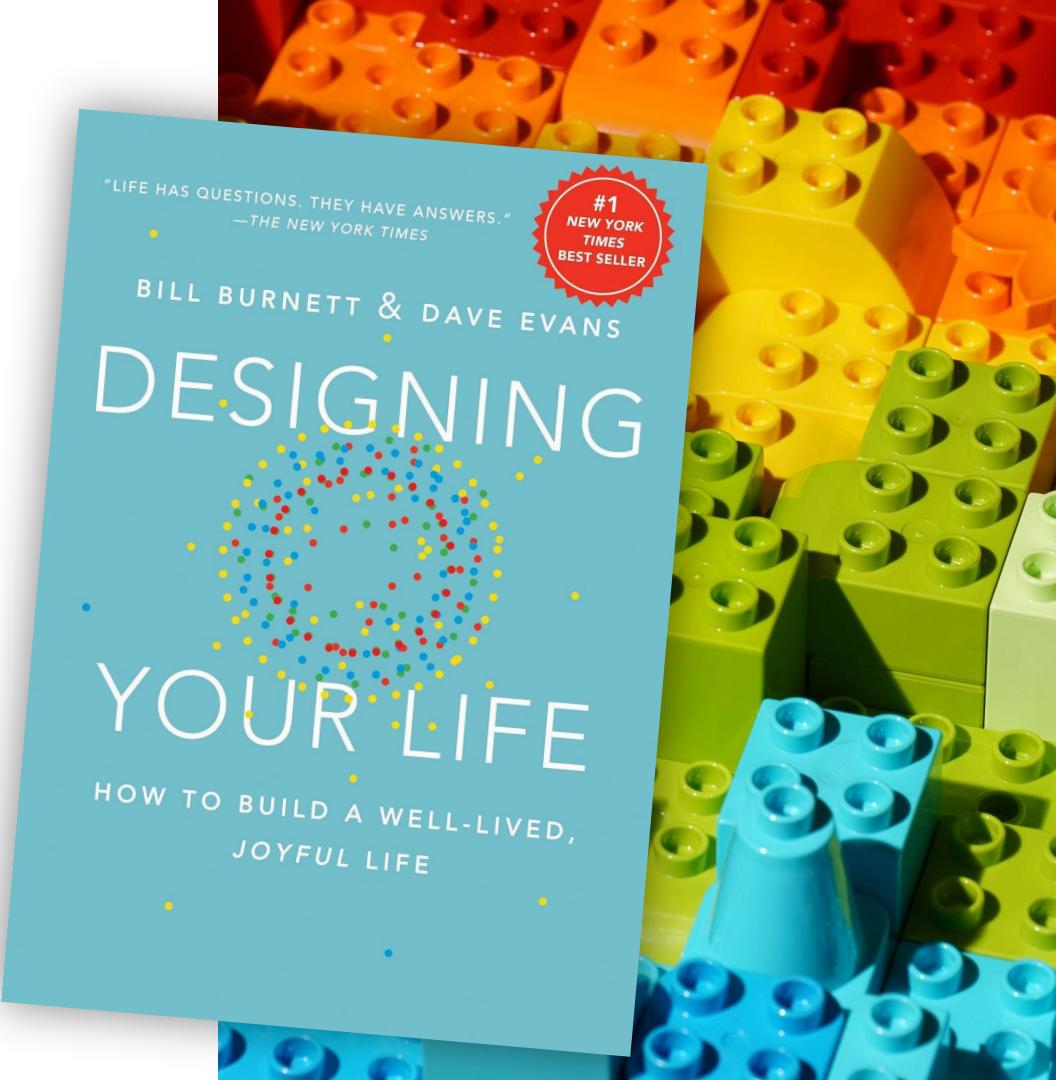
In tech or life, know:

- Who are you?
- What do you want?
- What can you offer?



Design Thinking

- Be Curious
- Try Stuff
- Reframe Problems
- Know It's a Process
- Collaborate



“

**Stay curious.
Keep learning.
Try new things.**

Stay in touch!

 cheng2-tan
 @cheng2_tan



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