Raj Thaker

San Francisco, CA · bbrajthaker@gmail.com · rajthaker.com · linkedin.com/in/raj-thaker · github.com/rajthaker13

RESEARCH

What does a language model need to know about a person to predict what they do? 2026

Sole author. Working paper, not peer reviewed. Paper · github.com/rajthaker13/llm-persona-behavior

- Tested six LLMs from four developers on 1,190 people from the Human Connectome Project. Given a person's Big Five scores, the models predicted that person's questionnaire answers almost as well as a trained model (r = 0.38–0.49 vs 0.49) but barely predicted measured task behavior (0.02–0.09 vs 0.17).
- Asked directly, Claude models got the sign of trait–behavior links wrong in 31–38% of cases. Profiles decoded from task-fMRI beat personality on a sealed test set of 236 people for 4 of 5 models, mostly by carrying in-scanner task performance.
- Reported the negative results too: brain-to-LLM soft-token adapters lost to a simple baseline, and a replication on a second dataset failed.

EXPERIENCE

Bland, Engineer Dec 2025 – Present

Voice AI agents for enterprise phone calls

- Built Bland's in-house media server, which relays RTP audio for SIP calls between carriers and our voice agents.
- Built Bland's omnichannel product: the same agent now works over SMS, RCS and iMessage as well as voice, with memory shared across channels.
- Run SIP trunking integrations with enterprise contact centers and carriers, and debug their call flows, audio and routing.

Langbot, Founder and sole engineer Oct 2026 – Present

Testing and monitoring for trading bots on Kalshi and Polymarket. Side project. langbot.ai

- Built it solo with Claude Code in six weeks. It records every Kalshi and Polymarket market in real time and replays order books with real fees and latency to test bots before they trade.
- Runs bots on paper or live with limits and a kill switch. Works as an MCP server and Claude Code plugin.
- On election night 2026 it recorded 10.3M trades and transcribed 1.1M words of live TV on one clock, using a GPU speech pipeline I built.

Open Ledger, Founding Engineer (first hire) Jan 2025 – Dec 2025

Embedded accounting API. HF0 Residency S25. Acquired by Collective.

- Built the full application: accounting automation (transaction sync, categorization, double-entry books on TigerBeetle, financial reports) shipped as an embeddable library and API.
- Built PokéTax, a Pokémon-style tax-filing game on our API. Covered by TechCrunch.

Boondoggle AI, Co-founder and CTO May 2023 – Jun 2024

- Built an AI agent that read a user's email, social messages and meeting notes, drafted replies and to-dos, and updated their CRM daily. Backed by General Catalyst, Soma Capital, Founders Inc and Dorm Room Fund.

Earlier 2022 – 2023

- **Boeing Defense, Space & Security**, Automation Software Engineer: tools that used language models to draft technical specifications for military aircraft.
- **XChanger**, Founder: a platform to automate and share trading portfolios. 100 monthly active users.

PROJECTS

Shakedown, regression testing for learned robot policies 2026

- Runs a policy through seeded simulation scenarios and reports pass rates with confidence intervals. With 200 ms of control delay, skipping stale action chunks raised a public ACT ALOHA policy from 24% to 80% success (50 runs each).

EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis, B.S. Mathematics & Computer Science; B.S. Financial Engineering 2020 – 2023

- Head TA, CSE 437S Software Engineering Workshop. President, Google Developer Student Club: started a volunteer program teaching middle-school students to code.

SKILLS

Python, TypeScript, SQL · PyTorch, vLLM, Hugging Face, LLM evaluation, MCP · Modal and RunPod GPUs · SIP/RTP, real-time data pipelines, Postgres/TimescaleDB, Redis