

The **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** can be applied to the work of Ahn, Bailenson, & Park (2014) to measure the user-perceived outcomes of the core concepts they explored: that **anthropomorphism increases trust** in automation, specifically within the context of an autonomous vehicle.

Their research demonstrated that as an autonomous agent acquires more anthropomorphic features (e.g., a name, a gendered voice), users trust the agent more. The NSIR's dimensions directly relate to measuring the effects of this humanization:

### **Anthropomorphic Connection/Kinship**

- The Ahn et al. study manipulated the level of human-like qualities to induce anthropomorphism. The NSIR directly measures the result of this manipulation from the user's perspective.
- Items like "**The robot is more like me than anyone else I know**" (Item 1) and "**I gave my robot a name**" (Item 6) would quantify the strength of the personal connection and perceived kinship developed through the specific anthropomorphic features (voice, name, gender) applied in their experiment (p. 1).

### **Social Comfort/Trust**

- The primary finding of Ahn et al. was that increased anthropomorphism leads to greater behavioral, physiological, and self-report measures of **trust** in the agent's competence.
- The NSIR items that measure perceived understanding and social comfort (e.g., "**My robot can tell what I am feeling, when I am sad, it can tell I am sad**", Item 5) can be used to specifically assess the user's perception of the robot's emotional intelligence and reliability, which are the underpinnings of the trust they found in their study (p. 1).

### **Safety**

- The study also predicted that increased anthropomorphism would mitigate blame for an undesirable outcome, such as an accident, suggesting a complex relationship with perceived responsibility and safety.
- The NSIR's **safety** dimension (e.g., the items regarding physical comfort and boundaries, Item 7) provides a crucial user-reported measure that ensures that while trust and connection are being built, the fundamental feeling of security and appropriate boundaries is maintained in the interaction (p. 1).

The NSIR provides the empirical tool to gather data on the subjective experience of the very psychological dynamics identified by Ahn et al.

Would you like to explore the concept of "**trust resilience**" as discussed in related research, or another article from the document?