

The **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** can be applied to Nicholas David Bowman's 2024 work by providing a user-centric measure of how neurodivergent individuals perceive the "sociality" and "identification" with technology, concepts which he explores in digital spaces like video games and virtual reality (VR). Bowman's research, often with Jaime Banks, has also focused on scale development in this area, including the "perceived moral patency of robots". The NSIR's dimensions serve as a valuable evaluation tool for the outcomes of these phenomena:

### **Anthropomorphic Connection/Kinship**

- Bowman explores how individuals form relationships with avatars and digital entities. The NSIR measures this sense of personal connection and perceived similarity in a robotic context.
- Items like "**The robot is more like me than anyone else I know**" (Item 1) and "**I gave my robot a name**" (Item 6) can quantify the strength of the user's identification with a robot, which aligns with Bowman's research on "place attachment" and "sense of self" in digital environments.

### **Social Comfort/Trust**

- Bowman's research addresses trust and social norms in human-robot interaction, noting that predictability in behavior enhances trust and acceptance.
- The NSIR items that measure perceived emotional understanding and consistency (e.g., "**My robot can tell what I am feeling, when I am sad, it can tell I am sad**", Item 5; and "**I believe that my robot is the same with me as it is with anyone**", Item 8) directly assess how the user's perception of the robot's reliability and social competence builds comfort and trust.

### **Safety**

- Bowman's work in VR for rehabilitation and hazardous environments implicitly addresses the need for a sense of safety and immersion.
- The NSIR's **safety** dimension (e.g., the item about undressing in front of the robot, Item 7) provides a user-reported measure of security that ensures that the technologies Bowman researches, even when highly immersive or physically assistive, maintain the fundamental safety and trust required for healthy interaction.

The NSIR translates Bowman's theoretical work on sociality, identification, and moral status in digital and robotic contexts into concrete, measurable data points from the perspective of neurodivergent users.

Would you like a deeper dive into the concept of "**perceived moral patiency**" in Bowman's work?