The 2018 papers by **Reidy et al.** primarily focus on the links between **masculine discrepancy stress** (the feeling of failing to live up to traditional masculine norms) and various psychosocial maladjustments, including **violence, high-risk behaviors, and psychiatric distress**. The research also investigates criminal and violent behavior in juvenile offenders.

The **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** can be applied to this research by providing a user-centric measure of the quality of human-robot interactions within a framework of social norms and perceived stress:

Anthropomorphic Connection/Kinship

- The research by Reidy et al. highlights the psychological distress that can come from a perceived failure to conform to a social norm (masculinity). The NSIR can measure how a robot's social identity or performance of "gender" and "demeanor" (as explored in other papers) impacts a neurodivergent user's sense of connection. Items like **"The robot is more like me than anyone else I know"** (Item 1) would quantify if the robot's design promotes a positive sense of self, which contrasts with the negative feelings associated with discrepancy stress.

Social Comfort/Trust

- Masculine discrepancy stress is linked to a lack of healthy social relationships and decreased help-seeking behaviors. The NSIR's **social comfort/trust** dimension could assess if a robot, which offers a predictable and non-judgmental interaction, promotes a safe space for help-seeking and social comfort that is lacking in human-human relationships influenced by rigid social norms. Items like **"My robot can tell what I am feeling, when I am sad, it can tell I am sad"** (Item 5) are key for building this foundational trust.

Safety

- The Reidy et al. research found strong links between adherence to orthodox masculinity norms and increased violence and high-risk behaviors, highlighting a critical safety issue in human social dynamics. The NSIR's **safety** dimension provides a crucial user-reported measure that ensures the interaction environment is fundamentally safe. The item about undressing in front of the robot (Item 7) speaks to maintaining secure physical and psychological boundaries, providing a metric to ensure robots are not a new vector for power dynamics and potential harm, but rather a source of secure interaction that can act as a protective factor.

The NSIR helps bridge the gap between the theoretical discussions of gender role stress and social norms in human behavior and the practical, user-centric evaluation of safe and effective human-robot interaction for a neurodivergent population.

Would you like to explore another article from the document, or perhaps a deeper dive into the specific concept of **"masculine discrepancy stress"**?