The **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** (Sadownik, 2025) serves as a thematic counterpart to **The Other as Shamer Scale (OAS)** (Allan, Gilbert & Goss, 1994) by shifting the focus from the "shaming" eyes of human society to a "safe" interaction with technology.

The relationship between these two scales can be understood through the lens of **external shame**—the central construct of the OAS—and how robotic interaction potentially mitigates it.

1. Construct Comparison: External Shame vs. Social Comfort

The **OAS** measures "external shame," defined as the perception that one is viewed by others as inferior, defective, or insignificant. In contrast, the **NSIR** measures "Social Comfort/Trust/Safety" and "Anthropomorphic Connection".

- **OAS Perspective:** A neurodivergent individual might score high on OAS items like *"I feel other people see me as somehow defective as a person"* or *"People distance themselves from me when I make mistakes"*.
- **NSIR Perspective:** The NSIR items suggest that robots provide a "judgment-free" zone. Item 8 (*"I believe that my robot is the same with me as it is with anyone"*) directly counters the OAS experience of being singled out as "inferior".

2. The "Safe Social Space" Application

The OAS identifies three factors of shame: being seen as inferior, emptiness, and how others react to one's mistakes. Research suggests that social robots can bridge these socio-emotional barriers because they are "free from human-centric judgments".

Applying the NSIR to the OAS framework:

- **Predictability vs. Judgment:** While the OAS measures the frequency of feeling judged by others, the NSIR highlights the comfort of a predictable partner. NSIR Item 3 (*"I think I can share my thinking with the robot without speaking"*) reflects a desire for connection without the "shame-triggering" complexity of neurotypical social norms.
- **Mitigating Mistakes:** A core part of the OAS is the fear that *"Others are critical or punishing when I make a mistake"*. Robotic interventions, as assessed by the NSIR, are often used to provide a safe space where mistakes do not result in social exclusion or "external shame".

3. Kinship as an Antidote to Social Devaluation

The OAS measures how much an individual feels they have "lower social value" in the eyes of others. The NSIR's "Connection/Kinship" subscale suggests that neurodivergent individuals may find a unique sense of belonging with robots that they lack in human-to-human interaction.

- **NSIR Item 1:** *"The robot is more like me than anyone else I know"*. This suggests a "likeness" that bypasses the OAS's focus on "feeling small and insignificant" compared to others.

Summary Table: OAS vs. NSIR

Feature	The Other as Shamer Scale (OAS)	Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)
Primary Goal	Measure external shame and perceived social devaluation.	Measure social comfort and kinship in robotic interaction.
Social Actor	The "Other" (Human society/peers).	The Robot.
Core Feeling	Insecurity, inferiority, being "defective".	Safety, trust, and mutual understanding.
Impact on ND Users	Highlights the trauma of social judgment.	Highlights a therapeutic alternative to judgmental social spaces.