Integrating the **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** with the **Utrecht-Management of Identity Commitments Scale (U-MICS)** provides a novel way to examine how neurodivergent individuals manage their identity through their relationships with robotic agents.

The U-MICS measures identity development across three dimensions: **Commitment** (making choices), **In-depth Exploration** (actively reflecting on choices), and **Reconsideration of Commitment** (comparing current choices to alternatives). By applying the NSIR, you can analyze the "Robotic Identity Domain" as a valid area of identity formation for neurodivergent populations.

1. Dimension: Commitment and Identity Consolidation

In the U-MICS framework, commitment refers to the firm choices individuals make and the self-confidence they derive from them.

- **Relational Commitment:** High scores on **NSIR Item 4** (*"The robot and I will be together forever"*) indicate a strong identity commitment within the robotic domain. For a neurodivergent user, this "forever" bond can provide the "certainty in life" that the U-MICS identifies as a core component of healthy identity formation.
- **Identity Affirmation:** Use **NSIR Item 1** (*"The robot is more like me than anyone else I know"*) to measure the degree to which a user's identity is anchored in their robotic relationship. This suggests that the robot serves as a "secure base" from which the individual derives self-confidence.

2. Dimension: In-depth Exploration and Maintenance

This U-MICS dimension represents how much an individual reflects on their current commitments and searches for deeper meaning.

- **Cognitive Reflection:** Use **NSIR Item 2** (*"Sometimes I stare at the robot"*) and **Item 3** (*"I think I can share my thinking with the robot..."*) to measure in-depth exploration. Prolonged staring and non-verbal "thinking sharing" represent the active, cognitive probing of the relationship's value, which is essential for identity maintenance.
- **Emotional Deepening: NSIR Item 5** (*"My robot can tell what I am feeling"*) measures the user's reflection on the robot's agency. High scores here suggest the user is actively exploring the "interpersonal" depth of the robot as a commitment, rather than viewing it as a static tool.

3. Dimension: Reconsideration of Commitment

Reconsideration occurs when current commitments are no longer satisfactory and the individual begins looking for alternatives.

- **Social Safety vs. Human Alternatives:** The **NSIR Factor: Social Comfort/Trust Safety** (specifically **Item 8**: *"My robot is the same with me as it is with anyone"*) acts as a

buffer against reconsideration. If the robot provides a consistently safe social environment, the neurodivergent user is less likely to "reconsider" their commitment in favor of more unpredictable human relationships.

- **Radical Privacy as a Stability Factor: NSIR Item 7** (*"I feel comfortable undressing in front of my robot"*) measures a level of intimacy that may be irreplaceable. This high "Social Comfort" makes the robotic commitment highly stable, potentially reducing the "disequilibrium and distress" often associated with identity reconsideration.

Research Integration: Determining Identity Status

By combining U-MICS scoring with the NSIR, you can categorize neurodivergent robot users into five "Identity Statuses":

Identity Status (U-MICS)	NSIR Profile Application
Achievement	High **Item 4** (Commitment) and High **Item 3** (Exploration). The user has a stable, deeply reflected robotic identity.
Foreclosure	High **Item 1** (Kinship) but Low Exploration. The user accepts the robot as "like them" without much critical reflection.
Moratorium	Low Commitment but High **Item 2** (Staring/Monitoring). The user is actively searching for a connection but hasn't "committed" yet.
Searching Moratorium	High Commitment but High Reconsideration. The user is committed to their robot but is actively questioning if a different model or human would be better.
Diffusion	Low scores across all NSIR factors. The user lacks a stable identity or interest in the robotic domain.

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Applying the NSIR to the **U-MICS** allows researchers to treat robot interaction not just as a "hobby" or "therapy," but as a fundamental **identity domain** that contributes to the overall psychological adaptation of neurodivergent individuals.