

The **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** can be applied to Waytz et al.'s research by providing empirical, user-reported data on how the fundamental motivations for humanizing technology impact the specific experiences of neurodivergent individuals.

The work of Waytz et al. (2010), particularly concerning the Individual Differences in Anthropomorphism Questionnaire (IDAQ), identifies two primary motivations for anthropomorphism:

1. **Effectance Motivation:** The need to understand and predict the environment. People anthropomorphize unpredictable agents to make them seem more predictable and understandable.
2. **Sociality Motivation:** The need for social connection.

The NSIR's dimensions directly relate to these motivations:

#### **Anthropomorphic Connection/Kinship**

- Waytz et al. developed the IDAQ to measure the stable trait of attributing humanlike qualities to nonhuman agents. This is the conceptual foundation of the NSIR's "anthropomorphic connection/kinship" dimension.
- NSIR items like "**The robot is more like me than anyone else I know**" and "**I gave my robot a name**" are specific, applied measures of this general tendency to form a personal connection with an object that seems human-like.

#### **Social Comfort/Trust**

- The research suggests that individual differences in anthropomorphism predict a willingness to **trust** technology. The act of humanizing a robot can maintain a sense of predictability and control, which fosters comfort.
- The NSIR items in this dimension (e.g., "**My robot can tell what I am feeling, when I am sad, it can tell I am sad**") directly assess the user's *perceived* predictability and emotional understanding, which are the desired outcomes of the "effectance motivation" and lead to a sense of social comfort and trust.

#### **Safety**

- Waytz et al.'s work addresses the ethics of social influence and the need for appropriate trust. A key aspect of anthropomorphism is managing the discomfort we feel in the face of the unfamiliar, which relates to safety.

- The NSIR's **safety** dimension ensures that while these psychological mechanisms are at play in human-robot interactions, the neurodivergent individual maintains a sense of security and clear boundaries in their relationship with the robot.

The NSIR provides the empirical tool to measure the subjective experience of the very psychological determinants of anthropomorphism that Waytz et al. identified.

Would you like to explore how the scale applies to another article from the document, or perhaps a deeper dive into the concept of "**effectance motivation**"?