

The **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** can be applied to the work of Zolyomi & Snyder (2021) as an empirical tool to measure the user-reported outcomes of their proposed design map.

The paper, titled "*Social-Emotional-Sensory Design Map for Affective Computing Informed by Neurodivergent Experiences*", proposes a design map to help technology designers account for the multi-dimensional aspects of neurodivergent communication practices (social, emotional, and sensory). The NSIR's dimensions directly help assess if these design principles succeed in the user's lived experience:

Anthropomorphic Connection/Kinship

- Zolyomi & Snyder suggest that while affective computing aims to make technology "emotionally-aware and thus, more human-like," this is complicated by neurodivergent experiences.
- The NSIR can measure if the designed emotional-sensory experience fosters a sense of personal connection and perceived kinship. Items like **"The robot is more like me than anyone else I know"** (Item 1) would quantify how a neurodivergent individual relates to a robot designed using this specific framework.

Social Comfort/Trust

- The paper advocates for a "mutual and shared responsibility" for communication, which helps "create needed autonomy from the pressures of broader social norms". This design goal directly relates to building comfort and trust.
- 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"** (p. 1), Item 5) can assess how successfully the robot's design promotes a reliable and comfortable social interaction.

Safety

- The design map implicitly addresses the need for a safe and inclusive environment by centering neurodivergent experiences and needs.
- The NSIR's **safety** dimension (e.g., the item about undressing in front of the robot (p. 1), Item 7) provides a crucial user-reported measure of physical and psychological security, ensuring that the technology designed within this map is perceived as safe and non-threatening.

The NSIR provides the necessary user-centric metrics to evaluate the success of the Zolyomi & Snyder design map in creating technology that is truly effective and positively perceived by neurodivergent individuals.

Would you like a deeper dive into the "**Social-Emotional-Sensory Design Map**" itself, or another article from the document?