

AntiRobot_Tangibility (#213480)

Author(s)

This pre-registration is currently anonymous to enable blind peer-review.
It has 2 authors.

Pre-registered on: 02/18/2025 12:32 PM (PT)

1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

We investigate whether people consider qualities such as empathy, consciousness, and other qualities as tangible-meaning they can be directly observed, physically assessed, and quantitatively measured-or intangible, meaning they are subjective, abstract, and difficult to quantify because they rely on perception, interpretation, or belief.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Participants rate the tangibility of the following qualities on a scale from 0 ("Very Intangible") to 100 ("Very Tangible"):

1. ☐ Consciousness – What we mean by consciousness is the awareness of oneself and one's surroundings.
2. ☐ Soul
3. ☐ Ability to experience meaning
4. ☐ Empathy
5. ☐ Growth and evolution over time
6. ☐ Comprehension of being harmed
7. ☐ Comprehension of wear and tear in one's own body
8. ☐ Contemplation of one's own existence and well-being

The qualities are presented in randomized order on a single page.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

There is only one condition in this experiment. Participants will be assigned to all eight qualities.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

We predict that participants will rate all eight qualities as more intangible than tangible. To test this, we will conduct eight t-tests against the null hypothesis that each quality's rating is lower than the midpoint of the scale (50 out of 100). We are agnostic on which particular items are tangible or intangible, although we expect most-if not all items-to be intangible.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will exclude participants who answer the comprehension check question incorrectly.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

We will collect responses from 100 participants.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

Only participants who pass two attention checks at the beginning of the survey be eligible to participate in this study. We will include some demographic questions but nothing identifiable (age, gender).