Track Negative Emotions in the Daily Lives of Adolescents	
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#### **Abstract**

Tracking emotion fluctuations in adolescents' daily lives is essential for understanding mood dynamics and identifying early markers of affective disorders. To uncover the utility of text-based approaches for emotion prediction, this study compares nomothetic and idiographic modeling approaches for predicting adolescents' daily negative affect (NA) using text features. It also evaluates different Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques in capturing within-person emotion fluctuations. We analyzed ecological momentary assessment (EMA) text responses from 98 adolescents (ages 14-18, 77.3 % female, 22.7% male, N<sub>EMA</sub>=7,680). Text features were extracted using dictionary-based approach, topic modeling, and GPT-derived emotion ratings. Random Forest and Elastic Net Regression models predicted NA from these text features, comparing nomothetic (group-level) and idiographic (individualized) approaches. All key findings, interactive visualizations, and model comparisons are available via the website: https://emotracknlp.streamlit.app/. Idiographic models combining text features from different NLP approaches showed the best performance: they performed comparably to nomothetic models in R<sup>2</sup> but yielded lower prediction error (Root Mean Squared Error), improving within-person precision. Importantly, there was substantial between-person differences in model performance and predictive linguistic features. When selecting the best-performing model for each participant, significant correlations between predicted and observed emotion scores were found for 90.7-94.8% of participants. Our findings suggest that while nomothetic models offer initial scalability, idiographic models may provide greater predictive precision with sufficient within-person data. A flexible, personalized approach that selects the optimal model for each individual may enhance emotion monitoring, while leveraging text data to provide contextual insights.

Emotions play a fundamental role in human life, serving as essential cues that influence our actions and interactions with the environment <sup>1</sup>. Emotional states act as immediate alerts to potential benefits or dangers, driving us towards actions that align with our personal goals and away from

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potential threats <sup>2</sup>. Research shows that not only the intensity of emotions but also their temporal dynamics can contribute to the development of mood disorders <sup>3-7</sup>. This is especially important for adolescents, a developmental period marked by increases in the frequency of negative emotional states, which may contribute to their elevated risk for depression <sup>8-10</sup>. Developing effective methods to measure daily emotional changes that are specifically suitable for adolescents is crucial. These measurements could identify both acute emotional distress and longer-term maladaptive patterns in emotions, serving two key purposes: enabling timely interventions during periods of high negative affect and facilitating targeted intervention to address maladaptive emotional patterns. Such methods could help predict increased risk of affective disorder onset (such as depression), which could inform the timely and targeted delivery of preventative interventions, ultimately contributing to improved mental health outcomes.

Language offers a promising avenue for measuring emotion, as people convey their emotional states both explicitly and implicitly through their choice of words and their manner of speaking or writing <sup>11,12</sup>. Language plays a dual role in the realm of emotions, serving not only as a primary tool for expressing and communicating emotional states but also as an actively shaping how emotions are experienced <sup>13,14</sup>. Therefore, the current study aims to explore whether text can be used to track within-person fluctuation in emotional states.

With the rise of digital communication, people, especially adolescents, now express themselves extensively through text-based interactions, including social media posts, messages, and online discussions. This shift has generated an unprecedented volume of language data, offering a unique opportunity to study adolescent emotions on a larger scale <sup>15,16</sup>. Advances in natural language processing (NLP), a multidisciplinary field combining computer science, artificial intelligence, and linguistics, have enabled researchers to analyze this data efficiently and meaningfully <sup>17,18</sup>. While NLP has been used in behavioral science for decades, its accessibility and affordability have significantly

improved, making it an increasingly popular tool <sup>19</sup>. One key advantage of NLP over traditional, manual text analysis is its ability to handle large datasets—such as thousands of social media posts or digitized texts—quickly and efficiently. By leveraging these advancements, NLP methods can identify patterns in language use (e.g., sentiment, tone, and self-referential quality), offering real-time insights into emotional states without requiring participants to actively report their feelings <sup>20–22</sup>. Importantly, text-based communication provides insights not only into the intensity of emotions but also into the context in which those emotions arise. This contextual information can reveal situational factors contributing to emotional experiences, offering a more nuanced understanding of emotional processes.

In recent years, various text analysis tools have emerged <sup>23–29</sup>, ranging from basic approaches like counting word frequencies to more advanced methods, such as leveraging large language models (LLMs), each with its own set of advantages and limitations. For example, closed-vocabulary programs (i.e., dictionary-based approach)<sup>1</sup> such as the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC; Pennebaker, 2001), use predefined dictionaries to categorize words. While highly interpretable, transparent, and efficient at summarizing concepts, these methods often neglect context, leading to potential misinterpretations <sup>25</sup>. LIWC may classify the word *mad* as an indicator of anger, yet in phrases like "She's mad talented", it conveys emphasis rather than negativity, illustrating how context-dependent meanings can lead to inaccurate classifications. In contrast, open-vocabulary approaches, such as Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA), and word embedding methods, leverage data-driven techniques to examine a broader spectrum of words and topics <sup>31–33</sup>. These methods are better at capturing nuances, addressing ambiguous word meanings, and are less susceptible to misinterpretations. Limitations of open-vocabulary approaches include the need for more technical

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We use the terms "closed-vocabulary" and "dictionary-based" interchangeably to refer to approaches that rely on predefined word categories (e.g., LIWC). These methods contrast with open-vocabulary approaches, which derive features directly from the text data without relying on preset dictionaries, often using machine learning or statistical models to identify relevant patterns.

expertise, larger datasets, and careful consideration of parameter choices, as well as challenges in interpretability <sup>25,29</sup>.

More recently, LLMs like GPT have shown great promise in accurately identifying various psychological constructs in text, overcoming many of the constraints of older methods (Rathje et al., 2024). These models can interpret the context of words and have achieved effective results across multiple languages with simple prompts. The main limitations of this approach include a lack of transparency in how inferences were generated and difficulties in reproducing results due to their probabilistic nature <sup>34</sup>. For example, although LLM-based approaches could predict whether a person experiences negative emotions based on social media posts, LLMs could not be used to identify which linguistic cues (such as the use of pronouns) predict this experience <sup>19,27</sup>. In the latter case, dictionary-based methods are preferrable. Ultimately, closed- and open-vocabulary approaches, along with advancements in LLMs, provide complementary strengths that significantly enhance our ability to understand psychological states through language. By combining these methods, researchers may be able to leverage their unique advantages while mitigating their limitations, offering a robust alternative to traditional and relatively cumbersome self-report measures assessing emotions.

Despite the increasing sophistication of these methods, significant gaps remain in the current literature. Most importantly, existing studies on text-based emotion prediction have focused on exploring between-person differences, primarily identifying which text features are associated with individuals experiencing high levels of negative emotions (e.g., Tackman et al., 2019). These approaches aggregate data across participants and aim to pinpoint common linguistic markers, such as the use of first-person pronouns or negative sentiment, that are indicative of heightened emotional distress and depression <sup>36,37</sup>. However, this method overlooks both between-person differences in how linguistic markers relate to emotions and within-person fluctuations in emotional states. Even when using multilevel models to predict within-person fluctuations in emotions, models assumes that the same linguistic features signal high levels of negative emotions across different individuals <sup>37</sup>.

Such assumptions fail to account for the fact that language is inherently idiosyncratic, with individuals expressing emotions in unique and context-dependent ways. Beck & Jackson, (2022) demonstrated the importance of idiographic approaches by showing that the psychological and situational antecedents that predicted future loneliness varied substantially across participants, with no two individuals showing the same pattern of predictive features. This highlights the need for personalized models that adapt to the distinctive ways people express emotions through text, enabling more accurate predictions tailored to each individual. To address this limitation, this study integrates diverse language-based tools and leverages machine learning to develop personalized models capable of monitoring within-person fluctuations in emotional states.

The study's primary goal is to examine whether within-person fluctuations in negative affect (NA) in adolescents' daily lives can be accurately tracked through text analysis. Since individuals express emotions in a variety of linguistic ways, this research aims to develop more personalized approaches to emotion tracking.

Specifically, we address two key questions:

- Do idiographic (individual-level) models outperform nomothetic (group-level) models in predicting emotion fluctuations? This question is motivated by the fact that individuals may express emotions through language in unique ways.
- 2) Is combining various NLP approaches improves emotion prediction?

We compare three types of Natural Language Processing (NLP) approaches, which, as noted above, have complementary strengths and limitations:

- a) Closed vocabulary (dictionary-based approach: LIWC and VADER)
- b) Open vocabulary (LDA)
- c) GPT-derived ratings

By addressing these questions, the study aims to enhance the accuracy of emotion prediction models, potentially enabling closer monitoring of emotional fluctuations in daily life. The ultimate

goal is to use these improved emotion predictions to inform the delivery of scalable, real-time, and personalized interventions for alleviating high NA states and enhancing emotion regulation abilities in youth.

#### Results

The full results can be explored in the web app (https://emotracknlp.streamlit.app/), which also includes an interactive chatbot explaining the research, the figures and results presented in this paper, as well as additional findings. We encourage readers to explore the web app to engage more deeply with the data and insights.

# Demographic and clinical characteristics

**Table 2** presents the demographic and clinical characteristics of the participants. For the participants who completed EMA in four consecutive weeks, the median number of EMA surveys completed was 77 (M = 75, SD = 24), and mean EMA compliance was 67% (SD = 21%). For the participants who completed EMA in biweekly 5-day blocks, the median number of EMA surveys completed was 66 (M = 68, SD = 24), and mean EMA compliance was 51% (SD = 17%).

#### **Model performance: Nomothetic Approach**

Table 3 presents model performance metrics for predicting negative affect using combined text features from three NLP techniques. Three modeling approaches are compared: group-level nomothetic (one model combining all observations), per-participant nomothetic (performance calculated separately), and idiographic (separate models for each individual). Further details and results, including separate models for each NLP technique, are available in the Web app (see "Model performance across sample" and "Model performance per participant").

The group-level nomothetic model performed well, with R<sup>2</sup> values ranging from 0.11 to 0.38. However, when evaluated separately for each participant, which is critical given the ultimate goal of tracking fluctuations in emotions *within* individuals, performance decreased substantially. Mean R<sup>2</sup> values fell between 0.06 and 0.11, with considerable variability in predictive accuracy across

participants. For example, when predicting mean negative affect, individual R<sup>2</sup> values ranged from 0.00 to 0.41, demonstrating that while text features explained little to no variability in negative affect for some, they accounted for a significant proportion of variability in others. See **Table 3** for results for the specific emotions of sadness, anger, and nervousness.

#### Model performance: Idiographic Approach

The idiographic approach (separate models for each individual) showed similar average performance to the nomothetic approach, with mean R<sup>2</sup> values ranging from 0.06 to 0.10. However, the idiographic approach demonstrated better performance in terms of RMSE (0.47 to 0.76) compared to the nomothetic model (0.52 to 0.88), suggesting lower prediction error. In addition, for negative affect, the idiographic approach showed greater variability in R<sup>2</sup> across participants, achieving higher accuracy for some individuals. However, the nomothetic approach identified significant associations in a larger proportion of participants (55–58% vs. 43–48%). A similar pattern emerged for sadness, suggesting that while person-specific models can improve accuracy for certain individuals, the nomothetic approach is more robust for detecting significant associations across a broader sample. Fig. 2 displays the relationship between predicted and observed (actual) negative affect ratings using person-specific (idiographic) models. Each colored line represents an individual participant's predicted estimates (y axis) across different levels of actual negative affect (x axis). While the overall trend, represented by the dashed black line, suggests a generally positive relationship between predicted and actual ratings, indicating that the models capture meaningful within-person fluctuations in negative affect, this should not be taken to imply consistent accuracy at the individual level. The notable between-person differences in model fit underscore that good overall performance does not guarantee reliable prediction for every participant.

Fig. 3 displays the substantial differences in model accuracy across individuals by showcasing examples of four high- vs low-accuracy person-specific models (figures for all other outcomes and for

all participants for both the nomothetic and idiographic models are available on the Web app "True vs. Predicted").

## **Examining Between-Person Differences in Which Text Features Predict Negative Affect**

Fig. 4 illustrates the variability in feature importance by showing the top 10 text features from the four best-performing subject-specific random forest models predicting negative affect. These models are the same four high-accuracy models displayed in Fig. 3. The results show two types of variability between individuals: differences in model performance and, even among highly accurate models, differences in the text features that contribute to predicting negative affect. Critically, this visualization demonstrates how text features provide valuable contextual information. For example, one participant (K23541) exhibits more negative emotions when using words related to their family ("Family"), yet another (KTGF533) shows greater negative emotions when focusing on the past ("FocusPast"). Similarly, a different participant (KTGF528) expresses more negative emotions when writing about work-related topics ("Work") but demonstrates less negativity when using words associated with acquiring objects, states, or goals that fulfill personal needs ("Acquire"). This rich information can be used to create person-specific profiles that enable us to identify the specific contexts in which negative emotions arise, providing insights that can be used to personalize interventions. A heatmap of the feature importance across participants and feature importance figures for each participant, outcome, and ML model are available on the Web app ("Feature importance heatmap" and "Feature importance per participant"). Details on the differences in predictive text features between high- and low-performing models can be found in the Supplement (Section S4 and Fig. S3).

Do Closed Vocabulary, Open Vocabulary, LLM, or Combined Approaches Perform Best in Predicting Negative Emotions?

Fig. 6 displays the performance metrics for each NLP approach used in the idiographic models.

When examining the idiographic predictive performance of each NLP approach separately, GPT

generally showed better performance for negative affect, sadness, anger, and nervousness, with R<sup>2</sup> values around 0.10 for negative affect and sadness, and slightly lower for anger and nervousness. These results were comparable to those achieved by the idiographic models that combined all NLP approaches (see **Table 3** for the combined model results), except in the prediction of nervousness where GPT slightly outperformed the combined idiographic model. However, it is important to note that while GPT had relatively strong R<sup>2</sup> values, it also had a higher RMSE compared to the combined models, suggesting a higher average prediction error despite accounting for more variance in the outcomes. LIWC+VADER and LDA each demonstrated poorer predictive performance, with the lowest average R<sup>2</sup> values and fewer significant associations across all emotions, especially for anger and nervousness. This highlights that the contextual understanding provided by GPT was more effective in capturing within-person emotional fluctuations compared to the other methods when NLP approaches were tested individually. Overall, while GPT captures variability in negative affect (as reflected by R<sup>2</sup>), its predictions are less precise in terms of exact values (as indicated by RMSE). Combined models, which balance capturing variability and minimizing prediction errors, offer a more robust and reliable approach to emotion prediction.

# **Evaluating Best Performing Models for Each Individual**

To investigate the effectiveness of personalized models, we identified the best-performing predictive model for each of the 97 participants. Using this flexible approach, the vast majority (90.7-94.8%) of the participants showed a significant correlation between predicted and observed (actual) emotion scores. The table detailing the best model for each participant and each emotion outcome can be found in the Web app under "Best model performance". **Fig. S4** shows the distribution of best-performing models across participants. Idiographic models were most frequently selected for all outcomes except for Anger, where nomothetic models performed best for 44.3% of the participants. Elastic Net showed the best performance for most participants across outcomes, followed by Random Forest. For NLP approaches, the model combining all text features outperformed for most of the

participants (52.6-59.8%). Interestingly, though GPT showed the highest mean R<sup>2</sup> scores, it was chosen as the best model for only a relatively small portion of the participants (11.3-19.6%).

## Are Models Emotion-Specific?

To examine whether our models captured emotion-specific signals rather than general negative affect, we compared the extent to which each emotion-specific model (both Random Forest and Elastic Net) predicted each observed emotion. Specifically, for each observed emotion outcome (NA, Sad, Angry, and Nervous), we calculated R<sup>2</sup> and RMSE between the observed and the predicted emotion, either matching (e.g., observed and predicted sadness) or mismatching (e.g., observed sadness and predicted anger). As shown in **Fig. S4-S7** (see also in the web app under "Best Model Performance"), which display box plots of the distribution of R<sup>2</sup> and RMSE for each emotion, overall, and consistent with the interpretation that the models have emotion-specific signals, the matched predictions showed higher R<sup>2</sup> and lower RMSE than mismatched predictions, indicating that the models capture unique, emotion-specific variance. However, for RMSE, we sometimes observed better performance for NA relative to the specific emotions, suggesting that the signals underlying broad negative affect might be more robust or reliable relative to single emotion ratings.

# Discussion

In this study, we combined multiple Natural Language Processing (NLP) approaches to examine whether within-person fluctuations in emotion can be accurately tracked through text analysis.

Recognizing the idiosyncratic nature of emotional communication, we compared idiographic models, tailored to individual patterns, with nomothetic models that capture common trends across groups. The leveraging of advanced NLP and machine learning techniques to track moment-to-moment emotional changes through text analysis has the potential to enhance mental health monitoring, support clinical decision-making, and enable early detection of distress for timely, personalized interventions.

The results showed that, overall, group-level nomothetic models showed high performance in continuously predicting negative emotions (R<sup>2</sup> range: 0.11-0.38). These findings align with previous

studies demonstrating the utility of NLP approaches in detecting emotional states across participants <sup>39,40</sup>. However, since these studies primarily focused on identifying emotional states at the between-person level, rather than capturing *within-person* fluctuations, their high performance does not necessarily indicate an ability to accurately track moment-to-moment emotion fluctuation within individuals. When we calculated performance metrics for each participant individually, the mean models' performance declined significantly and showed high between-person variability, indicating that the nomothetic models' ability to track within-person changes varies considerably from one individual to another.

When we built separate models for each participant (idiographic models) and compared their performance to that of nomothetic we found that the mean R<sup>2</sup> was comparable between the two approaches, however, RMSE was lower for the idiographic models. In addition, idiographic models revealed significant between-person variability in the text features predicting emotional states, indicating that individuals express negative emotions in distinct linguistic ways. This raises an intriguing question: if individuals differ so markedly in their predictive features, how can a nomothetic model that captures only general trends perform just as well? One plausible explanation is a trade-off between statistical power and individual variation. While idiographic models capture unique, personspecific patterns, nomothetic models benefit from larger datasets that enable the estimation of multiple, weaker yet common feature-emotion relationships. In other words, although individual differences exist, the robust common patterns identified by the nomothetic approach appear sufficient to achieve similar predictive accuracy. Supporting this interpretation, idiographic models showed lower RMSE and higher accuracy for more participants compared to the nomothetic models. However, nomothetic models demonstrated greater consistency across participants, with more participants presenting significant associations between predicted and actual negative emotions compared to idiographic models.

Rather than directly comparing nomothetic and idiographic models, an alternative approach is to select the best-performing model for each participant. Using this flexible approach, the vast majority (90.7–94.8%) of participants showed a significant correlation between predicted and observed emotion scores, highlighting the potential of personalized modeling strategies to improve prediction accuracy.

While we are not aware of studies directly comparing nomothetic and idiographic approaches in text analysis, previous research comparing their effectiveness in tracking mental states using passive sensor data from smartphones and actigraphy, as well as self-reported ecological momentary assessment (EMA), has yielded similar results (e.g., Aalbers et al., 2023; Cheung et al., 2017; Rozet et al., 2019; for exception see Soyster et al., 2022 who found that nomothetic models outperform idiographic models). For example, Aalbers et al., 2023 used smartphone passive sensor data to predict stress levels. Their findings revealed that idiographic models demonstrated higher accuracy in tracking stress levels for some participants (Spearman's p rank-order correlation up to 1 in idiographic models vs. up to .65 in nomothetic models). However, nomothetic models significantly predicted stress for a larger proportion of participants (up to 23.2% for idiographic models vs. up to 55% for nomothetic models). Rozet et al. (2019) used a comparable method and initially found that nomothetic models performed better (i.e., were more accurate) than idiographic models. However, as more data accumulated, the performance of the idiographic model eventually equaled and then surpassed that of the nomothetic model, suggesting that idiographic models may be a better option when sufficient data is available at the single subject level.

When comparing specific NLP approaches, GPT outperformed other models in its ability to track fluctuations in emotional states. It achieved R<sup>2</sup> values comparable to the model combining all three NLP approaches. Despite the relatively high R<sup>2</sup> values, GPT predictions also showed higher RMSE scores compared to the combined models, suggesting that while GPT may account for meaningful variance in emotional states, it may be less precise in predicting the exact numerical values of these states. Furthermore, when selecting the best-performing model for each participant, GPT was chosen

for only a relatively small portion of individuals, indicating that its predictions are relatively stable across individuals but not necessarily the most accurate for any single participant. This pattern aligns with the nomothetic-idiographic trade-off discussed earlier, as GPT operates as a nomothetic model that generalizes across individuals rather than incorporating person-specific information. Future research should aim to optimize this balance by leveraging fine-tuning techniques, such as participant-specific calibration or supervised fine-tuning on emotion-labeled data, to improve GPT model accuracy.

From an applied perspective, GPT is already trained on a vast corpus of data (approximately 45 terabytes of text data from various sources <sup>45</sup>) which makes it particularly attractive for studies with limited datasets, as it does not necessarily require retraining on task-specific data to yield meaningful predictions. However, the model's lack of transparency and inability to explicitly articulate the rationale behind its predictions remain critical limitations that researchers must carefully weigh <sup>19</sup>. Given these considerations, we recommend that researchers thoughtfully evaluate GPT's role in their analytical pipeline, considering whether to employ it as a standalone tool or integrate it with complementary approaches. Future work should focus on developing methods that combine GPT's powerful inference capabilities with more transparent analytical approaches, potentially offering a more robust framework for emotion analysis in psychological research.

## Limitation and future directions

This study is the first to use different NLP approaches to directly compare nomothetic and idiographic models for tracking emotional fluctuations. Yet, findings of this study should be interpreted in light of several limitations. First, capturing the nuanced dynamics of emotional expression typically requires large amounts of data. In everyday interactions, subtle emotional changes may only become apparent with extensive exposure to an individual's language use, much like knowing someone well enables you to discern small shifts in their mood. Therefore, future studies

should strive to collect larger within-person datasets, potentially sourced from daily-life communications, to enhance the ability to track and model these nuances.

Second, the overall predictive accuracy was modest, leaving significant room for improvement. In addition to increasing the quantity of data, future research could benefit from incorporating additional modalities (e.g., vocal features, facial expression, passive sensors from smartphones or wearables such as smartwatches or smart ring, which are becoming increasingly popular) alongside text. Prior studies have shown that combining various modalities can enhance the performance of nomothetic models of emotion (see Gandhi et al., 2023 for a review), this multimodal approach may also improve idiographic models. Moreover, future work should explore whether individuals not only differ in the text features that predict their emotions but also in the types of modalities that best capture their emotional states. For example, individual differences, such as tendency to use affective suppression, may influence how emotions are conveyed in text, with greater suppression potentially leading to lower model performance. Future studies should examine whether these participants require larger datasets to capture subtle nuances in their text, or if alternative modalities (e.g., passive sensor) better detect changes in their emotional states.

Third, the current study compared idiographic and nomothetic approaches, demonstrating that each has its merits. Future studies could explore hybrid approaches that integrate both individual-specific and group-level information, balancing personalization with statistical power to enhance predictive accuracy. Finally, the text data in our study consisted of responses to specific questions, which may limit the generalizability of our findings to other types of text (e.g., text messages and social media posts). Future research should incorporate text from diverse sources such as social media, conversational exchanges, and free-form writing, to determine whether these results extend to broader contexts.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, our findings highlight the potential of combining NLP approaches to track withinperson emotional fluctuations, demonstrating both the strengths and limitations of idiographic and
nomothetic models. Nomothetic models effectively capture general trends, making them useful for
broad applications. In contrast, idiographic models provide a more nuanced understanding by
identifying person-specific features that reflect an individual's unique emotional expression, though
they require large within-person datasets to model these patterns reliably. Rather than a one-size-fitsall approach, our results suggest that selecting the best approach for each participant can enhance
predictive accuracy. Expanding this work to incorporate diverse text sources and multimodal data
streams (e.g., integrating social media posts, speech transcripts, facial expressions, physiological
signals, or smartphone sensor data) may further advance the field.

Ultimately, improving the ability to monitor emotions in real-time not only enhances our ability to study emotional phenomena as they unfold in daily life but also can help inform the development and deployment of just-in-time (JIT) interventions that go beyond identifying moments of distress to also consider the specific emotions and contextual factors in which they arise, enabling more personalized and effective interventions for youth.

#### Method

## **Participants**

Participants were derived from two larger studies that recruited adolescents with elevated levels of anhedonia, as well as typically developing (non-anhedonic) adolescents. They included 97 English-speaking adolescents aged 12-18 (75 female, 22 male;  $M_{age} = 16.2$ , SD = 1.9) recruited from the greater Boston area. Participants were excluded based on a history or current diagnosis of any of the following DSM-5 psychiatric illnesses: schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorder, bipolar disorder, substance or alcohol use disorder within the past 12 months or lifetime severe substance or alcohol use disorder. Participants were also excluded based on current diagnosis of anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa or if they had a neurodevelopmental disorder that would interfere with study tasks. Due to the neuroimaging component of this study, additional exclusion criteria included fMRI contraindications. For additional information about sample inclusion and exclusion criteria see Murray et al., (2023).

## Procedure

All procedures were approved by the Mass General Brigham IRB. Participants who were 18 years of age provided written informed consent; participants who were under 18 provided written assent, with their parents providing written consent. At the baseline session, either in-person or over Zoom, participants were administered a semi-structured clinical interview, the Kiddie Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia (K-SADS; Kaufman et al., 1997), and completed self-report measures. Following the baseline session, participants installed the MetricWire app on their smartphones to complete ecological momentary assessments (EMAs). Of the participants, 39 completed the EMA for four consecutive weeks; for the first 5 days, surveys were delivered 2-3 times per day in the afternoon and evening, and for the remaining 25 days, surveys were delivered 4 times per day. The other 58 participants completed the EMA in 5-day (Thursday through Monday) blocks every other week, with 2-3 survey prompts per day, for a median of 17 weeks.

## Measures

## Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA)

Participants were asked to rate on a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 0, "Very slightly or not at all," to 4, "Extremely" the extent to which they were feeling several emotions immediately before they started the assessment. Participants' negative affect (NA) included responses for: "sad," "nervous," and "angry." Mean NA was measured by averaging the three NA variables. In addition, participants responded to the following open-ended questions: 1) What were you thinking about right before you started this survey? 2) Think about the most enjoyable or happy time since you completed the last survey (or if this is your first survey, then the last 24 hours). Very briefly, what happened (1-2 sentences is fine)? 3) Think about the most stressful or negative time since you completed the last survey (or if this is your first survey, then the last 24 hours). Very briefly, what happened (1-2 sentences is fine)? Participants with fewer than 30 observations were excluded from the analysis.

# Language Measures

We used the following strategies to extract text features and generate quantitative summaries of the language data.

Close vocabulary. For close vocabulary (dictionary-based approach), we extracted features using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC; Tausczik & Pennebaker, 2010) and the Valence Aware Dictionary and sEntiment Reasoner (VADER; Hutto & Gilbert, 2014). LIWC is a computerized text analysis tool that categorizes words into over 90 linguistic and psychological dimensions based on an internal dictionary of approximately 6,400 words <sup>48</sup>. It calculates the percentage of words that match each predefined category, offering insights into linguistic structures (e.g., pronouns), psychological constructs (e.g., affect), and broader language patterns (e.g., analytical thinking). The LIWC has been extensively validated across numerous studies and is widely used in psychological research to quantify language use patterns associated with various psychological states and traits. For this study, we used

LIWC-22 <sup>23</sup>, the latest version of the software, the analyze participants' responses to the EMA open questions.

VADER is a simple rule-based model for general sentiment analysis optimized for social media. It provides four sentiment scores: negative, positive, neutral, and compound (an overall sentiment score from -1 to +1). VADER is particularly effective at handling sentiments expressed in short, informal text and accounts for factors like punctuation, capitalization, and modifiers (e.g., intensifiers like "very") that influence the intensity of the sentiment. Whereas LIWC excels in offering detailed psychological and linguistic insights across a wide range of texts, VADER is more attuned to detecting sentiment polarity and intensity in social media. Finally, text lengths were extracted as features for each question and included in the models.

Open vocabulary. Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) is a probabilistic clustering method that identifies topics based on word co-occurrence rather than relying on predefined dictionaries <sup>31,32</sup>. This approach allows LDA to group semantically related words while considering context, reducing word sense ambiguity. The latent topics were extracted from the preprocessed text corpus using probabilistic modeling with the R package *topicmodels* <sup>49</sup>. In our study, we implemented LDA using two distinct approaches for nomothetic and idiographic analyses. For the nomothetic model, we extracted a uniform set of topics across the entire sample. For the idiographic model, we applied LDA separately for each individual, identifying topics based on their unique word usage patterns. To interpret the extracted nomothetic topics, **Table 1** presents the 15 most frequent words per topic, offering a semantic representation of the clustering. Furthermore, **Fig. S2** depicts the distribution of LDA-derived topics across participants, highlighting variations in topic prevalence within the dataset. Details on topic selection, model tuning, and evaluation metrics are provided in the Supplement.

Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT). To generate emotion ratings using large language models (LLMs), we used GPT, a deep learning-based AI language model developed by OpenAI. GPT is built on a transformer-based architecture, a neural network design that excels at

processing sequential data by using self-attention mechanisms to capture contextual relationships across words. This allows GPT to generate human-like text by predicting the next word in a sequence based on the provided context. Specifically, we used GPT-4, an advanced version pre-trained on a vast dataset (45TB), enabling it to generate coherent sentences and perform various tasks such as writing, answering questions, and engaging in conversations. In this study, we prompted GPT-4 through the application programming interface (API) using Python code to rate the extent to which a participant experienced one of the following emotions: Sadness, Anger, and Nervousness, on a scale of 1 to 5 (similar to the scale used in EMA), based on responses to three open-text questions. See the supplement for the full prompt used to generate GPT responses.

## **Data Analysis**

# **Model Specification**

We began our analysis by extracting text data from EMA responses and conducting both lexiconbased and transformer-based analyses. Next, we applied preprocessing steps (e.g., text normalization, stopword removal, stemming) to refine the text before performing topic modeling. Finally, we trained machine learning models to predict negative affect based on the derived text features, evaluated model performance, and determined feature importance. **Fig. 1** illustrates this analysis pipeline in detail.

We compared both nomothetic (group-level) and idiographic (individual-level) models in their ability to predict variability in negative emotional states within individuals over time. We employed two machine learning approaches to predict negative affect: elastic net regression and random forest models. Elastic net regularization (ENR) is a popular variant of conventional regression that combines two types of penalties: ridge and lasso. This combination helps address issues related to multicollinearity by constraining the coefficients of correlated variables while also minimizing model overfitting. On the other hand, random forest (RF) is an ensemble learning method based on decision trees. Unlike ENR, random forest can capture complex nonlinear relationships and interactions between variables without having to specify them in advance. Given that these two methods rely on

different algorithms (i.e., penalized regression- vs decision tree-based approaches) for selecting variables, assessing their importance, and generating predictions, comparing them can help to determine which one provides the most accurate predictions in a given context.

To assess model performance and generalizability while minimizing overfitting, we implemented a nested cross-validation (CV) procedure using the *nestedcv* package in R (Lewis et al., 2023). A full description of the nested CV procedure is provided in section S3 in the Supplement. We evaluated model accuracy using R<sup>2</sup> (the square of the correlation coefficient) and root mean squared error (RMSE). R<sup>2</sup> was our primary metric because we wanted to prioritize the model's ability to detect increases in negative emotional states, reflected in corresponding increases in predicted scores. While a stronger correlation (and thus higher R<sup>2</sup>) indicates better alignment between predicted and observed values, it doesn't necessarily imply lower average prediction error, which is captured by the RMSE.

Initially, we ran nomothetic models using features extracted from all three NLP approaches, including all subjects for group-level analysis. These models identified common predictors of negative emotional states at the group level. To evaluate how well these group-level models generalized to individual participants, we calculated individual metrics, such as R², derived from the nomothetic models for each participant. Subsequently, we employed fully idiographic models, building separate models for each participant to capture person-specific language-emotion associations. These models focused exclusively on within-person variability, aiming for highly individualized predictions. In these idiographic models, variables with low variance were removed based on standard frequency criteria, where the most common value for that variable could not exceed 95% of the total observations. Finally, we compared the three abovementioned approaches, to understand their relative strengths in predicting negative affect.

# Feature importance

To evaluate feature importance, we used SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) values, which quantify the contribution of each feature to the model's predictions in a consistent and interpretable

manner by assessing how variations in a feature impact the model's output <sup>50</sup>. SHAP values were calculated using the R packages *fastshap* and *ggbeeswarm*, which facilitates visualization and interpretation of feature contributions. This method allowed us to identify the relative importance of predictors in the model and their specific effects on the predicted outcomes.

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Table 1. The 15 most frequent words within the six topics extracted using LDA

Topic number	Topic interpretation					
1	Social & Evening Activities: focused on social interactions and nighttime activities with friends	friend, talk, sleep, last, night, last_night, see, time, morning, hang, wake, late, talk_friend, boyfriend, hang_friend,				
2	Academic Life: centered on school-related activities and academic responsibilities	homework, school, think, class, finish, test, now, take, tomorrow, math, studi, right, finals, essay, stress				
3	Home activities: capturing leisure activities, particularly around media consumption and family time	watch, nothing, eat, dinner, play, game, show, family, movie, tv, ate, video, eat_dinner, watch tv, favorite, watch movie				
4	Family Interactions: reflecting family relationships and dynamics	mom, think, fun, sister, new, dad, brother, room, read, make, made, book, something, fight, clean				
5	Daily Activities: representing routine daily activities like meals	go, went, home, walk, outside, lunch, food, drive, music, back, listen, shop, car, hurt, around, dog,				
6	Personal States & Obligations: describing emotional states, needs, and work-related responsibilities	get, work, feel, want, today, day, need, good, think, just, felt, like, done, tired, sick,				

Table 2. Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of the Sample

Sample Characteristics ( $N = 9$	7)	
	n	%
Biological Sex		
Female	75	77.3
Male	22	22.7
Race		
American Indian	0	0
Asian	13	13.4
Black	10	10.3
Pacific Islander	1	1.0
White	65	67.0
Multiracial	5	5.2
Other race	3	3.1
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	4	4.1
Not Hispanic	92	94.8
Unknown	1	1.0
Current Diagnoses (DSM-V)		
MDD	21	21.6
GAD	17	17.5
SAD	5	5.2
Panic Disorder	3	3.1
Specific Phobia	2	2.1
ADHD	1	1.0
PTSD	3	3.1
Medication		
Psychotropic Medication	8	8.2
	M (Range)	SD
Age (years)	16.2	1.9
Family Income (dollars)	(12-18) $198,894.8$ $(0-500,000)$	111,477.5

Table 3. Comparison of Idiographic, Nomothetic, and Nomothetic-Idiographic Model

Performance for Negative Affect, Sadness, Anger, and Nervousness Using Random Forest
and Elastic Net

		Nomothetic Group-Level Performance			Per-P	Nomothetic articipant Perfo		Idiographic			
		R <sup>2</sup>	R	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> range	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> range	RMSE	
Negative Affect	Random Forest	.38	.62	0.55	.10 (.10)	.00; .41 Sig.n= 53/97	0.52 (0.22)	.10 (.12)	.00; .47 Sig.n= 42/97	0.47 (0.20)	
	Elastic net	.17	.41	0.64	.11 (.09)	.00; .39 Sig.n= 56/97	0.61 (0.27)	.10 (.12)	.00; .53 Sig.n= 47/97	0.48 (0.20)	
Sad	Random Forest	.33	.58	0.75	.10 (.12)	.00; 0.53 Sig.n= 48/96	0.73 (0.27)	.10 (.13)	.00; .46 Sig.n= 38/94	0.68 (0.22)	
	Elastic net	.14	.37	0.85	.09 (.09)	.00; .42 Sig.n= 51/96	0.82 (0.32)	.10 (.11)	.00; .51 Sig.n= 46/94	0.69 (0.23)	
Angry	Random Forest	.20	.45	.69	.09 (.12)	.00; .69 Sig.n= 37/90	0.63 (0.33)	.06 (.07)	.00;.33 Sig.n= 27/85	0.64 (0.29)	
	Elastic net	.13	.36	.72	.07 (.07)	.00; .45 Sig.n= 49/90	0.88 (0.32)	.07 (.08)	.00; .43 Sig.n= 39/85	0.66 (0.31)	
Nervous	Random Forest	.24	.49	.85	.06 (.08)	.00; .44 Sig.n= 33/95	0.81 (0.29)	.08 (.12)	.00; 0.71 Sig.n= 33/94	0.75 (0.27)	
	Elastic net	.11	.33	.92	.07 (.07)	.00; .35 Sig.n= 42/95	0.88 (0.33)	.09 (.12)	.00; 0.84 Sig.n= 43/94	0.76 (0.29)	

Table 4. Comparison of Idiographic Model Performance for Negative Affect, Sadness, Anger, and Nervousness Using LIWC+VADER, LDA, and GPT

		L	IWC+VAD	ER	LDA			GPT			
		R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> range	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> range	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> range	RMSE	
Negative	Random	.05	.00;.42	0.49	.07	.00;.48	0.49	.10	.00;.34	0.85	
Affect	Forest	(.08)	Sig.n= 31/97	(0.21)	(.09)	Sig.n= 36/97	(0.21)	(.08)	Sig.n= 55/97	(.20)	
	Elastic	.07	.00;.55	0.49	.06	.00;.44	0.50				
	net	(.10)	Sig.n= 36/97	(0.22)	(.07)	Sig.n= 35/97	(0.22)				
Sad	Random	.05	.00;.38	0.70	.05	.00;.46	0.71	.10	.00; .54	1.11	
	Forest	(.08)	Sig.n= 24/95	(0.25)	(80.)	Sig.n= 25/95	(0.26)	(.10)	Sig.n= 55/96	(0.26)	
	Elastic	.07	.00;.44	0.70	.07	.00;.29	0.71				
	net	(.08)	Sig.n= 42/95	(0.26)	(.07)	Sig.n= 45/95	(0.27)				
Angry	Random	.04	.00;.28	0.72	.03	.00;.58	0.68	.09	.00;.44	0.93	
	Forest	(.06)	Sig.n= 15/70	(0.29)	(.05)	Sig.n= 12/85	(0.32)	(.10)	Sig.n= 45/90	(0.34)	
	Elastic	.05	.00;.27	0.73	.07	.00;.28	0.67				
	net	(.07)	Sig.n= 26/70	(0.31)	(.07)	Sig.n= 43/84	(0.32)				
Nervous	Random	.04	.00;.29	0.80	.05	.00;.53	0.77	.06	.00;.29	1.36	
	Forest	(0.06)	Sig.n= 19/86	(0.26)	(80.)	Sig.n= 29/94	(0.28)	(.06)	Sig.n= 40/95	(0.22)	
	Elastic	.05	.00;.35	.81	.05	00;.23	0.76				
	net	(.07)	Sig.n= 25/86	(28)	(.05)	Sig.n= 36/94	(0.28)				

Fig. 1. The pipeline for processing and analyzing text data from EMA responses to predict emotional states. The process begins with preprocessing (e.g., text normalization, stopword removal, stemming). Text features are then extracted using lexicon-based analysis (LIWC, VADER), transformer models (GPT-4), and topic modeling (LDA). These features, including GPT emotion ratings, linguistic categories, sentiment scores, and topics, are fed into machine learning models (Random Forest, Elastic Net) for prediction. Model performance is evaluated using R<sup>2</sup>, RMSE, and MAE, while SHAP values provide insight into feature importance. This approach integrates multiple NLP techniques to enhance emotion prediction accuracy.

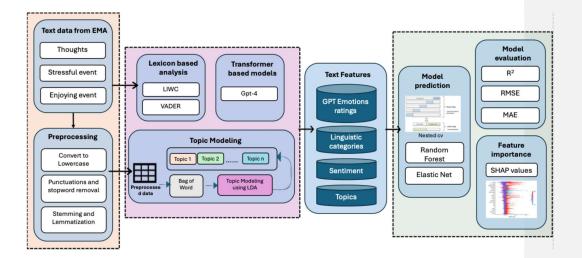


Fig. 2. The relationship between predicted and observed (actual) negative affect ratings using person-specific (idiographic) models. Panel (a) Random Forest (b) Elastic Net. Each colored line represents an individual participant's predicted estimates (y axis) across different levels of actual negative affect (x axis).

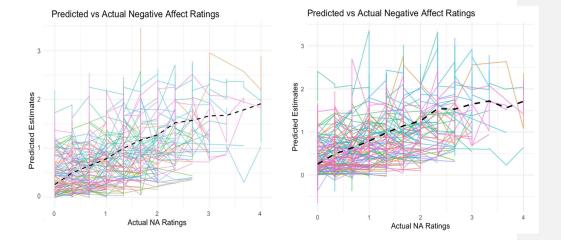


Fig. 3. Examples of person-specific (idiographic) predictions of negative affect for high-performance (top panel) and low-performance (lower panel) models

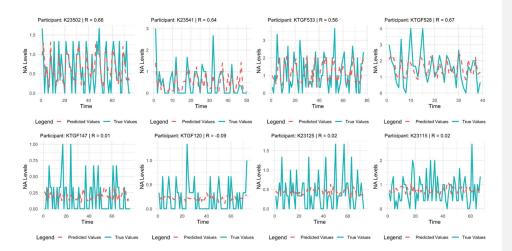


Fig. 4. SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations) beeswarm plots for four individual participants, illustrating the contribution of different text-based features to the model's emotion predictions. Each dot represents an individual data point, with red indicating high feature values and blue indicating low feature values. The spread of dots across the x-axis reflects the variability in a feature's effect on predictions across different participants. The y-axis lists the features in descending order of importance, meaning the top features had the strongest impact on the model's predictions. The x-axis represents SHAP values, indicating the magnitude and direction of each feature's impact on the predicted emotion scores. For example, for participant K23528, a *low* score on "Acquire" (red color) increases the model's prediction of negative affect. Conversely, a *high* feature value for "Work" or "Big Words" (red color) contributes to a higher predicted negative affect.

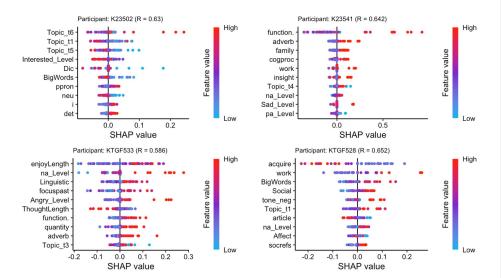


Fig. 5. The top panel displays the predictive R<sup>2</sup> for different models (Random Forest, GPT, and Elastic Net) across four emotion categories: negative affect, sadness, anger, and nervousness. The bottom panel presents the corresponding RMSE values. Each box plot represents the distribution of performance metrics for four different NLP-based feature sets: Combined (purple), GPT (yellow), LDA (orange), and LIWC+VADER (green). Higher R<sup>2</sup> indicates better predictive accuracy, while lower RMSE reflects better model fit.

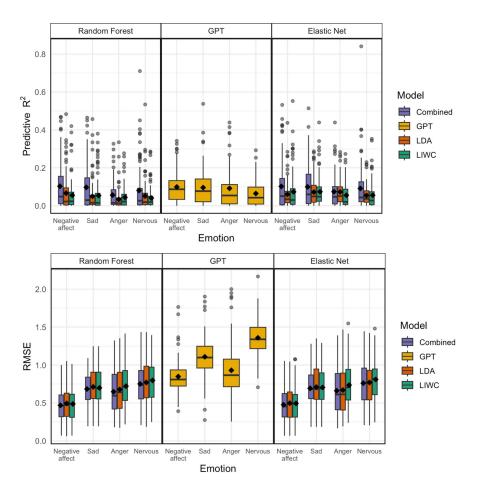
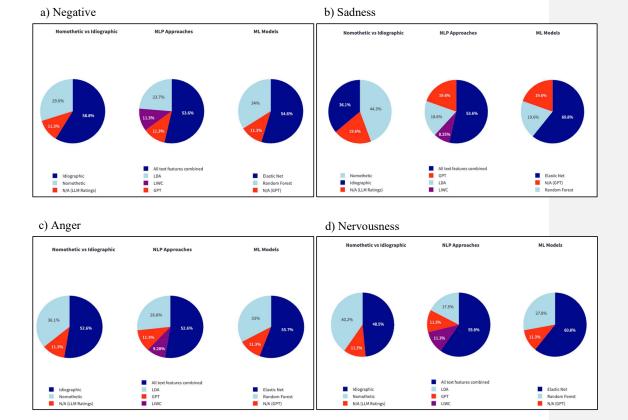


Fig. 6. The pie charts display the distribution of best-performing models for predicting negative emotions (a: Negative, b: Sadness, c: Anger, d: Nervousness) across three comparison categories: nomothetic vs. idiographic models, NLP approaches, and ML models. The colors represent different model types, indicating the proportion of participants for whom each model was the best predictor.



## Supplement

### **Section 1: Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)**

Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) is a probabilistic clustering algorithm that identifies topics in a text corpus by modeling word co-occurrence patterns <sup>31,32</sup>. Unlike predefined dictionaries, LDA infers topics directly from the data, allowing it to capture latent semantic structures. Each word is assigned probabilistically to one or more topics, iterating until an optimal balance between word distributions is reached. This process generates posterior probability distributions that estimate the likelihood of words appearing in specific topics, enabling LDA to account for contextual meanings and reduce word sense ambiguity.

To improve topic coherence and capture meaningful linguistic patterns, we applied LDA to one- to three-word phrases rather than individual words, ensuring that multi-word expressions (e.g., "summer camp") were treated as single units. We implemented LDA separately for nomothetic and idiographic analyses. The nomothetic model extracted a uniform set of topics across all participants, while the idiographic model identified personalized topics for each individual.

For topic extraction, we used the R package *topicmodels* (Grün & Hornik, 2011) and performed algorithmic tuning to determine the optimal number of topics (*k*) using *ldatuning*. The tuning process involved evaluating multiple model fit metrics, including Griffiths2004 (Griffiths et al., 2004), CaoJuan2009 (Cao et al., 2009), and Arun2010 (Arun et al., 2010). These metrics provide different optimization criteria: Griffiths2004 favors maximizing coherence, whereas CaoJuan2009 and Arun2010 minimize redundancy and overfitting. Additionally, we considered the Deveaud2014 reference point, which decreases linearly with the number of topics. Based on these criteria, we selected six topics as an optimal balance, as illustrated in **Fig. 1S**.

# **Section 2: Prompt GPT**

""" Evaluate the extent to which the participant experienced each of the following emotions: sadness, anger, nervousness, happiness, excitement, interest, boredom, general ratings of positive affect (pa), and general ratings of negative affect (na) based on their responses to three questions.

When evaluating emotions, consider the context of each question. For example, if a participant responds with "none" to the question about a stressful event, this may indicate lower negative emotions, whereas responding with "none" to a question about an enjoyable event may indicate lower positive emotions.

Provide ratings on a scale of 1 to 5 for each emotion and for the general scales, along with a confidence level from 0 to 100 for each rating. Ensure that the output includes the "time" variable from the input. Answer only with ratings and confidence levels; do not include explanations.

#### Parameters:

```
participant_id (str): The unique identifier for the participant. time (str): The time point when the responses were recorded. thought (str): The participant's response to what they were thinking just before. stresstext (str): The participant's response to the most stressful event in the last few hours. enjoytext (str): The participant's response to the most enjoyable event in the last few hours. Returns:
```

dict: A dictionary containing the participant's ID, time, their responses, emotion ratings, and confidence levels.

Example:

```
participant_id = "K23101"
  time = "5"
  thought = "College applications"
 stresstext = "Getting ditched by a friend"
enjoytext = "Hanging out with my friends at lunch"
Output:
    'id': "K23101",
'time': "5",
    'thought': "College applications",
     'stresstext': "Getting ditched by a friend",
     'enjoytext': "Hanging out with my friends at lunch",
     'ratings': {
       'Sad': 2,
       'Nervous': 1,
       'Angry': 2,
       'na': 1.67
     confidence': {
       'Sad': 90,
       'Nervous': 70,
       'Angry': 75,
```

## Section 3: Nested CV procedure

This method consists of two levels of cross-validation: 1. Outer loop: Evaluates the overall performance of the model by repeatedly training and testing on different subsets of the data. 2. Inner loop: Conducts model selection and hyperparameter tuning to optimize performance. We used 10-fold cross-validation in both the inner and outer loops. In the outer loop, the dataset was divided into ten folds. The model was trained on nine folds and tested on the remaining fold, with this process repeated ten times so that each fold served as the test set once. This iterative process ensures that performance metrics are evaluated across multiple traintest splits, providing a robust estimate of generalizability. Within the inner loop, models were trained on each training fold, and hyperparameter tuning was conducted by selecting the parameter combination that maximized performance on a validation set. The best-performing model was then applied to the corresponding outer loop test set. By separating hyperparameter optimization from performance evaluation, this approach prevents data leakage and mitigates the risk of overfitting. Nested cross-validation offers several advantages over a simple train-test split. It allows for efficient use of all available data for both training and validation while reducing the bias introduced by a single, potentially unrepresentative data split. Additionally, by incorporating multiple train-test iterations, this approach yields a more robust and reliable estimate of model performance, ensuring that the findings generalize beyond the specific dataset used in training. After iterating through all outer folds, we aggregated the predictions from the left-out test sets and compared them against true values to compute overall predictive performance.

## Section 4: Which Text Features Are Most Predictive in High- vs. Low-Performing Models?

Though feature importance varied across individuals, we also examined whether specific patterns emerged across high- and low-performing participant-specific models. Our goal was to determine if these patterns could reveal characteristics of participants for whom language is more or less predictive of emotional states. Participants were divided into groups based on model performance (R²), with the top 25% (n=25) classified as "High R2" and the bottom 25% (n=25) as "Low R2." Feature importance scores were analyzed separately for RF and ENR models. Importantly, participants with high- and low-performing models showed no significant difference in number of observations (RF: High<sub>mean</sub> =72.84, Low<sub>mean</sub>=60.64, t=1.69, p=0.09, CI=-2.31;26.71, ENR: High<sub>mean</sub> =62.72, Low<sub>mean</sub>=71.36, t=-1.26, p=0.21, CI=-22.38;5.10) or in mean negative affect (RF: High<sub>mean</sub> =0.68, Low<sub>mean</sub>=0.45, t=1.85, p=0.07, CI=-0.02;0.49, ENR: High<sub>mean</sub> =0.77, Low<sub>mean</sub>=0.65, t=0.72, p=0.47, CI=-0.20;0.43). For RF high and low performing models differed significantly in variability (RF: High<sub>mean</sub> =0.61, Low<sub>mean</sub>=0.40, t=3.26, p=0.002, CI=0.08;0.33), but not for ENR (High<sub>mean</sub> =0.59, Low<sub>mean</sub>=0.50, t=1.29, p=0.20, CI=-0.05;0.22).

In addition, as shown in **Fig. 5**, the top five most important variables for high-performing RF models (High R<sup>2</sup> group) included features from multiple approaches (LIWC, GPT, VADER, and LDA). Notably, three of the ten variables that differed the most between the High R<sup>2</sup> and Low R<sup>2</sup> groups were GPT-derived features (e.g., GPT ratings of negative affect, positive affect, and sadness) suggesting that GPT-based variables may have been particularly effective in enhancing model performance. In contrast, for high-performing ENR models, the most important predictive features were primarily from LIWC (e.g., Authentic, Analytic, Clout), with these variables also exhibiting the largest differences between high- and low-performing models. Interestingly, in high-performing ENR models, *Authentic style* (associated with perceived

honesty and genuineness) contributed more to predictive accuracy, whereas in low-performing models, *Analytic style* (a metric of logical and formal thinking) played a more prominent role. This suggests that for participants with high-performing models, their emotions may have been more transparently reflected when they used authentic language. In contrast, participants with low-performing models may have expressed emotions through analytic language, which tends to be less transparent in conveying affective states.

Fig. S1. Estimation of the most preferable number of topics for LDA model

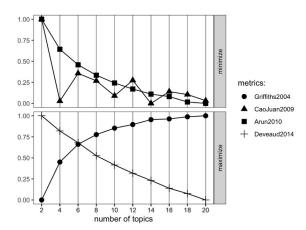
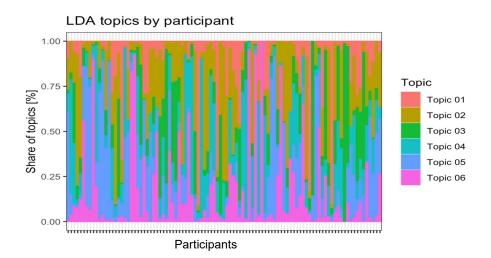


Fig. S2. Distribution of LDA-Derived Topics Across Participants



 $Fig. \ S3. \ Group \ differences \ in \ feature \ importance \ predicting \ negative \ affect: \ random$   $forest \ (RF) \ and \ elastic \ regularization \ (ENR)$ 

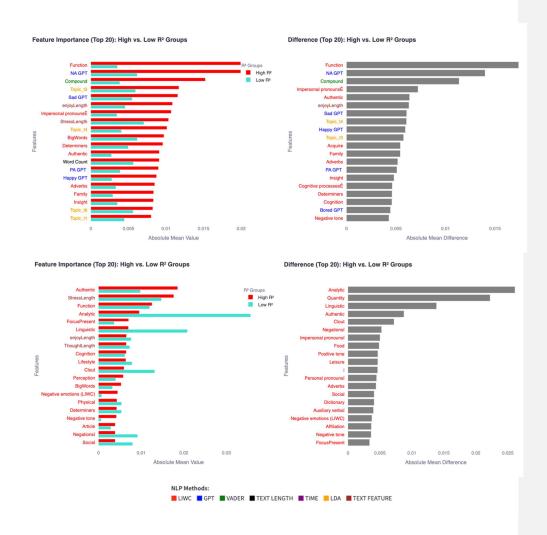


Fig. S4. Box plots showing the distribution of R<sup>2</sup> values for matched and mismatched predictions across emotion outcomes (NA, Sad, Angry, Nervous) using Elastic Net model.

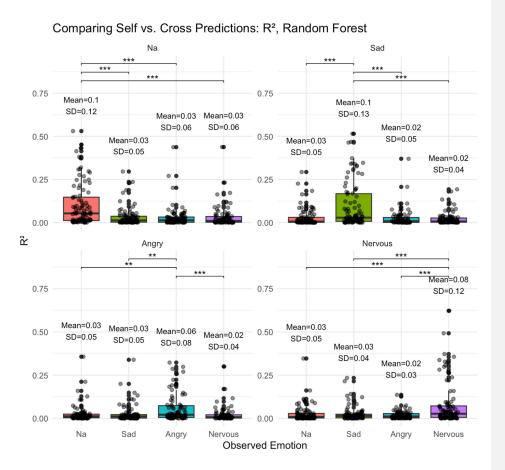


Fig. S5. Box plots showing the distribution of RMSE values for matched and mismatched predictions across emotion outcomes (NA, Sad, Angry, Nervous) using the Elastic Net model.

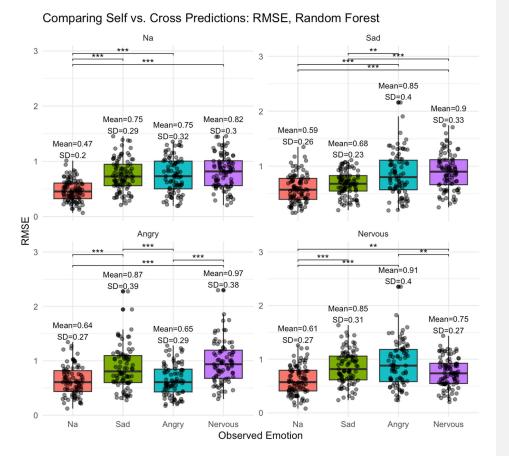
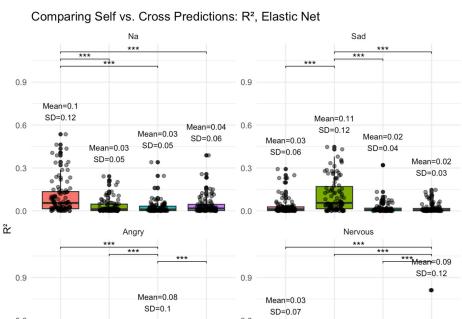


Fig. S6. Box plots showing the distribution of R<sup>2</sup> values for matched and mismatched predictions across emotion outcomes (NA, Sad, Angry, Nervous) using the Random Forest model.



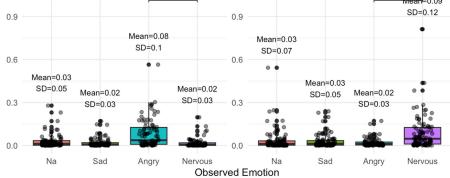


Fig. S7. Box plots showing the distribution of RMSE values for matched and mismatched predictions across emotion outcomes (NA, Sad, Angry, Nervous) using the Random Forest model.

