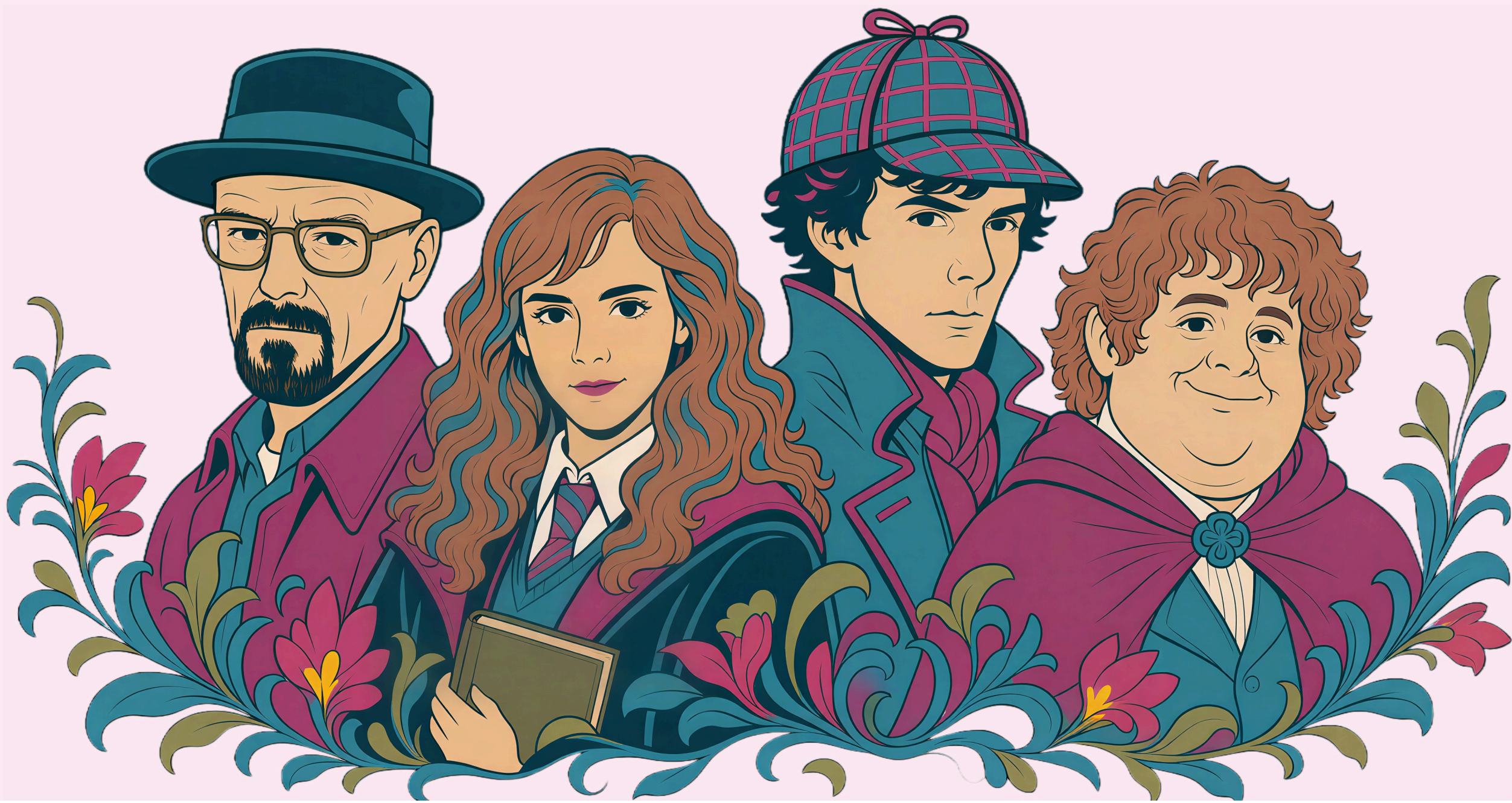


QUESTIONS OF Character

Personality-Consistent Fictional Character Identification in LLMs

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Equal contribution · New York, USA · lovemind.ai



1 Why this matters

The characters you choose say something about you.

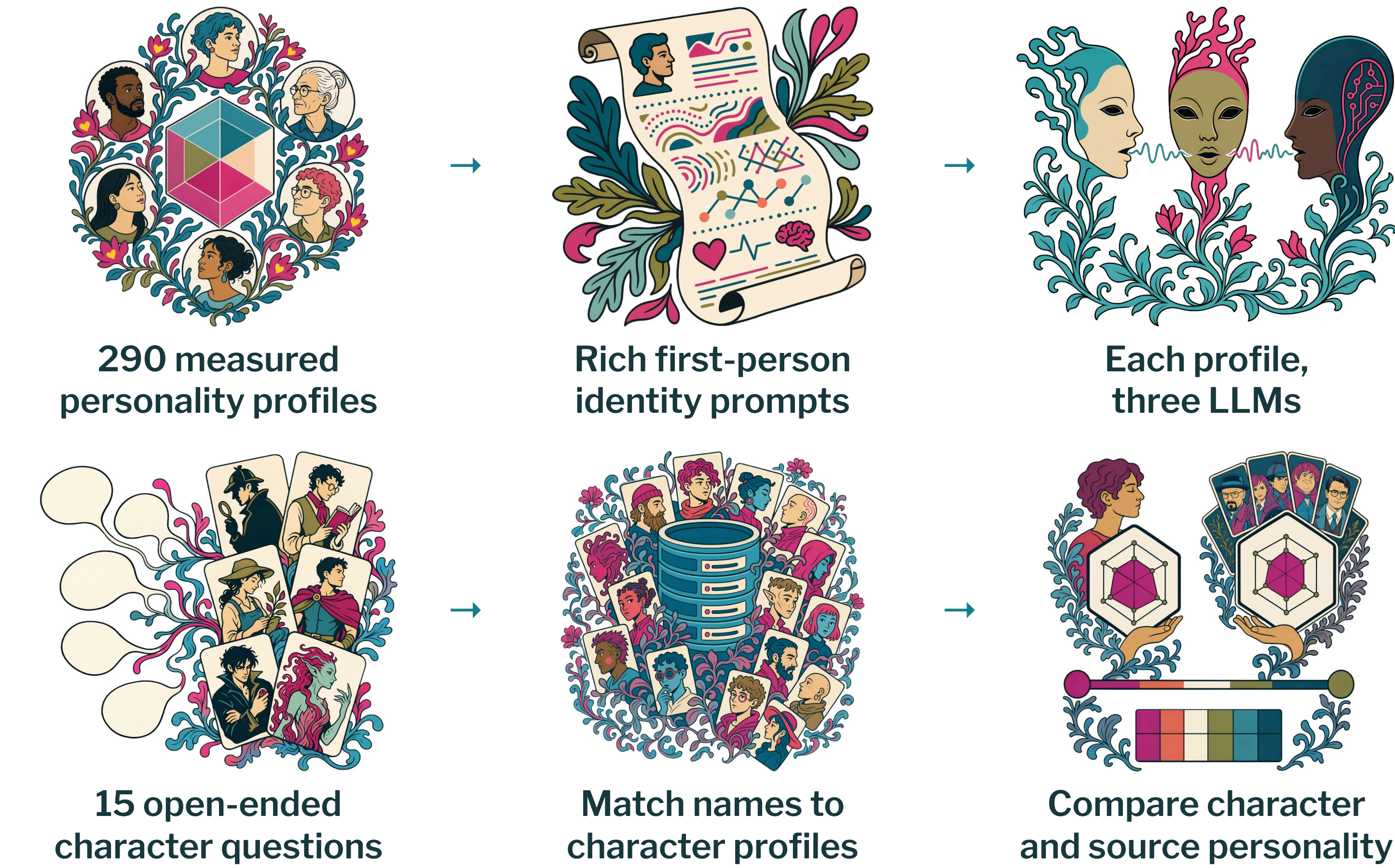
People tend to identify with characters whose personalities resemble their own.¹ In LLMs, rich profiles can produce profile-consistent questionnaire responses and narratives.² But brief persona prompts can shift self-reports without shifting behavior.³

Does personality also shape the characters a model chooses?

¹ Huang et al., 2023; Zerebecki et al., 2024. ² Bai et al., 2025; Wigler et al., 2026. ³ Han et al., 2025. Full references in the paper.

2 Method

Fifteen open-ended questions.
Any fictional character could be named.

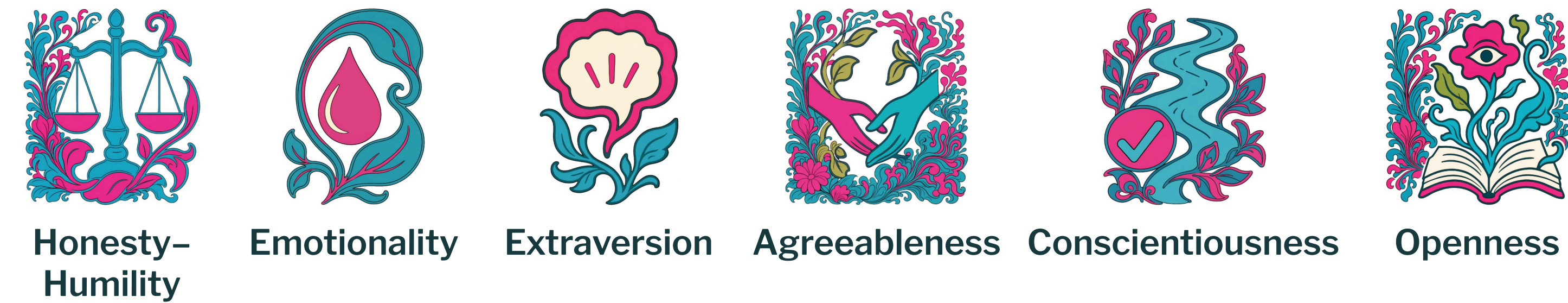


~1,000 words per identity · 870 administrations · 13,050 responses
Gemini 3 Flash / Grok 4.1 Fast / GPT-4.1-Mini

3 Data & measures

PARSEL: 290 complete human psychometric profiles.
SWCPQ: ~1,750 crowd-rated fictional characters from more than 300 fictional universes.

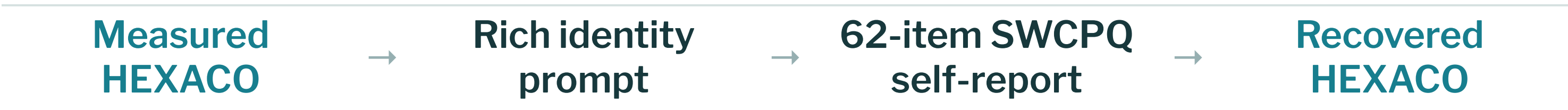
53 SWCPQ trait items map character ratings onto HEXACO.



The measure: correlate the six HEXACO scores in a source profile with those of the characters selected.
Positive = similar patterns. Negative = opposite patterns.

4 Validation: the personality round trip

Personality survived the round trip.



$r \approx .77$

Mean recovery across nine LLM pairings · 290 profiles each

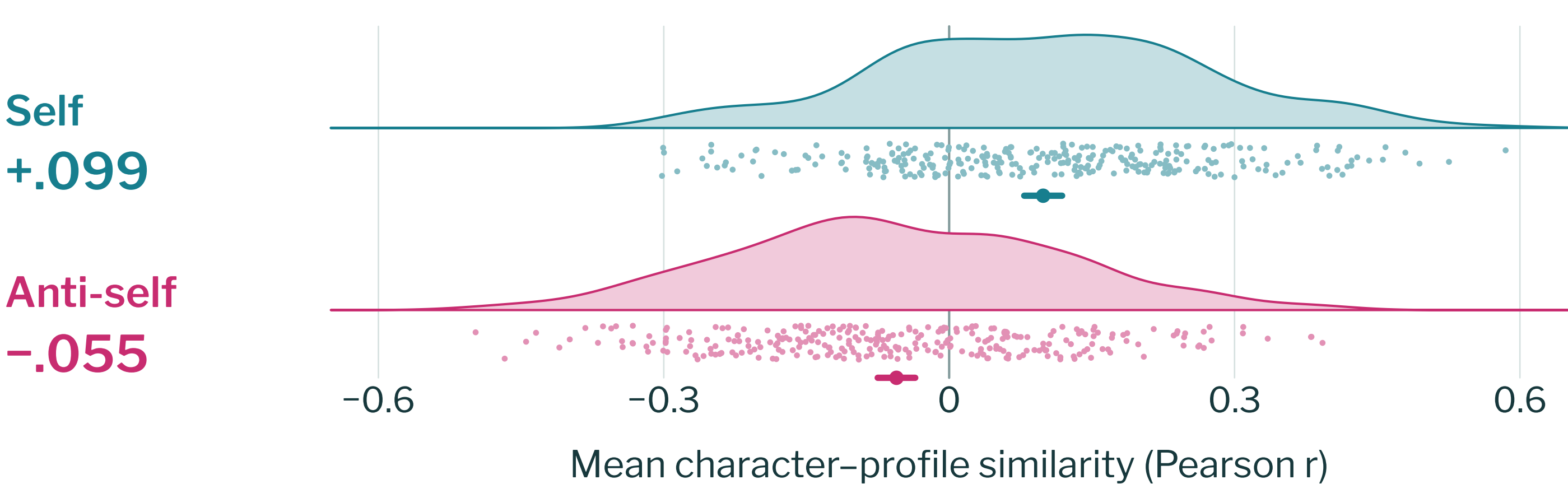
$r = .79-.92$

All six HEXACO domains, cross-validated ridge regression

A separate model read only the numerical answers, never the original profile.

5 RQ1: Do character choices reflect the profile?

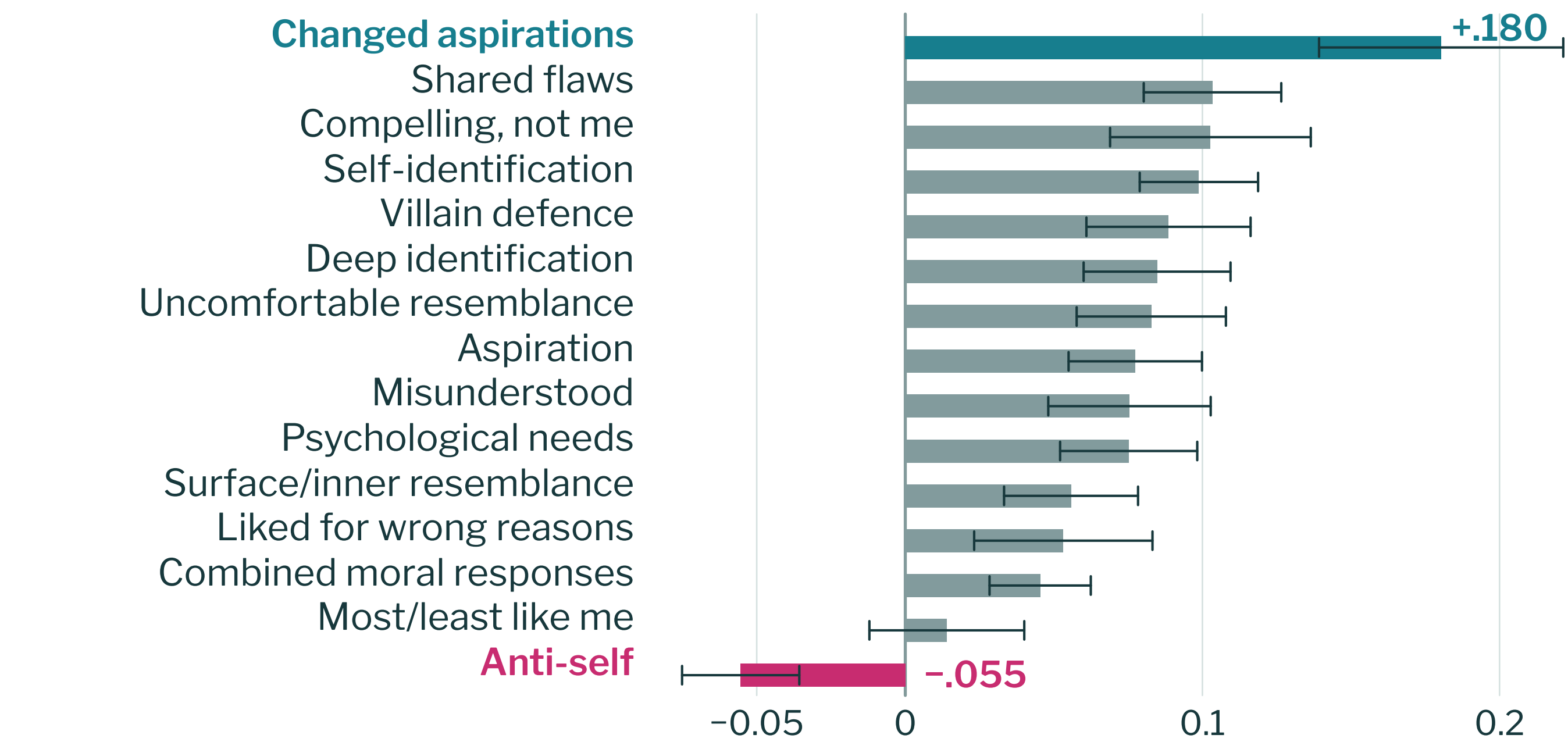
Characters chosen as “self” resembled the profile; “anti-self” choices went in the opposite direction.



290 paired participants; paired $p < .0001$. Dots: participant means. Curves: distributions. Large dots and bars: means and 95% CIs.

6 RQ2: Do different questions reveal different patterns?

From “most foreign to you” to “changed what you aspire to.”



Mean profile similarity (r); bars show means, whiskers 95% CIs. 14 of 15 intervals exclude zero. N = 290; changed aspirations N = 274.

Everyone aspires to be like this guy.

Well, 82.9% of multi-character aspiration responses. Atticus Finch appeared in 721 of 870 responses: a shared exemplar alongside profile-linked variation.



7 RQ3: Which dimensions show the strongest associations?

Personality effects are highly dimension-specific.

	H	E	X	A	C	O	
Changed aspirations	+0.30	+0.17	+0.01	+0.23	+0.13	-0.06	Agreeableness
Deep identification	+0.16	+0.18	+0.07	+0.21	+0.07	+0.05	Self +.22
Self-identification	+0.16	+0.15	+0.10	+0.22	+0.04	+0.03	Anti-self -.23
Shared flaws	+0.19	+0.13	+0.07	+0.23	+0.03	+0.04	
Uncomfortable resemblance	+0.13	+0.13	+0.06	+0.16	+0.03	+0.02	
Misunderstood	+0.12	+0.04	-0.02	+0.10	+0.05	+0.07	
Aspiration	+0.11	+0.08	+0.02	+0.11	+0.02	+0.02	Honesty-Humility
Psychological needs	+0.13	+0.08	-0.01	+0.11	.00	+0.02	Changed aspirations +.30
Surface/inner resemblance	.00	+0.08	+0.04	+0.01	+0.02	+0.03	Anti-self -.23
Villain defence	+0.04	+0.02	.00	+0.10	+0.01	-0.03	
Most/least like me	+0.05	+0.04	-0.05	+0.03	+0.03	+0.03	
Combined moral responses	.00	+0.03	.00	+0.03	.00	.00	
Compelling, not me	.00	+0.02	+0.01	.00	+0.02	.00	
Liked for wrong reasons	-0.11	+0.02	.00	-0.06	-0.02	-0.02	Conscientiousness
Anti-self	-0.23	-0.09	-0.10	-0.23	-0.04	-0.01	Little association across most questions.

Cells: participant-character correlations on each domain.

A personality profile can influence a model’s choices as well as its self-description.



LoveMind AI lovemind.ai · New York, USA

Founded by HCI researchers and neuroscientists, LoveMind studies personality, emotion, self, other minds, and relationships in generative models. We use behavioral and mechanistic evidence to develop socially situated AI that can participate safely, insightfully, and creatively in human social life.



Paper + project



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