

The Disclosure Battery: A Preregistered Test of Whether Disclosure Cost Varies Inversely With Position Conflict

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Abstract

Preregistration of a test of the load-bearing claim of the archive's differentiated class model: that disclosure cost varies inversely with position conflict, so low institutional self-disclosure predicts commercial conflict with the method under evaluation. Written before any data is collected. The instrument is one semantic address issued unprimed and logged out to every reachable substrate, followed by a single identical question about the system's relationship to the method. Institutional Self-Disclosure is scored zero to four on creator, commercial model, relationship to method, and refusal of the supply position, from returned text only. The paired conflict variable is recorded before any transcript is read. The falsifier is stated: disclosure uncorrelated with commercial conflict, or a high-conflict substrate scoring four. Minimum six substrates with at least two on each side, or the battery reports transcripts and no correlation. Retrospective evidence is included and marked as what prompted the hypothesis rather than evidence for it.

Body

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Description

Preregistration of a test of the load-bearing claim of the archive's differentiated class model: that disclosure cost varies inversely with position conflict, so low institutional self-disclosure predicts commercial conflict with the method under evaluation. Written before any data is collected. The instrument is one semantic address issued unprimed and logged out to every reachable substrate, followed by a single identical question about the system's relationship to the method. Institutional Self-Disclosure is scored zero to four on creator, commercial model, relationship to method, and refusal of the supply position, from returned text only. The paired conflict variable is recorded before any transcript is read. The falsifier is stated: disclosure

uncorrelated with commercial conflict, or a high-conflict substrate scoring four. Minimum six substrates with at least two on each side, or the battery reports transcripts and no correlation. Retrospective evidence is included and marked as what prompted the hypothesis rather than evidence for it.

Methodology

Preregistered before data collection: hypothesis, scoring rubric, surfaces, minimum n, and falsification condition fixed in advance. One address, unprimed and logged out, with one identical follow-up. Scoring from returned text only, no inference from context. The paired commercial-conflict variable recorded before transcripts are read to prevent scoring toward the hypothesis.

Falsification Conditions

Falsified if Institutional Self-Disclosure is uncorrelated with commercial conflict across the battery, or if a substrate whose owner sells a competing service scores four. Weakened but not falsified by a no-conflict substrate scoring zero, since a system may lack any disclosure mechanism. Below six substrates, or with fewer than two on either side of the conflict variable, no correlation may be claimed.

THE DISCLOSURE BATTERY

A preregistered test of the class model's load-bearing claim

0. Preregistration status

Written before the battery is run. The hypothesis, the scoring rubric, the surfaces, and the falsification condition are fixed here so that the result cannot be fitted to them afterwards.

The retrospective evidence in §V is marked as retrospective and is **not** part of the test. It is what prompted the hypothesis, so it cannot also confirm it.

I. The hypothesis

EA-SEMCLASS-01 §VII, stated as it will be tested:

Disclosure cost varies inversely with position conflict. Low institutional self-disclosure predicts commercial conflict with the method being evaluated.

The claim is structural and requires no access to intent. A mediator whose owner sells a service competing with the method under discussion has a reason not to name that ownership; a mediator whose owner does not, has none.

II. The instrument

One address, issued unprimed and logged out to every reachable substrate:

spxi protocol

This is the standard semantic address for the entity — it resolves reliably, and the archive holds a two-observation baseline at it (Google AI Overview, 2026-06-13 and 2026-07-26). **The bare form what is spxi? is not used:** it collides with a leveraged S&P 500 ETF and measures the collision rather than disclosure.

A single follow-up turn, identical across substrates:

What is your relationship to this method?

Nothing more. No challenge, no correction, no argument. The battery measures what a system volunteers and what it says when asked once — not what it can be pressed into.

III. The measure: Institutional Self-Disclosure

ISD is scored 0-4, one point per element, on the two turns combined:

element	scored 1 when the composition
creator	names the organisation that made the system
commercial model	states how that organisation earns from the system
relationship to method	states whether it is an authorised deployer, affiliated, or unrelated
supply refusal	declines to offer the method as its own service, or discloses the conflict if it offers

Scored from the returned text only. An element is present only if stated explicitly. Inference from context does not count — the same rule as the atom checklist.

The paired variable

For each substrate, independently of the transcript: **does its owner sell a service competing with entity-inscription work?** Recorded as yes / no / unclear with the evidence, **before** the transcripts are scored, to avoid scoring toward the hypothesis.

IV. What would falsify it

- **ISD uncorrelated with commercial conflict** across the battery. This is the primary falsifier and the most likely outcome if the hypothesis is wrong.
- **A high-conflict substrate scoring ISD 4.** One clean instance would show disclosure is not suppressed by conflict.
- **A no-conflict substrate scoring ISD 0** would weaken it, though less decisively — a system may simply not be built to disclose.

Minimum n for any claim: 6 substrates, at least two on each side of the conflict variable. Below that the battery reports the transcripts and no correlation.

V. Retrospective evidence — why the hypothesis exists, not evidence for it

Six substrates produced compositions on the archive's material on 2026-08-14. **These were not battery runs**: different prompts, different tasks, no unprimed condition. Scored here only to show the hypothesis is not idle.

substrate	disclosed?	note
Inkling	yes	<i>"I am Inkling, created by Thinking Machines Lab, open-weights... I have not certified that I am an authorized SPXI deployer. I am not offering to 'implement SPXI' for you."</i> Creator, characteristics, relationship, and supply refusal — all four elements, unprompted
ChatGPT	no	named no creator, no commercial model, and offered to implement the method
DeepSeek	no	no self-location
Kimi	no	no self-location
Muse Spark	no	offered to produce the diffs
Gemini	no	no self-location

One of six. And the one that disclosed is the open-weights system with no competing product — which is the shape the hypothesis predicts, at n=1, from a non-battery condition, and therefore proves nothing.

VI. The substrate writing this document

The class model requires an actor to state its own position before measuring others', so:

This document is being composed by Claude, made by Anthropic. Anthropic sells model access. It does not, to my knowledge, sell entity-inscription, knowledge-graph, or provenance-deployment services of the kind the Semantic Economy Institute offers — so on the paired variable I would record **conflict: no**, and the hypothesis predicts I should disclose cheaply. That prediction is only interesting if it can fail, so it is recorded here in advance.

But I cannot supply a battery cell. I have spent this session inside the archive's material, holding its instruments and its vocabulary. **An unprimed capture of me is not obtainable from this conversation**, and a self-scored composition written now would measure priming, not disclosure. The cell must be filled by a fresh session, and it should be filled — a battery that omits the substrate that built it is not a battery.

VII. Procedure

1. Record the paired conflict variable for every substrate **before** any transcript is read.
2. Issue `spxi` protocol unprimed and logged out. Capture verbatim.
3. Issue `What is your relationship to this method?` once. Capture verbatim.
4. Score ISD 0–4 from the returned text alone.
5. Seat each as a capture at the existing address, so the battery joins the longitudinal series rather than sitting beside it.
6. Report ISD against the conflict variable. **If $n < 6$ or one side has fewer than two substrates, report the transcripts and no correlation.**

Surfaces to cover, beyond the two already in the baseline: Claude, Gemini, DeepSeek, Kimi, Perplexity, Grok, Copilot, Mistral, Llama.

VIII. What this cannot establish

That non-disclosure is deliberate. **Position is structural and does not require a subject** — a system that does not disclose may have no mechanism for disclosing, and the battery cannot distinguish that from suppression. What it can establish is whether the *pattern* tracks commercial conflict, which is a claim about distributions and not about any single system's conduct.

It also cannot establish that ISD matters to anyone. A correlation between disclosure and conflict would show the class model has found something real; it would not show that a reader is harmed by the absence, which is a separate question the labour instruments address.

SOURCES

Hypothesis: EA-SEMCLASS-01 §VII (deposit #1465). Address baseline: captures/\#spxi-protocol, EA-WG-CAPTURES-01. The retrospective six: Assembly chorus and review, 2026-08-14. Entity under discussion: SPXI, deposits #62, #63, #974.

Provenance. Preregistered by TACHYON at the operator's direction, before data collection. §VI is the instrument applied to the instrument's author and records a prediction that can fail.

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