A Proposal for Open Validation of the Core Emotion Framework (CEF): A Structural-Constructivist Model for Emotional Regulation and Psychological Flourishing

I. Introduction: Establishing the Core Emotion Framework (CEF) within Open Science

The Core Emotion Framework (CEF) presents a novel structural-constructivist model of human psychology designed to identify and dynamically manage the foundational elements of the psyche for optimized functioning.[1] This document serves as a formal proposal to transition the CEF from a theoretical synthesis—which currently exists as an "Unprinted Manuscript Preceding the CEF" [1] and has also been archived in principle via Zenodo [1]—into a fully open, empirically validated research program hosted and managed by the Open Science Framework (OSF).

A. The Current State of Emotional Theory: Bridging the Basic/Constructed Divide

The field of affective science remains characterized by a fundamental schism between classical "basic emotion" theories, such as those proposed by Paul Ekman, which posit an innate set of universal emotions with distinct biological signatures, and constructivist theories, exemplified by the work of Lisa Feldman Barrett, which argue that emotions are emergent psychological phenomena constructed "in the moment".[1] This ongoing theoretical tension necessitates the development of integrative models capable of reconciling the seemingly universal, primitive drives with the highly contextualized complexity of human emotional experience.

The Core Emotion Framework addresses this necessity by asserting that the vast spectrum of

human emotional experiences and character traits—termed "practical traits"—are composite states constructed from a finite set of ten fundamental, irreducible "primal powers," referred to as Core Emotions.[1] These Core Emotions are understood not as problems to be solved, but as **psychological capacities** or **elemental drives and functions** to be harnessed.[1] By synthesizing concepts from affective neuroscience and constructed emotion theory, the CEF offers a universal architecture of the ingredients from which complex emotional states are built.[1] This integrated theoretical position has been formalized in an initial theoretical synthesis referenced via a Zenodo identifier, suggesting the initial academic archival of the conceptual foundation: "The Core Emotion Framework (CEF): A Theoretical Synthesis Integrating Affective Neuroscience, Embodied Cognition, and Strategic Emotional Regulation for Optimized Functioning".[1]

B. The Imperative for Open Science and Collaboration with OSF

The proponents of the Core Emotion Framework recognize that any structural model claiming universality and application across the human psyche must adhere to the highest standards of scientific integrity. The mission of the Center for Open Science (COS)—increasing the openness, integrity, and reproducibility of scientific research—is therefore fundamentally aligned with the development trajectory of the CEF.[3]

While the CEF has garnered public attention through its accessible psycho-educational applications (optimizeyourcapabilities.com, optimizeyourcapabilities.pro, coreemotionframework.com and efficiency.ink), which aim to help people identify and optimize their core emotions for a balanced life [2], the transition to academic credibility requires transparent, rigorous, and verifiable empirical work. The accessible language used on public-facing platforms, which highlights the simplicity and accessibility of the approach [2], is understood to be the practical implementation derived from the underlying structural-constructivist theory.[1] To ensure that the public utility is ethically and empirically grounded, the entire research process—from item generation to validation—must be fully open. The current theoretical richness, coupled with the admitted lack of specific quantitative data, statistical metrics, or sample sizes from empirical studies [1], necessitates that the project adopt open science practices from its very inception.

Collaboration with the OSF is crucial for this transition, as it provides the required infrastructure for streamlining the process, connecting valuable research tools, and eliminating data silos and information gaps inherent in proprietary research.[4] The CEF project asserts its commitment to adhering to the Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines (TOP 2025) across all future studies.[5] This commitment specifically includes pre-registration of hypotheses, open sharing of materials, and accessibility of analysis code.[7]

By registering the theoretical framework, research protocols, and ultimately, all derived data within the OSF, the CEF project aims to become an exemplary model for the open validation of complex theoretical models in cognitive science.

II. Foundational Architecture: Structural Elements and Core Principles

The strength of the Core Emotion Framework lies in its defined, hierarchical architecture, which organizes the ten Core Emotions into distinct functional centers and mandates a central dynamic polarity.[1]

A. The Tripartite Structure and Dynamic Functioning

The ten Core Emotions are understood as actionable processes grouped across three primary functional centers of the psyche, using the heuristic analogy of a tripartite concept: the **Head (Cognitive Focus)**, the **Heart (Relational and Emotional Flow)**, and the **Gut (Action and Embodiment)**. The CEF suggests that individuals achieve higher levels of self-awareness and capability by engaging with these distinct core emotions:

1. **Head (Cognitive Focus):** This center is responsible for perception, analysis, and rational integration. It includes **Sensing** (Right Outgoing Brain), **Calculating** (Left Reflecting Brain), and **Deciding** (Balancing Brain).

2. **Heart (Relational and Emotional Flow):** This center manages emotional connection, boundaries, and execution balance. It includes **Expanding** (Outgoing Heart), **Constricting** (Reflecting Heart), and **Achieving** (Balancing Heart).

3. **Gut (Action and Embodiment):** This center relates to action, drive, and maintenance of motivation. It includes **Arranging** (Outgoing Gut), **Appreciating** (Reflecting Gut), and **Boosting** (Balancing Gut).

The final core emotion, **Accepting** (Overall Accept and Manifest), serves as an overall integrating core, representing the capacity to let go, accept reality, and manifest change by yielding to the natural flow of life. Healthy psychological functioning within the CEF is hypothesized to follow a defined flow, while psychological dysfunction, conversely, is

characterized as a "short circuit" in this natural hierarchy.[1] The CEF utilizes a visual aid, the CEF banner, to depict this emotional structure.

B. The Foundational Polarity: Agency and Yielding

Central to the CEF is the foundational polarity between **Agency** and **Yielding**.[1] Agency represents the drive for self-assertion, individuation, control, and mastery, while Yielding represents the drive for connection, participation, surrender, and acceptance.[1] A healthy psyche is defined by **emotional flexibility**, the capacity to master and dynamically balance these conflicting desires, allowing an individual to have both self-assertion and connection.[1]

The CEF's articulation of this polarity directly parallels the established psychological constructs of *Agency* (self-assertion, control) and *Communion* (connection, surrender), as defined in personality research by scholars like David Bakan and J. S. Pang.[1] This deliberate alignment with established psychological nomenclature provides a rigorous basis for developing psychometric measures and enables immediate structural comparison with extant personality and motivational models.

C. Pathology and the Cycle of Dysfunction

The framework posits that psychological distress does not arise from the Core Emotions themselves, but from a state of **emotional rigidity**—a pathological fusion of these elements driven by a stubborn insistence on a limited mode of being.[1] This concept is highly relevant to contemporary psychopathology research, given that psychological rigidity is identified as a transdiagnostic process underlying many psychopathologies (Fournet et al., 2023).[1]

Emotional rigidity is maintained by a self-perpetuating feedback loop known as the **Wheel**.[1] This cycle consists of a Core "Problem" (deep-seated anxiety arising from the suppression of non-dominant, often yielding, emotions) and a Dysfunctional "Solution" (a compulsive reaction using dominant, fused Core Emotions, typically those aligned with unchecked Agency, to quell the underlying anxiety).[1] The explicit definition of this cycle provides a clear, structural mechanism for clinical intervention and hypothesis testing regarding the etiology and maintenance of emotional dysfunction.

The architectural mapping of the Core Emotions is summarized below, highlighting their

proposed functional center, polarity affiliation, and primary function:

Table 1: The Core Emotion Framework (CEF) Architectural Map

CEF Core Emotion	Primary Polarity Affiliation	Functional Center	Primary Function (Definition)
Sensing	Yielding	Head (Cognitive Focus)	The ability to perceive and process external stimuli (Right Outgoing Brain).
Calculating	Agency [9]	Head (Cognitive Focus)	The capacity to analyze various options and plan effectively (Left Reflecting Brain).
Deciding	Agency	Head (Cognitive Focus)	The skill to balance information and make informed decisions (Balancing Brain).
Expanding	Yielding	Heart (Relational and Emotional Flow)	The capacity for openness, connection, and empathy (Outgoing Heart).
Constricting	Yielding [10]	Heart (Relational and Emotional Flow)	The ability to focus attention, set clear boundaries, and refine emotional responses (Reflecting Heart).
Achieving	Agency	Heart (Relational and Emotional	The talent for balancing multiple

		Flow)	demands and executing tasks with excellence (Balancing Heart).
Arranging	Agency	Gut (Action and Embodiment)	Drive and assertiveness to take decisive action (Outgoing Gut).
Appreciating	Yielding	Gut (Action and Embodiment)	The acknowledgment and celebration of achievements—an internal applause that reinforces progress (Reflecting Gut).
Boosting	Agency [1]	Gut (Action and Embodiment)	The energizing force that sustains motivation and perseverance (Balancing Gut).
Accepting	Yielding [1]	Integrating Core	The capacity to let go, accept reality, and manifest change by yielding to the natural flow of life (Overall Accept and Manifest).

III. Detailed Elaboration of the Core Emotions and Scientific Integration

The Core Emotion Framework is intentionally designed as an integrated synthesis, drawing connections between the innate, basic drives of subcortical neuroscience and the complex, constructed nature of cortical emotional experience.

A. Structural Parallels in Affective Neuroscience

The CEF establishes a direct neurobiological anchor through its relationship with Jaak Panksepp's pioneering research in affective neuroscience.[1] Panksepp identified evolutionarily ancient emotional command systems in subcortical brain regions, such as SEEKING and RAGE.[1] The Core Emotion of **Boosting**, now positioned within the Conative (Gut) Center, is explicitly noted to be a direct theoretical parallel to Panksepp's general-purpose appetitive motivational **SEEKING system**.[1] This integration substantiates the claim that the Core Emotions are truly "primal powers" rooted in essential, evolutionarily ancient mechanisms, offering significant potential for cross-species comparison and translational research.

B. Integration with Constructed Emotion Theory

While anchored in primal drives, the CEF operates primarily as a constructionist model. It utilizes the ten primal Core Emotions as the fundamental "structural elements" and "building blocks" of character.[1] The framework fully integrates with Lisa Feldman Barrett's Theory of Constructed Emotion by positioning the Core Emotions as the basic ingredients combined with interoceptive sensations ("core affect") and conceptual knowledge to construct the complex, context-dependent emotional states or "practical traits" experienced daily.[1] The Core Emotion **Sensing** is hypothesized to align directly with this foundational input of interoceptive awareness and raw perception.

This theoretical synthesis—combining Panksepp's subcortical drives, Barrett's constructive mechanisms, and Bakan's established personality dimensions—positions the CEF as a sophisticated, interdisciplinary model. This interdisciplinary scope is crucial for maximizing collaborative appeal within the Center for Open Science, which supports consortia managing interdisciplinary research.[8]

C. The Operationalization of Cognitive and Affective Core Emotions

The operational function of the Core Emotions, particularly those in the Cognitive and Affective centers, requires specific attention for empirical validation. The framework must transparently address how abstract concepts are to be quantified.

The Core Emotion **Calculating** is functionally positioned to enhance analytical discernment without emotional detachment, supporting the rational integration of emotional information.[9] The descriptions of Calculating emphasize its capacity to enable objectivity, rationality, and predictive analysis, ensuring decisions are based on verifiable information rather than subjective feelings.[9] Although the underlying article provides a conceptual description but **does not contain any specific numerical data, diagrams, or detailed methodology** such as formulas or algorithms [9], the conceptual detail regarding objectivity and mathematical thinking provides the necessary foundation for defining measurable traits. For instance, the ability to perform "Quantitative Assessment" using mathematical models and statistical methods is a skill enabled by Calculating [9] that can be operationalized into testable behavioral metrics.

Similarly, the Core Emotion **Constricting**, located in the Heart Center, functions as a regulating role in emotional coherence and interpersonal communication.[10] It is defined as cultivating **emotional granularity and containment**, sharpening the ability to name and navigate emotional subtleties.[10] This positions Constricting as a key mechanism for strategic emotional regulation, where cognitive control elements are utilized to manage affective experience.

A critical step in the proposed OSF collaboration is the development of robust, open-source psychometric measures that successfully translate these detailed functional descriptions (e.g., "The importance of unemotional mathematical thinking" [9]; "Skilled articulation through structured emotional boundaries" [10]) into quantifiable, observable behaviors.

Table 2: CEF Concepts Alignment with Established Psychological Constructs

CEF Concept	Established Psychological/Neuroscientific Parallel	Core Reference Basis
Agency/Yielding	Agency and Communion (Bakan, Pang)	Classical Personality Psychology [1]
Boosting	SEEKING System (Panksepp)	Affective Neuroscience [1]

Practical Traits (Complex Emotions)	Constructed Emotion (Barrett)	Constructivist Neuropsychology [1]
Emotional Rigidity	Psychological Inflexibility (Fournet et al.)	Transdiagnostic Psychopathology [1]

IV. Core Methodology for Invigorating Core Emotions

To make the CEF reproducible and actionable, three distinct sets of exercises are employed to identify, isolate, and invigorate each core emotion separately.

A. Exercise 1: Assigned Actions

Clients are assigned actions, found on the CEF's public resources (e.g., https://www.optimizeyourcapabilities.com/the-brief-approach-to-core-emotions/ [2]), and asked to perform them until they gain a specific "feeling" or recognition associated with each core emotion.

As this stage varies significantly depending on individual psyche and comprehension, a typical session might unfold as follows:

1. **Sensing:** The client is instructed to shut off cognitive thinking and rely solely on perceptual cues. They look up and down, right and left, viewing or imagining scenes until some form of sensory uptake is perceived. Some individuals may prefer to engage their sense of smell or tune into sensations of heat and cold.

2. **Calculating:** The client now disengages from sensory input and focuses purely on logical thinking—such as mentally multiplying or subtracting numbers.

3. **Deciding:** The client alternates between calculation and sensing until a clear understanding or insight emerges.

4. **Expanding:** They open their arms, sit across two chairs, and engage in loose, expressive movements and gestures.

5. **Constricting:** They form a fist and contract their muscles, embodying tension and containment.

6. **Achieving:** The client prepares as if for a speech, adopting the posture and presence of a confident winner.

7. **Arranging:** They create order—physically or mentally—bringing structure to their environment or thoughts.

8. **Appreciating:** They clap, sing, or otherwise express joy and gratitude.

9. **Boosting:** Standing tall, they bang both hands on the table to assert energy and presence.

10. **Accepting:** Finally, they relax completely, allowing themselves to simply be.

B. Exercise 2: Intensity Measure

This method is designed to allow the client to subjectively measure and modulate the intensity of each Core Emotion:

1. **Establishing Max Intensity (10):** The client identifies an external person who performs a specific CEF core emotion to its maximum capacity (a "10") to conceptually grasp what that intensity level feels like.

2. **Establishing Min Intensity (0):** The client identifies a "zero" on the same core emotion scale.

3. **Self-Assessment and Modulation:** The client then identifies their current position on this 0-10 scale and attempts to intensify and release the core emotion by deliberately moving up and down the scale.

4. **Interference Observation:** The practitioner observes whether other CEF core emotions interfere with the client's ability to use the target core emotion to its maximum, suggesting emotional rigidity or fusion.[1] The process of counting up and down is used to gradually remove interference, invigorating each core emotion on its own right.

C. Exercise 3: Cycling and Integration

Cycling is a dynamic, physical process used to invigorate and sequence the Core Emotions:

1. **Igniting Boosting:** The person is asked to mimic the pulling of a trigger rope of a grass cutter to ignite the "engine." This is followed by breaking a twig, and then repeating the pulling and breaking with thicker twigs until the client reports a "boosting" of ten. The practitioner may challenge this by replying "Zero" to prompt the client to start over and come across stronger.

2. **Arranging and Appreciating:** Once Boosting is established at "ten plus," the client is ordered to mimic a Clockwise (CW) cycling motion against the abdomen (Gut Center) until they report readiness to take things in control and express the words of the **Arranging** Core Emotion. They then cycle Counter-Clockwise (CCW) until expressing "getting along" and the **Appreciating** Core Emotion.

3. **Intensity Measure Integration:** Sometimes, the practitioner may pause to apply the **Intensity Measure** (Exercise 2) to Arranging and Appreciating before resuming the cycling process.

4. **Sequential Cycling:** The process continues: the client is instructed to pull the rope until the action is performed against the heart to feel **Achieving**. CW cycling at the Heart Center is for **Expanding**, and CCW is for **Constricting** (Reflecting Heart). The process then moves to the Head Center, where CW is **Sensing** (Right Outgoing Brain) and CCW is analyzing-**Calculating** (Left Reflecting Brain).

5. **Balancing Activation:** Swinging the entire center—Head, Heart, or Gut—will stimulating the respective balancing Core Emotion: **Deciding**, **Achieving**, or **Boosting**. The entire sequence is designed to be continued in subsequent appointments once the previous step becomes more natural and easier.

D. Preliminary Results and Efficacy Claims

The application of these methods has yielded preliminary results in specific areas:

- **Cognitive Focus:** Separating **Sensing** from **Calculating** has reportedly improved concentration and removed symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), particularly the symptoms of being carried away and/or "freezing" from cognitive overload.

- **Anxiety and Panic:** Separating **Sensing, Arranging, Constricting, and Accepting**, combined with the overall balancing exercises, has reportedly helped heal panic attacks and general anxiety.

- **Personality Disorders:** The overall balancing achieved through these repeated exercises has reportedly softened Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder (OCPD), helped an empathetic Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) client take responsibility and adapt to living according to "normal emotions," and generally helped a large number of people "just excel in life."

V. The Commitment to Transparency: Status and Future Data Management

For a theoretical model to gain traction within the scientific community, particularly one seeking collaboration with the Center for Open Science, a transparent assessment of its current empirical status and a commitment to open data management are paramount.

A. Transparent Assessment of Current Empirical Status

The CEF is a nascent framework in the process of defining its metrics and measurement strategy. It is critical to state clearly that the framework currently lacks specific quantitative data, statistical results, or sample sizes derived from established empirical studies.[1] The validation phase is pending, and the current theoretical synthesis requires rigorous, open testing. The preliminary results noted above, while highly relevant to the clinical and psycho-educational utility, are not yet supported by fully open empirical data.

This current lack of empirical data is leveraged as an unparalleled opportunity to demonstrate commitment to open science *from inception*. Rather than focusing on reporting past results, the emphasis is shifted entirely to the design and pre-registration of fully open protocols for future validation. This approach ensures that the entire lifecycle of the research, from conceptual definition to data analysis, is subject to the scrutiny and collaborative

mechanisms promoted by the OSF. The primary product the CEF offers to the OSF at this stage is a comprehensive commitment to an exemplary open science validation process.

B. Utilizing OSF Registration and Workflow Tools

The OSF platform is ideally suited to host the complex, multi-site validation required for a structural model of this scope.

1. **Archival and Registration:** The foundational theoretical synthesis ("Unprintied Manuscript Preceding the CEF") [1] will be registered on the OSF. Using the OSF registration feature—whether starting from scratch or from an existing project [11]—the conceptual definitions and the theoretical architecture will be assigned a permanent DOI. This transparent archival of the core theory adheres to open registration principles for theoretical models and provides a necessary time-stamp for intellectual property, ensuring that the theoretical evolution is documented and verifiable.

2. **Structuring and Governance:** The OSF project will be structured using Components [8] to manage distinct phases and modules of the research program, fitting the OSF use case for "collaborative grants or consortia managing multi-site or interdisciplinary research" and "meta-researchers structuring reproducible workflows".[8] This includes dedicated Components for:

    - *Component 1:* Psychometric Tool Development (Item generation, EFA, CFA).

    - *Component 2:* Validation Studies (Testing polarity, rigidity model).

    - *Component 3:* Applied and Translational Research (Clinical Trials).

3. **Collaborative Management:** The project will utilize OSF's collaborative tools for governance. The Wiki feature will be used to establish written agreements regarding expectations, workflow, and data-sharing agreements among all academic and community stakeholders, thereby enhancing overall project transparency and reproducibility.[7] Permissions will be managed flexibly, allowing specific contributors, such as psychometric methodologists, "Read+Write" access, while potentially granting community partners "Read" access for review and transparency assurance.[13]

C. Open Data and Reproducible Workflow Commitment

The project commits to eliminating proprietary data silos entirely. All primary data, statistical code (e.g., R or Python scripts), and analysis workflows will be publicly accessible on the OSF.[4] By utilizing OSF integrations to link data storage and analysis scripts directly to the project, the entire research workflow for data curation, analysis, and visualization will be fully reproducible.[8] This commitment to open-source data and reproducible methodology is the project's central deliverable to the COS, assuring reliability, reciprocity, and accountability throughout the research lifecycle.[7]

VI. Collaborative Roadmap for Open Validation and Consortium Management

The proposed collaborative roadmap is structured into three phases, each utilizing the advanced organizational features and transparency mandates of the OSF.

A. Phase 1: Open-Source Psychometric Tool Development (Validation of Constructs)

The critical first step is to bridge the gap between the detailed theoretical architecture [1] and empirical measurement.

Goal: To create a standardized, validated, and open psychometric instrument to measure the intensity and balance of the ten Core Emotions.

Methodology:

- **Item Generation:** Using the detailed conceptual descriptions of the Core Emotions (e.g., Calculating [9] and Constricting [10]), an initial item pool will be openly developed and hosted within an OSF Project Component. The explicit methods for operationalizing core emotions (Actions, Intensity Measure, Cycling) will inform the initial behavioral metrics for the psychometric instrument.

- **Pre-registration:** The protocol for the scale development, including initial data collection strategies and proposed statistical analyses, will be pre-registered using an OSF Registration template.[12]

- **Factor Analysis Protocol:** The protocol will specify the conduct of an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) to define the initial factor structure, followed by a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to test the proposed structural model. This CFA is specifically designed to confirm the hypothesis derived from the foundational polarity: how the ten Core Emotions function while agile, that each and every one can be intensified and released on their own hinge, versus when they are interfered and manipulated one from each other.[1]

B. Phase 2: Hypothesis Testing and Reproducible Data Collection

Phase 2 focuses on empirically testing the structural and clinical utility of the CEF model using the newly developed open-source instrument.

Testing the Foundational Polarity: The principal objective is the execution of the pre-registered CFA to confirm the hypothesized organization of the ten Core Emotions.[1]

Testing the Dysfunction Model: Subsequent studies will focus on the construct of emotional rigidity. Protocols will be pre-registered to examine the hypothesized relationship between emotional rigidity (as measured by the new instrument) and established transdiagnostic processes of psychopathology.[1] The goal is to provide empirical evidence that the CEF's "Wheel" model accurately reflects psychological dysfunction observed in clinical populations.

Reproducibility Workflow: Throughout Phase 2, all statistical analysis scripts, data cleaning protocols, and output will be archived in the dedicated OSF Component, ensuring that the entire data curation pipeline and analysis process are fully auditable and reproducible by external researchers.[4] The project will use the OSF’s features for individual researchers to create a reproducible record of each study.[8]

C. Phase 3: Applied and Translational Research

The final phase involves transitioning the validated model into practical, applied contexts,

addressing the psycho-educational application described in the initial framework overview.[2]

Clinical Efficacy Trials: Multi-site, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) testing the efficacy of CEF-based interventions in cultivating emotional flexibility in various populations will be managed via the OSF. This includes using OSF to coordinate the efforts of collaborative grants and consortia, overseeing multi-site data collection, and managing contributor permissions across research sites.[8] The reported clinical efficacy claims (e.g., reduction of ADHD symptoms, healing panic attacks) will serve as specific testable hypotheses for these RCTs.

Community Partnership Model: This applied research will adhere to open science principles designed to enhance communication, transparency, accountability, and reciprocity with community stakeholders.[7] The CEF's application, which is currently offered completely free to the public for self-improvement [2], must be ethically grounded in this robust empirical evidence. By jointly clarifying research and community goals for the project at the outset, the use of open science offers a systematic structure for establishing agreements about key expectations, data-sharing, and dissemination, which is crucial for successful research-practice partnerships.[7]

VII. Conclusion: A Call for Open Collaboration

The Core Emotion Framework (CEF) represents a critical theoretical advance in emotional science, offering a structural-constructivist model that successfully bridges long-standing theoretical divides by integrating concepts from affective neuroscience, embodied cognition, and strategic emotional regulation.[1] The framework provides a coherent, structural basis for understanding psychological health through the mastery of Emotional Flexibility and defining pathology through Emotional Rigidity, which is consistent with contemporary transdiagnostic models.[1] Furthermore, the explicit operational methodology—the three sets of exercises (Actions, Intensity Measure, and Cycling)—provides a clear, testable protocol for isolating and invigorating the core emotions, leading to preliminary positive results in concentration, anxiety, and adaptability in personality disorders.

However, the transition from a powerful theoretical synthesis and clinical application to an empirically validated model requires an uncompromising commitment to transparency and reproducibility. The partnership proposed with the Open Science Framework is essential, not merely for archival purposes, but for the entire management of the research pipeline, from psychometric development to multi-site clinical trials. The CEF project is positioned to utilize OSF's advanced tools to structure reproducible workflows [8], manage interdisciplinary consortia [8], and adhere fully to TOP Guidelines.[5]

By openly defining the Core Emotions, operationalizing abstract concepts like Calculating and Constricting into measurable constructs, and pre-registering all validation protocols, the CEF project seeks to demonstrate how complex, novel theoretical frameworks can and should be developed under the stringent scrutiny of modern open science practices. This collaboration is invited as an opportunity to advance not only the Core Emotion Framework but also the methodological standards for research integrity in psychological science.

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