

Academic Validation Walkthrough

Scientific and methodological foundation of Silk Clarity™ — what is evidenced, what is in progress, and what is planned.

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A.1 Purpose of this appendix

Appendix A documents the scientific and methodological foundation underpinning Silk Clarity. It distinguishes existing evidence from work that remains in progress or planned, so reviewers can scrutinise the platform on its own terms.

A.2 Research literature informing the framework

The framework draws on established work in psycholinguistics, organisational communication, applied linguistics, expertise research and judgement under uncertainty. Silk Clarity does not present itself as a novel theory; it presents a structured method for organising observable communication evidence informed by these traditions.

A.3 Construct definitions

Each of the six dimensions — Clarity, Credibility, Integrity, Composure, Influence, Adaptability — is defined behaviourally, not dispositionally. Each construct is decomposed into competencies and observable indicators with worked examples in the published handbook.

A.4 Observable behavioural indicators

Indicators are operationalised at the level of utterance and exchange. Examples include topical persistence, redress strategies, evidence-to-claim ratio, repair behaviour, and pacing under load. Indicators are not scored in isolation; they are aggregated into competency-level evidence.

A.5 Assessment methodology

Assessment is multi-source. The baseline captures unprompted behaviour; structured prompts elicit behaviour under defined conditions; self-report captures reflective perception; practitioner and longitudinal sources contribute external observation. Convergence and divergence across sources are both treated as meaningful evidence.

A.6 Sample evidence extraction

Worked examples appear in the published Methodology Handbook and in the sample brief library on the platform. Each example shows how observable indicators are extracted, attributed and synthesised, with provenance preserved.

A.7 Development guidance

Development guidance is competency-anchored and behaviour-specific. The 90-day roadmap operationalises guidance into staged practice with reflection and re-assessment milestones.

A.8 Reliability framework

Reliability work in progress addresses inter-rater agreement on indicator extraction, internal consistency of competency aggregation, and test–retest stability of baseline measures over short intervals. Targets and protocols are set out in Appendix B.

A.9 Validity framework

Validity work in progress includes construct validity (against established communication taxonomies), convergent and discriminant validity against neighbouring psychometric constructs, and incremental utility above conventional assessment inputs in decision contexts.

A.10 Pilot programme

Pilot studies are conducted with founding partners under defined protocols. Findings are documented with version-controlled methodology references and contribute to the published change record.

A.11 Ethics and governance

- Participant consent and data minimisation.
- Behavioural, non-diagnostic language in all outputs.
- Provenance and confidence bands on every finding.
- No predictive use; outputs support human judgement only.

A.12 Explicit non-claims

- Silk Clarity does not predict job performance.
- Silk Clarity does not diagnose clinical or psychological conditions.
- Silk Clarity does not replace structured selection processes.

A.13 Validation roadmap

The full roadmap appears in Appendix B. It covers independent methodological review, pilot studies, reliability and construct validation, practical utility studies, and longitudinal research.

A.14 Research partnership opportunities

Silk Clarity welcomes partnership with academic institutions for independent replication, instrument review and longitudinal study. Enquiries: hello@silkclarity.com.