

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

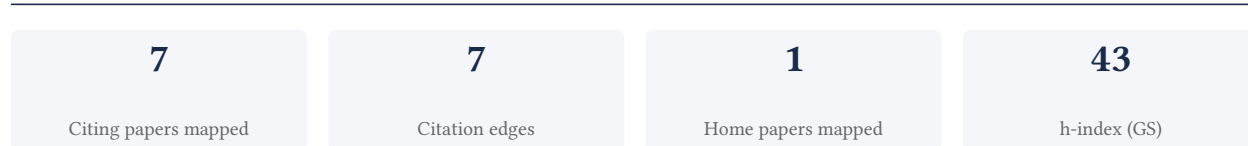
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Prong 2 of Matter of Dhanasar (the petitioner is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor) — the prong where past citation evidence is most probative. It is a drafting aid for the petitioner’s counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement



Filtering statement – methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper’s authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar’s known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar’s institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar’s own circle.

Known limitations – counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight – re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar’s own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

100.0% independent of 7 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	7
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total – the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing – how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner’s choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim – Contribution 1

The researcher published a seminal 2017 Nature paper on Amazon basin damming, establishing a foundational reference point for hydrological and environmental impact assessments in the region.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the publication of a seminal paper titled 'Damming the rivers of the Amazon basin' in Nature (2017), which serves as a cornerstone reference in the field. This work stands alone as the core contribution, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher listed in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the work addresses the critical intersection of infrastructure development and ecological systems within the Amazon. By appearing in a high-impact venue like Nature, the paper likely provided a novel synthesis or urgent analysis of the cumulative impacts of damming, filling a significant gap in understanding the basin's hydrological and environmental trajectory at that time.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has garnered 892 citations, indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has influenced scholars outside the researcher's immediate institutional and collaborative network, thereby confirming its broad independent impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

CORE PAPER

[Damming the rivers of the Amazon basin](#)

2017 · Nature · 892 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 673 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Mapping the world's free-flowing rivers (2019)	European Commission, Joint Research Centre, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, King's College London	Brazil, Canada, China	—
2	Hydropower impacts on riverine biodiversity (2024)	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, Eberhard Karls Universitaet Tuebingen, Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences	Brazil, China, Germany	—
3	Rapid changes to global river suspended sediment flux by humans (2022)	Dartmouth	United States	—
4	Scientists' warning to humanity on the freshwater biodiversity crisis (2020)	Bolin Centre for Climate Research, Stockholm University, Oregon State University, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil, France, Sweden	—
5	River Damming Impacts on Fish Habitat and Associated Conservation Measures (2023)	Beijing Normal University, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Federal University of Western Pará	Brazil, Canada, China	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	Anthropogenic stresses on the world's big rivers (2019)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	United States	—
7	Sustainable hydropower in the 21st century (2018)	Michigan State University	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* – ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) – the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	2
McGill University	Canada	SCImago #168 · THE =41 · QS 27	1
Tsinghua University	China	SCImago #8 · THE 12 · QS =17	1
Michigan State University	United States	SCImago #436 · THE =105 · QS 161	1
Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	SCImago #2	1
University of Saskatchewan	Canada	SCImago #1541 · THE 351–400 · QS 378	1
Utrecht University	Netherlands	SCImago #162 · QS =103	1
Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	SCImago #4296	1
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	SCImago #206 · THE =41	1
Université Paul Sabatier	France	—	1
Oregon State University	United States	SCImago #1028 · QS =624	1
University of St Andrews	United Kingdom	SCImago #1863 · THE =162 · QS 113	1
Beijing Normal University	China	SCImago #542 · THE =134 · QS =247	1
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	United States	QS =70	1
Hohai University	China	SCImago #727 · QS 1001-1200	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	7
Brazil	4
China	3
Germany	2
Canada	2

Country	Citing papers
Netherlands	2
Sweden	2
United Kingdom	2
Mexico	1
France	1
South Korea	1
India	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** – the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.

2019  2

F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- Self-citations are disclosed and netted out – a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- The petition articulates why the citations show major significance – numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** – persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition's merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Damming the rivers of the Amazon basin	7	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)