Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

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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 Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). 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

2	2	1	117
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

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 2 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	2
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 established a foundational link between serotonin transporter genetic variation and human amygdala response, a seminal contribution published in Science that has garnered over 3,000 citations.

The researcher's primary contribution centers on the 2002 Science paper titled 'Serotonin transporter genetic variation and the response of the human amygdala.' This work appears to investigate the intersection of genetics and neurobiology, specifically examining how genetic differences in the serotonin transporter influence the activity of the amygdala, a key brain region involved in emotional processing. The title suggests a focus on identifying biological mechanisms that underlie individual differences in neural responses to emotional stimuli.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding the biological basis of emotional regulation by connecting specific genetic markers to observable neural activity. By focusing on the serotonin transporter, the research likely provided early evidence for how genetic predispositions might shape brain function, offering a plausible biological framework for studying mood disorders and emotional reactivity. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher in this dataset indicates that this single publication stands as a distinct, self-contained milestone in the field.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its substantial citation count of 3,115, indicating that it has become a widely referenced cornerstone in the literature. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been adopted and built upon by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle. This high level of independent uptake suggests the findings have had a broad and lasting impact on the field of behavioral genetics and neuroscience.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

Serotonin transporter genetic variation and the response of the human amygdala

2002 · Science · 3,115 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,360 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2002 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Depression in adolescence (2012)	Cardiff University, NIMH-Intramural Research Program, Taff Riverside Practice	United Kingdom, United States	—
2	Temperament (2006)	Indiana University, University of Oregon	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Cardiff University	United Kingdom	SCImago #664 · THE 201–250 · QS 181	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Indiana University	United States	THE =198	1
University of Oregon	United States	SCImago #2111 · THE 401–500 · QS 751-760	1
NIMH-Intramural Research Program	United States	—	1
Taff Riverside Practice	United Kingdom	—	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	2
United Kingdom	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.

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	Serotonin transporter genetic variation and the response of the human amygdala	2	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) — Criterion 5