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

20	20	2	41
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.

95.0% independent of 20 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	19
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
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 framework for analyzing power-law distributions in empirical data, providing a seminal reference that has become central to statistical methodology across diverse scientific fields.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the publication of a seminal paper titled 'Power-law distributions in empirical data' in SIAM Review in 2009. This work serves as the cornerstone of the described research line, offering a comprehensive treatment of how power-law distributions manifest in real-world datasets. As no follow-up papers by the same researcher are listed, this single publication stands as the definitive output of this specific contribution narrative.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the work addresses the critical need for rigorous methods to identify and characterize power-law behavior in empirical observations. By appearing in a major review journal, the paper likely synthesized existing knowledge while establishing new standards or clarifying misconceptions about heavy-tailed distributions. The absence of subsequent papers by the author indicates that this work was intended as a comprehensive, standalone reference rather than the start of a multi-paper series, implying it resolved the immediate conceptual or methodological gaps in the field at that time.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 12,725, indicating it has become a standard reference in the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 95.0% of citations originate from independent researchers, rather than the author's own network. This high degree of independent uptake demonstrates that the contribution has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community, confirming its broad relevance and utility beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Power-law distributions in empirical data

2009 · SIAM Review · 12,725 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 9,691 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Physics papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Mapping the NFT revolution: market trends, trade networks, and visual features (2021)	IBM	—	Influential
2	How critical is brain criticality? (2022)	University of Montreal	Canada	—
3	Self-supervised Graph Learning for Recommendation (2021)	—	—	—
4	Stellar flares (2024)	—	—	—
5	Accelerating growth of human coastal populations at the global and continent levels: 2000–2018 (2024)	Mississippi State University, Oak Ridge National Laboratory	United States	—
6	Graph Representation Learning (2020)	McGill University and Mila	Canada	—
7	Studying Large Language Model Generalization with Influence Functions (2023)	Anthropic, University of Toronto and Vector Institute	Canada, United States	—
8	Adversarial Attacks on Neural Networks for Graph Data (2018)	Technical University of Munich	Germany	Background
9	Global prevalence of non-perennial rivers and streams (2021)	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Dartmouth College, Goethe University Frankfurt	Canada, France, Germany	—

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).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher demonstrated that homophily and contagion are generically confounded in observational social network studies, establishing a critical methodological constraint for causal inference in network analysis.

The researcher's primary contribution rests on the 2011 paper 'Homophily and Contagion Are Generically Confounded in Observational Social Network Studies,' published in Sociological Methods & Research. This work appears to address a fundamental challenge in social network analysis by highlighting the difficulty of distinguishing between similarity-based selection and influence-based transmission in observational data.

This line of work suggests a significant methodological intervention, identifying a generic confounding issue that likely hindered accurate causal claims in prior literature. By framing homophily and contagion as generically confounded, the researcher provided a theoretical and methodological basis for re-evaluating how social influence is measured and interpreted in network studies.

The impact of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 1,368, indicating widespread recognition and utility within the field. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 95.0% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, underscoring the work's broad influence beyond the researcher's immediate academic circle and its adoption as a standard reference in the discipline.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10

CORE PAPER

Homophily and Contagion Are Generically Confounded in Observational Social Network Studies

2011 · Sociological Methods & Research · 1,368 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,049 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Sociology papers from 2011 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Epidemic processes in complex networks (2015)	Delft University of Technology, Istituto dei Sistemi Complessi, Northeastern University	Netherlands, Spain, United States	—
2	A Survey on Causal Inference (2021)	Alibaba Group, Purdue University, University of Georgia	United States	Background
3	The Book of Why: The New Science of Cause and Effect (2018)	UCLA	United States	—
4	Increasing vaccination: Putting psychological science into action (2017)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	—
5	Deep Anomaly Detection on Attributed Networks (2019)	Arizona State University	United States	Background
6	The role of social networks in information diffusion (2012)	Facebook, University of Michigan	United States	Background
7	Identifying influential and susceptible members of social networks (2012)	New York University	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Endogenous Selection Bias: The Problem of Conditioning on a Collider Variable (2014)	Harvard University, University of Wisconsin	United States	—
9	Social contagion theory: examining dynamic social networks and human behavior (2013)	Harvard Medical School, University of California, San Diego	United States	Background
10	Social Media Mining: An Introduction (2014)	Arizona State University	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
Arizona State University	United States	SCImago #357 · THE 201–250 · QS =173	2
Dartmouth College	United States	SCImago #1144 · THE 180 · QS =247	1
Technical University of Munich	Germany	SCImago #187 · THE 27 · QS =22	1
Purdue University	United States	SCImago #255 · QS =88	1
McGill University	Canada	SCImago #168 · THE =41 · QS 27	1
University of California, San Diego	United States	SCImago #120 · THE 47 · QS 66	1
McGill University and Mila	Canada	—	1
Facebook	United States	—	1
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain	SCImago #624 · THE 601–800	1
UCLA	United States	—	1
Northeastern University	United States	QS 384	1
University of Georgia	United States	SCImago #597 · THE 351–400 · QS 525	1
George Washington University	United States	SCImago #832 · THE 201–250 · QS =358	1
University of Wisconsin	United States	—	1
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

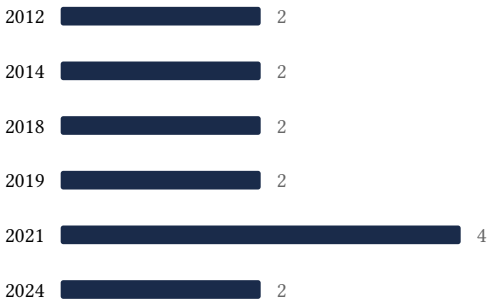
Country	Citing papers
United States	14
Canada	4
Germany	2
Spain	1
Netherlands	1

Country	Citing papers
France	1
New Zealand	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.



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	Power-law distributions in empirical data	9	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Homophily and Contagion Are Generically Confounded in Observational Social Network Studies	10	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)