

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

17	17	2	177
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 17 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	17
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 dispositional optimism and improved physical and psychological recovery outcomes following coronary artery bypass surgery.

CLAIM: The researcher’s seminal 1989 contribution identifies dispositional optimism as a critical factor influencing recovery trajectories after coronary artery bypass surgery, specifically highlighting its beneficial effects on both physical and psychological well-being.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address a gap in understanding the psychosocial determinants of surgical recovery. By focusing on dispositional optimism, the researcher introduced a psychological variable into the clinical assessment of post-operative outcomes, suggesting that mindset plays a measurable role in healing processes beyond standard medical interventions.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has accumulated 1,847 citations, indicating substantial uptake within the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that this finding has been widely validated and utilized by scholars outside the researcher’s immediate network, underscoring its broad impact on the field.

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

CORE PAPER

[**Dispositional optimism and recovery from coronary artery bypass surgery: the beneficial effects on physical and psychological well-being.**](#)

1989 · 1,847 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,080 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 1989 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Distinguishing optimism from neuroticism (and trait anxiety, self-mastery, and self-esteem): a reevaluation of the Life Orientation Test. (1994)	Carnegie Mellon University	—	—
2	Optimism (2023)	University of Miami	United States	—
3	The benefits of frequent positive affect: Does happiness lead to success? (2005)	University of California, Riverside, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Missouri	United States	Influential
4	Happy People Live Longer: Subjective Well-Being Contributes to Health and Longevity (2011)	University of Illinois, University of Texas at Dallas	United States	Background
5	Psychological Health, Well-Being, and the Mind-Heart-Body Connection: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association (2021)	Baylor College of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, University of California, San Francisco	United States	—
6	Trauma and Transformation: Growing in the Aftermath of Suffering (1995)	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	United States	—
7	Positive affect and the other side of coping. (2000)	University of California, San Francisco	United States	Background

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Effects of optimism on psychological and physical well-being: Theoretical overview and empirical update (1992)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of Miami	United States	—
9	Emerging Positive Organizational Behavior (2007)	Bellevue University, University of Nebraska	United States	Background

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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher advanced the understanding of how negative emotions mediate the link between socioeconomic status and physical health, establishing a seminal framework in psychological science.

CLAIM: The researcher's core contribution is the 2003 publication in *Psychological Bulletin*, which investigates the role of negative emotions in the association between socioeconomic status and physical health. This work stands as a singular, foundational piece in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: By focusing on the mediating role of negative emotions, this research appears to address a critical gap in understanding the psychological mechanisms underlying health disparities. The title suggests a novel integration of socioeconomic factors with emotional processes, offering a nuanced perspective on how social determinants translate into physical health outcomes.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has garnered substantial attention, with 2019 citations indicating its enduring relevance and impact within the field. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the contribution has been widely adopted and built upon by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[Understanding the association between socioeconomic status and physical health: do negative emotions play a role?](#)

2003 · *Psychological bulletin* · 2,019 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,321 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Sociology papers from 2003 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Student engagement and its association with academic achievement and subjective well-being: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2024)	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	—
2	Personality Development: Stability and Change (2005)	Colgate University, King's College London, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	United Kingdom, United States	Background

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
3	Social Class, Solipsism, and Contextualism: How the Rich Are Different From the Poor (2012)	University of California, Berkeley, University of Illinois	United States	—
4	The Power of Personality: The Comparative Validity of Personality Traits, Socioeconomic Status, and Cognitive Ability for Predicting Important Life Outcomes (2007)	Oregon Research Institute, University of Illinois, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	—
5	The Psychology of Religion: An Empirical Approach (2018)	Biola University, University of Denver, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	United States	—
6	The New Field of Sustainable Entrepreneurship: Studying Entrepreneurial Action Linking “What Is to Be Sustained” With “What Is to Be Developed” (2011)	Indiana University, Technische Universität München	Germany, United States	—
7	Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence, and America’s Prison Nation (2012)	University of Illinois at Chicago	United States	—
8	The emotional and mental health impact of the murder of George Floyd on the US population (2021)	Stanford University, University of Pennsylvania	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
University of Illinois	United States	—	3
University of Miami	United States	SCImago #545 · THE 201–250 · QS =314	2
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	SCImago #206 · THE =41	2
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	2
Carnegie Mellon University	United States	SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52	2
University of Texas at Dallas	United States	THE 401–500 · QS =597	1
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	United States	QS =70	1
Indiana University	United States	THE =198	1
Johns Hopkins University	United States	SCImago #33 · THE 16 · QS 24	1
University of Denver	United States	SCImago #3929 · THE 501–600 · QS 1001-1200	1
University of North Carolina at Charlotte	United States	THE 601–800 · QS 1001-1200	1
University of California, Riverside	United States	SCImago #949 · THE 301–350 · QS =440	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Oregon Research Institute	United States	—	1
Colgate University	United States	SCImago #8208	1
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	15
Germany	1
Singapore	1
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.

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.

2005		2
2007		2
2011		2
2012		2
2021		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	Dispositional optimism and recovery from coronary artery bypass surgery: the beneficial effects on physical and psychological well-being.	9	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Understanding the association between socioeconomic status and physical health: do negative emotions play a role?	8	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)