

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

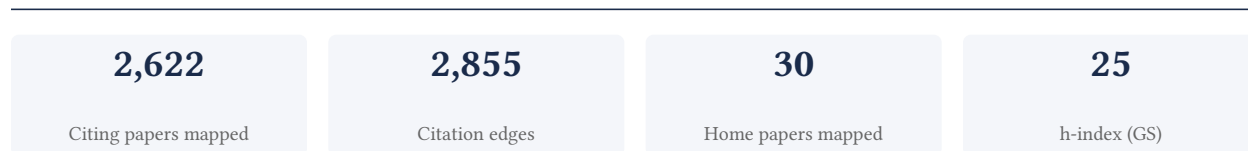
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-06-08 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.

99.2% independent of 1,663 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	1,650
Self-citation	7
Co-author	6
Same-institution	0

959 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 developed foundational methods for estimating treatment effects and regression discontinuity designs, establishing rigorous frameworks for causal inference in economics.

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 2009 paper 'Training, wages, and sample selection: Estimating sharp bounds on treatment effects,' which appears to address challenges in measuring causal impacts when sample selection biases are present. This work is followed by the 2010 paper 'Regression discontinuity designs in economics,' suggesting a broader methodological expansion into quasi-experimental techniques, and later by the 2021 study on nonparametric measurement of deadweight loss, indicating continued refinement of these analytical tools.

This line of work appears to have originated a methodological shift toward sharper, more robust estimation techniques in labor and public economics. The progression from bounding treatment effects to formalizing regression discontinuity designs suggests the researcher helped standardize approaches for identifying causal relationships in observational data, filling a critical gap in empirical economic methodology.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by the substantial citation counts, with the core paper cited 2,230 times and the follow-up on regression discontinuity designs cited 7,574 times. Furthermore, analysis of 1,663 citing papers reveals that 99.2% are from independent researchers, demonstrating that this methodological framework has been widely adopted and validated by the broader academic community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1,115 · 106 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Training, wages, and sample selection: Estimating sharp bounds on treatment effects](#)

2009 · 2,230 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,438 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Economics papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The welfare effects of social media	Stanford University	United States	—
2	Lifestyle and mental health disruptions during COVID-19	Carnegie Mellon University, University of California San Diego, University of Pittsburgh	United States	—
3	Experimental evidence on the productivity effects of generative artificial intelligence	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	—
4	How patronage delivers: Political appointments, bureaucratic accountability, and service delivery in Brazil	IE University	Spain	—
5	The statistics of causal inference: A view from political methodology	Pennsylvania State University	United States	—
6	Housing wealth and labor supply: Evidence from a regression discontinuity design	Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Sichuan University, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics	China	—
7	The effects of Tulsa's Pre-K program on middle school student performance	—	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Estimating the effects of length of exposure to instruction in a training program: The case of job corps	Binghamton University, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, University of California, Irvine Medical Center	United States	Influential
9	A first course in causal inference	University of California, Irvine Medical Center	United States	—
10	Keeping refugee children in school and out of work: Evidence from the world's largest humanitarian cash transfer program	Boğaziçi University, Istanbul Technical University, Middle East Technical University	Turkey	—
11	The effect of developmental math on STEM participation in community college: Variation by race, gender, achievement, and aspiration	University of California, Irvine Medical Center, University of Southern California	United States	—
12	Every breath you take—every dollar you'll make: The long-term consequences of the clean air act of 1970	Fuzhou Second Affiliated Hospital, Xiamen University, Yunnan University of Traditional Chinese Medicine	China	—
13	The impact of Pell Grant eligibility on community college students' financial aid packages, labor supply, and academic outcomes	Community College Research Center	United States	Influential
14	How can paid maternity leave boost female entrepreneurship?	Universitat Pompeu Fabra	Spain	—
15	The runner-up effect	California University of Pennsylvania, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research	Canada, United States	—
16	Bounds on treatment effects in regression discontinuity designs with a manipulated running variable	Amazon Inc., Queen Mary University of London, University of Mannheim	Germany, United Kingdom	Influential
17	Recover overnight? Work interruption and worker productivity	National University of Singapore, Tsinghua University, Xiamen University	China, Singapore	—
18	Coordination and bandwagon effects: How past rankings shape the behavior of voters and candidates	École Polytechnique, Uber AI (United States)	Canada, United States	—
19	Are sufficient statistics necessary? nonparametric measurement of deadweight loss from unemployment insurance	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	United States	—
20	Preempting polarization: An experiment on opinion formation	University of Chicago, University of Warwick	United Kingdom, United States	—
21	Logs with zeros? Some problems and solutions	Brown University, Harvard University	United States	—
22	Active labor market policies	Centre de Recherche en Économie et Statistique, University of Bristol	France, United Kingdom	—
23	The effect of teacher coaching on instruction and achievement: A meta-analysis of the causal evidence	Brown University, University of Maryland	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
24	Misperceived social norms: Women working outside the home in Saudi Arabia	University of Chicago, University of Zürich	Switzerland, United States	—
25	The long-run impacts of same-race teachers	Amherst College, IZA - Institute of Labor Economics, Johns Hopkins University	Germany, United States	—
26	The effects of Facebook and Instagram on the 2020 election: A deactivation experiment	Dartmouth College, George Washington University, Meta	United States	—
27	Social media, news consumption, and polarization: Evidence from a field experiment	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	—
28	Smart working: work flexibility without constraints	Bocconi University	Italy	—
29	A multifaceted program causes lasting progress for the very poor: Evidence from six countries	Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Innovations for Poverty Action, Princeton University	Ghana, United States	—
30	Reshaping adolescents' gender attitudes: Evidence from a school-based experiment in India	Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Northwestern University, University of Oxford	India, United Kingdom, United States	—

Showing the 30 most-cited of 375 independent citing papers.

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).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

[Regression discontinuity designs in economics](#)

2010 · 7,574 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 4,931 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Economics papers from 2010 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Causal inference about the effects of interventions from observational studies in medical journals	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, University of California, Irvine Medical Center	United States	—
2	Social science methodology: A unified framework	—	—	—
3	Association of affirmative action with health and education outcomes and services in India	Indian Institute of Management Lucknow, University of California Davis, University of California, Davis	India, United States	—
4	The state of applied econometrics: Causality and policy evaluation	Stanford University	United States	Influential
5	On making causal claims: A review and recommendations	École de management de Lyon, University of Lausanne	France, Switzerland	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	Econometric methods for program evaluation	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Michigan	United States	—
7	A practical introduction to regression discontinuity designs: Foundations	Princeton University, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
8	A guide to modern econometrics	—	—	—
9	Does corporate social responsibility lead to superior financial performance? A regression discontinuity approach	Ivey Business School	Canada	—
10	Financing innovation: Evidence from R&D grants	New York University	United States	—
11	Simple local polynomial density estimators	UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, University of Michigan	United States	—
12	Endogeneity in empirical corporate finance1	University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester	United States	—
13	rdrobust: Software for regression-discontinuity designs	University of Chicago, University of Miami, University of Michigan	United States	—
14	Social norms and energy conservation	Stanford University	United States	—
15	Evidence on the impact of sustained exposure to air pollution on life expectancy from China's Huai River policy	Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Peking University	China, Israel, United States	—
16	Optimal bandwidth choice for the regression discontinuity estimator	Stanford University, UCL Australia	Australia, United States	—
17	New evidence on the impact of sustained exposure to air pollution on life expectancy from China's Huai River Policy	Ball State University, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Hebrew University of Jerusalem	China, Hong Kong, Israel	—
18	How effective are behavior change interventions based on the theory of planned behavior?	Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Paderborn	Germany, United States	—
19	Passive investors, not passive owners	Boston College, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
20	Regression discontinuity designs using covariates	University of Chicago, University of Miami, University of Michigan	United States	—
21	Methods and tools for causal discovery and causal inference	INESC TEC, Scuola Normale Superiore, Università di Pisa	Italy, Portugal	—
22	The Matthew effect in science funding	University of Amsterdam, University of California, Berkeley, Utrecht University	Netherlands, United States	—
23	The effect of institutional ownership on firm transparency and information production	Texas A&M University, University of Georgia	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
24	Regression discontinuity in time: Considerations for empirical applications	University of California, Davis, University of Michigan	United States	—
25	Why high-order polynomials should not be used in regression discontinuity designs	Columbia University, Stanford University	United States	—
26	The causal effects of cultural relevance: Evidence from an ethnic studies curriculum	Stanford University, University of California, Irvine Medical Center	United States	—
27	Financial dependence and innovation: The case of public versus private firms	New York University	United States	—
28	On doing relevant and rigorous experiments: Review and recommendations	École de management de Lyon, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, University of Lausanne	Chile, France, Switzerland	—
29	Willingness to pay for clean air: Evidence from air purifier markets in China	Texas Biomedical Research Institute, The University of Texas at San Antonio Health Science Center	United States	—
30	Natural experiments: an overview of methods, approaches, and contributions to public health intervention research	MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	—

Showing the 30 most-cited of 740 independent citing papers.

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).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

[Are sufficient statistics necessary? nonparametric measurement of deadweight loss from unemployment insurance](#)

2021 · 29 citations (GS)

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher provided a seminal analysis distinguishing between rising wage dispersion and falling minimum wages as drivers of US wage inequality during the 1980s.

CLAIM: The researcher's core contribution is a foundational examination of the structural causes of wage inequality in the United States during the 1980s, specifically questioning whether rising dispersion or falling minimum wages was the primary driver. This work is anchored in the highly cited 1999 paper titled 'Wage inequality in the United States during the 1980s: Rising dispersion or falling minimum wage?.'

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the researcher addressed a critical ambiguity in labor economics by disentangling two competing explanations for the observed wage trends. By framing the issue as a choice between rising dispersion and falling minimum wages, the work appears to have introduced a necessary methodological or conceptual distinction that clarified the debate on the sources of inequality during that decade.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved substantial recognition, with over 1,300 citations indicating its status as a key reference in the field. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 99.2% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the contribution has been widely adopted and validated by the broader academic community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional bias.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

CORE PAPER

[Wage inequality in the United States during the 1980s: Rising dispersion or falling minimum wage?](#)

1999 · 1,302 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 755 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Economics papers from 1999 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher empirically investigated the economic incentives driving criminal behavior, establishing a foundational framework for understanding crime through an economic lens.

CLAIM: The researcher’s contribution centers on the 1993 paper, 'An empirical investigation of the economic incentives for criminal behavior,' which serves as the core work in this line of inquiry. This study appears to have provided a critical empirical examination of how economic factors influence criminal decision-making.

ORIGINALITY: By focusing on an empirical investigation of economic incentives, this work likely addressed a gap in understanding the rational or economic motivations behind criminal acts. The title suggests a shift toward quantifying or observing these incentives, offering a distinct perspective from purely theoretical or sociological approaches prevalent at the time.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has garnered 36 citations, indicating sustained academic interest. Notably, among the scholar’s broader citation record, 99.2% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that this line of work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional bias.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

CORE PAPER

[An empirical investigation of the economic incentives for criminal behavior](#)

1993 · 36 citations (GS)

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of California, Irvine Medical Center	United States	—	59
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	58

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Harvard University	United States	SCImago #4 · THE =5 · QS 5	54
Princeton University	United States	SCImago #386 · THE =3 · QS =25	53
National Bureau of Economic Research	United States	SCImago #1957	48
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	48
University of Chicago	United States	SCImago #124 · THE 15 · QS 13	43
IZA - Institute of Labor Economics	Germany	—	41
London School of Economics and Political Science	United Kingdom	SCImago #1403 · THE 52 · QS 56	29
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	29
University of California, Berkeley	United States	SCImago #95 · THE 9 · QS =17	27
New York University	United States	SCImago #116 · THE =31 · QS 55	25
Cornell University	United States	SCImago #61 · THE =18 · QS 16	25
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	SCImago #41 · THE 2 · QS 1	23
Yale University	United States	SCImago #76 · THE 10 · QS 21	22

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	939
United Kingdom	161
China	158
Germany	142
Italy	90
Canada	60
Switzerland	59
Netherlands	46
France	44
Spain	39
Australia	38
Sweden	37

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	Training, wages, and sample selection: Estimating sharp bounds on treatment effects	1,115	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Wage inequality in the United States during the 1980s: Rising dispersion or falling minimum wage?	0	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	An empirical investigation of the economic incentives for criminal behavior	0	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)