

# 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

<b>18</b> Citing papers mapped	<b>18</b> Citation edges	<b>2</b> Home papers mapped	<b>31</b> h-index (GS)
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### 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 18 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	18
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 framework linking psychological stress to disease, evidenced by a seminal 2007 commentary with over 5,000 citations.*

The researcher's primary contribution is the articulation of the critical link between psychological stress and disease, anchored by the 2007 commentary 'Psychological Stress and Disease.' This work serves as the core pillar of this research line, standing alone without direct follow-up publications by the same author in the provided dataset.

This line of work appears to address the need for a synthesized understanding of how stress mechanisms influence health outcomes. By publishing in a venue focused on health research foundations, the researcher likely provided a conceptual bridge or theoretical framework that clarified the relationship between mental states and physical pathology, filling a gap in interdisciplinary health literature.

The significance of this contribution is demonstrated by its substantial citation count of 5,174, indicating widespread adoption and influence. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, confirming that the work has been broadly utilized and validated by the wider scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 13 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

#### CORE PAPER

### [Psychological Stress and Disease](#)

2007 · Foundations of Health Research Center (Commentary) · 5,174 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,010 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2007 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">From stress to inflammation and major depressive disorder: a social signal transduction theory of depression.</a> (2014)	University of California, Los Angeles	United States	—
2	<a href="#">Immunology of Stress: A Review Article</a> (2024)	Umm Al-Qura University	Saudi Arabia	—
3	<a href="#">The multiple roles of life stress in metabolic disorders</a> (2023)	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, University of Minnesota College London, University of Minnesota	United Kingdom, United States	—
4	<a href="#">Religion, spirituality, and health: The research and clinical implications</a> (2012)	—	—	Background
5	<a href="#">Nature-based biopsychosocial resilience: An integrative theoretical framework for research on nature and health</a> (2023)	Cornell University, University of Exeter, University of Twente	Austria, Netherlands, Sweden	Background
6	<a href="#">The multifaceted benefits of walking for healthy aging: from Blue Zones to molecular mechanisms</a> (2023)	Semmelweis University, University of Leicester, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center	Hungary, United Kingdom, United States	—
7	<a href="#">The neuroendocrinology of stress: the stress-related continuum of chronic disease development</a> (2022)	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, National and	Greece	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
		Kapodistrian University of Athens		
8	<a href="#">Stress and telomere shortening: Insights from cellular mechanisms</a> (2021)	UCSF	United States	—
9	<a href="#">Mindfulness and Behavior Change</a> (2020)	Boston College, Brown University, Dalhousie University	Canada, United States	—
10	<a href="#">Automated Detection of Neurological and Mental Health Disorders Using EEG Signals and Artificial Intelligence: A Systematic Review</a> (2025)	Firat University, Munzur University, Politecnico di Torino	Italy, Turkey, United States	<b>Influential</b>
11	<a href="#">Review of the psychometric evidence of the perceived stress scale</a> (2012)	Ajou University	South Korea	<b>Methodology</b>
12	<a href="#">Inflammation: The Common Pathway of Stress-Related Diseases</a> (2017)	—	—	Background
13	<a href="#">The Effects of Stress on Physical Activity and Exercise</a> (2013)	Yale University School of Medicine	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).

### Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

**METHODOLOGY** Review of the psychometric evidence of the perceived stress scale

“It is a self-reported questionnaire that was designed to measure “the degree to which individuals appraise situations in their lives as stressful” (Cohen et al., 1983, p. 385). The PSS items evaluate the degree to which individuals believe their life has been unpredictable, uncontrollable, and overloaded during the previous month. The assessed items are general in nature rather than focusing on specific events or experiences. There are three versions of the PSS. The original instrument is a 14-item scale (PSS-14) that was developed in English (Cohen et al., 1983), with 7 positive items and 7 negative items rated on a 5-point Likert scale. Five years after the introduction of the PSS-14, it was shortened to 10 items (PSS-10) using factor analysis based on data from 2,387 U.S. residents. A four-item PSS (PSS-4) was also introduced as a brief version for situations requiring a very short scale or telephone interviews (Cohen & Williamson, 1988). According to Cohen’s *Laboratory for the Study of Stress, Immunity, and Disease* (2012), the PSS is currently translated into 25 languages other than English.”

## Contribution 2

### Claim — Contribution 2

*The researcher established a foundational longitudinal benchmark for U.S. psychological stress distributions, providing critical comparative data across three distinct decades that has become a standard reference in the field.*

The researcher’s primary contribution centers on the 2012 publication in the *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, which analyzed distributions of psychological stress in the United States using probability samples from 1983, 2006, and 2009. This work stands as a seminal core paper, with no subsequent follow-up publications by the researcher building directly upon this specific dataset or framework.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding the temporal evolution of public mental health. By comparing probability samples across a twenty-six-year span, the research offers a rare longitudinal perspective on stress trends, moving beyond single-timepoint snapshots to capture long-term societal shifts. The titles indicate a focus on descriptive epidemiology and population-level analysis rather than individual clinical interventions.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 2100, indicating it has become a widely recognized reference point in the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community outside the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

**Who's Stressed? Distributions of Psychological Stress in the United States in Probability Samples from 1983, 2006, and 2009**

2012 · Journal of Applied Social Psychology · 2,100 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,169 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Sociology papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Understanding the relationships between physiological and psychosocial stress, cortisol and cognition</a> (2023)	University of Cape Town	South Africa	—
2	<a href="#">The effects of acute stress on core executive functions: A meta-analysis and comparison with cortisol</a> (2016)	University of California, Davis	United States	—
3	<a href="#">The Psychology of Religion: An Empirical Approach</a> (2018)	Biola University, University of Denver, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	United States	—
4	<a href="#">Exercise reduces depression and inflammation but intensity matters</a> (2018)	McMaster University	Canada	—
5	<a href="#">The German version of the Perceived Stress Scale—psychometric characteristics in a representative German community sample</a> (2016)	University Medical Center of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, University of Leipzig, University of Mainz	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).

## D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

### Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Greece	SCImago #617 · THE 401–500 · QS 390	1
University of Mainz	Germany	—	1
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center	United States	SCImago #2524	1
University of California, Davis	United States	SCImago #194 · THE 64 · QS =114	1
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	—	1
Semmelweis University	Hungary	SCImago #1565 · THE 251–300	1
University of Cape Town	South Africa	SCImago #1052 · THE =164 · QS 150	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Dalhousie University	Canada	SCImago #1299 · THE 351–400 · QS 283	1
University of Vienna	Austria	THE =95 · QS 152	1
University of Leicester	United Kingdom	SCImago #1023 · THE =192 · QS 326	1
Umm Al-Qura University	Saudi Arabia	SCImago #2390 · THE 401–500 · QS =622	1
Boston College	United States	SCImago #3099 · THE 251–300 · QS =526	1
University of Exeter	United Kingdom	SCImago #679 · THE =170 · QS =155	1
Cornell University	United States	SCImago #61 · THE =18 · QS 16	1
Uppsala University	Sweden	SCImago #349 · THE 128 · QS 93	1

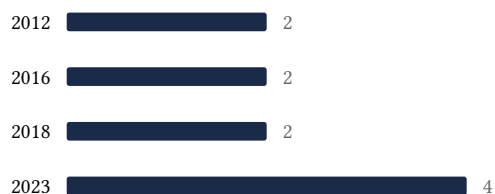
### Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	10
United Kingdom	3
Canada	2
Hungary	1
Italy	1
Netherlands	1
Austria	1
South Africa	1
South Korea	1
Sweden	1
Turkey	1
Saudi Arabia	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

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### 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

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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	Psychological Stress and Disease	13	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Who's Stressed? Distributions of Psychological Stress in the United States in Probability Samples from 1983, 2006, and 2009	5	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5