

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

Snezana Urosevic

Psychologist, Minneapolis VAHCS; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of MN

[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

32	32	5	21
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.

87.5% independent of 32 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	28
Self-citation	1
Co-author	3
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 psychosocial, cognitive, and developmental factors to bipolar disorder, subsequently expanding this model to include behavioral approach system dysregulation and adolescent neurodevelopmental changes.

CLAIM: The researcher’s core contribution is the articulation of a comprehensive psychosocial context for bipolar disorder, initially presented in a 2005 paper that integrates environmental, cognitive, and developmental risk factors. This work serves as the theoretical anchor for subsequent investigations into specific mechanisms of the disorder.

ORIGINALITY: This line of work appears to address the need for a multi-dimensional understanding of bipolar disorder by moving beyond purely biological or symptomatic descriptions. The chronology suggests a deliberate expansion from broad risk factors to specific neurobehavioral mechanisms, notably the dysregulation of the behavioral approach system (BAS) and its longitudinal changes during adolescence, thereby bridging clinical theory with developmental neuroscience.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this research is evidenced by substantial citation counts, with the core paper accumulating 371 citations and follow-up works garnering 338 and 250 citations respectively. Furthermore, the high degree of citation independence, with nearly 97% of classified citations originating from independent researchers, indicates that this framework has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community to advance understanding of bipolar spectrum disorders.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 18 · 2 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[The psychosocial context of bipolar disorder: environmental, cognitive, and developmental risk factors](#)

2005 · 371 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 230 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Environmental Science papers from 2005 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Reward processing and mood-related symptoms: An RDoC and translational neuroscience perspective (2017)	—	—	—
2	Music Asylums: Wellbeing Through Music in Everyday Life (2016)	Exeter University	United Kingdom	—
3	Environmental factors, life events, and trauma in the course of bipolar disorder (2017)	Institute of Psychiatric Phenomics and Genomics, Ludwig-Maximilians-University	Germany	—
4	Use of ecological momentary assessment in mood disorders research (2010)	Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Butler Hospital	United States	—
5	Dysregulation of the behavioral approach system (BAS) in bipolar spectrum disorders: Review of theory and evidence (2008)	UNSW Sydney	Australia	Influential
6	Accelerated aging in bipolar disorder: A comprehensive review of molecular findings and their clinical implications (2020)	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	United States	—
7	The Diagnosis and Management of Bipolar I and II Disorders: Clinical Practice Update (2017)	Mayo Clinic	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* – ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) – the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Dysregulation of the behavioral approach system (BAS) in bipolar spectrum disorders: Review of theory and evidence

2008 · 338 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 229 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2008 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Gray's Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory as a framework for research on personality-psycho-pathology associations (2009)	University of Leuven	Belgium	—
2	Emotion regulation strategies in bipolar disorder: A systematic and critical review (2019)	Greater Manchester West NHS Foundation Trust, Northumbria University, The University of Manchester	United Kingdom	—
3	Ventral Striatum Activity in Response to Reward: Differences Between Bipolar I and II Disorders (2013)	Cardiff University	United Kingdom	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* – ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) – the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Longitudinal Changes in Behavioral Approach System Sensitivity and Brain Structures Involved in Reward Processing during Adolescence.

2012 · Developmental Psychology · 250 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 218 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Intergenerational Transmission of Self-Regulation: A Multidisciplinary Review and Integrative Conceptual Framework (2015)	Northern Illinois University, Virginia Tech	United States	—
2	Longitudinal changes in adolescent risk-taking: a comprehensive study of neural responses to rewards, pubertal development, and risk-taking behavior (2015)	Leiden University	Netherlands	Influential
3	The developmental mismatch in structural brain maturation during adolescence (2014)	University College London	United Kingdom	—
4	Adolescence and reward: Making sense of neural and behavioral changes amid the chaos (2017)	DePaul University, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, McGill University, Douglas Mental Health University Institute	Canada, United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
5	Arrested development? Reconsidering dual-systems models of brain function in adolescence and disorders (2012)	University of Oregon	United States	—
6	Investigating the relationship between reward sensitivity, impulsivity, and food addiction: A systematic review (2020)	Griffith University, QUT Gardens Point, The University of Queensland	Australia	—
7	Contributions of Reward Sensitivity to Ventral Striatum Activity Across Adolescence and Early Adulthood (2018)	Leiden University	Netherlands	—
8	The importance of puberty for adolescent development: conceptualization and measurement (2015)	The Pennsylvania State University, University of Colorado	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher established a prospective predictive model linking Behavioral Approach and Inhibition System sensitivities to bipolar mood episodes, a framework widely adopted by independent scholars.

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 2008 paper 'Behavioral Approach System and Behavioral Inhibition System Sensitivities and Bipolar Spectrum Disorders: Prospective Prediction of Bipolar Mood Episodes!' This work appears to propose a specific neurobiological framework for anticipating mood episodes in bipolar spectrum disorders. By focusing on the sensitivities of the Behavioral Approach System and Behavioral Inhibition System, the study suggests a novel mechanism for understanding the onset of these conditions, moving beyond retrospective analysis to prospective prediction. The titles indicate an effort to bridge personality neuroscience with clinical psychiatry, addressing the critical need for early warning indicators in bipolar disorder management. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher in this dataset suggests this single publication serves as the definitive anchor for this specific line of inquiry, standing alone as a seminal reference point. The significance of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 383, indicating broad recognition within the field. Furthermore, the citation independence context reveals that 96.9% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, not the author or their immediate colleagues. This high degree of independent uptake demonstrates that the proposed model has been widely validated, debated, or utilized by the broader scientific community, confirming its impact beyond the researcher's own institution or network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Behavioral Approach System and Behavioral Inhibition System Sensitivities and Bipolar Spectrum Disorders: Prospective Prediction of Bipolar Mood Episodes](#)

2008 · Bipolar Disorders · 383 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 272 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2008 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Personality and depression: explanatory models and review of the evidence (2011)	State University of New York at Stony Brook	United States	—
2	Creative cognition and dopaminergic modulation of fronto-striatal networks: Integrative review and research agenda (2017)	Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behavior, University of Amsterdam	Netherlands	—
3	Depression and prospection (2016)	University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
4	Reinforcement sensitivity, depression and anxiety: A meta-analysis and meta-analytic structural equation model (2020)	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Israel	—
5	A critical review of assessment strategies to measure the behavioral activation model of depression (2010)	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	United States	—
6	Right dorsolateral prefrontal cortical activity and behavioral inhibition (2009)	University of Wisconsin-Madison	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher established a longitudinal framework for identifying predictors of conversion from bipolar spectrum conditions to bipolar I and II disorders, providing critical insights into disease progression.

The researcher’s contribution centers on a seminal 2012 study published in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, which investigates the progression along the bipolar spectrum. This work specifically examines predictors of conversion from bipolar spectrum conditions to bipolar I and II disorders, offering a longitudinal perspective on how these conditions evolve over time.

This line of work appears to address the need for understanding the trajectory of bipolar spectrum disorders, moving beyond static diagnoses to identify factors that predict conversion to more severe forms of the illness. By focusing on longitudinal predictors, the research suggests a shift toward dynamic modeling of psychiatric conditions, aiming to clarify the pathways through which spectrum conditions develop into distinct bipolar disorders.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 230, indicating that the work has been widely recognized and utilized within the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 96.9% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the findings have resonated beyond the researcher’s immediate circle and have influenced broader scientific discourse on bipolar disorder progression.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Progression along the bipolar spectrum: a longitudinal study of predictors of conversion from bipolar spectrum conditions to bipolar I and II disorders](#)

2012 · J Abnorm Psychol · 230 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 154 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Psychology papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The dominance behavioral system and psychopathology: evidence from self-report, observational, and biological studies (2012)	University of Bridgeport, University of California, Berkeley	United States	—
2	At-risk studies and clinical antecedents of psychosis, bipolar disorder and depression: a scoping review in the context of clinical staging (2019)	Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, Orygen, the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health	Australia	Influential
3	Comparison of Genetic Liability for Sleep Traits Among Individuals With Bipolar Disorder I or II and Control Participants (2020)	Cardiff University, Karolinska Institutet, University of Exeter Medical School	Sweden, United Kingdom	—
4	The 7 up 7 down inventory: a 14-item measure of manic and depressive tendencies carved from the General Behavior Inventory . (2013)	University of North Carolina	—	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Temple University	United States	SCImago #817 · THE 401–500 · QS 721-730	3
University of Wisconsin-Madison	United States	SCImago #174 · THE =53 · QS =110	3
Leiden University	Netherlands	SCImago #259 · THE =70 · QS =119	2
Cardiff University	United Kingdom	SCImago #664 · THE 201–250 · QS 181	2
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	United States	SCImago #295	2
Orygen, the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health	Australia	—	1
Greater Manchester West NHS Foundation Trust	United Kingdom	—	1
University of North Carolina	United States	—	1
Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Butler Hospital	United States	—	1
Institute of Psychiatric Phenomics and Genomics, Ludwig-Maximilians-University	Germany	—	1
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	1
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	United States	SCImago #165	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
McGill University, Douglas Mental Health University Institute	Canada	—	1
QUT Gardens Point	Australia	—	1
University of Colorado	United States	—	1

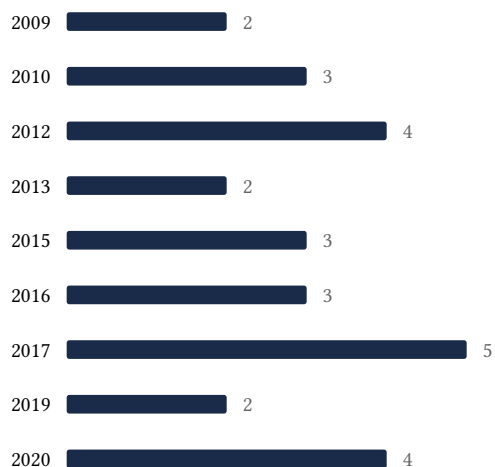
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	16
United Kingdom	5
Australia	3
Netherlands	3
Israel	1
Belgium	1
Sweden	1
Canada	1
Germany	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	The psychosocial context of bipolar disorder: environmental, cognitive, and developmental risk factors	18	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Behavioral Approach System and Behavioral Inhibition System Sensitivities and Bipolar Spectrum Disorders: Prospective Prediction of Bipolar Mood Episodes	6	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Progression along the bipolar spectrum: a longitudinal study of predictors of conversion from bipolar spectrum conditions to bipolar I and II disorders	4	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5