# 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

| 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) | — | — | Background |
| 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 | Background |
| 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 | **Result** |
| 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 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**

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

> *"Reviews on cognitive style in bipolar disorder concluded that, although negative cognitive styles characterize unipolar depression and bipolar disorder alike (Alloy et al., 2005; Alloy, Abramson, Neeren, et al., 2006; Alloy, Abramson, Walshaw, & Neeren, 2006; Johnson & Kizer, 2002), cognitive style in bipolar disorder has a distinctive, BAS-relevant aspect to it (Alloy et al."*

**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–psychopathology 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 | Background |
| 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 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**

## 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 | **Result** |
| 3 | The developmental mismatch in structural brain maturation during adolescence (2014) | University College London | United Kingdom | — |

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | Background |
| 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 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**

**RESULT** Longitudinal changes in adolescent risk-taking: a comprehensive study of neural responses to rewards, pubertal development, and risk-taking behavior

*"A previous study investigating BIS/BAS development found a peak in risk-taking tendency across adolescence in a similar age range and with also two time points with a 2 year interval (Urošević et al., 2012)."*

## 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 | 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 isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

## 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 | — | 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 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |

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

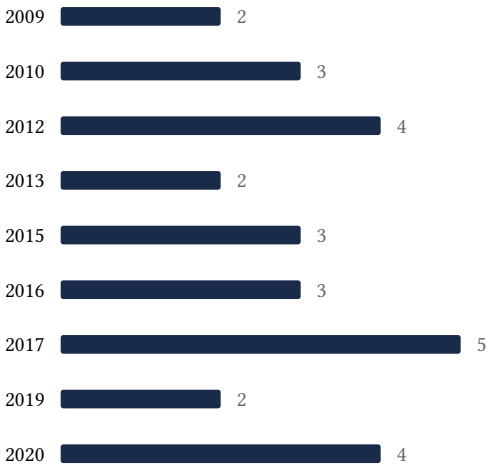
### Geographic distribution of citing authors

| 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 | Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned) |
| Contribution 2 | Behavioral Approach System and Behavioral Inhibition System Sensitivities and Bipolar Spectrum Disorders: Prospective Prediction of Bipolar Mood Episodes | 6 | Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned) |
| 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 | Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned) |