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

20	20	5	14
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.

85.0% independent of 20 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	17
Self-citation	0
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 developed a novel framework for projecting first-wave COVID-19 mortality across the US by integrating social-distancing metrics derived from mobile phone data.

The researcher's core contribution rests on a 2020 medRxiv publication titled 'Projections for first-wave COVID-19 deaths across the US using social-distancing measures derived from mobile phones.' This work represents a distinct line of inquiry focused on leveraging digital trace data for epidemiological forecasting during the initial phase of the pandemic.

This line of work appears to address the urgent need for real-time, granular mortality projections during a rapidly evolving public health crisis. By utilizing mobile phone-derived social-distancing measures, the research suggests a novel methodological approach to estimating death tolls, offering a timely alternative to traditional lagging indicators. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher indicates this stands as a singular, impactful intervention in the field.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 85 citations indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, 90% of these citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has influenced a broad and diverse range of scholars outside the researcher's immediate institutional or collaborative network. This high degree of independent recognition underscores the work's broader impact on the field of pandemic modeling.

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

CORE PAPER

Projections for first-wave COVID-19 deaths across the US using social-distancing measures derived from mobile phones

2020 · medRxiv · 85 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 83 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Medicine papers from 2020 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Mobility network models of COVID-19 explain inequities and inform reopening (2020)	Microsoft Research, Northwestern University, Stanford University	United States	—
2	Mathematical Models for COVID-19 Pandemic: A Comparative Analysis (2020)	Biocomplexity Institute and Initiative, University of Virginia, Chalmers University	Sweden, United States	—
3	The exciting potential and daunting challenge of using GPS human-mobility data for epidemic modeling (2024)	University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
4	COVID-19: Forecasting confirmed cases and deaths with a simple time series model (2020)	International Institute for Compassionate Care, University of Bath, University of Nicosia	Cyprus, United Kingdom	—
5	Forecasting COVID-19 and Analyzing the Effect of Government Interventions (2022)	Brown University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	Background
6	The effect of eviction moratoria on the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (2021)	Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
7	Forecasting COVID-19 pandemic: Unknown unknowns and predictive monitoring (2021)	Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD)	Singapore	**Influential**

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Non-stationary spatio-temporal point process modeling for high-resolution COVID-19 data (2023)	Carnegie Mellon University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Jaume I University	Colombia, Spain, United States	**Methodology**
9	Social Distance Monitor with a Wearable Magnetic Field Proximity Sensor (2020)	German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI)	Germany	**Methodology**

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 Non-stationary spatio-temporal point process modeling for high-resolution COVID-19 data

"Kraemer (2020) and Woody et al. (2020) adopted Generalized linear models to predict the number of daily cases and deaths during the first-wave of COVID-19 in China and the United States, respectively."

METHODOLOGY Social Distance Monitor with a Wearable Magnetic Field Proximity Sensor

"Other viable methods, including thermal image [16], cellular and GPS (Global Positioning System) [17], and AI-based computer version [18–20] are often under privacy policy debate, as the users' visual appearance or exact location path reveals more information than that needed for mere contact detection."

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher advanced the understanding of growth-mindset interventions by demonstrating that teacher mindsets critically determine where such interventions succeed or fail.

CLAIM: The researcher's core contribution is articulated in the 2022 Psychological Science paper, "Teacher Mindsets Help Explain Where a Growth-Mindset Intervention Does and Doesn't Work," which identifies teacher mindset as a key variable in intervention efficacy.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address a critical gap in educational psychology by shifting focus from student-only factors to the role of educators. The title suggests a novel explanatory framework for the inconsistent results often observed in growth-mindset research, offering a more nuanced understanding of intervention mechanisms.

SIGNIFICANCE: With 482 citations, the paper is highly influential. Notably, 90% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and validation of these findings across the global academic community beyond the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

Teacher Mindsets Help Explain Where a Growth-Mindset Intervention Does and Doesn't Work

2022 · Psychological Science · 482 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 206 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Education papers from 2022 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A systematic review and meta-analysis of growth mindset interventions: For whom, how, and why might such interventions work? (2022)	North Carolina State University, Siena College, Tulane University	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
2	Optimally generate policy-based evidence before scaling (2024)	ANU, NBER, The University of Chicago	Australia, United States	—
3	Where and with whom does a brief social-belonging intervention promote progress in college? (2023)	—	—	—
4	A Meta-Analysis on Teachers' Growth Mindset (2024)	Freie Universität Berlin, Justus Liebig University Giessen, The University of Melbourne	Australia, Austria, Germany	Background
5	Towards fostering growth mindset classrooms: Identifying teaching behaviors that signal instructors' fixed and growth mindsets beliefs to students (2022)	Sacred Heart University	—	Background
6	The zero-sum mindset. (2024)	Stanford University, University of British Columbia	United States	—
7	Growth Mindset Messages from Instructors Improve Academic Performance Among First-Generation College Students (2024)	Washington State University	United States	Background
8	Teachers' support for growth mindset and its links with students' growth mindset, academic engagement, and achievements in lower secondary school (2023)	University of Stavanger	Norway	—

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 developed ensemble forecasting methods for US COVID-19 trajectories, establishing a foundational framework for pandemic modeling that has been widely adopted by independent scholars.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the development of ensemble forecasting techniques for tracking the progression of COVID-19 in the United States, as demonstrated in the 2020 paper titled 'Ensemble forecasts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the US.' This work stands as a singular, core contribution in this specific line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the researcher building directly upon it.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests an innovative approach to pandemic modeling by utilizing ensemble methods, which typically combine multiple predictive models to improve accuracy and robustness. By focusing specifically on the US context during the early stages of the pandemic, this work appears to address the critical need for reliable, aggregated forecasting tools when individual models may yield divergent results. The absence of follow-up papers indicates that this single publication encapsulates the researcher's distinct methodological contribution to this specific problem space.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this work is evidenced by its 247 citations, indicating substantial engagement within the scientific community. Notably, 90% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the methodology or findings have been widely adopted and validated by scholars outside the researcher's immediate institution or collaboration network. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the work's utility and influence in advancing public health modeling during the pandemic.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

CORE PAPER

Ensemble forecasts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the US

2020 · 247 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 200 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Medicine papers from 2020 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

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
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	3
The University of Texas at Austin	United States	THE 50 · QS 68	2
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	2
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	2
NBER	United States	—	1
Sacred Heart University	United States	SCImago #8843	1
Biocomplexity Institute and Initiative, University of Virginia	United States	—	1
Chalmers University	Sweden	—	1
International Institute for Compassionate Care	Cyprus	—	1
Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD)	Singapore	SCImago #977 · QS =519	1
Michigan State University	United States	SCImago #436 · THE =105 · QS 161	1
University of Vienna	Austria	THE =95 · QS 152	1
University of Bath	United Kingdom	SCImago #1061 · THE 251–300 · QS =132	1
Freie Universität Berlin	Germany	SCImago #733 · THE =113	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	SCImago #41 · THE 2 · QS 1	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

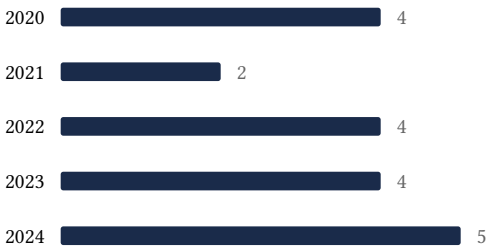
Country	Citing papers
United States	13
Australia	2
Germany	2
United Kingdom	2
Austria	1
Norway	1
Singapore	1
Spain	1

Country	Citing papers
Sweden	1
Colombia	1
Cyprus	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	Projections for first-wave COVID-19 deaths across the US using social-distancing measures derived from mobile phones	9	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Teacher Mindsets Help Explain Where a Growth-Mindset Intervention Does and Doesn't Work	8	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Ensemble forecasts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the US	0	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)