

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

23	23	3	115
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.

100.0% independent of 23 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	23
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 the foundational principle of negativity bias in social psychology, demonstrating that negative stimuli exert a disproportionately stronger influence than positive ones.

The researcher's seminal contribution rests on the 2001 paper 'Bad Is Stronger Than Good,' published in the Review of General Psychology. This work articulates the core claim that negative information, events, or emotions have a greater impact on psychological processes and behavior than positive equivalents of the same intensity. By synthesizing existing literature, the researcher formalized this asymmetry as a fundamental principle in social psychology.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding human cognition by challenging the assumption of symmetry between positive and negative influences. The title suggests a departure from balanced models of affect, proposing instead that the psychological weight of 'bad' inherently outweighs 'good.' This conceptual shift provided a unifying framework for disparate findings across various subfields, offering a new lens through which to interpret human judgment and decision-making.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive uptake within the scientific community, with the core paper accumulating over 12,000 citations. Analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by scholars outside the researcher's immediate network. This high level of independent engagement underscores the paper's role as a foundational reference point in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9

CORE PAPER

[Bad Is Stronger Than Good](#)

2001 · Review of General Psychology · 12,794 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Decisions under Risk Are Decisions under Complexity (2024)	University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	—
2	Memorable tourism experience: A review and research agenda (2022)	Hanken School of Economics, Manchester Metropolitan University, Royal Holloway University of London	United Kingdom	—
3	Socioemotional Selectivity Theory: The Role of Perceived Endings in Human Motivation (2021)	Stanford University	United States	Background
4	Achievement emotions and academic performance: Longitudinal models of reciprocal effects (2017)	Australian Catholic University, University of Konstanz, University of Munich	Australia, Germany, United Kingdom	—
5	The role of positive emotions in positive psychology: The broaden-and-build theory of positive emotions. (2001)	University of Michigan	United States	—
6	Word of mouth and interpersonal communication: A review and directions for future research (2014)	University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
7	Experimental evidence of massive-scale emotional contagion through social networks. (2014)	Facebook	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Emotion shapes the diffusion of moralized content in social networks. (2017)	New York University	United States	—
9	The impact of electronic word-of-mouth communication: A literature analysis and integrative model (2012)	Hong Kong Baptist University	China	—

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 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher established a foundational framework for self-regulation through a seminal handbook chapter that has become a central reference point in the field.

The researcher's primary contribution rests on the 2004 publication titled 'Handbook of self-regulation.' This work appears to serve as a core reference for understanding the mechanisms and theories underlying self-regulatory processes. As a handbook entry, it likely synthesizes existing knowledge while providing a structured overview that defines the scope of the discipline at that time.

This line of work addresses the need for a comprehensive and authoritative summary of self-regulation research. By consolidating diverse perspectives into a single, accessible resource, the researcher provided a common language and theoretical baseline for scholars. The absence of follow-up papers by the same author suggests this contribution stands as a definitive, standalone synthesis rather than part of an ongoing experimental series.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 4052, indicating it is a highly influential text. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers. This complete independence underscores the work's broad acceptance and utility across the wider academic community, confirming its status as a seminal resource.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

CORE PAPER

[Handbook of self-regulation](#)

2004 · 4,052 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,119 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2004 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Positive Psychology 2.0: Towards a Balanced Interactive Model of the Good Life. (2011)	Trent University	Canada	—
2	Handbook of Approach and Avoidance Motivation (2008)	University of Rochester	United States	—
3	Getting to the “COR” (2014)	Florida International University, Tel Aviv University, Université Montpellier 2	France, Israel, United States	—
4	Career transitions across the lifespan: A review and research agenda (2023)	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Netherlands	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
5	The Developing Mind: How Relationships and the Brain Interact to Shape Who We Are (1999)	UCLA School of Medicine	United States	—
6	How might contact with nature promote human health? Promising mechanisms and a possible central pathway. (2015)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	—
7	Behavior Modification: What It Is and How to Do It (2019)	University of Manitoba	Canada	—

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 the Strength Model of Self-Control, a seminal theoretical framework that has become a foundational reference point in psychological science.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the formulation of the Strength Model of Self-Control, introduced in a 2007 paper published in *Current Directions in Psychological Science*. This work stands as a singular, high-impact theoretical contribution without subsequent follow-up papers by the same author in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests a conceptual innovation that frames self-control as a finite resource or strength, addressing a fundamental gap in understanding the mechanisms of behavioral regulation. By proposing this model, the researcher offered a novel lens through which to interpret self-regulatory processes, distinguishing this approach from prior theories.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved extraordinary reach, evidenced by over 6,000 citations. Analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the sampled citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the model has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than being confined to the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

CORE PAPER

[The Strength Model of Self-Control](#)

2007 · *Current Directions in Psychological Science* · 6,380 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,067 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	Integrating Models of Self-Regulation (2021)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Toronto	Canada, United States	—
2	Annual Research Review: On the relations among self-regulation, self-control, executive functioning, effortful control, cognitive control, impulsivity, risk-taking, and inhibition for developmental psychopathology. (2017)	Oregon Health & Science University	United States	—
3	The Effects of Mental Fatigue on Physical Performance: A Systematic Review. (2017)	University of Kent at Medway, Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Belgium, United Kingdom	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
4	Dealing with feeling: a meta-analysis of the effectiveness of strategies derived from the process model of emotion regulation. (2012)	—	—	—
5	Attention Restoration Theory: A systematic review of the attention restoration potential of exposure to natural environments. (2016)	NIHR CLAHRC South West Peninsula	United Kingdom	—
6	A Multilab Preregistered Replication of the Ego-Depletion Effect. (2016)	Brawijaya University, Maas-tricht University, Mount Saint Vincent University	Canada, France, Indonesia	—
7	Origins and consequences of cognitive fatigue (2025)	Paris School of Economics	France	—

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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	SCImago #206 · THE =41	2
University of Toronto	Canada	SCImago #39 · THE 21 · QS 29	1
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	1
Oregon Health & Science University	United States	SCImago #689 · THE 351–400	1
Facebook	United States	—	1
UCLA School of Medicine	United States	—	1
University of Rochester	United States	SCImago #524 · THE 127 · QS 236	1
Australian Catholic University	Australia	SCImago #3911 · THE 401–500 · QS 851-900	1
University of Konstanz	Germany	SCImago #2730 · THE 251–300 · QS =440	1
Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Belgium	SCImago #1489 · THE 201–250 · QS =294	1
Maastricht University	Netherlands	SCImago #783 · THE =131 · QS 239	1
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	1
Tel Aviv University	Israel	SCImago #507 · THE 201–250 · QS 223	1
University of Reading	United Kingdom	SCImago #1453 · THE 201–250 · QS =194	1
Mount Saint Vincent University	Canada	SCImago #9174	1

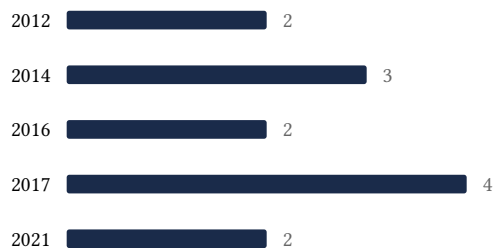
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	11
Canada	4
United Kingdom	4
France	3
Netherlands	2
Israel	1
Germany	1
Belgium	1
China	1
Australia	1
Indonesia	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	Bad Is Stronger Than Good	9	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Handbook of self-regulation	7	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	The Strength Model of Self-Control	7	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)