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

38	39	5	108
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.

97.4% independent of 38 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	37
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
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 social cognitive neuroscience framework for understanding intuition, a contribution validated by highly cited core and follow-up publications in top-tier journals.

The researcher's primary contribution involves defining intuition through a social cognitive neuroscience lens, anchored by the seminal 2000 paper in Psychological Bulletin. This work appears to have laid the foundational theoretical groundwork for the field.

Originality is suggested by the progression from this specific focus on intuition to a broader 2007 review in Annual Review of Psychology on core processes. This trajectory indicates an effort to systematize and expand the theoretical boundaries of social cognitive neuroscience beyond initial concepts.

Significance is demonstrated by the substantial citation counts of both publications, with the follow-up review accumulating over 3,000 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and impact across the global scientific community rather than isolated institutional support.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 14 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Intuition: A Social Cognitive Neuroscience Approach

2000 · Psychological Bulletin · 1,950 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 830 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2000 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Dual-Processing Accounts of Reasoning, Judgment, and Social Cognition (2008)	University of Plymouth	United Kingdom	—
2	Empathy: a motivated account. (2014)	Stanford University	United States	Background
3	Don't Just Tell Me, Ask Me: AI Systems that Intelligently Frame Explanations as Questions Improve Human Logical Discernment Accuracy over Causal AI explanations (2023)	MIT	United States	Background
4	Uncertainty-based competition between prefrontal and dorsolateral striatal systems for behavioral control (2005)	University College London	United Kingdom	—
5	Effects of a secure attachment relationship on right brain development, affect regulation, and infant mental health (2001)	University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine	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).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Social cognitive neuroscience: a review of core processes

2007 · Annual Review of Psychology · 3,105 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,937 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	Toward a hierarchical model of social cognition: A neuroimaging meta-analysis and integrative review of empathy and theory of mind (2020)	Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS), Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle Epinière, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle Épinière (ICM)	Austria, France, Germany	**Influential**
2	The brain's default network: updated anatomy, physiology and evolving insights (2019)	Harvard University	United States	—
3	The Mentalizing Approach to Psychopathology: State of the Art and Future Directions (2020)	KU Leuven, University College London	Belgium, United Kingdom	Background
4	Third wave positive psychology: Broadening towards complexity (2020)	University of East London, University of Melbourne, University of Wollongong	Australia, United Kingdom	Background
5	Development and Validation of a Self-Report Measure of Mentalizing: The Reflective Functioning Questionnaire (2016)	Freelance Researcher and Trainer, KU Leuven, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Belgium, United Kingdom	—
6	On the stress potential of videoconferencing: definition and root causes of Zoom fatigue (2021)	University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria	Austria	Background
7	Self-concept and Identity (2001)	University of Southern California	United States	—
8	Mindsight: The New Science of Personal Transformation (2010)	UCLA	United States	—
9	Mentalizing in Clinical Practice (2008)	The Menninger Clinic, University College London	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).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher pioneered the use of fMRI to investigate the neural mechanisms of social exclusion, establishing a foundational link between social pain and physical pain processing.

CLAIM: The researcher's seminal contribution is the 2003 Science paper, 'Does rejection hurt? An fMRI study of social exclusion,' which appears to have established a critical framework for understanding the neurobiological basis of social pain. This work stands as a singular, high-impact contribution without direct follow-up publications by the same author in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the researcher addressed a significant gap by applying functional magnetic resonance imaging to the psychological experience of social rejection. By framing social exclusion in terms of neural activity, this line of work appears to have bridged social psychology and neuroscience, offering a novel biological perspective on interpersonal dynamics that was previously explored primarily through self-report or behavioral measures.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved substantial recognition, evidenced by over 6,700 citations. Notably, analysis of 38 citing papers reveals that 100% are from independent researchers, indicating that the contribution has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional clustering. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the foundational nature of the findings.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9

CORE PAPER

Does rejection hurt? An fMRI study of social exclusion

2003 · Science · 6,751 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,643 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2003 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Income inequality and health: A causal review (2015)	University of Nottingham, University of York	United Kingdom	Background
2	The New Psychology of Health: Unlocking the Social Cure (2018)	The University of Queensland	Australia	—
3	The Attention System of the Human Brain: 20 Years After (2012)	University of Oregon, Washington University in St. Louis	United States	**Methodology**
4	Direct and mediated impacts of social norms on pro-environmental behavior (2023)	Aarhus University, University of Gothenburg	Denmark, Sweden	—
5	Dissociable Intrinsic Connectivity Networks for Salience Processing and Executive Control (2007)	University of California, San Francisco	United States	Background
6	How do you feel—now? The anterior insula and human awareness (2009)	Barrow Neurological Institute	United States	—
7	An integrative theory of locus coeruleus-norepinephrine function: adaptive gain and optimal performance (2005)	University	—	Background
8	The relationship between nature connectedness and happiness: a meta-analysis (2014)	Carleton University	Canada	—
9	A Brief Social-Belonging Intervention Improves Academic and Health Outcomes of Minority Students (2011)	Stanford University	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).

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established that verbal labeling of emotions disrupts amygdala activity, providing a foundational neural mechanism for how language modulates affective responses.

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 2007 paper 'Putting Feelings Into Words,' which investigates the neural impact of affect labeling. This work appears to demonstrate that translating emotional experiences into words actively disrupts amygdala activity during exposure to affective stimuli. By focusing on this specific interaction, the research addresses the gap in understanding how cognitive processes like language can directly modulate subcortical emotional centers. The title suggests a novel mechanistic explanation for emotion regulation, moving beyond behavioral observations to identify a distinct neurobiological pathway. The significance of this line of work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 2149, indicating broad uptake within the scientific community. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, underscoring the work's wide influence beyond the author's immediate network and its status as a seminal reference in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9

CORE PAPER

Putting Feelings Into Words: Affect Labeling Disrupts Amygdala Activity in Response to Affective Stimuli

2007 · Psychological Science · 2,149 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Positive and Negative Emotion Regulation in Adolescence: Links to Anxiety and Depression (2019)	King's College London, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	United Kingdom, United States	—
2	Functional imaging studies of emotion regulation: a synthetic review and evolving model of the cognitive control of emotion (2012)	Columbia University	United States	—
3	Construct validity of the five facet mindfulness questionnaire in meditating and nonmeditating samples (2008)	University of Kentucky	United States	—
4	Self-awareness, self-regulation, and self-transcendence (S-ART): a framework for understanding the neurobiological mechanisms of mindfulness (2012)	Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	—
5	Emotional processing in anterior cingulate and medial prefrontal cortex (2011)	Stanford University	United States	—
6	Maximizing Exposure Therapy: An Inhibitory Learning Approach (2014)	KU Leuven-University of Leuven, University of California, Los Angeles	Belgium, United States	—
7	Psychological, Relational, and Emotional Effects of Self-Disclosure After Conversations With a Chatbot (2018)	Stanford University	United States	—
8	Emotion and the Prefrontal Cortex: An Integrative Review (2017)	Hamilton College, University of British Columbia	Canada, United States	—
9	Rethinking Stress: The Role of Mindsets in Determining the Stress Response (2013)	Good Think, Yale University	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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	4
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	3
KU Leuven	Belgium	SCImago #180 · THE 46 · QS 60	2
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	2
Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle Epinière, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)	—	—	1
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	United Kingdom	—	1
Deakin University	Australia	SCImago #607 · THE 201–250 · QS =207	1
The Menninger Clinic	—	—	1
University of New South Wales	Australia	SCImago #107 · QS 20	1
University of South Carolina School of Medicine	United States	—	1
Clinical Excellence Commission	Australia	—	1
Hunter New England Medical Library	Australia	—	1
Harvard Medical School/Cambridge Health Alliance	United States	—	1
Hamilton College	United States	SCImago #8783	1
MIT	United States	—	1

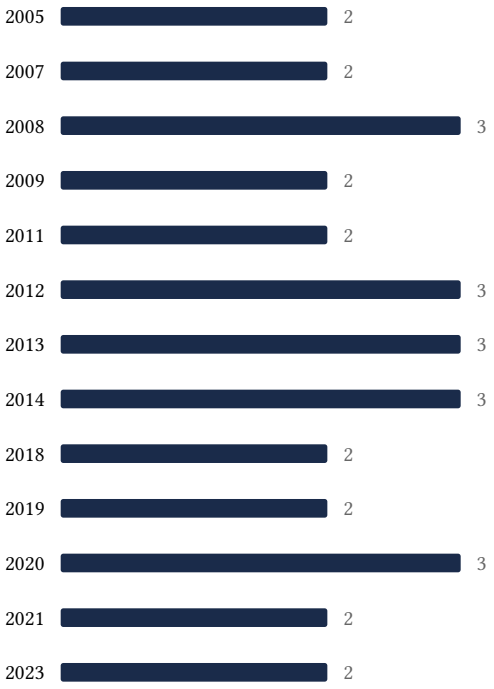
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	24
United Kingdom	9
Australia	3
Belgium	3
Canada	2
Austria	2
Germany	1
Denmark	1
Sweden	1
Spain	1
France	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	Intuition: A Social Cognitive Neuroscience Approach	14	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Does rejection hurt? An fMRI study of social exclusion	9	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Putting Feelings Into Words: Affect Labeling Disrupts Amygdala Activity in Response to Affective Stimuli	9	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)