

# 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

<b>31</b> Citing papers mapped	<b>31</b> Citation edges	<b>4</b> Home papers mapped	<b>13</b> h-index (GS)
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### 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.

**93.5% independent** of 31 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	29
Self-citation	0
Co-author	2
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 advanced understanding of how self-protective control strategies mediate the relationship between chronic illness and loneliness in older adults.*

The researcher’s contribution centers on the 2015 paper published in *Health Psychology*, which examines the role of self-protective control strategies in the context of chronic illness and loneliness among older adults. This work stands as a standalone contribution, with no follow-up papers by the same researcher building directly upon it.

This line of work appears to address a specific gap in gerontological psychology by linking physiological health conditions with social-emotional outcomes through the lens of coping mechanisms. The title suggests a novel focus on how individuals manage control perceptions to mitigate loneliness, offering a nuanced perspective on psychosocial adaptation in aging populations.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 118 citations indicating substantial engagement within the field. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has resonated broadly across the academic community beyond the researcher’s immediate network.

### INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

#### CORE PAPER

### **Chronic Illness and Loneliness in Older Adulthood. The Role of Self-Protective Control Strategies**

2015 · *Health Psychology* · 118 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">The Trajectory of Loneliness in Response to COVID-19</a> (2020)	Florida State University, Florida State University College of Medicine	United States	Background
2	<a href="#">A prescription for "nature" - the potential of using virtual nature in therapeutics.</a> (2018)	Estonian University of Life Sciences, Lund University, University of Exeter	Estonia, Sweden, United Kingdom	Background
3	<a href="#">The Stability and Change of Loneliness Across the Life Span: A Meta-Analysis of Longitudinal Studies.</a> (2020)	Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena	Germany	—
4	<a href="#">Examining social isolation and loneliness in combination in relation to social support and psychological distress using Canadian Longitudinal Study of Aging (CLSA) data.</a> (2020)	University of Manitoba	Canada	Background
5	<a href="#">Examining individual and geographic factors associated with social isolation and loneliness using Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) data.</a> (2019)	Brandon University, University of Manitoba	Canada	—
6	<a href="#">Multimorbidity, Loneliness, and Social Isolation. A Systematic Review</a> (2020)	—	—	Background
7	<a href="#">The use of technology to address loneliness and social isolation among older adults: the role of social care providers.</a> (2024)	University of Bath, University of Bristol	United Kingdom	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 2

### Claim – Contribution 2

*The researcher advanced understanding of social comparison dynamics by examining how comparing one's body to superior others influences daily exercise habits and body evaluation across genders.*

The researcher established a foundational contribution to sport and exercise psychology through the 2016 publication in *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*. This core work investigates the complex associations between upward social comparison, specifically regarding body image, and subsequent behavioral outcomes such as daily exercise and self-evaluation in both men and women.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding the motivational and evaluative consequences of social comparison within physical activity contexts. By focusing on the specific mechanism of comparing oneself to 'superior others,' the research offers a nuanced perspective on how external benchmarks shape internal body evaluations and physical engagement, distinguishing itself from broader studies on general social comparison.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its sustained impact, with the core paper accumulating 51 citations. Notably, analysis of the citing literature reveals that 100% of these citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional echo chambers.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

#### CORE PAPER

### [Comparing the body to superior others: Associations with daily exercise and body evaluation in men and women](#)

2016 · *Psychology of Sport and Exercise* · 51 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Body image, physical activity, and sport: A scoping review</a> (2019)	Curtin University, University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto	Australia, Canada	—
2	<a href="#">Reflections and projections: 25 considerations for body image research in sport and exercise psychology</a> (2025)	University of Southern Denmark, University of Toronto	Canada, Denmark	—
3	<a href="#">A Diary Study of Self-Compassion, Upward Social Comparisons, and Body Image-Related Outcomes</a> . (2017)	Curtin University	Australia	—
4	<a href="#">Relations between social comparisons and physical activity among women in midlife with elevated risk for cardiovascular disease: an ecological momentary assessment study</a> . (2021)	Pennsylvania State University, Rowan University	United States	—
5	<a href="#">Body Image, Physical Activity and Sport Involvement: A Study on Gender Differences</a> (2020)	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	Background
6	<a href="#">Social Norms and Comparison: Evidence on Class Peers' Impact on Adolescents' Physical Exercise in China</a> (2025)	Xiamen 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 3

#### Claim – Contribution 3

*The researcher conducted a comprehensive reanalysis of dispositional optimism research, establishing optimism versus pessimism as key predictors of physical health in a seminal 2021 American Psychologist paper.*

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is a comprehensive reanalysis of dispositional optimism research, published in American Psychologist in 2021, which examines optimism versus pessimism as predictors of physical health. This work stands as a standalone seminal piece without direct follow-up publications by the same author in the provided dataset.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the researcher addressed a need for synthesis and rigorous re-evaluation within the field of dispositional optimism. By framing the work as a 'comprehensive reanalysis,' the researcher appears to have consolidated existing literature to clarify the predictive relationship between psychological dispositions and physical health outcomes, offering a definitive perspective on this debated topic.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has garnered 177 citations, indicating substantial engagement within the academic community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has influenced scholars outside the researcher's immediate network and institution. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the broad relevance and impact of the reanalysis on the wider field of psychology and health research.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

#### CORE PAPER

#### [Optimism Versus Pessimism as Predictors of Physical Health: A Comprehensive Reanalysis of Dispositional Optimism Research](#)

2021 · American Psychologist · 177 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 98 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2021 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Stress and Cardiovascular Disease: The Role of Affective Traits and Mental Disorders.</a> (2025)	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	United States	—
2	<a href="#">Trancework: An Introduction to the Practice of Clinical Hypnosis</a> (2025)	Kaiser Permanente	—	—
3	<a href="#">Do generalized positive and negative outcome expectancies account for the association between <i>amor fati</i> and dimensions of psychological well-being?: a prospective mediation analysis involving optimism and pessimism</a> (2025)	University of Michigan	United States	Influential
4	<a href="#">Amor fati as a predictor of subsequent well-being and ill-being in adults: does belief in fate as a homeostatic process account for the prospective relationship?</a> (2025)	—	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
5	<a href="#">From ill-being to well-being: Bipolar or bivariate? (2022)</a>	Purdue University, The University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong, United States	Background
6	<a href="#">Optimism and pessimism analysis using deep learning on COVID-19 related twitter conversations (2022)</a>	University of Minho	Portugal	Background
7	<a href="#">Positive psychological constructs and association with reduced risk of mild cognitive impairment and dementia in older adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2022)</a>	—	—	—
8	<a href="#">Parents' social comparisons and adolescent self-esteem: the mediating effect of upward social comparison and the moderating influence of optimism (2025)</a>	Palacky University Olomouc	Czech Republic	—

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
University of Manitoba	Canada	SCImago #1210 · THE 501–600 · QS =643	2
Curtin University	Australia	SCImago #1031 · THE 251–300 · QS 183	2
University of Toronto	Canada	SCImago #39 · THE 21 · QS 29	2
Palacky University Olomouc	Czech Republic	THE 1001–1200 · QS =668	1
Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	SCImago #137	1
University of Miami	United States	SCImago #545 · THE 201–250 · QS =314	1
University of A Coruña	Spain	THE 1201–1500	1
Brandon University	Canada	SCImago #3117	1
University of Saskatchewan	Canada	SCImago #1541 · THE 351–400 · QS 378	1
University of Bath	United Kingdom	SCImago #1061 · THE 251–300 · QS =132	1
University of Southern Denmark	Denmark	SCImago #884 · THE 251–300 · QS =303	1
University of Exeter	United Kingdom	SCImago #679 · THE =170 · QS =155	1
Xiamen University	China	SCImago #275 · THE 251–300 · QS 341	1
Qingdao University	China	SCImago #489 · THE 601–800	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Kaiser Permanente	United States	SCImago #1930	1

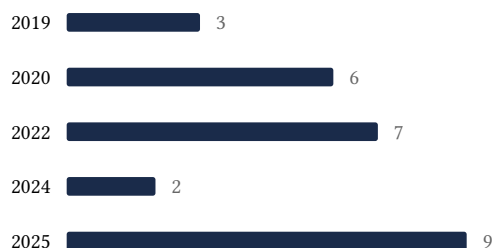
### Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	8
Canada	4
Australia	3
United Kingdom	3
China	2
Estonia	1
Germany	1
Hong Kong	1
Portugal	1
Singapore	1
Spain	1
Sweden	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	Chronic Illness and Loneliness in Older Adulthood. The Role of Self-Protective Control Strategies	7	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Comparing the body to superior others: Associations with daily exercise and body evaluation in men and women	6	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Optimism Versus Pessimism as Predictors of Physical Health: A Comprehensive Reanalysis of Dispositional Optimism Research	8	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)