

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

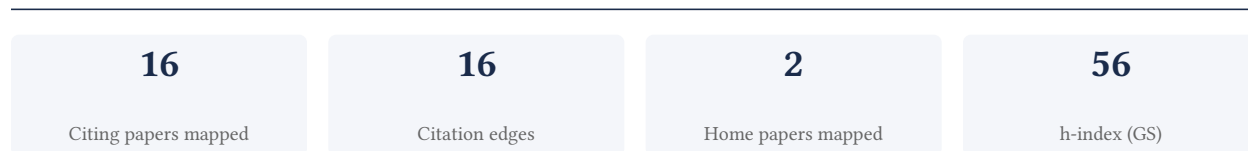
Carsten Wrosch

Professor of Psychology, Concordia University, Montreal

[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



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 16 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	16
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 a foundational framework linking goal disengagement and reengagement to subjective well-being, addressing how individuals adaptively regulate unattainable goals.

CLAIM: The researcher’s seminal 2003 paper, 'Adaptive self-regulation of unattainable goals,' serves as the cornerstone of this contribution, proposing a model for how individuals manage psychological well-being through goal disengagement and reengagement.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address a critical gap in understanding adaptive self-regulation, specifically focusing on the mechanisms by which individuals cope with unattainable goals. By framing disengagement and reengagement as adaptive processes rather than failures, the research offers a novel perspective on subjective well-being.

SIGNIFICANCE: With over 1,500 citations, the paper has clearly influenced the field. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and validation of this framework across diverse academic communities beyond the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Adaptive self-regulation of unattainable goals: Goal disengagement, goal reengagement, and subjective well-being](#)

2003 · 1,563 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 955 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	A New Look at Social Support: A Theoretical Perspective on Thriving Through Relationships (2015)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	—
2	Integrating Models of Self-Regulation (2021)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Toronto	Canada, United States	—
3	Emotion Regulation Flexibility (2015)	—	—	—
4	Constructive and unconstructive repetitive thought (2008)	University of Exeter	United Kingdom	—
5	How Emotion Shapes Behavior: Feedback, Anticipation, and Reflection, Rather Than Direct Causation (2007)	Florida State University, Peking University, University of Minnesota	China, United States	—
6	Stress, Coping, and Hope (2013)	—	—	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2’s isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher developed a motivational theory of life-span development, a seminal framework published in Psychological Review that has garnered over 2,300 citations.

The researcher's primary contribution is the formulation of a motivational theory of life-span development, established through a core paper published in 2010 in Psychological Review. This work stands as a singular, foundational piece in this specific line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in the provided data.

This contribution appears to address the need for a comprehensive theoretical framework linking motivation to developmental processes across the entire life span. By proposing a unified theory, the work likely filled a gap in understanding how motivational drivers evolve and function from childhood through old age, offering a novel perspective distinct from earlier, more fragmented approaches.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 2,317, indicating widespread recognition and utility within the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the theory has been adopted and built upon by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10

CORE PAPER

[A motivational theory of life-span development](#)

2010 · Psychol Rev (Psychological Review) · 2,317 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,372 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2010 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Psychological Resilience: An Affect-Regulation Framework (2023)	Franklin & Marshall College, Washington University in St. Louis	United States	—
2	Emotion Regulation: Current Status and Future Prospects (2015)	Stanford University	United States	—
3	The Development of Subjective Well-Being Across the Life Span: A Meta-Analytic Review of Longitudinal Studies. (2023)	Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Ruhr University Bochum, University of Bern	Germany, Switzerland	—
4	Subjective well-being and academic achievement: A meta-analysis (2018)	Trier University, University of Cologne, University of Koblenz-Landau	Germany	—
5	Age differences in loneliness from late adolescence to oldest old age (2016)	University of Chicago, University of Cologne	Germany, United States	—
6	Multisystemic Resilience: Adaptation and Transformation in Contexts of Change (2021)	Dalhousie University	Canada	—
7	Development of relationship satisfaction across the life span: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2021)	University of Bern	Switzerland	—
8	Concepts and Theories of Human Development (2018)	Tufts University	United States	—
9	The life course cube: A tool for studying lives (2019)	Oregon State University, UNIL, University of Bremen	Germany, Switzerland, United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
10	Transformative privacy calculus: Conceptualizing the personalization-privacy paradox on social media (2024)	Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3	France	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Bern	Switzerland	SCImago #600 · THE =108 · QS =184	2
Witten/Herdecke University	Germany	—	2
University of Cologne	Germany	SCImago #1225 · THE =164 · QS =272	2
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	SCImago #206 · THE =41	1
University of Minnesota	United States	SCImago #165 · THE 88 · QS 210	1
Franklin & Marshall College	United States	SCImago #7764	1
Oregon State University	United States	SCImago #1028 · QS =624	1
Tufts University	United States	SCImago #974 · THE 189 · QS =334	1
Florida State University	United States	SCImago #1224 · THE 301–350 · QS 549	1
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz	Germany	SCImago #810 · THE 301–350 · QS =452	1
Ruhr University Bochum	Germany	SCImago #1358 · THE 251–300 · QS =395	1
University of Chicago	United States	SCImago #124 · THE 15 · QS 13	1
University of Bremen	Germany	SCImago #2378 · THE 301–350 · QS =530	1
University of Koblenz-Landau	Germany	—	1
Washington University in St. Louis	United States	THE 67 · QS 167	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	8
Germany	4
Switzerland	3
Canada	2
France	1

Country	Citing papers
United Kingdom	1
China	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	Adaptive self-regulation of unattainable goals: Goal disengagement, goal reengagement, and subjective well-being	6	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	A motivational theory of life-span development	10	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)