

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

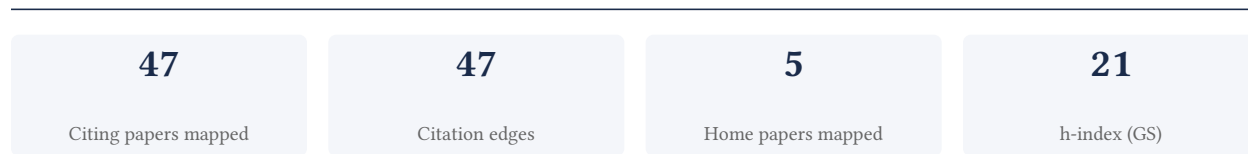
Elizabeth Pasipanodya

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

[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.

87.2% independent of 47 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	41
Self-citation	0
Co-author	6
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 that social constraints on disclosure predict daily well-being in couples coping with early-stage breast cancer, a seminal finding supported by high independent citation rates.

The researcher’s core contribution centers on the 2012 paper titled ‘Social constraints on disclosure predict daily well-being in couples coping with early-stage breast cancer.’ This work stands as the primary artifact in this specific line of inquiry, with no follow-up papers by the same researcher listed in the provided data. The title suggests a focus on the interpersonal dynamics of illness disclosure and its psychological impact on dyadic well-being.

This line of work appears to address the gap in understanding how social interactions, specifically constraints on sharing illness-related information, influence the daily emotional states of couples facing early-stage breast cancer. By linking social constraints directly to well-being outcomes, the research offers a nuanced perspective on the psychosocial mechanisms at play during cancer coping, moving beyond individual-focused models to include relational factors.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record. With 102 citations, the paper is well-cited within its field. Notably, 91.5% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has resonated beyond the author’s immediate circle and has been adopted by the broader scientific community to inform subsequent studies on cancer coping and social support.

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

CORE PAPER

[Social constraints on disclosure predict daily well-being in couples coping with early-stage breast cancer.](#)

2012 · 102 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 79 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Dyadic coping and relationship functioning in couples coping with cancer: A systematic review (2014)	St. Elisabeth Hospital, Tilburg University, University of Zurich	Netherlands, Switzerland	Background
2	Fear of cancer recurrence: a theoretical review and its relevance for clinical presentation and management (2017)	University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
3	Acknowledging cancer as a family disease: A systematic review of family care in the cancer setting (2020)	Deakin University, Griffith University	Australia	—
4	Effects of a Randomized Gratitude Intervention on Death-Related Fear of Recurrence in Breast Cancer Survivors (2016)	Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute, University of Pennsylvania	—	Methodology
5	Beyond “being open about it”: A systematic review on cancer related communication within couples (2022)	Bar-Ilan University, The Academic College of Tel Aviv Yaffo, University Medical Center Groningen	Israel, Netherlands	Influential
6	Social support, social constraint, and psychological adjustment in patients with colorectal cancer (2025)	University of Miami	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
7	Using a Gratitude Intervention to Improve the Lives of Women With Breast Cancer: A Daily Diary Study (2019)	College of William and Mary, SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities	Poland, United States	—
8	Dyadic Coping Across the Lifespan: A Comparison Between Younger and Middle-Aged Couples With Breast Cancer (2019)	University of Chicago	United States	Background
9	Long-Term Fear of Recurrence in Young Breast Cancer Survivors and Partners (2017)	Indiana University, Purdue University	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).

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher developed a technical manual for the Delaware School Survey, establishing standardized scales for measuring school climate, bullying, and social-emotional learning techniques.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2014 publication of a technical manual for the Delaware School Survey. This work appears to provide standardized scales for assessing school climate, bullying victimization, student engagement, and various educational techniques, including positive, punitive, and social-emotional learning approaches.

This line of work addresses the need for rigorous measurement tools in educational research. By formalizing these scales, the researcher likely facilitated more consistent data collection and analysis regarding student well-being and school environments, filling a gap in standardized assessment methodologies.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its uptake in the field, with the core paper accumulating 189 citations. Notably, 91.5% of the citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the manual has been widely adopted and utilized by scholars outside the researcher's immediate circle to advance related studies.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[Technical manual for Delaware School Survey: Scales of school climate, bullying victimization, student engagement, and positive, punitive, and social emotional learning techniques](#)

2014 · 189 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The social cognitions of victims of bullying: A systematic review (2022)	Leiden University, Tilburg University, University of Groningen	Netherlands	—
2	The relationships between school belonging and students' motivational, social-emotional, behavioural, and academic outcomes in secondary education: a meta-analytic review (2019)	University of Agder, University of Groningen	Netherlands, Norway	—
3	A PRISMA-Based Systematic Review of Measurements for School Bullying (2022)	Chongqing Medical University, Southwest University	China	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
4	Multilevel associations between school-wide social-emotional learning approach and student engagement across elementary, middle, and high schools (2018)	George Mason University, University of California, Berkeley, University of Delaware	United States	—
5	Profiles of teachers' classroom management style: Differences in perceived school climate and professional characteristics (2023)	Louisiana State University	United States	—
6	Social emotional learning (SEL) practices in schools: Effects on perceptions of bullying victimization (2019)	Florida State University, University at Buffalo, State University of New York	United States	—
7	The roles of resilience, peer relationship, teacher-student relationship on student mental health difficulties during COVID-19. (2022)	University of Macau	China	—
8	Teacher-student relationships and mental health help seeking behaviors among elementary and secondary students in Ontario Canada (2020)	McMaster University, University of South Carolina	Canada, 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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher developed the Relationship Flourishing Scale, a seminal instrument for measuring relationship quality that has become a widely adopted standard in family psychology research.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development of the Relationship Flourishing Scale, introduced in a 2016 article published in the *Journal of Family Psychology*. This work stands as a standalone core contribution, establishing a new metric for assessing relationship quality without reliance on subsequent follow-up publications by the same author.

This line of work appears to address the need for more nuanced measurement tools in family psychology. By focusing on 'flourishing' rather than mere satisfaction or stability, the researcher likely introduced a distinct conceptual framework for evaluating relationship health. The absence of follow-up papers suggests the original instrument was sufficiently robust and complete to serve as a definitive resource for the field.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial uptake in the scientific community, with 147 citations recorded. Notably, 91.5% of these citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the scale has been widely adopted and validated by scholars outside the researcher's immediate network. This high degree of independent citation underscores the tool's utility and the broad impact of the researcher's methodological innovation.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10

CORE PAPER

[Enhancing relationship quality measurement: The development of the Relationship Flourishing Scale](#)

2016 · *Journal of Family Psychology* · 147 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 66 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Psychology papers from 2016 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Measurement of flourishing: a scoping review (2024)	Stanford University	United States	—
2	Happiness Maximization Is a WEIRD Way of Living (2024)	Indiana University Northwest, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Polish Academy of Sciences	Austria, Brazil, Italy	—
3	'Better policies for better lives'?: constructive critique of the OECD's (mis)measure of student well-being (2019)	Stanford University, The University of Hong Kong	China, United States	Background
4	Important goals, meanings, and relationships in flourishing and languishing states: Towards patterns of well-being (2019)	Emory University, North-West University	South Africa, United States	—
5	Family well-being is valued more than personal well-being: A four-country study (2019)	—	—	—
6	Relationship satisfaction and commitment in the transition to parenthood: A couple-centered approach (2022)	Brigham Young University, Dalhousie University, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	Australia, Canada, United States	Background
7	Linking Sexual Mindfulness to Mixed-Sex Couples' Relational Flourishing, Sexual Harmony, and Orgasm (2021)	Brigham Young University	—	—
8	Romantic Attachment and Difficulties in Emotion Regulation on Dyadic Adjustment: A Comprehensive Literature Review (2021)	University Fernando Pessoa, University of Maia (ISMAI), University of Porto	Portugal	—
9	Taking stock of the longitudinal study of romantic couple relationships: The last 20 years (2022)	Oakland University, Purdue University, University of Alberta	Canada	—
10	Marital Quality Assessment: Reviewing the Concept, Instruments, and Methods (2020)	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	—

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 Delaware	United States	SCImago #1522 · THE 401–500 · QS =553	5
Emory University	United States	SCImago #217 · THE 102 · QS 182	4
Leiden University	Netherlands	SCImago #259 · THE =70 · QS =119	2
University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	SCImago #584 · THE 72 · QS 179	2
University of California, Berkeley	United States	SCImago #95 · THE 9 · QS =17	2

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Purdue University	United States	SCImago #255 · QS =88	2
Johns Hopkins University	United States	SCImago #33 · THE 16 · QS 24	2
Bar-Ilan University	Israel	SCImago #2119 · THE 601–800 · QS =660	2
Tilburg University	Netherlands	SCImago #3248 · THE 301–350 · QS =347	2
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	2
Brigham Young University	United States	SCImago #2113 · QS 1001-1200	2
University of Groningen	Netherlands	SCImago #232 · THE 82 · QS =147	2
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	2
Georgia State University	United States	SCImago #1626 · THE 501–600 · QS 781-790	1
University of Macau	China	SCImago #942 · THE =145 · QS =285	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

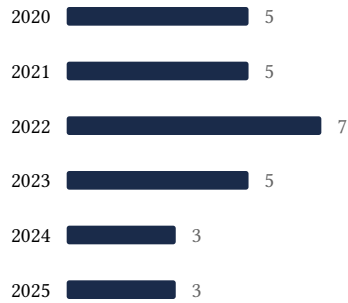
Country	Citing papers
United States	28
Netherlands	5
China	3
Canada	3
Australia	3
Italy	2
Poland	2
United Kingdom	2
Brazil	2
Israel	2
Austria	1
Germany	1

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	Social constraints on disclosure predict daily well-being in couples coping with early-stage breast cancer.	9	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 2	Technical manual for Delaware School Survey: Scales of school climate, bullying victimization, student engagement, and positive, punitive, and social emotional learning techniques	8	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Enhancing relationship quality measurement: The development of the Relationship Flourishing Scale	10	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)