

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

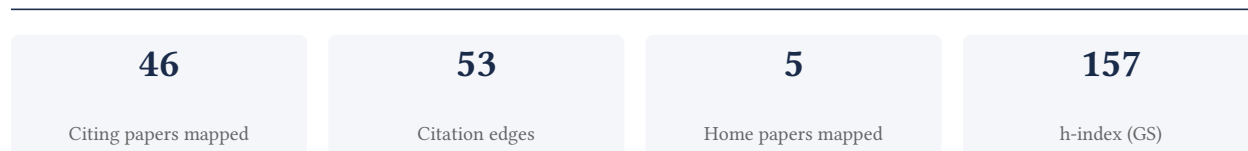
Charles S. Carver

University of Miami

[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.

97.8% independent of 46 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	45
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 the theoretical and psychometric foundations for measuring generalized outcome expectancies, distinguishing optimism from related constructs to clarify its role in health psychology.

The researcher's contribution centers on defining and validating the construct of optimism within health psychology. This line of work is anchored by a seminal 1985 paper in Health Psychology that assessed generalized outcome expectancies and their implications for health, establishing a foundational framework for the field.

Originality in this work appears to lie in the rigorous differentiation of optimism from other psychological traits. A follow-up study published in 1994 in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology suggests the researcher addressed critical methodological gaps by reevaluating measurement tools to distinguish optimism from neuroticism, trait anxiety, self-mastery, and self-esteem. This chronological progression indicates a sustained effort to refine the conceptual clarity and measurement validity of the construct.

The significance of this research is evidenced by its extensive uptake in the scientific community. The core 1985 paper has accumulated over 11,000 citations, while the 1994 follow-up has garnered more than 11,000 citations as well. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that this work has served as a widely adopted standard for scholars outside the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 21

CORE PAPER

[Optimism, Coping, and Health: Assessment and Implications of Generalized Outcome Expectancies](#)

1985 · Health Psychology · 11,843 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 6,939 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1985 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Personality and Prosocial Behavior: A Theoretical Framework and Meta-Analysis (2020)	University of Koblenz-Landau, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Germany, Netherlands	—
2	The Emerging Field of Emotion Regulation: An Integrative Review (1998)	Stanford University	United States	—
3	Posttraumatic Growth: Theory, Research, and Applications (2025)	Oakland University, Queensland University of Technology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte	United States	—
4	The Influence of Culture, Community, and the Nested-Self in the Stress Process: Advancing Conservation of Resources Theory (2001)	—	—	—
5	The Benefits of Being Present: Mindfulness and Its Role in Psychological Well-Being (2003)	University of Rochester	United States	Methodology
6	The Posttraumatic Growth Inventory: Measuring the positive legacy of trauma (1996)	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	United States	—
7	SPSS survival manual: A step by step guide to data analysis using IBM SPSS (2020)	Monash University	Australia	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Job Demands–Resources Theory: Frequently Asked Questions (2024)	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Netherlands	Methodology
9	Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification (2004)	University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania	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).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY The Benefits of Being Present: Mindfulness and Its Role in Psychological Well-Being.

“The pattern of correlations was as follows, with MAAS correlations given first and the alternate scale correlations given second: NEO-FFI Openness (.19, .21), Trait Meta-Mood Scale emotional intelligence (.37, .34), MMS mindfulness (.33, .44), SCS Private Self-Consciousness (.05, .06), SCS Public Self-Consciousness (.01, .07), SCS Social Anxiety (.33, .26), RRQ Reflection (.20, .20), RRQ Rumination (.39, .25), NEO-FFI Neuroticism (.56, .45), BDI depression (.42, .32), POMS Anxiety (.42, .32), pleasant affect (.40, .33), unpleasant affect (.42, .26), PANAS Positive Affect (.39, .36), PANAS Negative Affect (.37, .27), Rosenberg self-esteem (.43, .41), Life Orientation Test optimism (.34, .23), Marlowe–Crowne desirability (.28, .32), and MMPI Lie (.03, .02).”

FOLLOW-UP WORK

[Distinguishing optimism from neuroticism \(and trait anxiety, self-mastery, and self-esteem\): a reevaluation of the Life Orientation Test.](#)

1994 · Journal of Personality and Social Psychology · 11,427 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 7,566 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1994 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	SPSS survival manual: A step by step guide to data analysis using IBM SPSS (2020)	Monash University	Australia	—
2	Psychological correlates of university students' academic performance: a systematic review and meta-analysis. (2012)	University College London, University of Exeter, University of Sussex	United Kingdom	—
3	Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification (2004)	University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
4	On the psychology of poverty (2014)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Zürich	Switzerland, United States	—
5	Psychological distress, coping behaviors, and preferences for support among New York healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020)	Columbia University Irving Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital	United States	Methodology
6	An Ultra-Short Measure for Work Engagement: The UWES-3 Validation Across Five Countries (2019)	Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Jaume I University, Keio University	Belgium, Finland, Japan	—
7	A New Look at Social Support: A Theoretical Perspective on Thriving Through Relationships (2015)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	—
8	THE SHORT-TERM IMPACT OF UNCONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS TO THE	Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Princeton University	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
	POOR: EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FROM KENYA (2016)			
9	The brief resilience scale: Assessing the ability to bounce back (2008)	University of New Mexico	—	—
10	Challenge or hindrance? How and when organizational artificial intelligence adoption influences employee job crafting (2023)	Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Xiamen University	China	—
11	Cultural Humility Versus Cultural Competence: A Critical Distinction in Defining Physician Training Outcomes in Multicultural Education (1998)	Children's Hospital Oakland, University of California, San Francisco	United States	—
12	The Biopsychosocial Approach to Chronic Pain: Scientific Advances and Future Directions (2007)	Maastricht University, The University of Texas at Arlington, University of Washington	Netherlands, 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).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY Psychological distress, coping behaviors, and preferences for support among New York healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic

"We also assessed loneliness with a single item measure [12–14], optimism with a single item from the Life Orientation Test-Revised [15], and single items for sleep duration and disturbances (e.g., poor quality sleep, difficulty falling or staying asleep, waking up too early, and/or feeling that sleep is not refreshing), with questions modified from the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index [16] and Insomnia Severity Index [17]."

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher developed a theoretically grounded framework for assessing coping strategies, establishing a seminal standard in personality and social psychology.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a theoretically based approach to assessing coping strategies, as detailed in their 1989 paper published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. This work stands as a foundational piece in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in this specific line of inquiry, suggesting the core framework itself constitutes the complete contribution.

This line of work appears to address the need for rigorous, theory-driven methods in evaluating how individuals manage stress. By grounding the assessment in established theory rather than ad-hoc measures, the researcher likely provided a more coherent and valid tool for psychological research, distinguishing this approach from earlier, less structured methodologies.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of over 22,000, indicating widespread adoption and influence. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the framework has been embraced and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10 · 2 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Assessing coping strategies: a theoretically based approach](#)

Field-normalised: 11,635 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1989 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Gender differences in perceived stress and coping among college students (2021)	Florida Atlantic University, Marquette University	United States	Methodology
2	Psychological Resilience: An Affect-Regulation Framework (2023)	Franklin & Marshall College, Washington University in St. Louis	United States	—
3	Language teachers' coping strategies during the Covid-19 conversion to online teaching: Correlations with stress, wellbeing and negative emotions (2020)	American University of Sharjah, Cape Breton University, University of Graz	Austria, Canada, United Arab Emirates	—
4	Anxiety and coping strategies among nursing students during the covid-19 pandemic (2020)	—	—	—
5	'Like a rug had been pulled from under you': The impact of COVID-19 on teachers in England during the first six weeks of the UK lockdown (2020)	University of York	United Kingdom	Influential
6	Individual differences and changes in subjective wellbeing during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. (2021)	Leipzig University, Saint Louis University	United States	—
7	The role of teachers' emotion regulation in teaching effectiveness: A systematic review integrating four lines of research (2023)	—	—	Methodology
8	Online consumer resilience during a pandemic: An exploratory study of e-commerce behavior before, during and after a COVID-19 lockdown (2021)	Toulouse Business School	France	Background
9	Coping, emotion regulation, and psychopathology in childhood and adolescence: A meta-analysis and narrative review. (2017)	Vanderbilt University	United States	—
10	Coping with Covid-19: stress, control and coping among pregnant women in Ireland during the Covid-19 pandemic (2022)	National University of Ireland	Ireland	—

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).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY Gender differences in perceived stress and coping among college students

"However, females have reported using more problem-focused coping strategies [30] in regard to social support [31, 32], but another study noted that men used these coping strategies more than females [30]."

METHODOLOGY The role of teachers' emotion regulation in teaching effectiveness: A systematic review integrating four lines of research

"...that strategies used early in the emotion generative process and those modifying the emotion-eliciting situation and its meaning are, in the long-term, most conducive to one's emotion regulation goals in a given situation (e.g., Carver et al., 1989; Lee et al., 2016; Sheppes & Gross, 2012)."

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher developed the BIS/BAS scales, a seminal framework for measuring behavioral inhibition and activation systems in response to reward and punishment.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development of the Behavioral Inhibition System/Behavioral Activation System (BIS/BAS) scales, introduced in a 1994 paper published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. This work provides a structured method for assessing affective responses to impending reward and punishment, establishing a foundational tool for personality and social psychology research.

This line of work appears to address the need for precise, quantifiable measures of motivational systems. By distinguishing between behavioral inhibition and activation, the researcher offered a novel way to operationalize complex affective responses. The titles suggest a focus on the interplay between these systems and their impact on emotional reactions, filling a gap in how researchers measure individual differences in sensitivity to reward and punishment.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive uptake in the scientific community. With over 11,000 citations, the work has become a standard reference in the field. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations come from independent researchers, indicating that the BIS/BAS scales have been widely adopted and utilized by scholars outside the researcher's immediate circle, underscoring the tool's broad utility and impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10

CORE PAPER

Behavioral Inhibition, Behavioral Activation, and Affective Responses to Impending Reward and Punishment: The BIS/BAS Scales.

1994 · Journal of Personality and Social Psychology · 11,125 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 7,332 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1994 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Personality and Prosocial Behavior: A Theoretical Framework and Meta-Analysis (2020)	University of Koblenz-Landau, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Germany, Netherlands	—
2	Uncertainty and anticipation in anxiety: an integrated neurobiological and psychological perspective (2013)	University of Wisconsin-Madison	United States	—
3	The two faces of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Analyzing how AI usage shapes employee behaviors in the hospitality industry (2025)	Beijing Jiaotong University, Capital University of Economics and Business, North China Electric Power University	China	—
4	Psychological factors and consumer behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic (2021)	University of Chieti-Pescara	Italy	Background
5	A Hierarchical Model of Approach and Avoidance Achievement Motivation (1997)	University of Rochester	United States	—
6	Development of a Facebook Addiction Scale (2012)	University of Bergen, University of Bergen; The Bergen Clinics Foundation	Norway	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
7	Temperament (2006)	Indiana University, University of Oregon	United States	—
8	Power, approach, and inhibition . (2003)	Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley	United States	—
9	The international personality item pool and the future of public-domain personality measures (2006)	Brock University, Consulting Psychologists Press, Hogan Assessment Systems	Canada, United States	Methodology
10	The Psychology of Happiness (2001)	Oxford University	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).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY The international personality item pool and the future of public-domain personality measures

“Other multiple-construct measures with IPIP proxies include the lexical Big-Five factor structure (Goldberg, 1992), the lexical Alternative 7 (Saucier, 1997), the 45 facets in the Abridged Big Five-dimensional Circumplex model (AB5C: Hofstee, de Raad, & Goldberg 1992), components of Emotional Intelligence (Barchard, 2001), and the BIS/BAS Inhibition/Activation System (Carver & White, 1994).”

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of North Carolina at Charlotte	United States	THE 601–800 · QS 1001-1200	2
Carnegie Mellon University	United States	SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52	2
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	2
University of Rochester	United States	SCImago #524 · THE 127 · QS 236	2
University of California, Berkeley	United States	SCImago #95 · THE 9 · QS =17	2
University of Bergen	Norway	SCImago #1182 · THE 251–300 · QS =287	1
Hogan Assessment Systems	—	—	1
University of Chieti-Pescara	Italy	—	1
Queensland University of Technology	Australia	SCImago #789 · THE 201–250 · QS 226	1
University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	SCImago #63 · THE =3 · QS 6	1
Utrecht University	Netherlands	SCImago #162 · QS =103	1
University of Bath	United Kingdom	SCImago #1061 · THE 251–300 · QS =132	1
University of Exeter	United Kingdom	SCImago #679 · THE =170 · QS =155	1
Consulting Psychologists Press	—	—	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	SCImago #41 · THE 2 · QS 1	1

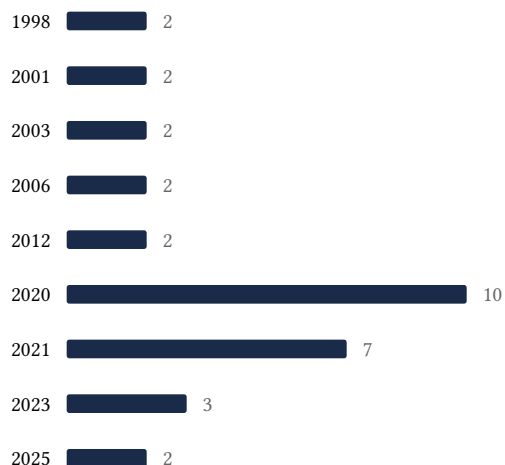
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	21
United Kingdom	6
Netherlands	4
China	3
Switzerland	2
Belgium	2
Canada	2
Japan	1
Norway	1
Spain	1
United Arab Emirates	1
Italy	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	Optimism, Coping, and Health: Assessment and Implications of Generalized Outcome Expectancies	21	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Assessing coping strategies: a theoretically based approach	10	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Behavioral Inhibition, Behavioral Activation, and Affective Responses to Impending Reward and Punishment: The BIS/BAS Scales.	10	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)