

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

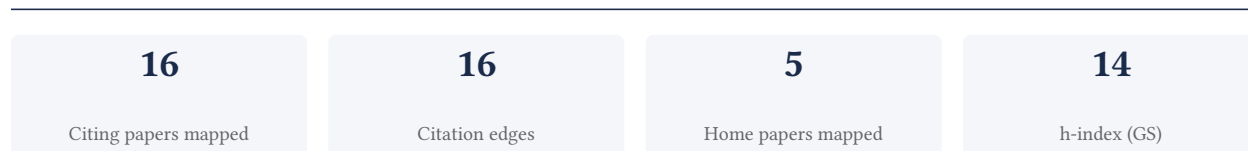
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). 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 identified critical privacy vulnerabilities in encrypted IoT traffic within smart home environments, challenging the assumption that encryption alone ensures user privacy.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2017 paper titled 'A smart home is no castle: Privacy vulnerabilities of encrypted IoT traffic.' This work serves as the foundational piece for this line of inquiry, establishing a specific claim regarding the limitations of encryption in protecting smart home data.

This line of work appears to address a significant gap in understanding IoT security. The title suggests a novel perspective that challenges the conventional wisdom that encrypted traffic is inherently private. By framing the smart home not as a secure 'castle,' the researcher highlights previously overlooked vulnerabilities, indicating an original approach to analyzing the intersection of encryption and user privacy in domestic IoT settings.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 497. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers. This high degree of independent uptake suggests that the work has had a broad impact on the field, influencing scholars outside the researcher's immediate network and validating the importance of the identified privacy vulnerabilities.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

[A smart home is no castle: Privacy vulnerabilities of encrypted IoT traffic](#)

2017 · 497 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 341 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Computer Science papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A Survey of Compiler Testing (2020)	Peking University, Tianjin University, University of Newcastle	Australia, China, Germany	—
2	User Perceptions of Smart Home IoT Privacy (2018)	Princeton University	United States	—
3	Peek-a-boo (2020)	Florida International University, TU Darmstadt, University of Padua	Germany, Italy, United States	—

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 established a foundational framework for analyzing the surveillance implications of web tracking through a seminal 2015 study that has garnered significant independent academic attention.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the identification and analysis of the surveillance implications inherent in web tracking mechanisms, as detailed in the 2015 paper 'Cookies that give you away: The surveillance implications of web tracking.' This work serves as the cornerstone of this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests a novel focus on the privacy and surveillance consequences of common web technologies, specifically cookies. By framing cookies as tools that 'give you away,' the work appears to have shifted the discourse from mere technical functionality to broader implications for user privacy and data exposure, addressing a critical gap in understanding digital surveillance.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this contribution is evidenced by its citation count of 365, indicating substantial engagement within the field. Furthermore, the fact that 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers underscores the work's broad relevance and acceptance beyond the researcher's immediate circle, highlighting its role as a key reference point for independent scholars in privacy and security.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Cookies that give you away: The surveillance implications of web tracking](#)

2015 · 365 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 239 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Computer Science papers from 2015 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Online Tracking (2016)	Princeton University	United States	Influential
2	Third Party Tracking in the Mobile Ecosystem (2018)	University of Oxford	United Kingdom	—

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 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher developed a practical framework for algorithmic impact assessments in public agencies, establishing a foundational approach for evaluating algorithmic governance.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a practical framework for conducting algorithmic impact assessments within public agencies, as detailed in their 2018 paper. This work stands as a seminal piece in the field, providing a structured methodology for public sector entities to evaluate the societal implications of algorithmic decision-making systems.

This line of work appears to address the critical need for standardized, actionable tools to manage algorithmic risk in government operations. By focusing on a 'practical framework,' the research suggests a shift from theoretical discourse to implementable guidelines, filling a gap in how public agencies can systematically assess and mitigate the impacts of automated systems.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 471, indicating widespread recognition and utility. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the framework has been adopted and built upon by the broader academic and professional community outside the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Algorithmic impact assessments: a practical Framework for Public Agency](#)

2018 · 471 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Should ChatGPT be Biased? Challenges and Risks of Bias in Large Language Models (2023)	University of Southern California	United States	—
2	Transparency and accountability in AI systems: safeguarding wellbeing in the age of algorithmic decision-making (2024)	—	—	—
3	Towards a Standard for Identifying and Managing Bias in Artificial Intelligence (2022)	BNH.AI, National Institute of Standards and Technology	United States	—
4	Fairness and Abstraction in Sociotechnical Systems (2019)	Data & Society Research Institute, Haverford College, Microsoft Research and Data & Society Research Institute	United States	—
5	Bridging the Gap Between Ethics and Practice (2020)	University of Maryland, College Park	United States	—
6	A systematic review of artificial intelligence impact assessments. (2023)	Aalto University, De Montfort University, Trilateral Research	Cyprus, Finland, Ireland	—

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
Princeton University	United States	SCImago #386 · THE =3 · QS =25	3
TU Darmstadt	Germany	—	1
Data & Society Research Institute	United States	—	1
Aalto University	Finland	SCImago #854 · THE =195 · QS =114	1
BNH.AI	—	—	1
University of Newcastle	Australia	SCImago #1436 · THE 251–300	1
Tianjin University	China	SCImago #90 · THE 201–250 · QS =257	1
University of Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	1
University of Padua	Italy	THE 201–250	1
Northeastern University	United States	QS 384	1
Imperial College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #69 · THE 8 · QS 2	1
University of Oxford	United Kingdom	SCImago #26 · THE 1 · QS 4	1
Microsoft	United States	—	1
University of Twente	Netherlands	SCImago #1005 · THE =190 · QS =203	1
University of Utah	United States	SCImago #320 · THE 201–250 · QS =540	1

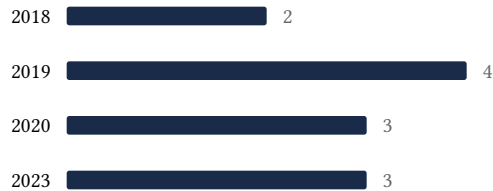
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	11
United Kingdom	4
Germany	2
Finland	1
Australia	1
Italy	1
Netherlands	1
Ireland	1
China	1
Cyprus	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	A smart home is no castle: Privacy vulnerabilities of encrypted iot traffic	3	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Cookies that give you away: The surveillance implications of web tracking	2	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Algorithmic impact assessments: a practical Framework for Public Agency	6	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5