

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

Mitch Prinstein, Ph.D.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

[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

22	22	3	103
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

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.

86.4% independent of 22 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	19
Self-citation	0
Co-author	3
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 empirical link between non-suicidal self-injury and suicide attempts in adolescents, providing critical diagnostic correlates that have become a standard reference in the field.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2006 study published in *Psychiatry Research*, which examined the diagnostic correlates of non-suicidal self-injury among adolescents and its relation to suicide attempts. This work stands as a core pillar of the researcher's portfolio, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in this specific line of inquiry, suggesting the original study's enduring standalone impact.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding the clinical distinctions and overlaps between self-injurious behaviors and suicidal intent in youth. By focusing on diagnostic correlates, the research likely provided early, rigorous evidence necessary for differentiating these conditions, a distinction vital for accurate clinical assessment and intervention strategies in adolescent mental health.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its extensive uptake in the scientific community, with over 2,500 citations. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader field rather than just the researcher's immediate circle, thereby demonstrating broad independent impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Non-suicidal self-injury among adolescents: Diagnostic correlates and relation to suicide attempts](#)

2006 · *Psychiatry Research* · 2,520 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,517 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2006 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Emotional Dysregulation in Children and Adolescents With Psychiatric Disorders. A Narrative Review. (2021)	Medical University of Vienna	Austria	Background
2	The prevalence of self-injury in adolescence: a systematic review and meta-analysis. (2024)	Eötvös Loránd University	Hungary	—
3	The relationship between nonsuicidal self-injury and attempted suicide: converging evidence from four samples (2013)	Harvard University, Old Dominion University	United States	Influential
4	Hospitalization for Suicide Ideation or Attempt: 2008–2015 (2018)	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	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 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher advanced the understanding of peer influence processes by moving beyond homophily, as evidenced by a seminal 2011 paper with nearly 2,000 citations.

The researcher’s contribution centers on advancing the theoretical understanding of peer influence processes, specifically by moving beyond the concept of homophily. This work is anchored in the 2011 article 'Beyond Homophily: A Decade of Advances in Understanding Peer Influence Processes,' published in the Journal of Research on Adolescence.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in adolescent research by challenging or expanding upon the dominant focus on homophily. The title suggests a synthesis of a decade of advances, indicating that the researcher provided a comprehensive framework or critical review that redefined how peer influence is conceptualized in the field.

The significance of this contribution is demonstrated by its substantial impact, with the core paper accumulating 1,960 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, underscoring the work’s broad acceptance and utility across the wider academic community rather than within a single institutional circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

Beyond Homophily: A Decade of Advances in Understanding Peer Influence Processes

2011 · Journal of Research on Adolescence · 1,960 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,267 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2011 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Dynamics of Identity Development in Adolescence: A Decade in Review. (2021)	Utrecht University	Netherlands	—
2	Scrolling through adolescence: a systematic review of the impact of TikTok on adolescent mental health. (2025)	Sapienza University of Rome	Italy	—
3	Mental Health in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth. (2016)	University of Texas at Austin	United States	—
4	Promoting Social Inclusion in Educational Settings: Challenges and Opportunities (2019)	University of California, Los Angeles, Wayne State University	United States	Background
5	Toward understanding the functions of peer influence: A summary and synthesis of recent empirical research. (2021)	Florida Atlantic University	United States	Background
6	Peer Influence in Adolescence: Public-Health Implications for COVID-19 (2020)	—	—	—
7	Beyond Screen Time: Identity Development in the Digital Age (2020)	Radboud University	Netherlands	Background
8	A comprehensive meta-analysis on Problematic Facebook Use (2018)	London South Bank University, University of Padua	Italy, 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).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher established a foundational framework linking social media comparison and feedback-seeking to depressive symptoms, moderated by gender and popularity, as evidenced by a highly cited 2015 study.

The researcher's primary contribution centers on a seminal 2015 paper published in the Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, which examines how social media usage for social comparison and feedback-seeking relates to depressive symptoms. This work specifically investigates the moderating roles of gender and popularity in these associations, offering a nuanced perspective on digital behavior and mental health outcomes.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding the psychological mechanisms underlying social media engagement. By isolating specific behaviors like comparison and feedback-seeking and contextualizing them within demographic factors, the research provides a structured approach to analyzing the mental health impacts of online interactions. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher suggests this single publication serves as a standalone, definitive contribution to the field.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its substantial citation count of 1,357, indicating widespread recognition and utility within the academic community. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been adopted and built upon by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

CORE PAPER

[Using Social Media for Social Comparison and Feedback-Seeking: Gender and Popularity Moderate Associations with Depressive Symptoms](#)

2015 · Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology · 1,357 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 637 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2015 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Annual Research Review: Sex, gender, and internalizing conditions among adolescents in the 21st century - trends, causes, consequences (2024)	Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, University of Iowa	United States	—
2	Adolescent development and risk for the onset of social-emotional disorders: A review and conceptual model (2019)	—	—	—
3	Gender differences in associations between digital media use and psychological well-being: Evidence from three large datasets (2020)	San Diego State University	United States	—
4	Media Use Is Linked to Lower Psychological Well-Being: Evidence from Three Datasets. (2019)	University of Georgia	United States	—
5	Media use and brain development during adolescence (2018)	Erasmus University Rotterdam, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Netherlands	—
6	The relationship between screen time and mental health in young people: A systematic review of longitudinal studies. (2021)	—	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
7	The interplay between Facebook use, social comparison, envy, and depression (2016)	University of Cologne, University of Greifswald	Germany	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 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
Harvard University	United States	SCImago #4 · THE =5 · QS 5	3
Utrecht University	Netherlands	SCImago #162 · QS =103	1
San Diego State University	United States	SCImago #2473 · THE 1001–1200 · QS 1001-1200	1
Wayne State University	United States	SCImago #1290 · THE 501–600 · QS 781-790	1
University of Padua	Italy	THE 201–250	1
University of Georgia	United States	SCImago #597 · THE 351–400 · QS 525	1
Vanderbilt University Medical Center	United States	SCImago #663	1
Florida Atlantic University	United States	SCImago #2973 · THE 801–1000	1
Sapienza University of Rome	Italy	THE =170 · QS 128	1
University of Cologne	Germany	SCImago #1225 · THE =164 · QS =272	1
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	1
Erasmus University Rotterdam	Netherlands	SCImago #248 · THE 107 · QS =140	1
University of Texas at Austin	United States	THE 50 · QS 68	1
Radboud University	Netherlands	QS 279	1
University of Iowa	United States	SCImago #615 · THE 301–350 · QS =530	1

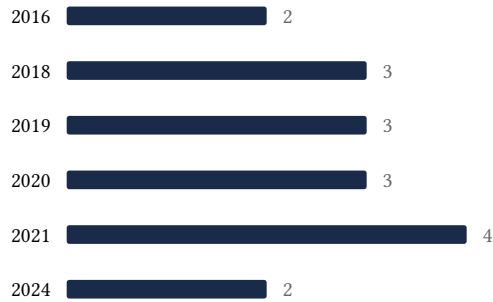
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	10
Netherlands	3
Italy	2
Austria	1
Hungary	1
United Kingdom	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	Non-suicidal self-injury among adolescents: Diagnostic correlates and relation to suicide attempts	4	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Beyond Homophily: A Decade of Advances in Understanding Peer Influence Processes	8	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Using Social Media for Social Comparison and Feedback-Seeking: Gender and Popularity Moderate Associations with Depressive Symptoms	7	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5