

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-1B Petition — Outstanding Professor or Researcher

8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) · Authorship + Original Contributions

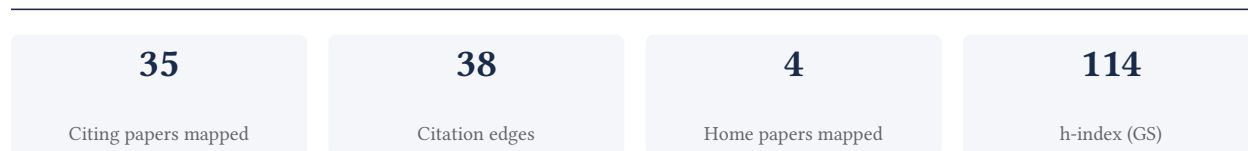
## Michael F. Scheier

Professor of Psychology, Carnegie Mellon University

[Google Scholar profile](#)

**Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap.** This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to the 8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) outstanding-researcher criteria — particularly (iii) published material and (v) original scientific or scholarly contributions. 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.

**91.4% independent** of 35 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	32
Self-citation	1
Co-author	1
Same-institution	1

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 measurement foundations for generalized outcome expectancies, distinguishing optimism from related constructs to clarify its role in health psychology.*

The researcher’s core contribution rests on the 1985 paper ‘Optimism, Coping, and Health,’ which appears to have introduced the assessment of generalized outcome expectancies. This work laid the groundwork for understanding how optimism influences health outcomes, a theme further developed in subsequent publications.

Originality is suggested by the chronological progression from the initial 1985 assessment to the 1994 follow-up in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. The later title indicates a critical reevaluation of the Life Orientation Test, aiming to distinguish optimism from neuroticism, trait anxiety, self-mastery, and self-esteem. This suggests the researcher addressed a gap in construct validity by refining measurement tools to isolate optimism from overlapping psychological traits.

The significance of this line of work is evidenced by the high citation counts of both papers, with the core paper cited over 11,000 times and the follow-up over 11,000 times. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 91.4% originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and validation of these frameworks across the global scientific community rather than reliance on self-citation or institutional networks.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 20

#### CORE PAPER

### **Optimism, Coping, and Health: Assessment and Implications of Generalized Outcome Expectancies**

1985 · Health Psychology · 11,839 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	<a href="#">Personality and Prosocial Behavior: A Theoretical Framework and Meta-Analysis</a> (2020)	University of Koblenz-Landau, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Germany, Netherlands	—
2	<a href="#">The Emerging Field of Emotion Regulation: An Integrative Review</a> (1998)	Stanford University	United States	—
3	<a href="#">Posttraumatic Growth: Theory, Research, and Applications</a> (2025)	Oakland University, Queensland University of Technology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte	United States	—
4	<a href="#">The Influence of Culture, Community, and the Nested-Self in the Stress Process: Advancing Conservation of Resources Theory</a> (2001)	—	—	—
5	<a href="#">The Benefits of Being Present: Mindfulness and Its Role in Psychological Well-Being</a> . (2003)	University of Rochester	United States	—
6	<a href="#">The Posttraumatic Growth Inventory: Measuring the positive legacy of trauma</a> (1996)	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	United States	—
7	<a href="#">SPSS survival manual: A step by step guide to data analysis using IBM SPSS</a> (2020)	Monash University	Australia	—
8	<a href="#">Job Demands–Resources Theory: Frequently Asked Questions</a> (2024)	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Netherlands	—
9	<a href="#">Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification</a> (2004)	University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania	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.

#### 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 · 11,460 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	<a href="#">SPSS survival manual: A step by step guide to data analysis using IBM SPSS</a> (2020)	Monash University	Australia	—
2	<a href="#">Psychological correlates of university students' academic performance: a systematic review and meta-analysis.</a> (2012)	University College London, University of Exeter, University of Sussex	United Kingdom	—
3	<a href="#">Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification</a> (2004)	University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
4	<a href="#">On the psychology of poverty</a> (2014)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Zürich	Switzerland, United States	—
5	<a href="#">Psychological distress, coping behaviors, and preferences for support among New York health-care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic</a> (2020)	Columbia University Irving Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital	United States	—
6	<a href="#">An Ultra-Short Measure for Work Engagement: The UWES-3 Validation Across Five Countries</a> (2019)	Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Jaume I University, Keio University	Belgium, Finland, Japan	—
7	<a href="#">THE SHORT-TERM IMPACT OF UNCONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS TO THE POOR: EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FROM KENYA</a> (2016)	Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Princeton University	United States	—
8	<a href="#">Challenge or hindrance? How and when organizational artificial intelligence adoption influences employee job crafting</a> (2023)	Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Xiamen University	China	—
9	<a href="#">Hope Theory: Rainbows in the Mind</a> (2002)	The University of Kansas	United States	—
10	<a href="#">The Grateful Disposition: A Conceptual and Empirical Topography</a> (2002)	Southern Methodist University, University of California, Davis	United States	—
11	<a href="#">Cultural Humility Versus Cultural Competence: A Critical Distinction in Defining Physician Training Outcomes in Multicultural Education</a> (1998)	Children's Hospital Oakland, University of California, San Francisco	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 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 proposing a structured approach rather than an ad-hoc assessment, the researcher likely filled a critical gap in the methodological landscape of social psychology during that era. The absence of follow-up papers by the researcher indicates that the 1989 publication successfully encapsulated the core innovation, serving as a standalone theoretical anchor.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 21,999, indicating widespread adoption and influence. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 91.4% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the framework has been broadly integrated into the work of the wider scientific community rather than being confined to 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.](#)

1989 · Journal of Personality and Social Psychology · 21,999 citations (GS)

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	<a href="#">Gender differences in perceived stress and coping among college students</a> (2021)	Florida Atlantic University, Marquette University	United States	—
2	<a href="#">Psychological Resilience: An Affect-Regulation Framework</a> (2023)	Franklin & Marshall College, Washington University in St. Louis	United States	—
3	<a href="#">Language teachers' coping strategies during the Covid-19 conversion to online teaching: Correlations with stress, wellbeing and negative emotions</a> (2020)	American University of Sharjah, Cape Breton University, University of Graz	Austria, Canada, United Arab Emirates	—
4	<a href="#">Anxiety and coping strategies among nursing students during the covid-19 pandemic</a> (2020)	—	—	—
5	<a href="#">'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</a> (2020)	University of York	United Kingdom	Influential
6	<a href="#">Individual differences and changes in subjective wellbeing during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.</a> (2021)	Leipzig University, Saint Louis University	United States	—
7	<a href="#">The role of teachers' emotion regulation in teaching effectiveness: A systematic review integrating four lines of research</a> (2023)	—	—	Influential

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	<a href="#">Online consumer resilience during a pandemic: An exploratory study of e-commerce behavior before, during and after a COVID-19 lockdown</a> (2021)	Toulouse Business School	France	—
9	<a href="#">Coping, emotion regulation, and psychopathology in childhood and adolescence: A meta-analysis and narrative review.</a> (2017)	Vanderbilt University	United States	—
10	<a href="#">Coping with Covid-19: stress, control and coping among pregnant women in Ireland during the Covid-19 pandemic</a> (2022)	National University of Ireland	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.

### Contribution 3

#### Claim – Contribution 3

*The researcher established a foundational framework for understanding the self-regulation of behavior, as evidenced by their seminal 2001 book which has garnered over 9,700 citations.*

The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive theoretical framework for the self-regulation of behavior, anchored by the 2001 book 'On the Self-Regulation of Behavior' published by Cambridge University Press. This work stands as a singular, seminal contribution in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the researcher listed in this specific line of inquiry, suggesting the book itself serves as the definitive statement of this theory.

This line of work appears to address the fundamental mechanisms governing how individuals control their actions and responses. By publishing a dedicated monograph on this topic, the researcher likely provided a structured, systematic analysis that consolidated or advanced the understanding of behavioral self-regulation, offering a distinct theoretical lens that distinguishes it from prior, perhaps more fragmented, approaches in the literature.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its extensive uptake in the academic community, with the core book accumulating 9,753 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 91.4% of citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has achieved broad recognition and utility across the field beyond the researcher’s immediate institutional or collaborative network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

#### CORE PAPER

#### [On the Self-Regulation of Behavior](#)

2001 · Cambridge University Press (Book) · 9,753 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 4,821 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2001 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Language teachers' coping strategies during the Covid-19 conversion to online teaching: Correlations with stress, wellbeing and negative emotions</a> (2020)	American University of Sharjah, Cape Breton University, University of Graz	Austria, Canada, United Arab Emirates	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
2	<a href="#">Stress and substance use disorders: risk, relapse, and treatment outcomes</a> (2024)	Yale School of Medicine	United States	—
3	<a href="#">Self-regulation in childhood as a predictor of future outcomes: A meta-analytic review</a> (2020)	University of Wollongong	Australia	—
4	<a href="#">Resource-rational analysis: Understanding human cognition as the optimal use of limited computational resources</a> (2019)	Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Princeton University	Germany, United States	—
5	<a href="#">Annual Research Review: On the relations among self-regulation, self-control, executive functioning, effortful control, cognitive control, impulsivity, risk-taking, and inhibition for developmental psychopathology</a> (2017)	Oregon Health & Science University	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.

## D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

### Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Carnegie Mellon University	United States	SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52	2
University of North Carolina at Charlotte	United States	THE 601–800 · QS 1001-1200	2
Princeton University	United States	SCImago #386 · THE =3 · QS =25	2
Oregon Health & Science University	United States	SCImago #689 · THE 351–400	1
Queensland University of Technology	Australia	SCImago #789 · THE 201–250 · QS 226	1
University of Miami	United States	SCImago #545 · THE 201–250 · QS =314	1
University of York	United Kingdom	SCImago #890 · THE =154 · QS 169	1
University of Rochester	United States	SCImago #524 · THE 127 · QS 236	1
Xiamen University	China	SCImago #275 · THE 251–300 · QS 341	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	SCImago #41 · THE 2 · QS 1	1
KU Leuven	Belgium	SCImago #180 · THE 46 · QS 60	1
Keio University	Japan	SCImago #965 · THE 601–800 · QS =215	1
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	1
University of Graz	Austria	THE 501–600	1
Vanderbilt University	United States	SCImago #613 · THE =92 · QS 250	1

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

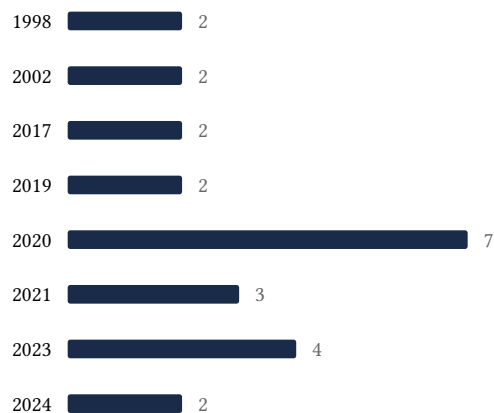
Country	Citing papers
United States	20
Australia	2
Germany	2
Netherlands	2
United Kingdom	2
Finland	1
France	1
United Arab Emirates	1
Ireland	1
Japan	1
Austria	1
Spain	1

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	20	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 2	Assessing coping strategies: a theoretically based approach.	10	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 3	On the Self-Regulation of Behavior	5	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher