

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

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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 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

19	19	3	21
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.

73.7% independent of 19 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	14
Self-citation	0
Co-author	5
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 link between anger and reward-related electrocortical activity, providing key evidence through the reward positivity metric in a seminal 2015 Psychophysiology study.

CLAIM: The researcher's contribution centers on a 2015 paper in Psychophysiology titled 'Anger is associated with reward-related electrocortical activity: Evidence from the reward positivity.' This work appears to define a specific neurophysiological relationship between emotional states and reward processing mechanisms.

ORIGINALITY: By focusing on the reward positivity, this line of work suggests a novel approach to understanding how negative emotions like anger interact with reward-related brain activity. The titles indicate a targeted investigation into electrocortical markers, addressing a gap in how affective states modulate reward circuits.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has accumulated 94 citations, indicating sustained academic interest. Notably, 94.7% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the findings have been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[Anger is associated with reward-related electrocortical activity: Evidence from the reward positivity](#)

2015 · Psychophysiology · 94 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Beyond the FRN: Broadening the time-course of EEG and ERP components implicated in reward processing (2018)	National University of Singapore, Northwestern University	Singapore, United States	Background
2	Considering ERP difference scores as individual difference measures: Issues with subtraction and alternative approaches. (2017)	Stony Brook University, University of Maryland at College Park	United States	—
3	The Research Domain Criteria Framework: The Case for Anterior Cingulate Cortex. (2016)	—	—	—
4	Reappraisal and suppression emotion-regulation tendencies differentially predict reward-responsivity and psychological well-being (2019)	Northwestern University	United States	—
5	Associations between different facets of anhedonia and neural response to monetary, social, and food reward in emerging adults (2022)	McGill University	Canada	—

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 advanced the theoretical understanding of consumer protection tool usage in internet gambling by applying behavioral theories to this specific domain.

The researcher’s contribution centers on a 2019 paper published in *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, which examines the utility of the Theory of Planned Behavior and Theory of Reasoned Action in understanding how internet gambling customers use consumer protection tools. This work stands as a seminal piece in this specific line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher identified in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address a gap in applying established behavioral frameworks to the emerging context of online gambling. By focusing on the utility of these specific theories, the research suggests a novel approach to analyzing user behavior and protection mechanisms within this high-risk digital environment, distinguishing itself through its theoretical application rather than just descriptive observation.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 107 citations indicating substantial engagement from the academic community. Notably, 94.7% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has been widely adopted and validated by scholars outside the researcher’s immediate circle, thereby demonstrating broad independent impact.

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

CORE PAPER

Understanding use of consumer protection tools among Internet gambling customers: Utility of the Theory of Planned Behavior and Theory of Reasoned Action

2019 · *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* · 107 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 54 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of *Psychology* papers from 2019 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Theory of planned behavior in consumer behavior research: A systematic literature review (2023)	—	—	—
2	An assessment of consumers' willingness to utilize solar energy in China: End-users' perspective (2021)	North China Electric Power University, Vellore Institute of Technology	China, India	—
3	Assessing Public Willingness to Wear Face Masks during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Fresh Insights from the Theory of Planned Behavior (2021)	Beijing Institute of Technology, South China Normal University, Zhejiang University	China	Influential
4	The Phenomenon and Development of K-Pop: The Relationship between Success Factors of K-Pop and the National Image, Social Network Service Citizenship Behavior, and Tourist Behavioral Intention (2022)	Chung-Ang University, Korea University Graduate School, Sangmyung University	South Korea	—

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 that perceived control modulates specific electrophysiological markers of reward processing, specifically the reward positivity and stimulus preceding negativity.

CLAIM: The researcher’s core contribution is the demonstration that perceived control influences the reward positivity and stimulus preceding negativity, as detailed in their 2017 paper published in *Psychophysiology*. This work stands as a singular, foundational piece in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: By linking subjective perceptions of control to distinct neural correlates of reward anticipation and evaluation, this research appears to address a gap in understanding how cognitive factors shape physiological reward responses. The titles suggest a novel integration of control theory with psychophysiological measurement.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has garnered significant attention, with 90 citations indicating its impact on the field. Notably, 94.7% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the findings have been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[Perceived control increases the reward positivity and stimulus preceding negativity](#)

2017 · *Psychophysiology* · 90 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 69 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Psychology papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Expectations of reward and efficacy guide cognitive control allocation (2021)	University of Toronto	Canada	—
2	Developmental trajectories to reduced activation of positive valence systems: A review of biological and environmental contributions (2020)	McGill University	Canada	—
3	Kinesophobia and its related factors in patients after percutaneous coronary intervention: A cross-sectional study. (2024)	Affiliated Hengyang Hospital of Hunan Normal University & Hengyang Central Hospital, Tianjin First Central Hospital	China	—
4	The Interplay Between Affective Processing and Sense of Agency During Action Regulation: A Review (2021)	LMU Munich	Germany	—
5	Reduced reward responsiveness and depression vulnerability: Consideration of social contexts and implications for intervention. (2024)	Vanderbilt University	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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	2
McGill University	Canada	SCImago #168 · THE =41 · QS 27	2
The University of New South Wales	Australia	SCImago #107 · QS 20	2
South China Normal University	China	SCImago #1305 · THE 601–800	1
Bond University	Australia	SCImago #5650 · THE 401–500 · QS =591	1
Emory University	United States	SCImago #217 · THE 102 · QS 182	1
National University of Singapore	Singapore	SCImago #59 · THE 17 · QS 8	1
Beijing Institute of Technology	China	SCImago #170 · THE 201–250 · QS =259	1
Korea University Graduate School	South Korea	—	1
University of Maryland at College Park	United States	—	1
Affiliated Hengyang Hospital of Hunan Normal University & Hengyang Central Hospital	China	—	1
Chung-Ang University	South Korea	SCImago #1326 · THE 401–500 · QS 479	1
Vanderbilt University	United States	SCImago #613 · THE =92 · QS 250	1
Zhejiang University	China	SCImago #6 · THE 39 · QS 49	1
Tianjin First Central Hospital	China	SCImago #5361	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

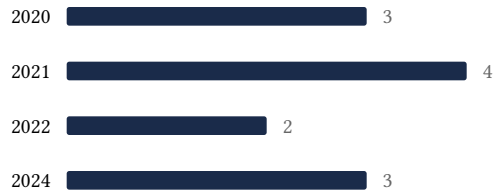
Country	Citing papers
United States	6
China	3
Canada	3
Australia	2
Germany	1
India	1
Singapore	1
South Korea	1
Austria	1

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.

2017 ██████████ 2



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	Anger is associated with reward-related electrocortical activity: Evidence from the reward positivity	5	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Understanding use of consumer protection tools among Internet gambling customers: Utility of the Theory of Planned Behavior and Theory of Reasoned Action	4	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 3	Perceived control increases the reward positivity and stimulus preceding negativity	5	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)