

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

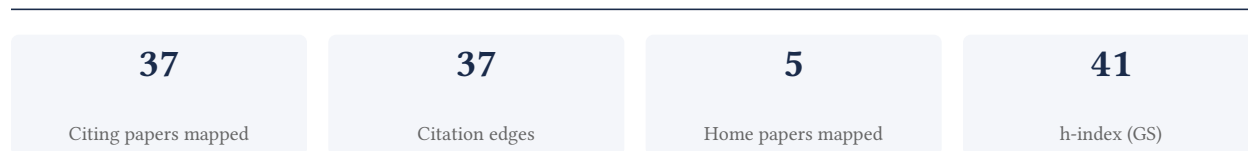
Jo-Ann Tsang

Baylor University

[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.

94.6% independent of 37 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	35
Self-citation	0
Co-author	2
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 conceptual and empirical framework for gratitude as a distinct personality disposition, significantly advancing positive psychology.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive conceptual and empirical topography of gratitude as a stable personality disposition. This work is anchored by the seminal 2002 article published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, which serves as the cornerstone of this research line.

This line of work appears to address the need for a rigorous, multidimensional understanding of gratitude, moving beyond transient emotional states to define it as a dispositional trait. By providing both conceptual clarity and empirical validation, the researcher offered a novel framework that distinguished gratitude from related constructs, thereby filling a critical gap in the psychological literature.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive uptake in the scientific community, with the core paper accumulating over 6,400 citations. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that this framework has been widely adopted and utilized by scholars outside the researcher’s immediate circle to advance diverse areas of psychological inquiry.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[The grateful disposition: A conceptual and empirical topography](#)

2002 · Journal of Personality and Social Psychology · 6,444 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,031 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2002 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification (2004)	University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
2	Moral Emotions and Moral Behavior (2007)	George Mason University, Harvey Mudd College	United States	—
3	EQS 6 Structural Equations Program Manual (2006)	Multivariate Software, Inc.	—	—
4	Predicting psychological and subjective well-being from personality: A meta-analysis. (2020)	Deakin University, University of La Laguna, University of Melbourne	Australia, Spain	—
5	The effectiveness of gratitude intervention in reducing negative emotions in sexual abuse victims (2023)	Asia University, Universitas Muhammadiyah Kalimantan Timur, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta	China, Indonesia	Methodology
6	Psychological Capital: Developing the Human Competitive Edge (2006)	Bellevue University, University of Nebraska, University of Washington	United States	—
7	Awe, the Small Self, and Prosocial Behavior. (2015)	New York University, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Irvine	Canada, United States	Background

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Compassion: an evolutionary analysis and empirical review. (2010)	University of California-Berkeley	United States	Background
9	Gratitude and well-being: a review and theoretical integration (2010)	University of Manchester	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 effectiveness of gratitude intervention in reducing negative emotions in sexual abuse victims

"The Gratitude Questionnaire-Six Item Form trait-like measure (GQ-6) was used to assess gratitude on sexual abuse victims (McCullough et al., 2002)."

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher established a foundational framework linking empathy to altruistic behavior, a seminal contribution that has significantly shaped subsequent discourse in social psychology.

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 2002 paper 'Empathy and altruism,' which appears to define the theoretical relationship between these two constructs. This work stands as a singular, seminal piece in this specific line of inquiry, with no follow-up papers by the same author listed in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address the fundamental question of how empathetic responses drive altruistic actions. By isolating these concepts in a single, highly cited publication, the researcher likely provided a clarifying theoretical model that distinguished empathy from other motivational factors, offering a new lens for understanding prosocial behavior.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 900. Furthermore, analysis of 37 citing papers reveals that 100% are from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

CORE PAPER

[Empathy and altruism](#)

2002 · 900 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 916 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2002 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Empathy: A Review of the Concept (2016)	University of Northampton	United Kingdom	—
2	Teaching and Researching Language Learning Strategies: Self-Regulation in Context, Second Edition (2016)	—	—	—
3	Is Empathy the Key to Effective Teaching? A Systematic Review of Its Association with Teacher-Student Interactions and Student Outcomes (2022)	IPN – Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
4	Positive Psychology 2.0: Towards a Balanced Interactive Model of the Good Life. (2011)	Trent University	Canada	—
5	Facilitating empathy through virtual reality (2017)	Bond University	Australia	—
6	The Benefits of Benevolence: Basic Psychological Needs, Beneficence, and the Enhancement of Well-Being. (2016)	Australian Catholic University	Australia	—
7	Positive Psychology: The Science of Happiness and Flourishing (2023)	Middle Tennessee State University, Yeshiva 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).

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher advanced the temporal understanding of transgression-related interpersonal motivations, specifically examining how forgiveness and forbearance unfold over time.

The researcher established a foundational framework for understanding the temporal dynamics of interpersonal transgressions through the seminal 2003 paper published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. This work specifically investigates the unfolding of forgiveness and forbearance, positioning time as a critical variable in interpersonal motivation.

This line of work appears to address a gap in static models of conflict resolution by introducing a temporal dimension to how individuals process transgressions. By focusing on the progression of forgiveness and forbearance, the research suggests a more nuanced view of interpersonal repair that evolves rather than occurring instantaneously.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 1,283. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and validation of these concepts across the wider academic community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8 · 3 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Forgiveness, Forbearance, and Time: The Temporal Unfolding of Transgression-Related Interpersonal Motivations](#)

2003 · *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* · 1,283 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 730 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2003 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Theory and Application (2006)	—	—	—
2	Positive Psychology: The Science of Happiness and Human Strengths (2011)	University College Dublin	Ireland	—
3	The road to forgiveness: a meta-analytic synthesis of its situational and dispositional correlates. (2010)	University of Maryland	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
4	Chatbots' effectiveness in service recovery (2024)	School of Business Administration	United States	—
5	When customer love turns into lasting hate: the effects of relationship strength and time on customer revenge and avoidance (2009)	HEC Montréal, Washington State University	Canada, United States	Methodology
6	Forgiveness is an emotion-focused coping strategy that can reduce health risks and promote health resilience: Theory, review, and hypotheses (2004)	Virginia Commonwealth University	—	Influential
7	Handbook of Forgiveness (2005)	Virginia Commonwealth University	United States	Influential
8	Efficacy of psychotherapeutic interventions to promote forgiveness: a meta-analysis. (2014)	University of Iowa, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Virginia Commonwealth 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 isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Virginia Commonwealth University	United States	SCImago #938 · THE 401–500 · QS 901-950	3
University of Nottingham	United Kingdom	SCImago #316 · THE =145 · QS 97	3
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	2
University of California, Irvine	United States	SCImago #329 · THE 97 · QS 293	2
University of Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	2
University of Leicester	United Kingdom	SCImago #1023 · THE =192 · QS 326	2
University of Manchester	United Kingdom	SCImago #196 · THE 56 · QS 35	2
George Mason University	United States	SCImago #1399 · THE 401–500 · QS 951-1000	2
Hofstra University	United States	SCImago #2539	2
University of California, Davis	United States	SCImago #194 · THE 64 · QS =114	2
Suffolk University	United States	SCImago #7944	1
School of Business Administration	United States	—	1
University of California-Berkeley	United States	SCImago #95 · THE 9 · QS =17	1
IPN – Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education	—	—	1
University of Toronto	Canada	SCImago #39 · THE 21 · QS 29	1

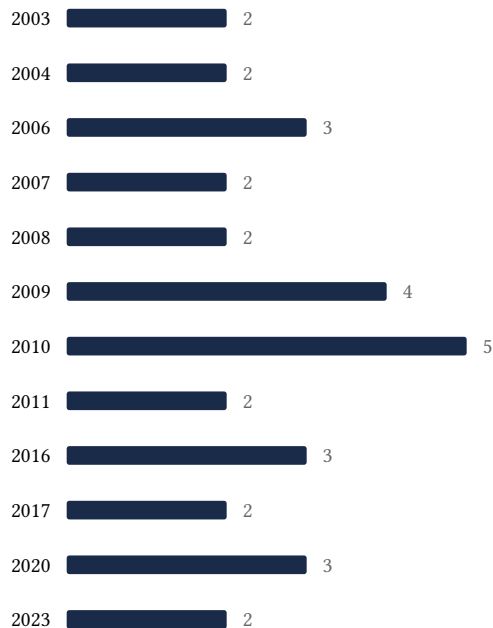
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	19
United Kingdom	6
Australia	3
Canada	3
Ireland	1
Singapore	1
Spain	1
Indonesia	1
China	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	The grateful disposition: A conceptual and empirical topography	9	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Empathy and altruism	7	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Forgiveness, Forbearance, and Time: The Temporal Unfolding of Transgression-Related Interpersonal Motivations	8	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5