# Citation Evidence Report

EB-1B Petition — Outstanding Professor or Researcher

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

## Laura Carstensen

Professor of Psychology, Stanford 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

| 496 | 621 | 100 | 93 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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.

**76.7% independent** of 30 classified citing papers

| Citation type | Count |
|---|---|
| Independent | 23 |
| Self-citation | 0 |
| Co-author | 3 |
| Same-institution | 4 |

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 positivity effect framework, demonstrating how aging alters motivated cognition in attention and memory, and extended this to time perception in human development.*

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 2005 paper 'Aging and Motivated Cognition: The Positivity Effect in Attention and Memory,' published in Trends in Cognitive Sciences. This work appears to define a specific cognitive phenomenon where older adults prioritize positive information, fundamentally linking aging processes with motivated cognitive strategies in attention and memory domains.

This line of work addresses the gap in understanding how motivational goals shift across the lifespan. The subsequent 2006 publication in Science, 'The Influence of a Sense of Time on Human Development,' suggests the researcher expanded this theoretical framework. By connecting the positivity effect to broader developmental timelines, the work implies that changes in time perception drive these cognitive shifts, offering a unified view of age-related cognitive adaptation.

The significance of this research is evidenced by substantial citation counts, with the core paper cited 2,835 times and the follow-up 3,804 times. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature indicates that 80% of citations originate from independent researchers. This high degree of independent uptake confirms that the positivity effect framework has become a standard reference point for scholars outside the researcher's immediate circle, validating its broad impact on the field.

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 11** · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

**CORE PAPER**

#### Aging and Motivated Cognition: The Positivity Effect in Attention and Memory

2005 · Trends in Cognitive Sciences · 2,859 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,874 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2005 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Motivation and Cognitive Control: From Behavior to Neural Mechanism (2015) | Princeton University, Washington University in St. Louis | United States | Background |
| 2 | The power of negative and positive episodic memories (2022) | Boston College | United States | Background |
| 3 | The Oxford Handbook of Event-Related Potential Components (2011) | University of California, Davis | 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).

**FOLLOW-UP WORK**

#### The Influence of a Sense of Time on Human Development

2006 · Science · 3,828 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,325 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 | Strength and vulnerability integration: a model of emotional well-being across adulthood. (2010) | University of California, Irvine | United States | — |
| 2 | Meta-analysis of the age-related positivity effect: Age differences in preferences for positive over negative information. (2014) | DePaul University | — | Background |
| 3 | Using large language models to generate silicon samples in consumer and marketing research: Challenges, opportunities, and guidelines (2024) | Columbia Business School | United States | Background |
| 4 | Effects of sources of social support and resilience on the mental health of different age groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. (2021) | Chinese Academy of Sciences, The First Affiliated Hospital of USTC | China | Background |
| 5 | Work–Life Balance: Weighing the Importance of Work–Family and Work–Health Balance (2020) | — | — | Background |
| 6 | Attitudes and Attitude Change. (2018) | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | United States | — |
| 7 | Mental Illness and Mental Health: The Two Continua Model Across the Lifespan. (2010) | — | — | **Influential** |
| 8 | Self-disclosure in Social Media: Extending the Functional Approach to Disclosure Motivations and Characteristics on Social Network Sites (2014) | Cornell University | United States | 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 isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

## Contribution 2

### Claim — Contribution 2

*The researcher established the socioemotional selectivity theory, a seminal framework explaining how perceived time horizons shape social motivation and emotional regulation across the lifespan.*

The researcher's primary contribution is the formulation of socioemotional selectivity theory, introduced in a 1999 article published in American Psychologist. This work serves as the foundational core of this research line, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher provided in this context. The title suggests a theoretical advancement that treats time as a critical variable in understanding human social behavior.

This line of work appears to address a gap in understanding the dynamic relationship between time perception and social goals. By proposing that individuals adjust their social priorities based on their subjective sense of time left, the researcher offered a novel perspective distinct from static models of social motivation. The absence of follow-up papers in this dataset indicates that the 1999 publication stands as the definitive articulation of this specific theoretical framework.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 8,318, indicating widespread adoption and influence within the field. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 80% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the theory has been validated and utilized by a broad, external scientific community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional echo chambers.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

### Taking time seriously: A theory of socioemotional selectivity.

1999 · American Psychologist · 8,381 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 4,680 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1999 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The Development of Subjective Well-Being Across the Life Span: A Meta-Analytic Review of Longitudinal Studies. (2023) | Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Ruhr University Bochum, University of Bern | Germany, Switzerland | — |
| 2 | The Science of Meaning in Life (2021) | Texas A&M University, University of Missouri | United States | — |
| 3 | Perceived Organizational Support: A Meta-Analytic Evaluation of Organizational Support Theory (2015) | George Mason University, University at Albany, SUNY, University of Houston | United States | — |
| 4 | A Short Scale for Measuring Loneliness in Large Surveys: Results From Two Population-Based Studies. (2004) | — | — | Background |
| 5 | Electrodermal Activity (2012) | — | — | — |
| 6 | Enhancing well-being and alleviating depressive symptoms with positive psychology interventions: a practice-friendly meta-analysis. (2009) | University of California-Riverside | United States | 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 isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

## Contribution 3

**Claim — Contribution 3**

*The researcher established a theoretical framework linking socioemotional selectivity to emotion regulation in later life, a highly cited contribution that has significantly influenced gerontological psychology.*

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 2003 paper 'Socioemotional Selectivity Theory and the Regulation of Emotion in the Second Half of Life,' published in Motivation and Emotion. This work appears to integrate lifespan developmental theory with emotional processes, specifically focusing on how time horizons shape emotional goals in older adulthood.

This line of work addresses the gap in understanding how motivational shifts in later life interact with emotional regulation strategies. By framing emotion regulation through the lens of socioemotional selectivity, the researcher provided a novel theoretical mechanism for interpreting age-related changes in emotional experience and behavior.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 3,219, indicating widespread adoption within the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 80% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has served as a foundational reference for diverse scholars beyond the researcher's immediate academic circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

**Socioemotional Selectivity Theory and the Regulation of Emotion in the Second Half of Life**

2003 · Motivation and Emotion · 3,243 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,819 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2003 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Depression in Older Adults (2009) | University of California, San Diego, University of Southern California, West Virginia University | United States | — |
| 2 | A meta-analysis of cognitive reappraisal and personal resilience (2024) | University of Colorado Colorado Springs | United States | — |
| 3 | Loneliness during the COVID-19 pandemic (2021) | — | — | Background |
| 4 | The psychology of emotion regulation: An integrative review (2008) | — | — | Background |
| 5 | Understanding Emotions (2006) | University of California, Berkeley, University of Toronto | Canada, United States | — |
| 6 | Gender and age differences in emotion regulation strategies and their relationship to depressive symptoms (2011) | — | — | — |

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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stanford University | United States | SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3 | 7 |
| Cornell University | United States | SCImago #61 · THE =18 · QS 16 | 3 |
| Beijing Normal University | China | SCImago #542 · THE =134 · QS =247 | 3 |
| Washington University in St. Louis | United States | THE 67 · QS 167 | 2 |
| Simon Fraser University | Canada | SCImago #1008 · THE 301–350 · QS =308 | 2 |
| University of Southern California | United States | SCImago #192 · THE =73 · QS 146 | 2 |
| Carnegie Mellon University | United States | SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52 | 2 |
| University of California, Irvine | United States | SCImago #329 · THE 97 · QS 293 | 2 |
| Chinese Academy of Sciences | China | SCImago #2 | 1 |
| Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina | Brazil | SCImago #1945 · THE 1001–1200 · QS 801-850 | 1 |

| Institution | Country | World ranking | Citing papers |
|---|---|---|---|
| University of California, Davis | United States | SCImago #194 · THE 64 · QS =114 | 1 |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology | United States | SCImago #41 · THE 2 · QS 1 | 1 |
| Wayne State University | United States | SCImago #1290 · THE 501–600 · QS 781-790 | 1 |
| University of Houston | United States | SCImago #893 · THE 401–500 · QS =556 | 1 |
| Kyushu University | Japan | SCImago #873 · THE 301–350 · QS =170 | 1 |

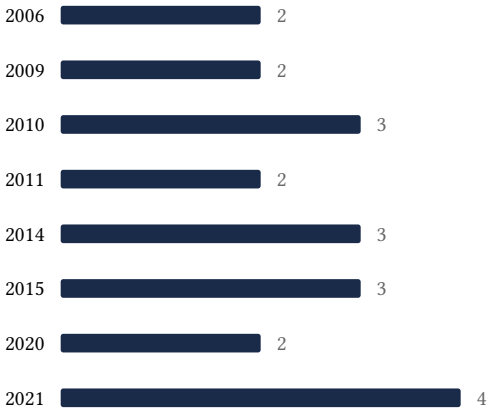
### Geographic distribution of citing authors

| Country | Citing papers |
|---|---|
| United States | 33 |
| China | 12 |
| Canada | 4 |
| Germany | 3 |
| Denmark | 2 |
| Turkey | 2 |
| Spain | 2 |
| Netherlands | 1 |
| Switzerland | 1 |
| Thailand | 1 |
| United Kingdom | 1 |
| Israel | 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 | Aging and Motivated Cognition: The Positivity Effect in Attention and Memory | 11 | 8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher |
| Contribution 2 | Taking time seriously: A theory of socioemotional selectivity. | 6 | 8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher |
| Contribution 3 | Socioemotional Selectivity Theory and the Regulation of Emotion in the Second Half of Life | 6 | 8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher |