

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

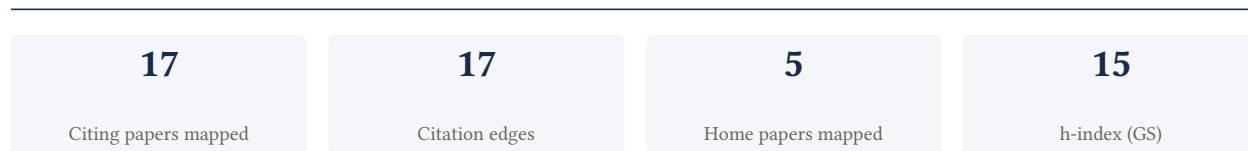
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

**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



### 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.

**100.0% independent** of 17 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	17
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
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 advanced the understanding of learned helplessness by analyzing continuous changes in performance, strategy, and achievement cognitions following failure.*

The researcher's seminal 1978 paper, 'An analysis of learned helplessness: Continuous changes in performance, strategy, and achievement cognitions following failure,' serves as the foundational contribution of this line of work. This study appears to have provided a detailed examination of how individuals adapt—or fail to adapt—their strategies and cognitive frameworks in the aftermath of failure, moving beyond static definitions of helplessness.

This work likely addressed a critical gap in early psychological research by focusing on the dynamic, continuous nature of behavioral and cognitive shifts rather than treating learned helplessness as a fixed state. By isolating performance, strategy, and achievement cognitions, the researcher offered a nuanced framework for understanding the mechanisms underlying motivational deficits after repeated setbacks.

The enduring impact of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 2,829. Furthermore, the fact that 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers underscores the work's broad acceptance and utility across the field, indicating that it has become a standard reference point for scholars studying motivation and failure independently of the original author's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

#### CORE PAPER

### [An analysis of learned helplessness: Continuous changes in performance, strategy, and achievement cognitions following failure.](#)

1978 · 2,829 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,327 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1978 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Self-Theories: Their Role in Motivation, Personality, and Development. Essays in Social Psychology.</a> (1999)	Stanford University	United States	—
2	<a href="#">Matthew Effects in Reading: Some Consequences of Individual Differences in the Acquisition of Literacy</a> (2009)	Oakland University	United States	—
3	<a href="#">Pancreatic Lymphatics in Health and Disease: Evolution, Embryology, and Neural Control.</a> (2026)	Hillman Cancer Center, University of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine	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 established a foundational framework for identifying national-level predictors of subjective well-being, a seminal contribution that has significantly shaped cross-cultural psychological research.*

**CLAIM:** The researcher’s primary contribution is the identification of key factors predicting subjective well-being at the national level, anchored by the seminal 1995 paper titled 'Factors predicting the subjective well-being of nations.' This work serves as the cornerstone of this specific line of inquiry.

**ORIGINALITY:** By focusing on national-level determinants rather than individual traits, this line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding how macro-level societal structures influence collective happiness. The titles suggest a pioneering effort to quantify and categorize these broad predictors, establishing a new paradigm for cross-national comparative studies in well-being research.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The enduring impact of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation record, with the core paper accumulating over 3,500 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that this framework has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community outside the researcher’s immediate circle.

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3**

**CORE PAPER**

**[Factors predicting the subjective well-being of nations.](#)**

1995 · 3,523 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,895 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Sociology papers from 1995 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">A rapid review of the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of healthcare workers: implications for supporting psychological well-being (2021)</a>	Nairn Healthcare Group, New Craigs Hospital, NHS Highland	United Kingdom	—
2	<a href="#">Advances in subjective well-being research (2018)</a>	Purdue University, University of Virginia	United States	—
3	<a href="#">The association between objective and subjective socioeconomic status and subjective well-being: A meta-analytic review. (2020)</a>	Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina, Singapore Management University, University of California, San Francisco	Singapore, 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**

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1**

**CORE PAPER**

**[An analysis of learned helplessness: II. The processing of success.](#)**

1980 · 1,360 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 613 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 1980 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Illusion and Well-Being: A Social Psychological Perspective on Mental Health.</a> (1988)	Southern Methodist University, University of California, Los Angeles	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 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
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	3
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	2
Purdue University	United States	SCImago #255 · QS =88	1
University of California, Davis	United States	SCImago #194 · THE 64 · QS =114	1
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine	United States	—	1
The University of Queensland	Australia	SCImago #126 · THE =80 · QS =42	1
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	1
Yale University	United States	SCImago #76 · THE 10 · QS 21	1
Vanderbilt University	United States	SCImago #613 · THE =92 · QS 250	1
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	1
Southern Methodist University	United States	SCImago #3646 · QS 1001-1200	1
Oakland University	United States	SCImago #4164 · THE 1201–1500	1
University of the Highlands and Islands	United Kingdom	SCImago #5430	1
New Craigs Hospital	United Kingdom	—	1
Nairn Healthcare Group	United Kingdom	—	1

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	13
Australia	1
Germany	1
Ireland	1
Singapore	1
United Kingdom	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

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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.

2018  2

## F. AAO Precedent Considerations

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### 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

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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	An analysis of learned helplessness: Continuous changes in performance, strategy, and achievement cognitions following failure.	3	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Factors predicting the subjective well-being of nations.	3	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Core paper</b>	<b>Indep. cites</b>	<b>Supports</b>
Contribution 3	An analysis of learned helplessness: II. The processing of success.	1	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)