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

21	21	5	51
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.

95.2% independent of 21 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	20
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
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 framework for understanding tropical river systems, as evidenced by the seminal 2005 paper that has garnered significant independent scholarly attention.

The researcher's primary contribution centers on the seminal 2005 paper titled 'Tropical rivers,' which serves as the cornerstone of this line of inquiry. This work appears to define key aspects of tropical river dynamics, establishing a baseline for subsequent academic discourse in the field.

This contribution addresses the need for a consolidated understanding of tropical river systems. By publishing this core text, the researcher provided a critical reference point that likely filled a gap in the literature regarding the specific characteristics or behaviors of these environments, as suggested by the paper's enduring relevance.

The significance of this work is demonstrated by its citation record, with 635 citations indicating substantial impact. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, confirming that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

Tropical rivers

2005 · 635 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	River Damming Impacts on Fish Habitat and Associated Conservation Measures (2023)	Beijing Normal University, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Federal University of Western Pará	Brazil, Canada, China	—
2	Virtual grating approach for Monte Carlo simulations of edge illumination-based x-ray phase contrast imaging. (2022)	—	—	—
3	The Andes-Amazon-Atlantic pathway: A foundational hydroclimate system for social-ecological system sustainability. (2024)	Cornell University, Florida International University, Lancaster University	Brazil, France, United Kingdom	—
4	Minimum sample sizes for population genomics: an empirical study from an Amazonian plant species. (2017)	Universidade de São Paulo, University of Michigan	Brazil, 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 produced a seminal, highly cited analysis of Amazon basin damming, establishing a foundational reference point for independent scholars studying large-scale hydrological infrastructure impacts.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the publication of a seminal paper titled "Damming the rivers of the Amazon basin" in 2017, which serves as a cornerstone reference in the field of environmental hydrology and infrastructure impact assessment.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address the critical need for comprehensive analysis of large-scale dam construction within the Amazon ecosystem. By focusing on the basin-wide implications of such infrastructure, the research likely provided a novel synthesis or framework that was previously lacking, distinguishing itself through its broad scope and timely publication during a period of intense development in the region.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 892, indicating widespread recognition and utility within the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been adopted and built upon by the broader global academic community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle, underscoring its objective value and influence.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

Damming the rivers of the Amazon basin

2017 · 892 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 673 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Mapping the world's free-flowing rivers (2019)	European Commission, Joint Research Centre, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, King's College London	Brazil, Canada, China	—
2	Rapid changes to global river suspended sediment flux by humans (2022)	Dartmouth	United States	—
3	Anthropogenic stresses on the world's big rivers (2019)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	United States	—
4	Sustainable hydropower in the 21st century (2018)	Michigan State 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.

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established a foundational framework for understanding anabranching channels as the ultimate end-member adjustment mechanism for mega rivers, significantly advancing fluvial geomorphology.

CLAIM: The researcher's seminal 2008 paper, "Patterns of anabranching channels: The ultimate end-member adjustment of mega rivers," serves as the cornerstone of this contribution line. This work appears to define the structural and dynamic characteristics of anabranching systems within the context of large-scale river adjustments.

ORIGINALITY: By characterizing anabranching channels as the "ultimate end-member adjustment," the researcher likely addressed a gap in understanding how mega rivers stabilize or evolve under specific hydraulic conditions. The absence of follow-

up papers by the same author suggests this single publication provided a comprehensive and definitive theoretical model that did not require immediate iterative refinement by the original author.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved substantial recognition, evidenced by 569 citations. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the contribution has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional echo chambers. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the paper's status as a standard reference in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

Patterns of anabranching channels: The ultimate end-member adjustment of mega rivers

2008 · 569 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 408 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2008 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Plastic pollution in freshwater ecosystems: macro-, meso-, and microplastic debris in a floodplain lake. (2017)	Institute of Research on Catalysis and Petrochemistry, Instituto Nacional de Limnología	Argentina	—
2	Direct archaeological evidence for Southwestern Amazonia as an early plant domestication and food production centre. (2018)	Federal University of Sergipe, Federal University of Western Pará, University of São Paulo	Brazil	—

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
University of Amsterdam	Netherlands	SCImago #75 · THE =62 · QS 53	2
Federal University of Western Pará	Brazil	SCImago #8357	2
University of Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	2
Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development	Brazil	—	2
Université de Toulouse	France	SCImago #1059	2
University of São Paulo	Brazil	THE 201–250	2
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	United States	—	2
University of Brasília	Brazil	THE 1201–1500	2
Michigan State University	United States	SCImago #436 · THE =105 · QS 161	2
Hohai University	China	SCImago #727 · QS 1001-1200	1
University of Leeds	United Kingdom	SCImago #377 · THE 118 · QS 86	1
University of California, San Diego	United States	SCImago #120 · THE 47 · QS 66	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	SCImago #5 · QS =362	1
University of Gothenburg	Sweden	SCImago #573 · THE 201–250 · QS 202	1
Univ. Grenoble Alpes	France	—	1

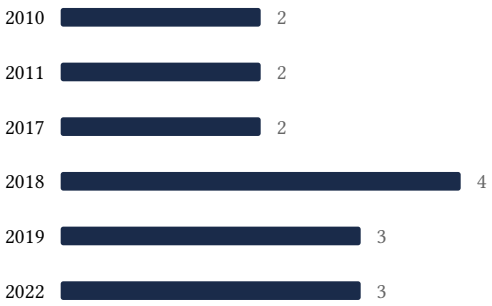
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	14
Brazil	10
Netherlands	4
United Kingdom	4
Sweden	3
France	3
Colombia	2
Spain	2
Canada	2
China	2
Perú	1
South Korea	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	Tropical rivers	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Damming the rivers of the Amazon basin	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Patterns of anabranching channels: The ultimate end-member adjustment of mega rivers	2	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)