

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

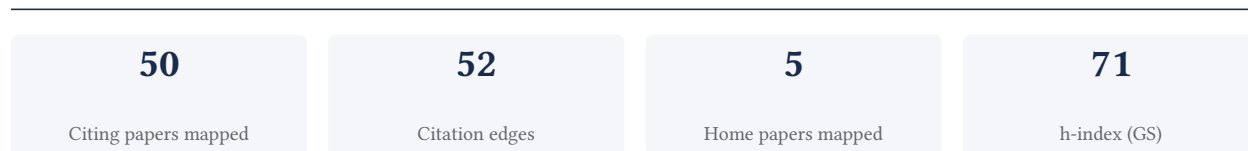
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to 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.

88.0% independent of 50 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	44
Self-citation	0
Co-author	6
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 the theoretical foundations of mindfulness and its salutary effects, subsequently advancing the field by detailing mindfulness interventions, creating a highly cited, independent body of work.

CLAIM: The researcher’s contribution centers on defining the theoretical underpinnings of mindfulness and demonstrating its beneficial effects, as evidenced by the seminal 2007 paper in *Psychological Inquiry*, followed by a 2017 work on mindfulness interventions.

ORIGINALITY: This line of work appears to address the need for a rigorous theoretical framework for mindfulness, moving from foundational concepts to practical applications. The progression from theory to intervention suggests a comprehensive approach to understanding and utilizing mindfulness in psychological contexts.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has garnered 6,929 citations, while the follow-up work has accumulated 3,072 citations, indicating substantial impact. Notably, 96% of citing papers are from independent researchers, underscoring the broad, cross-institutional adoption and validation of this research line.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 16 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Mindfulness: Theoretical Foundations and Evidence for its Salutary Effects](#)

2007 · *Psychological Inquiry* · 6,929 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,690 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2007 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Effects of mindfulness on psychological health: A review of empirical studies (2011)	Duke University	United States	Background
2	Mindfulness and Behavior Change (2020)	Boston College, Brown University, Dalhousie University	Canada, United States	—
3	How do mindfulness-based cognitive therapy and mindfulness-based stress reduction improve mental health and wellbeing? A systematic review and meta-analysis of meditation studies (2015)	University of Sussex	United Kingdom	Result
4	How Does Mindfulness Meditation Work? Proposing Mechanisms of Action From a Conceptual and Neural Perspective (2011)	Justus Liebig-University, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School	Germany, United States	Background
5	The Prosocial Classroom: Teacher Social and Emotional Competence in Relation to Student and Classroom Outcomes (2009)	Pennsylvania State University, University of Virginia	United States	—
6	Developing Self-Awareness: Learning Processes for Self- and Interpersonal Growth (2023)	Montclair State University, State University of New York at Stony Brook	United States	—
7	Mindfulness-Based Interventions for Anxiety and Depression (2017)	Boston 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).

Citing-text excerpts – how the field used this work

RESULT How do mindfulness-based cognitive therapy and mindfulness-based stress reduction improve mental health and wellbeing? A systematic review and meta-analysis of mediation studies

“Brown et al. (2007) also describe several processes underlying the therapeutic effects of mindfulness, including insight, exposure, nonattachment, enhanced mind-body functioning and integrated functioning.”

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Mindfulness interventions

2017 · 3,072 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,461 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Mindfulness and Behavior Change (2020)	Boston College, Brown University, Dalhousie University	Canada, United States	—
2	Mindfulness-Based Interventions for Anxiety and Depression (2017)	Boston University	United States	Influential
3	Brief structured respiration practices enhance mood and reduce physiological arousal (2023)	Stanford University	United States	Background
4	Neurobiological Changes Induced by Mindfulness and Meditation: A Systematic Review (2024)	IRCCS Centro Neurolesi Bonino-Pulejo, University Hospital "G. Martino", University of Messina	Italy	—
5	Self-Control and Academic Achievement (2019)	Stanford University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh	United States	—
6	A systematic review and meta-analysis of psychological interventions to improve mental wellbeing (2021)	South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, University of South Australia	Australia	—
7	How Breath-Control Can Change Your Life: A Systematic Review on Psycho-Physiological Correlates of Slow Breathing (2018)	National Research Council, Nuovo Ospedale degli Infermi, University of Pisa	Italy	Background
8	Essentials of Organizational Behavior, Fourteenth edition (2016)	San Diego State University, University of Notre Dame	United States	—
9	Effects of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction on employees' mental health: A systematic review (2018)	HAN University of Applied Sciences, Open University of the Netherlands, Radboud University	Netherlands	—

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 integrating qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods, creating a widely adopted standard for rigorous research design across diverse academic disciplines.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive framework for research design that systematically integrates qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. This work is anchored in the seminal 2017 publication titled 'Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches,' which serves as the cornerstone of this line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The titles indicate that this work addresses the critical need for structured guidance in combining disparate methodological traditions. By presenting a unified approach, the researcher appears to have resolved longstanding ambiguities regarding how different research paradigms can be coherently integrated, offering a novel synthesis that distinguishes it from earlier, more siloed methodological texts.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive citation record, with over 280,000 citations indicating widespread adoption. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 96.0% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has become a standard reference tool utilized broadly across the global academic community rather than being confined to the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches

2017 · 281,804 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Perceptions and usage of AI chatbots among students in higher education across genders, academic levels and fields of study (2024)	Chalmers University of Technology	Sweden	Methodology
2	“ChatGPT is the companion, not enemies”: EFL learners' perceptions and experiences in using ChatGPT for feedback in writing (2024)	Macao Polytechnic University	China	—
3	Global burden of 88 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021 (2024)	Aleta Wondo Hospital, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, Jimma University	Ethiopia, Iran, Italy	—
4	Challenges and opportunities for artificial intelligence in auditing: Evidence from the field (2025)	Babson College	United States	—
5	When and How Artificial Intelligence Augments Employee Creativity (2024)	Sichuan University, Temple University, University of Southern California	China, United States	—
6	What are Different Research Approaches? Comprehensive Review of Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Method Research, Their Applications, Types, and Limitations (2022)	Hamta Business Corporation	—	Influential
7	The Roles of Personality Traits, AI Anxiety, and Demographic Factors in Attitudes toward Artificial Intelligence (2022)	Ataturk University, Bayburt University, Sivas Cumhuriyet University	Turkey, United Kingdom	Background

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Convenience and Purposive Sampling Techniques: Are they the Same? (2025)	Rivers State University	Nigeria	—
9	Unlocking the Potential: A Comprehensive Evaluation of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality in Education (2023)	De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Sana'a University, University of Wollongong	Australia, Philippines, Yemen	—
10	Teknik Pengumpulan Data Dan Instrumen Penelitian Ilmiah Pendidikan Pada Pendekatan Kualitatif dan Kuantitatif (2023)	—	—	—

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).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY Perceptions and usage of AI chatbots among students in higher education across genders, academic levels and fields of study

"The methodology employed for this study follows a quantitative research paradigm, suitable for examining usage, attitudes, and correlations across a large sample of participants (Creswell, 2014)."

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established a foundational framework for integrating qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods in research design, creating a seminal reference that standardized methodological rigor across diverse academic disciplines.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive framework for research design that integrates qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. This work is anchored by the 2003 publication 'Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods,' which serves as the core text for this line of inquiry. The titles indicate a focus on synthesizing distinct methodological approaches into a cohesive guide for academic inquiry.

This work appears to address the historical fragmentation between qualitative and quantitative traditions in social science research. By presenting these methods within a unified design structure, the researcher provided a novel approach to methodological integration. The absence of follow-up papers suggests that this single volume successfully consolidated the field's understanding, establishing a definitive standard that required no immediate iterative refinement by the author.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive uptake in the scholarly community. With over 8,500 citations, the work has become a central reference point for researchers worldwide. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 96% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the framework has been widely adopted and utilized by scholars outside the researcher's immediate network, confirming its broad impact and utility across the global academic landscape.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 12

CORE PAPER

[Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods](#)

2003 · 8,561 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Career aspirations of generation Z: a systematic literature review (2022)	Texas A&M University	United States	—
2	Green finance gap in green buildings: A scoping review and future research needs (2022)	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hong Kong	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
3	Teaching and Researching Language Learning Strategies: Self-Regulation in Context, Second Edition (2016)	—	—	—
4	Qualitative Methods in Business Research: A Practical Guide to Social Research (2008)	Turku School of Economics, University of Eastern Finland	Finland	—
5	Netnography: Redefined (2015)	University of Southern California	United States	—
6	Social Research - Second Edition (1998)	Charles Sturt University	Australia	—
7	Research Methods for Sports Studies (2022)	—	—	—
8	Towards a collaboration framework for circular economy: The role of dynamic capabilities and open innovation (2022)	Copenhagen Business School	Denmark	—
9	Methodological Implications of Critical Realism for Mixed-Methods Research1 (2013)	London School of Economics and Political Science, The University of Warwick, University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	—
10	Social Research (2017)	Charles Sturt University	Australia	—
11	Asian Women And The Hardcore Scene (2024)	Universitas Swadaya Gunung Jati	Indonesia	—
12	Netnography: Redefined (2015)	York 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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Chalmers University of Technology	Sweden	SCImago #919 · THE 201–250 · QS 165	2
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	2
Carnegie Mellon University	United States	SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52	2
Boston College	United States	SCImago #3099 · THE 251–300 · QS =526	2
University of Southern California	United States	SCImago #192 · THE =73 · QS 146	2
Charles Sturt University	Australia	SCImago #3680 · THE 601–800 · QS 951-1000	2
Brown University	United States	SCImago #553 · THE 65 · QS 69	2
Sana'a University	Yemen	—	1
Turku School of Economics	Finland	—	1
University of Chester	United Kingdom	SCImago #4355 · THE 1501+	1
Justus Liebig-University	Germany	—	1
Center for Research Methods Consulting	—	—	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
DTU Technical University of Denmark	Denmark	—	1
Montclair State University	United States	SCImago #6099	1
Aleta Wondo Hospital	Ethiopia	—	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	24
United Kingdom	4
Australia	4
Italy	3
Malaysia	2
Sweden	2
Canada	2
China	2
Denmark	2
Nigeria	1
Philippines	1
Turkey	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	Mindfulness: Theoretical Foundations and Evidence for its Salutary Effects	16	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches	10	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods	12	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5