

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

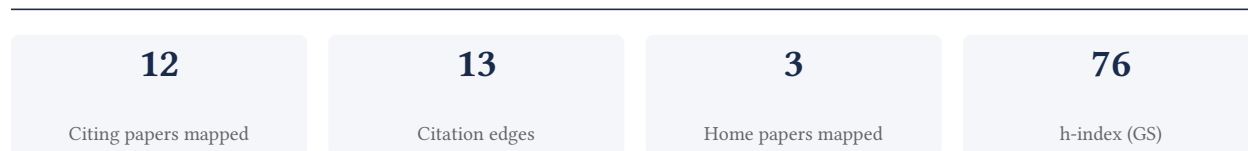
Daniel Stokols

Chancellor's Professor, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine

[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.

83.3% independent of 12 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	10
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
Same-institution	2

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 developed practical guidelines for community health promotion by translating Social Ecological Theory, a seminal contribution evidenced by over 4,400 citations.

The researcher's primary contribution involves translating Social Ecological Theory into actionable guidelines for community health promotion, as detailed in their 1996 paper published in the American Journal of Health Promotion. This work stands as a foundational text in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the critical gap between theoretical frameworks and practical application in public health. By focusing on translation, the researcher likely provided a structured approach for practitioners to implement ecological theories, offering a novel methodological bridge that was previously lacking in the literature.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its extensive uptake, with the core paper accumulating 4,465 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 83.3% of citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community beyond the author's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Translating Social Ecological Theory into Guidelines for Community Health Promotion](#)

1996 · American Journal of Health Promotion · 4,465 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,819 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 1996 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The updated Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research based on user feedback. (2022)	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Ann Arbor Health-care System, VHA	United States	Background
2	Interventions to Improve Medication Adherence: A Review (2018)	University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus	United States	Background
3	REVIEW OF COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH: Assessing Partnership Approaches to Improve Public Health (1998)	University of Michigan School of Public Health	United States	—
4	Different uses of Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory in public mental health research: what is their value for guiding public mental health policy and practice? (2018)	Umeå University	Sweden	Influential
5	Multisystemic Resilience: Adaptation and Transformation in Contexts of Change (2021)	Dalhousie 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).

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher established a critical theoretical distinction between physical density and subjective crowding, fundamentally reshaping environmental psychology research directions.

The researcher's seminal 1972 publication in *Psychological Review*, titled 'On the distinction between density and crowding: Some implications for future research,' serves as the foundational contribution of this line of work. This paper appears to have introduced a crucial conceptual separation between the objective measure of population density and the subjective psychological experience of crowding. By delineating these distinct constructs, the work provided a new theoretical framework that clarified previously conflated variables in environmental psychology.

This contribution addresses a significant gap in the literature by challenging the assumption that high density inherently leads to negative psychological outcomes. The title suggests that the researcher identified a need to differentiate physical conditions from perceptual experiences, thereby opening new avenues for inquiry into the mediating factors that influence human behavior in populated spaces. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher indicates that this single publication stands as a complete and self-contained theoretical intervention.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 1,336, indicating widespread adoption and influence within the academic community. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 83.3% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the contribution has been validated and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than merely by the researcher's immediate circle. This high level of independent engagement underscores the work's enduring relevance and impact on the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

CORE PAPER

[On the distinction between density and crowding: Some implications for future research.](#)

1972 · *Psychological Review* · 1,336 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 752 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1972 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher established a foundational social ecology framework for health promotion, providing a seminal theoretical model that has been widely adopted by independent scholars.

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 1992 paper 'Establishing and maintaining healthy environments: toward a social ecology of health promotion,' published in *American Psychologist*. This work appears to define a comprehensive theoretical approach to understanding health within social contexts.

This line of work addresses the need for a structured ecological perspective in health promotion. By framing health maintenance through a social ecology lens, the researcher provided a novel conceptual foundation that distinguishes this approach from prior individualistic models, as suggested by the paper's title and its enduring presence in the literature.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 3306. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers indicates that 83.3% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the framework has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Establishing and maintaining healthy environments: toward a social ecology of health promotion](#)

1992 · American Psychologist · 3,306 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,017 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1992 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	REVIEW OF COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH: Assessing Partnership Approaches to Improve Public Health (1998)	University of Michigan School of Public Health	United States	Background
2	Persuasive Technology: Using Computers to Change What We Think and Do (2002)	Stanford University	United States	—
3	Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies: Guidelines for the Counseling Profession (2016)	Georgia State University, North Carolina State University, Seattle University	United States	Background
4	Socioeconomic status and health: The challenge of the gradient (1994)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, San Francisco	United States	—
5	Impact of COVID-19 on physical activity: A rapid review (2022)	Texas A&M University	United States	Background
6	AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO CREATING ACTIVE LIVING COMMUNITIES (2006)	Claremont McKenna College, North Carolina State University, San Diego State 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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
North Carolina State University	United States	SCImago #484 · THE 301–350 · QS =272	2
University of California, Irvine	United States	SCImago #329 · THE 97 · QS 293	2
University of California, Berkeley	United States	SCImago #95 · THE 9 · QS =17	2
San Diego State University	United States	SCImago #2473 · THE 1001–1200 · QS 1001-1200	1
Cornell University	United States	SCImago #61 · THE =18 · QS 16	1
Uppsala University	Sweden	SCImago #349 · THE 128 · QS 93	1
University of Georgia	United States	SCImago #597 · THE 351–400 · QS 525	1
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	1
VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System	United States	SCImago #1499	1
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Wisconsin-Madison	United States	SCImago #174 · THE =53 · QS =110	1
University of Central Florida	United States	SCImago #985 · THE 401-500 · QS 701-710	1
Umeå University	Sweden	SCImago #1412 · THE 401-500 · QS =401	1
Seattle University	United States	SCImago #8496 · QS 1201-1400	1
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	United States	—	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	10
Sweden	2
Canada	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.

2018		2
2022		2

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	Translating Social Ecological Theory into Guidelines for Community Health Promotion	5	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	On the distinction between density and crowding: Some implications for future research.	0	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Establishing and maintaining healthy environments: toward a social ecology of health promotion	6	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5