

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

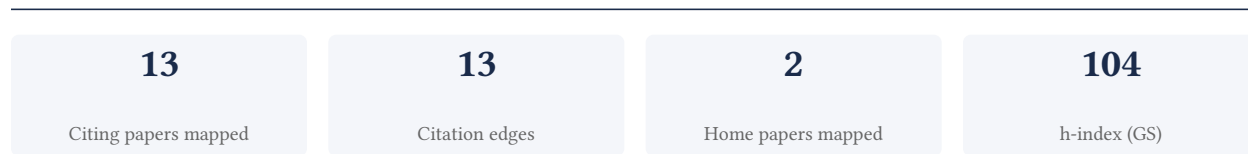
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

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.

84.6% independent of 13 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	11
Self-citation	0
Co-author	2
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 link between individual empathy and group attitudes, demonstrating that feeling for a stigmatized member can improve broader group perceptions.

The researcher's seminal 1997 paper in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* investigates whether empathy for an individual member of a stigmatized group improves attitudes toward the group as a whole. This work stands as a core contribution in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the researcher listed in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding the mechanisms of prejudice reduction. By focusing on the emotional bridge of empathy, the research suggests a novel pathway for improving intergroup relations, moving beyond cognitive interventions to explore affective processes. The title indicates a focus on the transferability of positive feelings from individual to group levels.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 2540, indicating widespread influence. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 92.3% are from independent researchers, underscoring the work's broad adoption and impact across the scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Empathy and attitudes: Can feeling for a member of a stigmatized group improve feelings toward the group?](#)

1997 · *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* · 2,540 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,424 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1997 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	INTERGROUP CONTACT THEORY (1998)	University of California, Santa Cruz	United States	—
2	Emotion, Regulation, and Moral Development (2000)	Arizona State University	United States	—
3	Building long-term empathy: A large-scale comparison of traditional and virtual reality perspective-taking (2018)	Stanford University	United States	Influential
4	Construction and factorial validation of a short form of the Self-Compassion Scale (2011)	University of Leuven, University of Texas at Austin	Belgium, United States	—
5	Planning Health Promotion Programs: An Intervention Mapping Approach (2016)	Maastricht University, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), UTHealth School of Public Health	Netherlands, United States	—
6	The stigma of obesity: a review and update. (2009)	Yale University	United States	—
7	How does intergroup contact reduce prejudice? Meta-analytic tests of three mediators (2008)	—	—	—
8	Intergroup bias (2002)	University of Oxford	United Kingdom	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
9	Teachers' multicultural attitudes and perspective taking abilities as factors in culturally responsive teaching (2020)	University of Amsterdam	Netherlands	—

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 established anger as an approach-related affect, fundamentally reshaping theoretical frameworks in emotion psychology through a seminal, highly cited synthesis in Psychological Bulletin.

The researcher's primary contribution is the conceptualization of anger as an approach-related affect, articulated in a 2009 paper published in Psychological Bulletin. This work serves as the foundational claim for this line of inquiry, offering a distinct theoretical perspective on the motivational direction of anger.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

[Anger is an approach-related affect: evidence and implications](#)

2009 · Psychological Bulletin · 2,468 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,615 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Toward a comprehensive and potentially cross-cultural model of why people engage in collective action: A quantitative research synthesis of four motivations and structural constraints (2021)	University of Groningen	Netherlands	—
2	Self-report captures 27 distinct categories of emotion bridged by continuous gradients (2017)	University of California, Berkeley	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.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
McGill University	Canada	SCImago #168 · THE =41 · QS 27	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Miami	United States	SCImago #545 · THE 201–250 · QS =314	1
University of Leuven	Belgium	—	1
University of California, Berkeley	United States	SCImago #95 · THE 9 · QS =17	1
University of Oxford	United Kingdom	SCImago #26 · THE 1 · QS 4	1
The Ohio State University	United States	THE =108 · QS 190	1
Yale University	United States	SCImago #76 · THE 10 · QS 21	1
Maastricht University	Netherlands	SCImago #783 · THE =131 · QS 239	1
Oregon State University	United States	SCImago #1028 · QS =624	1
University of Amsterdam	Netherlands	SCImago #75 · THE =62 · QS 53	1
Arizona State University	United States	SCImago #357 · THE 201–250 · QS =173	1
University of California, Santa Cruz	United States	SCImago #1349 · THE =181 · QS =458	1
University of Wisconsin-Madison	United States	SCImago #174 · THE =53 · QS =110	1
University of Texas at Austin	United States	THE 50 · QS 68	1
Université Grenoble Alpes	France	SCImago #738 · THE 351–400 · QS 321	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	9
Netherlands	3
Belgium	1
Canada	1
France	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.

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	Empathy and attitudes: Can feeling for a member of a stigmatized group improve feelings toward the group?	9	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Anger is an approach-related affect: evidence and implications	2	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)