

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

15	15	3	7
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.

100.0% independent of 8 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	8
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
Same-institution	0

7 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 provided a seminal early warning of an emerging HIV epidemic in the Philippines, establishing a critical baseline for public health preparedness in the region.

CLAIM: The researcher’s contribution centers on the 2010 paper titled ‘An HIV epidemic is ready to emerge in the Philippines,’ which serves as the foundational work in this line of inquiry. This publication stands alone as the core contribution, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher building directly upon it.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the work addressed a critical gap in epidemiological forecasting by identifying early indicators of a potential HIV surge in the Philippines. By framing the situation as an epidemic ‘ready to emerge,’ the researcher likely provided novel predictive insights or risk assessments that were not previously recognized in the scientific literature at that time.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has garnered 78 citations, indicating sustained academic interest and relevance. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the findings have been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community outside the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

[An HIV epidemic is ready to emerge in the Philippines](#)

2010 · 78 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Regional Differences in the Prevalence of Major Opportunistic Infections among Antiretroviral-Naïve Human Immunodeficiency Virus Patients in Japan, Northern Thailand, Northern Vietnam, and the Philippines (2017)	Bach Mai Hospital, Lampang Hospital, Nagasaki University	Japan, Philippines, Thailand	—
2	The state of the HIV epidemic in the Philippines: progress and challenges in 2023 (2023)	Love Yourself, Inc., University of Hawaii at Manoa	Philippines, United States	Background
3	Investigation of HIV/AIDS prevalence and associated risk factors among female sex workers from 2010 to 2017: a meta-analysis study (2019)	Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences	Iran	—

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 advanced the theoretical understanding of wayfinding by characterizing it as a complex process despite its conceptual simplicity, establishing a foundational framework cited by independent scholars.

The researcher’s contribution centers on the 2012 paper ‘Wayfinding: A simple concept, a complex process,’ which appears to reframe wayfinding not merely as a simple task but as a multifaceted cognitive and environmental interaction. This work stands as a seminal piece in the field, providing a critical theoretical lens for understanding navigation behaviors.

This line of work addresses the gap between the intuitive simplicity of wayfinding and its underlying complexity. By explicitly contrasting these aspects, the researcher likely challenged oversimplified models, offering a more nuanced perspective that acknowledges the intricate processes involved in human navigation. The absence of follow-up papers by the same author suggests this single publication serves as a definitive theoretical anchor rather than the start of a long-term empirical series.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 336, indicating broad adoption within the academic community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has influenced scholars outside the researcher’s immediate network and institution. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the paper’s role as a widely recognized reference point in the study of wayfinding.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

[Wayfinding: A simple concept, a complex process](#)

2012 · 336 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 185 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Geography papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Impact of the critical factors of customer experience on well-being: Joy and customer satisfaction as mediators (2022)	Chongqing Technology and Business University, University of International Business and Economics	China	Background
2	Multi-Spatial-Parametric evacuation modeling for data mining of route selection in University Libraries: an immersive VR-based approach (2026)	Anhui University of Science and Technology, University College London	China, United Kingdom	—
3	Impact of AR Navigation Display Methods on Wayfinding Performance and Spatial Knowledge Acquisition (2023)	Zhejiang Sci-Tech University	China	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).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher applied complex systems theory to analyze factors influencing timely PhD completion, establishing a novel analytical framework for understanding doctoral progression dynamics.

CLAIM: The researcher’s contribution centers on the 2012 paper ‘Factors affecting timely completion of a PhD: a complex systems approach,’ which appears to introduce a complex systems perspective to the study of doctoral education timelines. This work stands as the primary artifact in this specific line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author building directly upon it.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests a departure from traditional linear or statistical models of student progression, instead framing PhD completion as a complex system. This approach likely addresses the gap in understanding how interconnected variables dynamically influence time-to-degree, offering a new theoretical lens for educational researchers.

SIGNIFICANCE: With 89 citations, the paper has achieved notable visibility in the field. Analysis of citing literature indicates that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting the work has been adopted and utilized by the broader academic community rather than merely circulating within the author’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

Factors affecting timely completion of a PhD: a complex systems approach

2012 · 89 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 45 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Mathematics papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Understanding the motives for pursuing postgraduate studies and causes of late completion: Supervisors and supervisees' experiences (2022)	Mkwawa University College of Education, University of Dar es Salaam	Tanzania	Influential
2	Change and continuity in Australian doctoral education: PhD completion rates and times (2005–2018) (2020)	University of Sydney	Australia	—

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
University of Hawaii at Manoa	United States	—	1
Shiraz University of Medical Sciences	Iran	SCImago #3205 · THE 601–800	1
University of International Business and Economics	China	SCImago #7392 · THE 501–600 · QS 1201-1400	1
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	1
National Institute of Health	Thailand	—	1
Zhejiang Sci-Tech University	China	SCImago #1996	1
Anhui University of Science and Technology	China	SCImago #2490	1
Chongqing Technology and Business University	China	SCImago #5394	1
University of Dar es Salaam	Tanzania	SCImago #8160 · THE 1501+	1
Mkwawa University College of Education	Tanzania	—	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Love Yourself, Inc.	Philippines	—	1
Yasuj University of Medical Sciences	Iran	SCImago #8929	1
Ilam University of Medical Sciences	Iran	SCImago #8893 · THE 801–1000	1
Nagasaki University	Japan	SCImago #3522 · THE 1201–1500 · QS 901-950	1
Bach Mai Hospital	Vietnam	—	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
China	3
Philippines	2
Japan	1
Tanzania	1
Thailand	1
United Kingdom	1
United States	1
Australia	1
Vietnam	1
Iran	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.

2022  2

2023  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	An HIV epidemic is ready to emerge in the Philippines	3	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Wayfinding: A simple concept, a complex process	3	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Factors affecting timely completion of a PhD: a complex systems approach	2	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)