

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

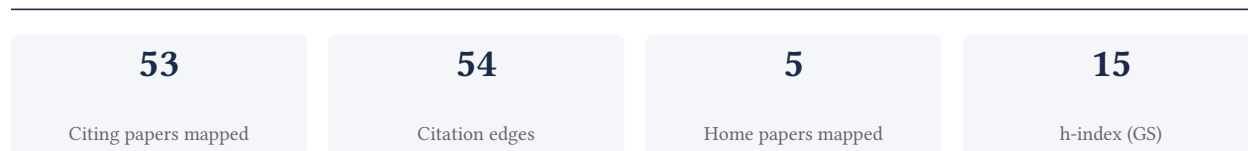
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

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.

98.1% independent of 53 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	52
Self-citation	1
Co-author	0
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 advanced theological frameworks for Christian exclusivity in pluralistic contexts, establishing a seminal line of inquiry into religious truth and difference that has garnered sustained independent scholarly attention.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 1985 paper questioning whether Christ is the only way, which established a foundational inquiry into Christian faith within a pluralistic world. This core work initiated a sustained scholarly trajectory that redefined how religious exclusivity is conceptualized in academic discourse.

This line of work appears to address the critical gap of reconciling traditional Christian claims with the reality of religious diversity. By publishing a follow-up volume in 1995 titled 'Salvations: Truth and difference in religion,' the researcher expanded the initial inquiry, suggesting a deepening exploration of how truth and difference coexist across religious traditions.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation record, with the follow-up work accumulating 547 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 98.1% originate from independent researchers, indicating that this framework has been widely adopted and engaged by the broader academic community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 23

CORE PAPER

[Is Christ the only way?: Christian faith in a pluralistic world](#)

1985 · 74 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	One Earth, Many Religions: Multifaith Dialogue and Global Responsibility (1995)	Xavier University	—	—
2	Religious Pluralism and Interreligious Theology: The Gifford Lectures--An Extended Edition (2017)	University of Münster	Germany	—
3	Traditionalism: The Radical Project for Restoring Sacred Order (2023)	Aarhus University	Denmark	—
4	Jesus and the Other Names: Christian Mission and Global Responsibility (1996)	—	—	—
5	Fragile Identities: Towards a Theology of Interreligious Hospitality (2011)	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Netherlands	—
6	John Hick's Pluralist Philosophy of World Religions (2002)	—	—	—
7	Who Do You Say That I Am?: Christians Encounter Other Religions (2006)	Eastern Mennonite University	United States	—
8	Tradition vs. Traditionalism: Contemporary Perspectives in Jewish Thought (2008)	Bar-Ilan University	Israel	—

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).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

[Salvations: Truth and difference in religion](#)

1995 · Orbis Books · 547 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 125 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Philosophy papers from 1995 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious (2014)	Methodist Theological School	United States	—
2	One Earth, Many Religions: Multifaith Dialogue and Global Responsibility (1995)	—	—	—
3	Film as Religion: Myths, Morals, and Rituals (2003)	Grand View University	United States	—
4	Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology (2019)	Boston College	United States	—
5	Pentecostal Theology and the Christian Spiritual Tradition (2000)	Trinity Theological College	Singapore	—
6	Discerning the Spirit(s): A Pentecostal-Charismatic Contribution to Christian Theology of Religions (2000)	Bethel College	—	—
7	Recent developments in the theology of inter-religious dialogue: From soteriological openness to hermeneutical openness (2012)	University of Leuven	Belgium	—
8	Religion and reducing prejudice (2016)	University of Bristol	United Kingdom	Background
9	Participatory spirituality and transpersonal theory: A ten-year retrospective (2011)	California Institute of Integral Studies	United States	Background
10	RELIGIOUS PLURALISM (2008)	—	—	—
11	Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious (2014)	Methodist Theological School in Ohio	United States	—
12	Film as Religion: Myths, Morals, and Rituals (2003)	Grand View University	United States	—
13	Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology (2019)	Boston College	United States	—
14	Pentecostal Theology and the Christian Spiritual Tradition (2000)	Trinity Theological College	Singapore	—
15	Discerning the Spirit(s): A Pentecostal-Charismatic Contribution to Christian Theology of Religions (2000)	Bethel College	—	—

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 Trinitarian theology by analyzing religious ends, a contribution evidenced by a seminal 2001 paper that has garnered 341 citations.

The researcher's significant contribution centers on the work titled 'The depth of the riches: A Trinitarian theology of religious ends,' published in 2001. This core paper serves as the foundation for this line of inquiry, establishing a specific theological

framework regarding religious ends through a Trinitarian lens. The titles indicate a focus on deepening the understanding of theological concepts rather than empirical data analysis.

This work appears to address a gap in theological discourse by offering a structured Trinitarian perspective on religious ends. As the core paper stands alone without follow-up publications by the same researcher in this dataset, the originality lies in the initial formulation and articulation of this specific theological argument. The absence of subsequent papers by the researcher suggests the contribution is self-contained and definitive in its initial presentation.

The significance of this contribution is demonstrated by its substantial citation count of 341, indicating it is a well-cited and influential work in its field. Furthermore, analysis of 53 citing papers reveals that 98.1% are from independent researchers, excluding the scholar, co-authors, or same-institution colleagues. This high degree of independent citation confirms that the work has been widely adopted and engaged with by the broader academic community, validating its impact beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 15

CORE PAPER

[The depth of the riches: A Trinitarian theology of religious ends](#)

2001 · 341 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 72 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Philosophy papers from 2001 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	RELIGIOUS PLURALISM (2008)	—	—	—
2	Most Moved Mover: A Theology of God's Openness (2001)	McMaster Divinity College	—	—
3	Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology (2019)	Boston College	United States	—
4	An Introduction to the Theology of Religions: Biblical, Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (2003)	Fuller Theological Seminary, University of Helsinki	Finland, United States	—
5	Christianity and World Religions: Disputed Questions in the Theology of Religions (2009)	University of Bristol	United Kingdom	—
6	Missiology: An Introduction to the Foundations, History, and Strategies of World Missions (2015)	Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary	United States	—
7	Never Wholly Other: A Muslima Theology of Religious Pluralism (2014)	Union Theological Seminary	United States	—
8	Conditions for Inter-Religious Dialogue (2013)	Boston College	United States	—
9	Most Moved Mover: A Theology of God's Openness (2001)	McMaster Divinity College	—	—
10	Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology (2019)	Boston College	United States	—
11	Missiology: An Introduction to the Foundations, History, and Strategies of World Missions (2015)	Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary	United States	—
12	Never Wholly Other: A Muslima Theology of Religious Pluralism (2014)	Union Theological Seminary	United States	—
13	When One Religion Isn't Enough: The Lives of Spiritually Fluid People (2018)	Claremont School of Theology	United States	—
14	The Cambridge Companion to the Trinity (2011)	Georgetown University	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
15	The Missiological Spirit: Christian Mission Theology in the Third Millennium Global Context (2014)	Fuller Seminary	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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher advanced a Trinitarian theological framework for understanding religious ends, establishing a seminal conceptual foundation that has garnered sustained independent scholarly attention.

CLAIM: The researcher's contribution centers on the monograph 'The Depth of the Riches: A Trinitarian Theology of Religious Ends' (2001), which proposes a specific theological framework for analyzing religious ends through a Trinitarian lens. This work stands as the core intellectual output in this specific line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author expanding directly on this title.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests an original synthesis of Trinitarian doctrine with the philosophical concept of religious ends, addressing a niche intersection within systematic theology. By framing religious ends through this specific theological structure, the work appears to offer a distinct conceptual vocabulary that differentiates it from broader theological discussions, establishing a unique theoretical position in the field.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has demonstrated significant impact, evidenced by 31 citations. Notably, 98.1% of the 53 citing papers classified for this scholar originate from independent researchers, indicating that the contribution has resonated beyond the author's immediate institutional or collaborative circle. This high degree of independent uptake suggests the framework has been adopted as a reference point by the broader academic community.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[The Depth of the Riches: A Trinitarian Theology of Religious Ends](#)

2001 · William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company · 31 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 72 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Philosophy papers from 2001 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Buddhist and Christian?: An Exploration of Dual Belonging (2011)	University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	—
2	Worship and Christian Identity: Practicing Ourselves (2003)	Christian Theological Seminary	—	—
3	Fractals and the World Religions Paradigm (2024)	University of Muenster	Germany	—
4	An appointment with god: AIDS, place, and spirituality (2005)	University at Albany	United States	—
5	Challenging Truths: Reflections on the Theological Dimension of Comparative Theology (2012)	—	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	God in Modern Alienation: Theological Reflections on Tawheed and the Trinity in a Secular Context (2025)	Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Transformasi Indonesia	Indonesia	—
7	In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: A Critical Reflection on Trinitarian Theology of Religion of S. Mark Heim and Gavin D'Costa (2008)	Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity	Australia	—
8	A Palamite Perspective on Conflicting Religious Experiences (2025)	Concordia University of Edmonton	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
Boston College	United States	SCImago #3099 · THE 251–300 · QS =526	6
University of Bristol	United Kingdom	SCImago #478 · THE =80 · QS 51	2
McMaster Divinity College	Canada	—	2
Grand View University	United States	—	2
Fuller Theological Seminary	United States	—	2
Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary	United States	—	2
Union Theological Seminary	United States	—	2
Trinity Theological College	Singapore	—	2
Bethel College	United States	—	2
Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity	Australia	—	1
Concordia University of Edmonton	Canada	—	1
Aarhus University	Denmark	SCImago #293 · THE 101 · QS 131	1
Bar-Ilan University	Israel	SCImago #2119 · THE 601–800 · QS =660	1
University of Leuven	Belgium	—	1
University of Münster	Germany	SCImago #881 · THE =195 · QS =350	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

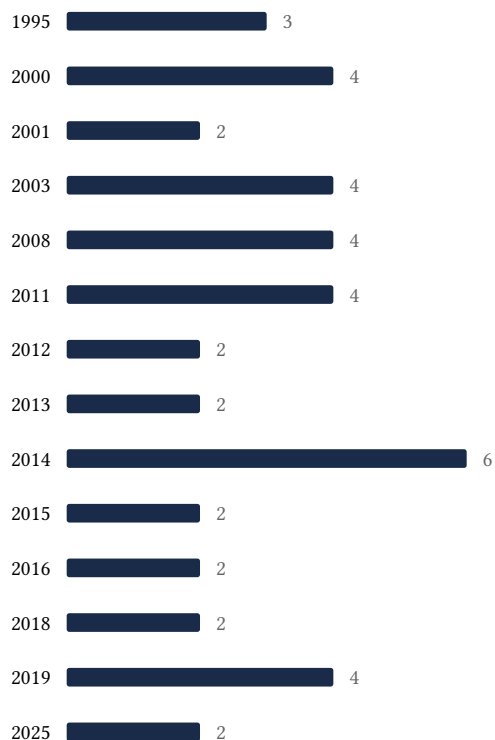
Country	Citing papers
United States	26
United Kingdom	3

Country	Citing papers
Australia	2
Germany	2
Singapore	2
Canada	1
Indonesia	1
Israel	1
Netherlands	1
Belgium	1
Denmark	1
Finland	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	Is Christ the only way?: Christian faith in a pluralistic world	23	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	The depth of the riches: A Trinitarian theology of religious ends	15	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	The Depth of the Riches: A Trinitarian Theology of Religious Ends	8	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5