

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

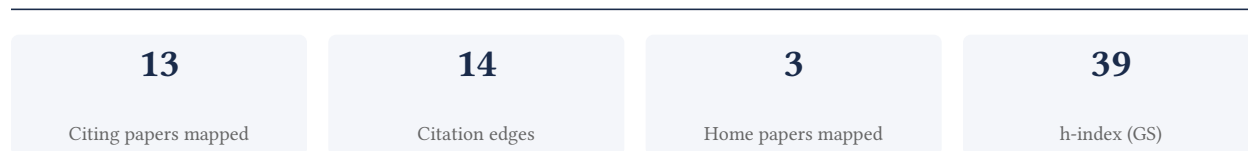
Joelle LeMoult

University of British Columbia

[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.

92.3% independent of 13 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	12
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
Same-institution	1

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 a cognitive framework for understanding depression, establishing a seminal theoretical perspective that has significantly influenced clinical psychology research.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2019 paper 'Depression: A cognitive perspective,' published in Clinical Psychology Review. This work appears to offer a distinct theoretical lens for analyzing depression, positioning cognitive mechanisms as central to the disorder's understanding. As the core piece of this line of inquiry, it stands as a foundational text without direct follow-up papers by the same author in the provided data.

This line of work addresses the need for integrated cognitive models in depression research. By focusing on a 'cognitive perspective,' the researcher likely sought to clarify or refine how cognitive processes contribute to depressive states, offering a structured approach that distinguishes itself from purely biological or behavioral explanations prevalent at the time.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 1,059, indicating widespread adoption and influence within the field. Furthermore, the high degree of citation independence, with 92.3% of classified citations originating from independent researchers, suggests that the work has resonated broadly across the scientific community, validating its impact beyond the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[Depression: A cognitive perspective](#)

2019 · Clinical Psychology Review · 1,059 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 650 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2019 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Depression in young people (2022)	Cardiff University, Harvard Medical School, University of Pittsburgh	United Kingdom, United States	—
2	Neurobiology and systems biology of stress resilience (2024)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Leibniz Institute for Resilience Research	Germany, United States	—
3	Rodent tests of depression and anxiety: Construct validity and translational relevance (2024)	Boğaziçi University	Turkey	—
4	Identifying depression and its determinants upon initiating treatment: ChatGPT versus primary care physicians (2023)	Max Stern Academic College Of Emek Yezreel, Oranim Academic College	Israel	—
5	How was my performance? Exploring the role of anchoring bias in AI-assisted decision making (2025)	Baylor University, The University of Sydney	Australia, United States	—
6	Paying attention to attention in depression (2019)	Stanford University	United States	—
7	Prevalence of depression among Chinese university students: a systematic review and meta-analysis (2020)	Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, St Michael's Hospital, Zhengzhou University	Canada, China	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	The clinical characterization of the adult patient with depression aimed at personalization of management (2020)	Brown University School of Medicine, Rhode Island Hospital, KU Leuven, Technische Universität Dresden	Australia, Belgium, Canada	—

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 conducted a seminal meta-analysis quantifying the association between early life stress and depression risk in youth, establishing a critical evidence base for developmental psychopathology.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is a 2020 meta-analysis published in the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, which synthesizes evidence on the link between early life stress and depression in childhood and adolescence.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address the need for a comprehensive quantitative synthesis of disparate studies, providing a consolidated assessment of risk factors that individual studies could not fully capture. The titles indicate a focus on clarifying the magnitude and nature of this developmental association.

SIGNIFICANCE: With over 800 citations, the paper is highly influential in the field. Notably, 92.3% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting the work has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the author’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[Meta-analysis: Exposure to Early Life Stress and Risk for Depression in Childhood and Adolescence](#)

2020 · Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry · 802 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 520 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2020 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Depression in young people (2022)	Cardiff University, Harvard Medical School, University of Pittsburgh	United Kingdom, United States	—
2	The Handbook of Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology: A Contextual Approach (2025)	University College Dublin	Ireland	—
3	Childhood trauma and adult mental disorder: A systematic review and meta-analysis of longitudinal cohort studies (2021)	—	—	—
4	The evolving neurobiology of early-life stress (2025)	University of California, Irvine	United States	—
5	The neurobiology of stress: Vulnerability, resilience, and major depression (2023)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, University of Michigan	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.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher established a seminal meta-analytic framework linking childhood maltreatment to depression via the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, creating a highly cited standard for quantifying this critical psychological association.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the publication of a seminal meta-analysis titled ‘Child maltreatment and depression: A meta-analysis of studies using the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire’ in 2020. This work serves as the foundational piece in this line of inquiry, synthesizing existing literature to clarify the relationship between early trauma and depressive outcomes. The titles indicate a focus on standardizing the assessment of this link through a specific, widely used instrument.

This line of work appears to address the need for a consolidated, quantitative understanding of how childhood maltreatment correlates with depression. By focusing specifically on studies utilizing the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, the researcher provided a methodologically consistent synthesis that likely resolved ambiguities present in prior, more heterogeneous reviews. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher suggests this single publication stands as a definitive, self-contained contribution to the field.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 749, indicating it has become a key reference in the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 92.3% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher’s immediate circle. This high level of independent uptake underscores the work’s impact and utility in advancing research on trauma and mental health.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

CORE PAPER

[Child maltreatment and depression: A meta-analysis of studies using the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire](#)

2020 · Child Abuse & Neglect · 749 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 463 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2020 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

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

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	United States	SCImago #295	2
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	2
Cardiff University	United Kingdom	SCImago #664 · THE 201–250 · QS 181	1
University of Cape Town	South Africa	SCImago #1052 · THE =164 · QS 150	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine	United States	—	1
Cornell University	United States	SCImago #61 · THE =18 · QS 16	1
KU Leuven	Belgium	SCImago #180 · THE 46 · QS 60	1
University of California, Irvine	United States	SCImago #329 · THE 97 · QS 293	1
University of Pittsburgh	United States	SCImago #212 · QS =281	1
University of Kentucky	United States	SCImago #913 · THE 401–500 · QS 781-790	1
Vanderbilt University	United States	SCImago #613 · THE =92 · QS 250	1
University of British Columbia	Canada	SCImago #144 · THE 45 · QS 40	1
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	1
Zhengzhou University	China	SCImago #101 · QS =618	1
Harvard Medical School	United States	SCImago #12	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	8
Canada	3
Australia	2
Germany	2
Belgium	1
Ireland	1
Israel	1
Italy	1
South Africa	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	1
China	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	Depression: A cognitive perspective	8	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Meta-analysis: Exposure to Early Life Stress and Risk for Depression in Childhood and Adolescence	5	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Child maltreatment and depression: A meta-analysis of studies using the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire	0	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5