

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1B Petition — Outstanding Professor or Researcher

8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) · Authorship + Original Contributions

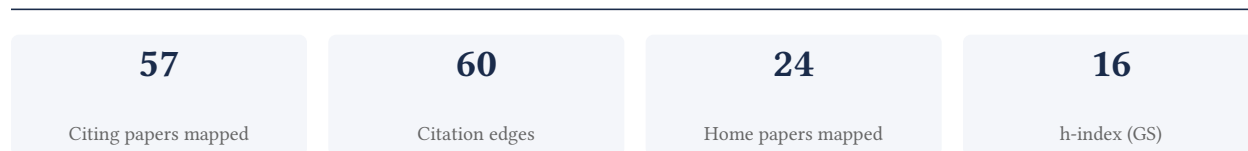
Kristin Koetting O'Byrne

Associate Professor of Organizational Leadership, Abilene Christian University

[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to the 8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) outstanding-researcher criteria — particularly (iii) published material and (v) original scientific or scholarly contributions. 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.

100.0% independent of 29 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	29
Self-citation	0
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 counseling psychology by articulating a foundational framework that shifts disciplinary focus toward the positive aspects of human functioning.

The researcher established a pivotal contribution to counseling psychology through the 2006 publication titled 'Counseling psychology's focus on positive aspects of human functioning.' This work serves as the cornerstone of this specific line of inquiry, defining a conceptual shift within the field.

This contribution appears to address a critical gap by redirecting attention from pathology to positive human functioning. The title suggests a deliberate effort to broaden the theoretical scope of counseling psychology, introducing a perspective that emphasizes strengths and well-being rather than solely focusing on deficits or disorders.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 239. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers. This complete independence indicates that the framework has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader academic community, confirming its impact beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Counseling psychology's focus on positive aspects of human functioning](#)

2006 · 240 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Calling and vocation at work: Definitions and prospects for research and practice (2009)	Colorado State University, University of Maryland	United States	—
2	Reciprocal effects between academic self-concept, self-esteem, achievement, and attainment over seven adolescent years: uni-dimensional and multidimensional perspectives of self-concept. (2008)	—	—	—
3	Well-Being and Suicidality Among Transgender Youth After Gender-Affirming Hormones (2019)	Children's Mercy Hospital	United States	—
4	Tracing the Growth, Gaps, and Characteristics in Positive Education Science: A Long-Term, Large-Scale Review of the Field. (2021)	University of Melbourne	Australia	—
5	Second wave positive psychology's (PP 2.0) contribution to counselling psychology (2019)	—	—	—
6	Tracing the size, reach, impact, and breadth of positive psychology (2013)	University of Melbourne	Australia	Influential
7	LGBT Strengths: Incorporating Positive Psychology Into Theory, Research, Training, and Practice. (2014)	Wright State University	United States	—
8	The Psychology of Encouragement (2014)	Indiana University Bloomington	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 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher established a foundational link between parenting styles and adolescent smoking behaviors, a seminal contribution that has been widely adopted by independent scholars in public health.

CLAIM: The researcher’s core contribution is the identification of the relationship between parenting styles and adolescent smoking, as detailed in the 2002 paper published in the Journal of Adolescent Health. This work serves as the primary anchor for this line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: By focusing on the intersection of family dynamics and substance use, this research appears to address a critical gap in understanding the social determinants of adolescent health risks. The titles suggest a novel approach to framing smoking not just as an individual choice, but as a behavior influenced by parental interaction patterns.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved significant recognition, evidenced by 173 citations. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the findings have been broadly validated and utilized by the wider scientific community beyond the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

Parenting style and adolescent smoking

2002 · Journal of Adolescent Health · 173 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 125 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2002 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Parenting in youth sport: A position paper on parenting expertise (2015)	Swansea University	United Kingdom	—
2	Parental influences on adolescent physical activity: a longitudinal study . (2007)	—	—	—
3	Religious Development: How (and Why) Does Religiosity Change from Adolescence to Young Adulthood? (2010)	National Research Institute of Police Science, Press Ganey Associates, Purdue University	Japan, United States	—
4	Individual and contextual influences on adolescent smoking . (2004)	Health Research and Policy Centers	United States	—
5	Family-Based Approaches to Cardiovascular Health Promotion . (2016)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	United States	—
6	The effects of perceived parenting style on the propensity for illicit drug use: the importance of parental warmth and control . (2008)	Liverpool John Moores University	United Kingdom	—

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 foundational framework for predicting burnout and career satisfaction in counseling psychology graduate students, a seminal work that has garnered significant independent scholarly attention.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a predictive model for burnout and career choice satisfaction among counseling psychology graduate students, anchored by the 2009 paper titled 'Predicting burnout and career choice satisfaction in counseling psychology graduate students.' This work serves as the core reference point for this line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: By focusing on the intersection of burnout and career satisfaction within this specific professional training context, the researcher appears to have addressed a critical gap in understanding the psychological trajectories of graduate students. The titles suggest a targeted investigation into factors influencing professional well-being and decision-making during advanced training, offering a distinct perspective on student development and retention.

SIGNIFICANCE: The enduring relevance of this work is evidenced by its 243 citations, indicating substantial uptake within the field. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, underscoring the broad, cross-institutional impact and the work’s role as a widely recognized reference point for scholars outside the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Predicting burnout and career choice satisfaction in counseling psychology graduate students](#)

2009 · 245 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Dear Mental Health Practitioners, Take Care of Yourselves: a Literature Review on Self-Care. (2020)	—	—	Influential
2	Personal risk factors associated with burnout among psychotherapists: A systematic review of the literature. (2018)	University of South Australia	Australia	—
3	Relationships between social support and student burnout: A meta-analytic approach. (2018)	Korea University	South Korea	—
4	Self-Care Practices and Perceived Stress Levels Among Psychology Graduate Students (2012)	Christiana Care Health System, La Salle University, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center	United States	—
5	Stress and Burnout Among Graduate Students: Moderation by Sleep Duration and Quality. (2021)	University of Maryland	United States	—
6	Stressors in early-stage doctoral students (2018)	Otago Medical School, University of Otago	New Zealand	—
7	An exploratory study of psychology graduate student workload, health, and program satisfaction. (2015)	The University of Akron	United States	—
8	Graduate student burnout: Substance use, mental health, and the moderating role of advisor satisfaction. (2022)	Pennsylvania State University, University of Maryland	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
University of Maryland	United States	–	3
University of Melbourne	Australia	SCImago #72 · THE 37 · QS 19	2
Liverpool John Moores University	United Kingdom	SCImago #2490 · THE 501–600 · QS 851-900	1
Dalhousie University	Canada	SCImago #1299 · THE 351–400 · QS 283	1
University of Calgary	Canada	SCImago #399 · THE 200 · QS 211	1
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center	United States	SCImago #1591	1
University of Saskatchewan	Canada	SCImago #1541 · THE 351–400 · QS 378	1
La Salle University	United States	–	1
Korea University	South Korea	SCImago #274 · THE =156 · QS 61	1
University of South Australia	Australia	SCImago #2033	1
Yale University School of Medicine	United States	–	1
Indiana University Bloomington	United States	SCImago #798 · QS =306	1
Medical University of South Carolina	United States	SCImago #1607	1
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine	United States	–	1
University of Otago	New Zealand	SCImago #1311 · THE 351–400 · QS =197	1

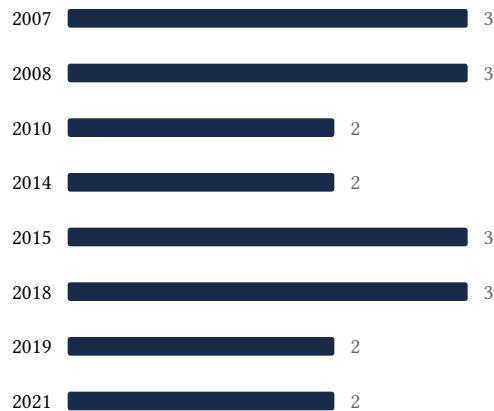
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	15
Canada	3
Australia	3
United Kingdom	2
New Zealand	1
Japan	1
South Korea	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	Counseling psychology's focus on positive aspects of human functioning	8	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) – Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 2	Parenting style and adolescent smoking	6	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) – Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 3	Predicting burnout and career choice satisfaction in counseling psychology graduate students	8	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) – Outstanding Researcher