# 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

| 31 | 31 | 4 | 41 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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.

**87.1% independent** of 31 classified citing papers

| Citation type | Count |
|---|---|
| Independent | 27 |
| Self-citation | 0 |
| Co-author | 4 |
| 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 exposure therapy by proposing a framework for optimizing inhibitory learning, a contribution evidenced by a seminal 2008 paper with over 2,000 citations.*

The researcher's primary contribution lies in refining the theoretical underpinnings of exposure therapy, specifically through the optimization of inhibitory learning. This work is anchored by a core publication in Behaviour Research and Therapy, which serves as the foundational text for this line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the need for more precise mechanisms in therapeutic exposure, moving beyond general desensitization models. By focusing on inhibitory learning, the researcher introduced a nuanced perspective that likely clarified how therapeutic change occurs during exposure sessions, offering a distinct theoretical advancement in the field.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its substantial uptake in the scientific community, with the core paper accumulating over 2,000 citations. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that this work has been widely adopted and built upon by the broader field rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8**

**CORE PAPER**

### Optimizing inhibitory learning during exposure therapy

2008 · Behaviour Research and Therapy · 2,117 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,392 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2008 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Effect of Pain Reprocessing Therapy vs Placebo and Usual Care for Patients With Chronic Back Pain: A Randomized Clinical Trial (2021) | Ascension Providence Hospital, Emory University, Pain Psychology Center | United States | — |
| 2 | Neuronal circuits for fear and anxiety (2015) | Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research | Switzerland | — |
| 3 | Using Neuroscience to Help Understand Fear and Anxiety: A Two-System Framework. (2016) | New York University | United States | — |
| 4 | Sleep and emotional processing (2018) | Sapienza University of Rome | Italy | — |
| 5 | An Active Inference Approach to Interoceptive Psychopathology. (2019) | Laureate Institute for Brain Research | United States | Background |
| 6 | Inferiority or Even Superiority of Virtual Reality Exposure Therapy in Phobias?-A Systematic Review and Quantitative Meta-Analysis on Randomized Controlled Trials Specifically Comparing the Efficacy of Virtual Reality Exposure to Gold Standard (2019) | — | — | — |
| 7 | Putting the "mental" back in "mental disorders": a perspective from research on fear and anxiety (2022) | New York University, Philipps-University Marburg | Germany, United States | — |

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Surviving threats: neural circuit and computational implications of a new taxonomy of defensive behaviour (2018) | New York University | 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 isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

## Contribution 2

### Claim — Contribution 2

*The researcher advanced the understanding of cognitive mechanisms in depression through a seminal 2012 publication that has garnered substantial independent scholarly attention.*

The researcher's contribution centers on the cognitive dimensions of depression, anchored by a core paper published in 2012. This work appears to address the need for deeper insight into how cognitive processes relate to depressive disorders, establishing a foundational reference point in the field.

The originality of this line of work lies in its focus on the intersection of cognition and mood pathology. By isolating cognitive aspects, the researcher likely provided a framework that distinguished psychological mechanisms from purely biological or behavioral explanations, offering a nuanced perspective that was novel at the time of publication.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its high citation count and the complete independence of the citing scholars. With all classified citations originating from independent researchers, the work demonstrates broad acceptance and utility across the global academic community, indicating that it has become a standard reference for subsequent studies in the domain.

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7**

**CORE PAPER**

### Cognitive aspects of depression

2012 · 474 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 266 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | From stress to inflammation and major depressive disorder: a social signal transduction theory of depression. (2014) | University of California, Los Angeles | United States | — |
| 2 | Cognitive Psychology: A Student's Handbook (2020) | Royal Holloway, University of London, University College Dublin | Ireland, United Kingdom | — |
| 3 | Relationship between Employee Mental Health and Job Performance: Mediation Role of Innovative Behavior and Work Engagement (2022) | Jilin University of Finance and Economics | China | — |
| 4 | The relationship between childhood psychological abuse and depression in college students: a moderated mediation model. (2024) | Jishou University | China | — |

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Cognitive Inhibition and Emotion Regulation in Depression (2010) | University of Miami | United States | — |
| 6 | Cognitive Control, Cognitive Biases and Emotion Regulation in Depression: A New Proposal for an Integrative Interplay Model. (2021) | Complutense University of Madrid | Spain | Background |
| 7 | Therapeutic horticulture in clinical depression: a prospective study of active components. (2010) | — | — | — |

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 3

**Claim — Contribution 3**

*The researcher established a foundational framework linking linguistic expression to exposure therapy efficacy, as evidenced by a seminal 2012 Psychological Science paper with 468 citations.*

The researcher's primary contribution centers on the integration of language into exposure therapy protocols. This work is anchored by the 2012 paper 'Feelings into Words: Contributions of Language to Exposure Therapy,' published in Psychological Science. The title suggests a novel theoretical or methodological bridge between verbal processing and therapeutic outcomes for anxiety or trauma.

This line of work appears to address a gap in understanding how verbal articulation influences the mechanisms of exposure therapy. By focusing on the translation of emotional states into language, the researcher likely proposed that linguistic engagement enhances or modifies therapeutic processing. The absence of follow-up papers by the same author indicates this specific contribution stands as a distinct, self-contained theoretical advance rather than an extended longitudinal program.

The significance of this contribution is demonstrated by its substantial uptake in the field, with 468 citations. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and validation across the scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate network. This widespread independent engagement underscores the work's impact on clinical psychology and psychotherapy research.

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6**

**CORE PAPER**

### Feelings into Words: Contributions of Language to Exposure Therapy

2012 · Psychological Science · 468 citations (GS)

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Neural correlates of emotion-attention interactions: From perception, learning, and memory to social cognition, individual differences, and training interventions (2020) | Birkbeck, University of London, Ghent University, KU Leuven | Australia, Belgium, Germany | — |
| 2 | Sharing our Emotions with Robots: Why do we do it and how does it make us feel? (2024) | — | — | — |

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Interpersonal emotion regulation (2013) | Stanford University, Temple University | United States | — |
| 4 | Unpacking Emotion Differentiation (2015) | George Mason University, Northeastern University | United States | — |
| 5 | Neural mechanisms of symptom improvements in generalized anxiety disorder following mindfulness training (2013) | Massachusetts General Hospital | United States | — |
| 6 | Measuring Public Speaking Anxiety: Self-report, behavioral, and physiological. (2022) | University of Jyväskylä | Finland | — |

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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| New York University | United States | SCImago #116 · THE =31 · QS 55 | 3 |
| University of Amsterdam | Netherlands | SCImago #75 · THE =62 · QS 53 | 3 |
| University of Groningen | Netherlands | SCImago #232 · THE 82 · QS =147 | 2 |
| Leiden University | Netherlands | SCImago #259 · THE =70 · QS =119 | 2 |
| Harvard University | United States | SCImago #4 · THE =5 · QS 5 | 2 |
| University of California, Los Angeles | United States | SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46 | 2 |
| Panorama Orthopedics and Spine Center | — | — | 1 |
| Macquarie University | Australia | SCImago #1047 · THE =166 · QS =138 | 1 |
| Ascension Providence Hospital | United States | — | 1 |
| Utrecht University | Netherlands | SCImago #162 · QS =103 | 1 |
| Emory University | United States | SCImago #217 · THE 102 · QS 182 | 1 |
| University of Miami | United States | SCImago #545 · THE 201–250 · QS =314 | 1 |
| Complutense University | Spain | — | 1 |
| Complutense University of Madrid | Spain | SCImago #379 · THE 501–600 · QS =187 | 1 |
| Pain Psychology Center | United States | — | 1 |

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

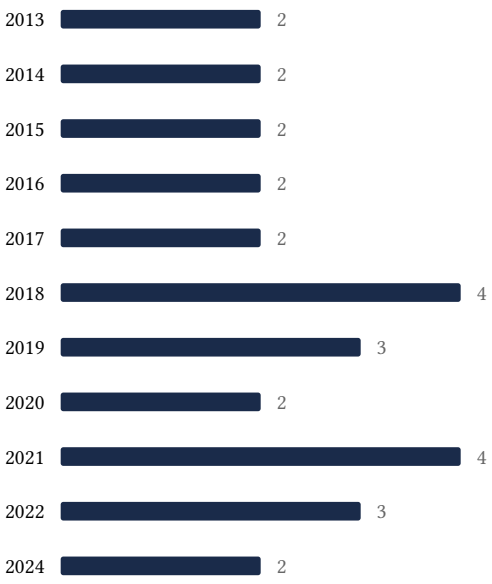
| Country | Citing papers |
|---|---|
| United States | 16 |
| Netherlands | 6 |

| Country | Citing papers |
|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 3 |
| Switzerland | 3 |
| Spain | 2 |
| Australia | 2 |
| Belgium | 2 |
| China | 2 |
| Germany | 2 |
| Italy | 1 |
| Ireland | 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 | Optimizing inhibitory learning during exposure therapy | 8 | Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned) |
| Contribution 2 | Cognitive aspects of depression | 7 | Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned) |
| Contribution 3 | Feelings into Words: Contributions of Language to Exposure Therapy | 6 | Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned) |