

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

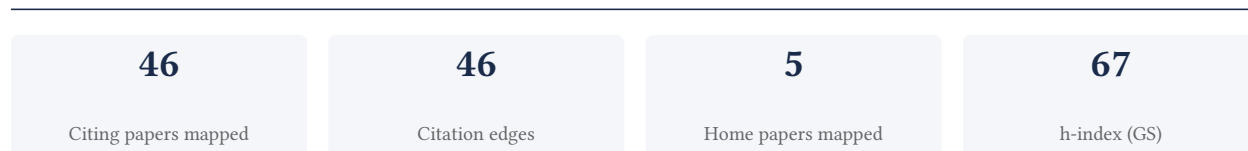
Niall Bolger

Professor of Psychology, Columbia University

[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.

89.1% independent of 46 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	41
Self-citation	3
Co-author	0
Same-institution	2

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 established a foundational framework for integrating personality into stress process models and advanced methodological standards for mediation and data analysis in social psychology.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 1995 paper in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* that introduced a framework for studying personality within the stress process. This core work, which has accumulated 2,487 citations, appears to have provided a structural basis for understanding how individual differences interact with environmental stressors.

This line of work appears to address the need for rigorous methodological tools to support such complex theoretical models. The titles of subsequent papers suggest the researcher expanded this impact by developing new procedures for mediation analysis and offering guidance on data analysis in social psychology. These follow-up works, published in 1998 and 2002, indicate a deliberate effort to refine the statistical and experimental methods necessary to validate the theoretical frameworks introduced earlier.

The significance of this research is evidenced by its widespread adoption across the field. The core paper and its methodological follow-ups have garnered thousands of citations, with the 2002 mediation paper alone cited over 16,000 times. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 89.1% of citations come from independent researchers, suggesting that this work has become a standard reference point for scholars outside the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 23

CORE PAPER

[A Framework for Studying Personality in the Stress Process](#)

1995 · *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* · 2,487 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,459 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1995 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Personality Development: Stability and Change (2005)	Colgate University, King's College London, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	United Kingdom, United States	—
2	The Power of Personality: The Comparative Validity of Personality Traits, Socioeconomic Status, and Cognitive Ability for Predicting Important Life Outcomes (2007)	Oregon Research Institute, University of Illinois, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	—
3	Personality and Coping (2010)	Oregon State University, University of Miami	United States	—
4	Positive psychological states and coping with severe stress (1997)	University of California at San Francisco	United States	—
5	The technostress trifecta-techno eustress, techno distress and design: Theoretical directions and an agenda for research (2019)	ICN Business School, Lancaster University, Manchester University	France, United Kingdom	—
6	Beyond the hedonic treadmill: Revising the adaptation theory of well-being (2006)	Michigan State University, Texas Christian University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	—
7	Public health significance of neuroticism (2009)	University of Chicago	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.

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Mediation in experimental and nonexperimental studies: New procedures and recommendations.

2002 · Psychological Methods · 16,598 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 11,304 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2002 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Mediators and mechanisms of change in psychotherapy research (2007)	Yale University	United States	—
2	Financial innovation and digitalization promote business growth: The interplay of green technology innovation, product market competition and firm performance (2024)	Qatar University, University of Castilla–La Mancha, University of Management and Technology	Pakistan, Qatar, Spain	—
3	Therapeutic alliance as a mediator of change: A systematic review and evaluation of research (2020)	—	—	—
4	Mediation Analysis (2007)	Arizona State University	United States	—
5	Research Methods for Business: A Skill Building Approach, with eBook Access Code, 9th Edition (2025)	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC), TIAS School for Business and Society	Netherlands, United States	—
6	Partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) using SmartPLS 3.0: An updated guide and practical guide to statistical analysis (2nd ed.) . (2018)	Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS	Malaysia, United Kingdom	—
7	Partial, conditional, and moderated moderated mediation: Quantification, inference, and interpretation (2017)	The Ohio State University	United States	—
8	Regression-based statistical mediation and moderation analysis in clinical research: Observations, recommendations, and implementation (2017)	The Ohio State University	United States	—
9	“To Use or Not to Use?” A Mixed-Methods Study on the Determinants of EFL College Learners’ Behavioral Intention to Use AI in the Distributed Learning Context (2024)	Hunan Normal University, Nanjing Normal University, North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power	China	—
10	To Be or Not to Be ...Human? Theorizing the Role of Human-Like Competencies in Conversational Artificial Intelligence Agents (2022)	—	—	—

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.

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Data analysis in social psychology

1998 - 5,080 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,218 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1998 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Does changing behavioral intentions engender behavior change? A meta-analysis of the experimental evidence. (2006)	The University of Manchester	United Kingdom	—
2	Virtual communication curbs creative idea generation (2022)	Columbia Business School, Stanford University	United States	—
3	Competitive advantage: A longitudinal analysis of the roles of data-driven innovation capabilities, marketing agility, and market turbulence (2024)	Nottingham Trent University, Saudi Electronic University	Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom	—
4	Reconsidering Baron and Kenny: Myths and Truths about Mediation Analysis (2010)	Duke University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of North Carolina	United States	—
5	Asymptotic and resampling strategies for assessing and comparing indirect effects in multiple mediator models (2008)	University of Calgary, University of Kansas	Canada	—
6	A comparison of methods to test mediation and other intervening variable effects. (2002)	Arizona State University	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 framework for intensive longitudinal methods, specifically diary and experience sampling research, through a seminal monograph that has garnered nearly 4,000 citations.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive methodological framework for intensive longitudinal studies, anchored by the 2013 monograph 'Intensive Longitudinal Methods: An Introduction to Diary and Experience Sampling Research.' This work serves as the central pillar of this line of inquiry, providing a structured approach to data collection techniques that capture within-person variability over time. The titles indicate a focus on standardizing and introducing these specific research designs to a broader academic audience.

This line of work appears to address the need for rigorous, accessible guidance on diary and experience sampling methodologies. By consolidating these techniques into a single authoritative text, the researcher likely filled a gap in methodological literature, offering scholars a reliable reference for implementing complex longitudinal designs. The absence of follow-up papers in this specific dataset suggests the monograph itself stands as a complete and self-contained contribution to the field's methodological infrastructure.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 3,869, indicating widespread adoption and influence. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 89.1% of citations originate from independent researchers, rather than the author's immediate collaborators or institution. This high degree of independent uptake suggests the work has become a standard reference tool across diverse research communities, validating its broad utility and impact beyond the researcher's own network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

Intensive Longitudinal Methods: An Introduction to Diary and Experience Sampling Research

2013 · The Guilford Press · 3,869 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,733 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Sociology papers from 2013 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Customer experience in tourism: A review of definitions, components, and measurements (2020)	University of Central Florida	United States	—
2	Three Extensions of the Random Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Model (2021)	Utrecht University	Netherlands	—
3	Ecological Momentary Assessment: A Meta-Analysis on Designs, Samples, and Compliance Across Research Fields (2023)	DIPF-Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education, Ruprecht Karls University of Heidelberg	Germany	—
4	The Gaussian Graphical Model in Cross-Sectional and Time-Series Data (2018)	University of Amsterdam, University of Edinburgh	Netherlands, United Kingdom	—
5	Experience sampling methodology in mental health research: new insights and technical developments (2018)	King's College London, KU Leuven, Maastricht University	Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom	—
6	Intervention studies to foster resilience - A systematic review and proposal for a resilience framework in future intervention studies (2018)	University Medical Center Mainz	Germany	—
7	Student misbehavior and teacher well-being: Testing the mediating role of the teacher-student relationship (2018)	Hector Research Institute of Education Sciences, Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education	Germany	—
8	Dynamic Structural Equation Models (2017)	Muthén & Muthén, Utrecht University	Netherlands	—

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 diary methods, capturing lived experience with high fidelity, as evidenced by the seminal 2003 Annual Review of Psychology paper.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the establishment of a rigorous methodological framework for diary studies, anchored by the 2003 paper 'Diary methods: Capturing life as it is lived' published in the Annual Review of Psychology. This work serves as the core reference point for this line of inquiry, defining how subjective experience can be systematically recorded and analyzed.

This contribution appears to address the challenge of accurately documenting dynamic, real-world behaviors and experiences that are difficult to capture through retrospective recall or laboratory settings. By focusing on capturing life 'as it is lived,' the work suggests a shift toward ecological validity in psychological measurement, offering a standardized approach to a complex methodological niche.

The significance of this work is demonstrated by its substantial citation count of 6,030, indicating widespread adoption across the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 89.1% of citations originate from independent researchers, underscoring the paper’s role as a widely accepted standard rather than a niche or self-referential contribution.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

Diary methods: Capturing life as it is lived

2003 · Annual Review of Psychology · 6,030 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,859 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Sociology papers from 2003 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Evaluation of Pressing Issues in Ecological Momentary Assessment (2023)	Pennsylvania State University, University of Southern California	United States	Influential
2	So You Want to Do ESM? 10 Essential Topics for Implementing the Experience-Sampling Method (2024)	Brown University, KU Leuven, Osnabrück University	Belgium, Germany, Netherlands	—
3	Theories of Personality (2005)	University of South Florida	United States	—
4	Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions (JITAs) in Mobile Health: Key Components and Design Principles for Ongoing Health Behavior Support (2017)	Northwestern University, Penn State, University of Michigan	United States	—
5	A review of approaches and models in psychopathology conceptualization research (2023)	Keene State College, Leiden University, Macquarie University	Australia, Netherlands, Switzerland	—
6	Generative AI's Impact on Critical Thinking: Revisiting Bloom's Taxonomy (2024)	King's College London	United Kingdom	—
7	“I have turned into a foreman here at home”: Families and work–life balance in times of COVID-19 in a gender equality paradise (2021)	University of Akureyri, University of Iceland	Iceland	—
8	A Resource Perspective on the Work–Home Interface: The Work–Home Resources Model (2012)	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Netherlands	—
9	Sense of Belonging and Student Engagement: A Daily Study of First- and Continuing-Generation College Students (2019)	Macalester College	United States	—
10	Relations between emotion regulation strategies and affect in daily life: A systematic review and meta-analysis of studies using ecological momentary assessments (2022)	Complutense University of Madrid	Spain	—

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
New York University	United States	SCImago #116 · THE =31 · QS 55	3
King's College London	United Kingdom	THE 38 · QS 31	3
Utrecht University	Netherlands	SCImago #162 · QS =103	2
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	2
University of Groningen	Netherlands	SCImago #232 · THE 82 · QS =147	2
KU Leuven	Belgium	SCImago #180 · THE 46 · QS 60	2
The Ohio State University	United States	THE =108 · QS 190	2
Arizona State University	United States	SCImago #357 · THE 201–250 · QS =173	2
University of Castilla–La Mancha	Spain	THE 1001–1200	1
University of Akureyri	Iceland	—	1
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS	Malaysia	THE 201–250 · QS =251	1
ICN Business School	France	SCImago #10305	1
Leiden University	Netherlands	SCImago #259 · THE =70 · QS =119	1
Michigan State University	United States	SCImago #436 · THE =105 · QS 161	1
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science	United States	SCImago #5595	1

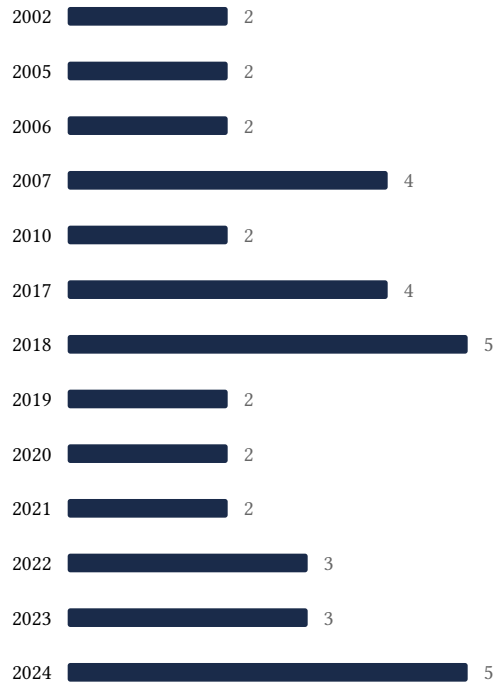
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	26
Netherlands	8
United Kingdom	8
Germany	4
Belgium	2
Spain	2
Malaysia	1
Australia	1
Pakistan	1
Qatar	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Switzerland	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	A Framework for Studying Personality in the Stress Process	23	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Intensive Longitudinal Methods: An Introduction to Diary and Experience Sampling Research	8	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Diary methods: Capturing life as it is lived	10	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5