

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Marja J. Aartsen

Research professor at NOVA Norwegian Social Research

[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-22 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

8 Citing papers mapped	8 Citation edges	2 Home papers mapped	40 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.

100.0% independent of 8 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	8
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 established a longitudinal framework for analyzing the bidirectional relationship between everyday activities and cognitive performance in older adults.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2002 study published in The Journals of Gerontology Series B, which investigates whether activity levels in older adults are a cause or consequence of cognitive functioning. This work provides a foundational longitudinal perspective on the interplay between daily behaviors and cognitive health in aging populations.

This line of work appears to address the critical need to disentangle the directionality of effects between physical engagement and mental decline. By employing a longitudinal design, the research moves beyond cross-sectional associations to offer insights into how everyday activities and cognitive performance influence one another over time, a methodological approach that was significant for the field at the time of publication.

The impact of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation record, with the core paper accumulating 466 citations. Notably, analysis of citing literature indicates that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community outside the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

CORE PAPER

[Activity in older adults: Cause or consequence of cognitive functioning? A longitudinal study on everyday activities and cognitive performance in older adults](#)

2002 · The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences · 466 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 296 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Psychology papers from 2002 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The impact of social activities, social networks, social support and social relationships on the cognitive functioning of healthy older adults: a systematic review (2017)	National College of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin	Ireland	Background

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 provided a seminal synthesis of risk factors for anxiety and depression in the elderly, establishing a foundational reference point for geriatric mental health research.

CLAIM: The researcher's contribution centers on a 2008 review published in the Journal of Affective Disorders that systematically examines risk factors for anxiety and depression in the elderly population. This work serves as the core pillar of this specific line of inquiry, standing alone without direct follow-up publications by the same author in the provided dataset.

ORIGINALITY: By focusing specifically on the elderly demographic, this review appears to address a critical gap in understanding how aging intersects with mental health vulnerabilities. The title suggests a comprehensive consolidation of existing evidence,

offering a structured framework for identifying key determinants of anxiety and depression in older adults, which was likely less synthesized in prior literature.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved substantial impact, evidenced by 858 citations, indicating it is a highly cited and influential resource in the field. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

Risk factors for anxiety and depression in the elderly: a review

2008 · Journal of Affective Disorders (J Affect Disord) · 858 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 586 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	Biological factors influencing depression in later life: role of aging processes and treatment implications (2023)	University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Pittsburgh, Vanderbilt University Medical Center	United States	Background
2	Risk factors and protective factors of depression in older people 65+. A systematic review (2021)	University of Leipzig	Germany	Result
3	Management of Depression in Older Adults: A Review (2017)	Parnassia Psychiatric Institute, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center	Netherlands	Background
4	Depression in Older Adults (2009)	University of California, San Diego, University of Southern California, West Virginia University	United States	—
5	Anxiety, depression, loneliness and social network in the elderly: Longitudinal associations from The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) (2019)	Parc Sanitari Sant Joan de Déu, Universitat de Barcelona	Spain	—
6	Prevalence and factors associated with anxiety and depression among community-dwelling older adults in Hunan, China: a cross-sectional study (2023)	Central South University, Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, The Second Xiangya Hospital, Central South University	China	Result
7	The default mode network and rumination in individuals at risk for depression (2023)	Harvard University, Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	Background

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).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

RESULT Risk factors and protective factors of depression in older people 65+. A systematic review

“Many studies have examined factors associated with depression and reviews have been conducted previously [10,11]”

RESULT Prevalence and factors associated with anxiety and depression among community-dwelling older adults in Hunan, China: a cross-sectional study

“This is in line with previous studies [12, 14, 59], which found that unhealthy older adults were more likely to experience anxiety and depression, while older adults without chronic illnesses generally had better overall mental health.”

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	SCImago #100	1
Trinity College Dublin	Ireland	SCImago #926 · THE 173	1
University of California, San Diego	United States	SCImago #120 · THE 47 · QS 66	1
University of Leipzig	Germany	—	1
University of Pittsburgh	United States	SCImago #212 · QS =281	1
Vanderbilt University Medical Center	United States	SCImago #663	1
Parc Sanitari Sant Joan de Déu	Spain	—	1
West Virginia University	United States	SCImago #1792 · QS 1001-1200	1
Harvard University	United States	SCImago #4 · THE =5 · QS 5	1
University of Southern California	United States	SCImago #192 · THE =73 · QS 146	1
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center	United States	SCImago #686	1
Universitat de Barcelona	Spain	SCImago #118 · QS 160	1
The Second Xiangya Hospital, Central South University	China	—	1
Central South University	China	SCImago #42 · THE 251–300 · QS =491	1
University of Illinois-Chicago	United States	SCImago #593 · THE 201–250 · QS =334	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	3
China	1
Germany	1
Ireland	1
Netherlands	1
Spain	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.

2017  2

2023  3

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	Activity in older adults: Cause or consequence of cognitive functioning? A longitudinal study on everyday activities and cognitive performance in older adults	1	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 2	Risk factors for anxiety and depression in the elderly: a review	7	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)