Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Aric A. Prather, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

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

16	17	2	56
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.

81.3% independent of 16 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	13
Self-citation	0
Co-author	2
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 established a unified framework for stress measurement in population science, providing a foundational reference that has been widely adopted by independent scholars.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a unified view of stress measurement for population science, as articulated in the 2018 paper 'More than a feeling' published in Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology. This work serves as the cornerstone of this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests an effort to move beyond subjective or fragmented approaches to stress assessment, proposing instead a cohesive theoretical or methodological structure. By framing stress measurement within the context of population science, the work appears to address the need for standardized, scalable metrics that can be applied across large demographic groups, distinguishing it from narrower clinical or individual-level studies.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has accumulated 1400 citations, indicating substantial uptake within the scientific community. Notably, 93.8% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the framework has been adopted and utilized by scholars outside the researcher's immediate institution or collaboration network. This high degree of independent citation underscores the work's broad relevance and its role as a standard reference in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8 · **3 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

More than a feeling: A unified view of stress measurement for population science

2018 · Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology · 1,400 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 831 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2018 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A physicochemical-sensing electronic skin for stress response monitoring (2024)	California Institute of Technology, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of California, Los Angeles	China, Hong Kong, United States	Background
2	Social support and mental health: the mediating role of perceived stress (2024)	Central Luzon State University, De La Salle University	Philippines	—
3	Psychological Resilience: An Affect-Regulation Framework (2023)	Franklin & Marshall College, Washington University in St. Louis	United States	**Influential**
4	Rethinking minority stress: A social safety perspective on the health effects of stigma in sexually-diverse and gender-diverse populations (2022)	University of Utah	United States	—
5	Stress and cardiovascular disease: an update (2024)	Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Veterans Administration Medical Center	United States	**Influential**
6	Understanding the relationships between physiological and psychosocial stress, cortisol and cognition (2023)	University of Cape Town	South Africa	**Influential**

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
7	The multiple roles of life stress in metabolic disorders (2023)	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, University College London, University of Minnesota	United Kingdom, United States	—
8	Development and validation of a measure of climate change anxiety (2020)	College of Wooster	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 published a seminal review synthesizing surprising links between stressful life events and disease risk, establishing a highly cited framework for understanding psychosocial health determinants.

The researcher's contribution centers on a 2019 article in the Annual Review of Psychology titled 'Ten Surprising Facts About Stressful Life Events and Disease Risk.' This work serves as the foundational piece for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address the need for a consolidated, counter-intuitive synthesis of how stress impacts physical health. By framing the content around 'surprising facts,' the researcher likely challenged conventional assumptions or highlighted underappreciated mechanisms in the relationship between psychosocial stressors and disease outcomes, offering a distinct perspective within the field.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 790, indicating broad uptake within the scientific community. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 93.8% originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has influenced scholars outside the author's immediate institutional or collaborative network, thereby demonstrating wide-reaching impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Ten Surprising Facts About Stressful Life Events and Disease Risk

2019 · Annual Review of Psychology · 790 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 435 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	Stress and cardiovascular disease: an update (2024)	Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Veterans Administration Medical Center	United States	—
2	The immediate effect of discrimination on mental health: A meta-analytic review of the causal evidence (2024)	University of Mannheim	Germany	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
3	Comorbidity between major depressive disorder and physical diseases: a comprehensive review of epidemiology, mechanisms and management (2023)	Aarhus University Hospital - Psychiatry, Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT), Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Service	Australia, Denmark, Netherlands	—
4	Changes in College Students Mental Health and Lifestyle During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systematic Review of Longitudinal Studies (2022)	University of Brescia	Italy	Background
5	An intersectional analysis of long COVID prevalence (2023)	Miami University, Rutgers University	United States	**Influential**
6	Measuring stress in clinical and nonclinical subjects using a German adaptation of the Perceived Stress Scale (2020)	Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Leibniz Institute for Resilience Research	Germany	—

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
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	3
University of Cape Town	South Africa	SCImago #1052 · THE =164 · QS 150	1
University of Mannheim	Germany	SCImago #3577 · THE 201–250 · QS =416	1
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	1
University of Minnesota	United States	SCImago #165 · THE 88 · QS 210	1
Franklin & Marshall College	United States	SCImago #7764	1
University of Utah	United States	SCImago #320 · THE 201–250 · QS =540	1
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	1
California Institute of Technology	United States	SCImago #449 · THE 7 · QS 10	1
Leibniz Institute for Resilience Research	Germany	—	1
Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz	Germany	—	1
Central Luzon State University	Philippines	SCImago #8128	1
De La Salle University	Philippines	SCImago #5768 · THE 1501+ · QS =654	1
University of Melbourne	Australia	SCImago #72 · THE 37 · QS 19	1
University of Queensland	Australia	SCImago #126 · THE =80 · QS =42	1

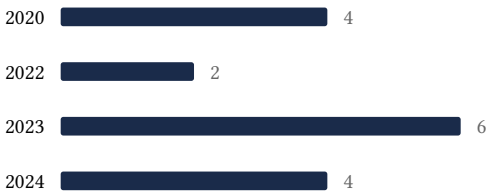
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	10
Germany	2
Denmark	1
Hong Kong	1
Australia	1
Netherlands	1
Philippines	1
South Africa	1
United Kingdom	1
Italy	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	More than a feeling: A unified view of stress measurement for population science	8	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Ten Surprising Facts About Stressful Life Events and Disease Risk	6	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)