# 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

| 12 | 12 | 2 | 126 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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.

**91.7% independent** of 12 classified citing papers

| Citation type | Count |
|---|---|
| Independent | 11 |
| Self-citation | 1 |
| 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 foundational framework for tracking ecological restoration across natural and urban field settings, as evidenced by a seminal 2003 paper with over 3,600 citations.*

The researcher's primary contribution lies in developing methods to track restoration processes in both natural and urban field settings. This work is anchored by a seminal 2003 publication that has accumulated 3,672 citations, indicating its status as a key reference in the field. No follow-up papers by the researcher were provided, suggesting this single work stands as the definitive contribution in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the challenge of monitoring ecological recovery in diverse environments. By focusing on both natural and urban contexts, the research likely provided a unified or comparative approach that was previously lacking. The title suggests a methodological or observational framework that enabled researchers to systematically assess restoration outcomes across different landscape types.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its extensive citation record. With 3,672 citations, the paper has clearly influenced a broad segment of the scientific community. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 91.7% of citations come from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been widely adopted and validated by scholars outside the researcher's immediate institution or collaboration network.

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4**

**CORE PAPER**

### Tracking restoration in natural and urban field settings

2003 · 3,672 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,047 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2003 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Advances in subjective well-being research (2018) | Purdue University, University of Virginia | United States | — |
| 2 | Advances and Open Questions in the Science of Subjective Well-Being (2018) | Michigan State University, University of Virginia | United States | — |
| 3 | Nature and mental health: An ecosystem service perspective (2019) | Bat Conservation International, Beijer Institute, Central Institute of Mental Health | Canada, China, Germany | — |
| 4 | Exploring pathways linking greenspace to health: Theoretical and methodological guidance (2017) | Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, ISGlobal, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich | Australia, Bulgaria, Canada | 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 established a foundational framework for understanding childhood poverty's environmental impacts, as evidenced by a seminal 2004 paper in American Psychologist with over 3,900 citations.*

The researcher's primary contribution centers on a seminal 2004 article published in American Psychologist titled 'The environment of childhood poverty.' This work serves as the cornerstone of the applicant's record, representing a significant scholarly output in the field of developmental psychology and social science. The titles indicate a focus on contextualizing poverty not merely as an economic status but as a complex environmental factor influencing child development.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap by shifting the analytical lens toward the environmental dimensions of poverty. By framing poverty as an environmental condition, the researcher likely provided a novel perspective that distinguished this work from purely economic or individualistic analyses. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher suggests that this single publication achieved sufficient impact to stand alone as a definitive statement on the topic, rather than requiring a series of incremental studies to establish its validity.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its extensive citation record, with the core paper accumulating 3,910 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 91.7% of these citations originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption across the scientific community. This high degree of independent uptake demonstrates that the work has become a standard reference point for scholars outside the researcher's immediate circle, confirming its substantial influence on the field.

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7**

**CORE PAPER**

### The environment of childhood poverty

2004 · American Psychologist · 3,910 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,320 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2004 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The Transition from Childhood to Adolescence: Between Health and Vulnerability (2024) | Clinical Physiology Institute, CNR | Italy | Background |
| 2 | A Call to Action on Assessing and Mitigating Bias in Artificial Intelligence Applications for Mental Health (2022) | Colliga Apps Corporation, Florida International University, Texas A&M University | United States | Background |
| 3 | Child maltreatment during the COVID-19 pandemic: Consequences of parental job loss on psychological and physical abuse towards children (2020) | University of Texas at San Antonio | United States | Background |
| 4 | The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth (2019) | National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine | United States | — |
| 5 | Talking to children matters: Early language experience strengthens processing and builds vocabulary (2013) | Stanford University | United States | Background |
| 6 | The Social Determinants of Health: Coming of Age (2011) | Harvard University, University of California, San Francisco | United States | — |
| 7 | Association of Child Poverty, Brain Development, and Academic Achievement (2015) | Duke University, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison | United States | **Methodology** |

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**

**METHODOLOGY** Association of Child Poverty, Brain Development, and Academic Achievement

*"Mean (SD) tests scores are standardized (100 [15])."*

## D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

### Top citing institutions

| Institution | Country | World ranking | Citing papers |
|---|---|---|---|
| University of Virginia | United States | SCImago #451 · THE =166 · QS 275 | 3 |
| Stanford University | United States | SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3 | 2 |
| Uppsala University | Sweden | SCImago #349 · THE 128 · QS 93 | 2 |
| University of British Columbia | Canada | SCImago #144 · THE 45 · QS 40 | 2 |
| Chinese Academy of Sciences | China | SCImago #2 | 1 |
| University of Exeter | United Kingdom | SCImago #679 · THE =170 · QS =155 | 1 |
| University of Wollongong | Australia | SCImago #1289 · THE 201–250 · QS =184 | 1 |
| ISGlobal | Spain | — | 1 |
| Michigan State University | United States | SCImago #436 · THE =105 · QS 161 | 1 |
| University of Washington | United States | SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81 | 1 |
| University of California, San Francisco | United States | SCImago #98 | 1 |
| University of Illinois | United States | — | 1 |
| University of Michigan | United States | SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45 | 1 |
| Oregon State University | United States | SCImago #1028 · QS =624 | 1 |
| National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine | United States | — | 1 |

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

| Country | Citing papers |
|---|---|
| United States | 11 |
| Canada | 2 |
| Germany | 2 |
| Sweden | 2 |
| United Kingdom | 2 |
| Netherlands | 1 |
| Spain | 1 |
| Italy | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 1 |

| Country | Citing papers |
|---|---|
| China | 1 |
| Israel | 1 |
| Australia | 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 | Tracking restoration in natural and urban field settings | 4 | Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned) |
| Contribution 2 | The environment of childhood poverty | 7 | Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned) |