

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

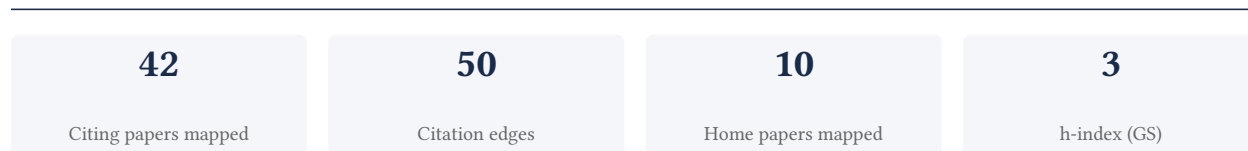
Yunqi Zhang

The Ohio State University

[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



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.

66.7% independent of 18 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	12
Self-citation	4
Co-author	2
Same-institution	0

24 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 developed adaptive decentralized web protocols, starting with Kadabra and extending to Byzantine-tolerant peer sampling and federated agreement overlays.

The researcher's core contribution centers on adapting Kademlia for the decentralized web, as established in the 2023 paper 'Kadabra.' This foundational work appears to address the need for efficient, scalable peer-to-peer infrastructure tailored to decentralized web applications, moving beyond traditional DHT implementations.

Building on this foundation, the researcher expanded the scope to security and consensus mechanisms. The 2025 follow-up papers, 'Honeybee' and 'Constellation,' suggest a progression toward Byzantine fault tolerance and federated agreement systems. This trajectory indicates an original approach to enhancing the robustness and trustworthiness of decentralized overlays through verifiable random walks and specialized peer sampling.

The significance of this line of work is evidenced by its uptake in the field. The core paper has garnered 21 citations, with 77.8% originating from independent researchers. This high degree of independent citation suggests that the proposed adaptations have been recognized as valuable contributions by the broader academic community, validating their utility and originality.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Kadabra: Adapting Kademlia for the Decentralized Web](#)

2023 · FC '23: International Conference on Financial Cryptography and Data Security, 2023 · 21 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Kademlia hash snow ablation resource optimized stride scheduling for mobile computing services in healthcare sector	Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University	Saudi Arabia	—
2	COoL-TEE: Client-TEE Collaboration for Resilient Distributed Search	iExec Blockchain Tech, INSA Lyon, Universite Catholique de Louvain	Belgium, France	—
3	A Set-Based Planning Methodology to Plan and Execute Dynamic Verification Strategies Under Knowable Uncertainty	The University of Arizona	United States	—
4	Robust Distributed Arrays: Provably Secure Networking for Data Availability Sampling	Ethereum Foundation	Switzerland	—
5	Insights into peer-to-peer botnet dynamics: reviewing emulation testbeds and proposing a conceptual model	Bahrain Polytechnic, Isra University, Sukkur IBA University	Bahrain, Jordan, Malaysia	—

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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

[Honeybee: Byzantine Tolerant Decentralized Peer Sampling with Verifiable Random Walks](#)

2025 · MobiHoc '25: Proceedings of the Twenty-sixth International Symposium on ..., 2025 · 3 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A Set-Based Planning Methodology to Plan and Execute Dynamic Verification Strategies Under Knowable Uncertainty	The University of Arizona	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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

[Constellation: Peer-to-Peer Overlays for Federated Byzantine Agreement Systems](#)

2025 · FC '25: International Conference on Financial Cryptography and Data Security ..., 2025 · 2 citations (GS)

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher developed acoustic and WLAN-based methods for privacy-preserving contact tracing and superspreader detection during the pandemic.

The researcher established a foundational approach to pandemic surveillance with the 2020 paper 'Acoustic-Turf,' which introduced acoustic-based privacy-preserving contact tracing. This core work was subsequently extended in 2021 with 'WLAN-Log-Based Superspreader Detection,' indicating a continued focus on leveraging ambient network data for public health monitoring.

This line of work appears to address the critical need for non-intrusive, privacy-conscious tools to track disease transmission. By shifting from acoustic signals to WLAN logs, the researcher demonstrated a versatile methodology for identifying high-risk interactions without compromising individual anonymity, filling a gap in scalable digital epidemiology.

The impact of this research is evidenced by 13 citations for the core paper and 3 for the follow-up. Notably, 77.8% of the 18 classified citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the academic community recognizes the utility and originality of these privacy-preserving surveillance techniques beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Acoustic-Turf: Acoustic-Based Privacy-Preserving COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#)

2020 · arXiv preprint arXiv:2006.13362, 2020 · 13 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Pure: A framework for analyzing proximity-based contact tracing protocols	Purdue University, University of Florida	United States	Background
2	A survey on social-physical sensing: An emerging sensing paradigm that explores the collective intelligence of humans and machines	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Notre Dame, University of Notre Dame; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	USA; USA, United States	Background
3	Privacy-Preserving Techniques in Social Distancing Applications: A Comprehensive Survey	King Saud University, Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University, Taibah University	Saudi Arabia	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).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

WLAN-Log-Based Superspreader Detection in the COVID-19 Pandemic

2021 · High-Confidence Computing 1 (1), 100005, 2021 · 3 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Analyzing the impact of Covid-19 control policies on campus occupancy and mobility via wifi sensing	Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore Management University, University of Massachusetts Amherst	Singapore, United States	Background
2	Vmid: A multimodal fusion llm framework for detecting and identifying misinformation of short videos	Guangdong University of Finance and Economics, Shandong University	China	—
3	Network-side digital contact tracing on a large university campus	University of Wisconsin, Madison	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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
The Ohio State University	United States	THE =108 · QS 190	6
Ethereum Foundation	Switzerland	—	1
University of Notre Dame	United States	SCImago #1036 · THE 194 · QS =294	1
Shandong University	China	SCImago #79 · THE 251–300 · QS =339	1
Singapore Management University	Singapore	SCImago #968 · QS =511	1
Sukkur IBA University	Pakistan	SCImago #5895 · THE 601–800	1
Purdue University	United States	SCImago #255 · QS =88	1
Stellar Development Foundation	—	—	1
VirtualKare LLC	—	—	1
Universite Catholique de Louvain	Belgium	THE =184 · QS =191	1
iExec Blockchain Tech	France	—	1
Bahrain Polytechnic	Bahrain	SCImago #9002	1
University of Notre Dame; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	USA; USA	—	1
Isra University	Jordan	SCImago #8686 · THE 801–1000	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
King Saud University	Saudi Arabia	SCImago #264 · THE 251–300 · QS 143	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	11
Saudi Arabia	2
China	2
Jordan	1
Malaysia	1
Pakistan	1
Singapore	1
Switzerland	1
Bahrain	1
USA; USA	1
Belgium	1
France	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.

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	Kadabra: Adapting Kademia for the Decentralized Web	6	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Acoustic-Turf: Acoustic-Based Privacy-Preserving COVID-19 Contact Tracing	6	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)