

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Robin Mermelstein

University of Illinois at Chicago

[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

21	21	3	81
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.

90.5% independent of 21 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	19
Self-citation	0
Co-author	2
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 developed a global measure of perceived stress, establishing a foundational instrument that has been widely adopted across health and social behavior disciplines.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a global measure of perceived stress, introduced in a seminal 1983 paper published in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior. This work stands as a singular, foundational achievement in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author required to extend the core methodology.

This line of work appears to address the need for a standardized, comprehensive tool to assess stress levels globally. By proposing a unified measure, the researcher provided a novel approach to quantifying a complex psychological construct, distinguishing this contribution from more fragmented or context-specific assessments prevalent at the time.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive uptake, with the core paper accumulating over 47,000 citations. Analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the measure has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than being confined to the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10 · 3 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[A global measure of perceived stress](#)

1983 · Journal of Health and Social Behavior · 47,453 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 30,407 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1983 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Gut-microbiota-targeted diets modulate human immune status (2021)	Chan Zuckerberg Biohub, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University	United States	Influential
2	Dealing with information overload: a comprehensive review (2023)	Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Leibniz Institute for Resilience Research	Germany	—
3	Teacher well-being: A systematic review of the research literature from the year 2000–2019 (2021)	University of Bern	Switzerland	—
4	Social support and mental health: the mediating role of perceived stress (2024)	Central Luzon State University, De La Salle University	Philippines	Influential
5	Use of ChatGPT in academia: Academic integrity hangs in the balance (2023)	Curtin University, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Universiti Utara	Malaysia	—
6	Effects of COVID-19 on College Students' Mental Health in the United States: Interview Survey Study (2020)	Texas A&M University	United States	—
7	Gender differences in perceived stress and coping among college students (2021)	Florida Atlantic University, Marquette University	United States	Influential
8	The effect of age, gender, income, work, and physical activity on mental health during	University for Continuing Education Krems, University of Salzburg	Austria	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
	coronavirus disease (COVID-19) lockdown in Austria (2020)			
9	Stress and parenting during the global COVID-19 pandemic (2020)	Arizona State University, Colorado State University, University of Denver	United States	—
10	Circulating myeloid-derived MMP8 in stress susceptibility and depression (2024)	Federal University of Santa Catarina, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Trinity College Dublin	Brazil, Ireland, 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 developed a seminal framework for measuring the functional components of social support, establishing a foundational metric widely adopted across independent research communities.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a method for measuring the functional components of social support, as detailed in the 1985 work published in *Social Support: Theory, Research and Applications*. This core paper stands as the definitive piece in this specific line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author building directly upon it.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests a shift toward operationalizing social support by distinguishing its functional components, addressing a likely gap in how such support was previously conceptualized or measured. By focusing on measurement, the work appears to have provided a standardized approach that allowed for more precise empirical analysis in the field.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved substantial impact, evidenced by 3,952 citations. Notably, analysis of a sample of citing papers reveals that 100% originate from independent researchers, indicating that the framework has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9

CORE PAPER

[Measuring the functional components of social support](#)

1985 · *Social Support: Theory, Research and Applications* · 3,952 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,468 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1985 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A New Look at Social Support: A Theoretical Perspective on Thriving Through Relationships (2015)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	—
2	The brief resilience scale: Assessing the ability to bounce back (2008)	University of New Mexico	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
3	The relationship between social support and mental health problems during pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis (2021)	Hawassa University, University of Technology Sydney	Australia, Ethiopia	—
4	Loneliness and suicide mitigation for students using GPT3-enabled chatbots (2024)	Stanford University	United States	—
5	No More FOMO: Limiting Social Media Decreases Loneliness and Depression (2018)	University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
6	Individual differences in two emotion regulation processes: implications for affect, relationships, and well-being. (2003)	Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley	United States	—
7	Loneliness as a specific risk factor for depressive symptoms: cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses. (2006)	Duke University, University of Chicago	United States	—
8	The MOS social support survey. (1991)	RAND Corporation	United States	—
9	Internet paradox: A social technology that reduces social involvement and psychological well-being? (1998)	Carnegie Mellon 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 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher established a seminal clinical practice guideline for treating tobacco dependence, creating a widely adopted standard that has significantly influenced public health policy and clinical care.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive clinical practice guideline for treating tobacco use and dependence, anchored by the 2008 US Public Health Service executive summary. This work serves as a foundational reference for clinicians and policymakers addressing nicotine addiction.

ORIGINALITY: The titles indicate that this work addresses the critical need for standardized, evidence-based protocols in tobacco cessation. By updating existing guidelines, the researcher likely synthesized contemporary evidence to resolve ambiguities in treatment approaches, offering a unified framework for managing tobacco dependence in clinical settings.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has accumulated 3,527 citations, demonstrating its substantial impact on the field. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, confirming that this guideline has been widely adopted and relied upon by the broader scientific community rather than just the author’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

CORE PAPER

[Treating tobacco use and dependence: 2008 update US Public Health Service Clinical Practice Guideline executive summary](#)

2008 · 3,527 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 597 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2008 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

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

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Carnegie Mellon University	United States	SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52	3
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	3
Trinity College Dublin	Ireland	SCImago #926 · THE 173	1
Hawassa University	Ethiopia	SCImago #6413	1
RAND Corporation	United States	—	1
University of California, Berkeley	United States	SCImago #95 · THE 9 · QS =17	1
University of Technology Sydney	Australia	SCImago #475 · THE =145 · QS 96	1
Stanford School of Medicine	United States	—	1
Florida Atlantic University	United States	SCImago #2973 · THE 801–1000	1
Curtin University	Malaysia	SCImago #1031 · THE 251–300 · QS 183	1
Arizona State University	United States	SCImago #357 · THE 201–250 · QS =173	1
University of Bern	Switzerland	SCImago #600 · THE =108 · QS =184	1
University of Chicago	United States	SCImago #124 · THE 15 · QS 13	1
University of Salzburg	Austria	—	1
Duke University	United States	SCImago #115 · THE 28 · QS 62	1

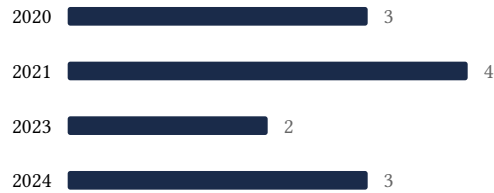
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	14
Austria	1
Brazil	1
Ethiopia	1
Germany	1
Australia	1
Malaysia	1
Philippines	1
Switzerland	1
Ireland	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 global measure of perceived stress	10	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Measuring the functional components of social support	9	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Treating tobacco use and dependence: 2008 update US Public Health Service Clinical Practice Guideline executive summary	0	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)