

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

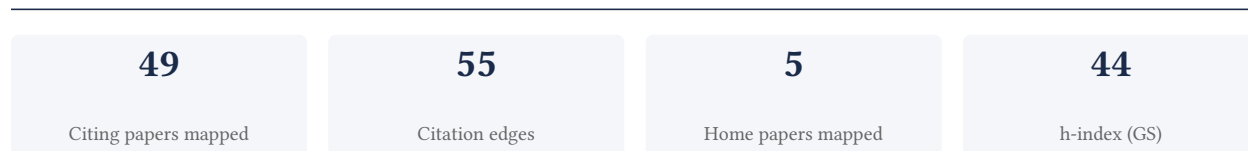
Philip A Gable

Professor of Psychology, The University of Delaware

[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.

98.0% independent of 49 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	48
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
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 the motivational dimensional model of affect, linking emotional states to cognitive processes like attention, memory, and categorization.

The researcher established the motivational dimensional model of affect, as detailed in a 2010 paper published in *Cognition and Emotion*. This work proposes that affective states influence fundamental cognitive functions, including the breadth of attention, memory retention, and cognitive categorization.

This line of work appears to address the need for a unified framework connecting emotion and cognition. By framing affect through motivational dimensions, the research offers a novel perspective on how emotional states modulate information processing, distinct from earlier valence-only approaches.

The contribution demonstrates significant impact, evidenced by 647 citations. Notably, 98% of these citations originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and validation of the model across the global scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 11

CORE PAPER

[The motivational dimensional model of affect: Implications for breadth of attention, memory, and cognitive categorisation](#)

2010 · *Cognition and Emotion* · 647 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 383 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2010 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Stressors and coping strategies in esports: a systematic review (2024)	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Leipzig University, Southern Cross University	Australia, Germany, United Kingdom	—
2	The Nencki Affective Picture System (NAPS): Introduction to a novel, standardized, wide-range, high-quality, realistic picture database (2014)	Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, SWPS Uniwersytet Humanistyczno-społeczny	Poland	Background
3	Four-quadrant investigation of job-related affects and behaviours (2013)	SHL Group, University of Sheffield, University of Western Australia	Australia, United Kingdom	Background
4	Inner engineering: Evaluating the utility of mindfulness training to cultivate intrapersonal and interpersonal competencies among first-year engineering students (2021)	Arizona State University	—	Background
5	Daily variability in working memory is coupled with negative affect: the role of attention and motivation. (2012)	Max Planck Institute for Human Development	Germany	—
6	A systematic review of the relationship between emotion and susceptibility to misinformation (2022)	Monash University, University of Warwick	Australia, United Kingdom	—
7	Motivation: Biological, Psychological, and Environmental (2018)	Ball State University	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Linking Students' Emotions and Academic Achievement: When and Why Emotions Matter (2012)	Arizona State University	United States	Background
9	Beyond happiness: Building a science of discrete positive emotions. (2017)	Arizona State University, DePauw University, University of California, Berkeley	United States	Background
10	Power: Past findings, present considerations, and future directions (2014)	Columbia University, New York University, Northwestern University	United States	—
11	Positive emotion differentiation: A functional approach (2014)	Arizona State University	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).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher established a seminal link between approach-motivated positive affect and narrowed attentional breadth, a finding that has significantly influenced subsequent psychological research.

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 2008 publication in *Psychological Science*, which appears to demonstrate that approach-motivated positive affect reduces the breadth of attention. This work stands as a singular, foundational piece in this specific line of inquiry, with no follow-up papers by the same author listed to extend the framework.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding how specific types of positive emotion influence cognitive processing. By isolating approach-motivated affect, the research suggests a nuanced mechanism for attentional narrowing, challenging broader assumptions about positive affect and cognitive scope.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its high citation count of 976. Furthermore, the citation analysis reveals that 98.0% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional echo chambers.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 15 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Approach-motivated positive affect reduces breadth of attention](#)

2008 · *Psychological Science* · 976 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 646 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	Conclusions about interventions, programs, and approaches for improving executive functions that appear justified and those that, despite much hype, do not (2016)	University of British Columbia	Canada	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
2	The Neuroscience of Positive Emotions and Affect: Implications for Cultivating Happiness and Wellbeing (2021)	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Australian National University, Cook Children's Healthcare System	Australia, Belgium, Germany	—
3	Positive Emotions Broaden and Build (2013)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	Background
4	Attentional bias for positive emotional stimuli: A meta-analytic investigation. (2016)	University of Geneva	Switzerland	—
5	Updated Thinking on Positivity Ratios (2013)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	Background
6	The relation between valence and arousal in subjective experience (2013)	Boston College, KU Leuven	Belgium, United States	—
7	Positive affective processes underlie positive health behaviour change (2018)	Duke University, National Cancer Institute, Scripps College	United States	Background
8	Mechanisms of motivation-cognition interaction: challenges and opportunities (2014)	Duke University, New York University, North Carolina State University	Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States	—
9	Neural correlates of emotion-attention interactions: From perception, learning, and memory to social cognition, individual differences, and training interventions (2020)	Birkbeck, University of London, Ghent University, KU Leuven	Australia, Belgium, Germany	—
10	Motivation: Biological, Psychological, and Environmental (2018)	Ball State University	United States	—
11	Psychology of Emotion: Interpersonal, Experiential, and Cognitive Approaches, Second Edition (2017)	Université de Bordeaux, University of Wisconsin-Madison	France, United States	—
12	Many Labs 2: Investigating Variation in Replicability Across Samples and Settings (2018)	Grenoble Alpes University	France	—
13	Linking Students' Emotions and Academic Achievement: When and Why Emotions Matter (2012)	Arizona State University	United States	Background
14	Beyond happiness: Building a science of discrete positive emotions. (2017)	Arizona State University, DePauw University, University of California, Berkeley	United States	Influential
15	Power: Past findings, present considerations, and future directions (2014)	Columbia University, New York University, Northwestern University	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).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher conducted a large-scale empirical assessment of reproducibility in psychological science, establishing a critical benchmark for methodological rigor and transparency in the field.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the seminal 2015 study titled ‘Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science,’ which stands as a foundational work in evaluating the reliability of findings within the discipline. This single paper represents the core of this specific line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the researcher listed in this context.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests a direct, systematic attempt to quantify the extent to which psychological findings can be replicated, addressing a growing concern regarding the stability of scientific results. By focusing on estimation, the work appears to have introduced a rigorous, large-scale framework for assessing reproducibility, moving beyond theoretical debate to empirical measurement of the field’s robustness.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved substantial impact, evidenced by over 11,000 citations, indicating it is a highly influential reference in the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 98.0% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the contribution has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than being confined to the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science

2015 · 11,261 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 7,001 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2015 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Doing Meta-Analysis with R: A Hands-On Guide (2021)	Kyoto University, Protect Lab, Technical University of Munich	Germany, Japan, Netherlands	—
2	Reproducible brain-wide association studies require thousands of individuals (2022)	University of Minnesota	United States	—
3	Replicability, Robustness, and Reproducibility in Psychological Science (2022)	Center for Open Science, Grand Valley State University, Illinois State University	Australia, France, Germany	—
4	Weak baselines and reporting biases lead to overoptimism in machine learning for fluid-related partial differential equations (2024)	Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory	United States	—
5	How to Do a Systematic Review: A Best Practice Guide for Conducting and Reporting Narrative Reviews, Meta-Analyses, and Meta-Syntheses (2019)	London School of Economics and Political Science, Northwestern University, University of Stirling	United Kingdom, United States	—
6	The critical role of trust in adopting AI-powered educational technology for learning: An instrument for measuring student perceptions (2025)	EPFL, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne	Switzerland	—
7	Emotional intelligence predicts academic performance: A meta-analysis. (2019)	The University of Sydney, University of New South Wales	Australia	—
8	Redefine statistical significance (2017)	Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Arizona State University, Australian National University	Australia, Austria, Canada	—

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
Arizona State University	United States	SCImago #357 · THE 201–250 · QS =173	5
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	4
Duke University	United States	SCImago #115 · THE 28 · QS 62	4
New York University	United States	SCImago #116 · THE =31 · QS 55	4
University of Amsterdam	Netherlands	SCImago #75 · THE =62 · QS 53	3
University of Southern California	United States	SCImago #192 · THE =73 · QS 146	3
University of California, Berkeley	United States	SCImago #95 · THE 9 · QS =17	3
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	THE 78 · QS =140	3
University of New South Wales	Australia	SCImago #107 · QS 20	3
University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	SCImago #182 · THE 29 · QS 34	3
Australian National University	Australia	SCImago #604 · THE =73 · QS =32	2
University of British Columbia	Canada	SCImago #144 · THE 45 · QS 40	2
Pepperdine University	United States	SCImago #6985	2
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	2
University of Pittsburgh	United States	SCImago #212 · QS =281	2

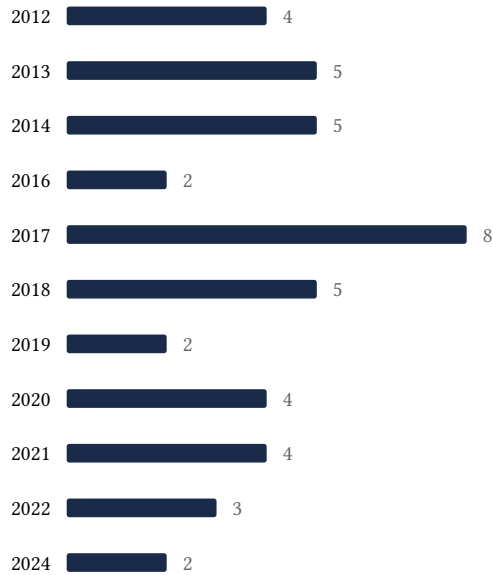
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	25
United Kingdom	11
Australia	10
Netherlands	8
Germany	8
France	4
Belgium	3
Canada	3
Switzerland	3
Malaysia	2
Sweden	2
Brazil	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	The motivational dimensional model of affect: Implications for breadth of attention, memory, and cognitive categorisation	11	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Approach-motivated positive affect reduces breadth of attention	15	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science	8	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)