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

20	20	3	40
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.

95.0% independent of 20 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	19
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 source monitoring, subsequently integrating neuroimaging evidence to elucidate the neural mechanisms underlying the attribution of mental experiences.

The researcher's contribution centers on the conceptualization and empirical investigation of source monitoring, defined as the process of attributing mental experiences. This line of work is anchored by a seminal 2000 chapter in The Oxford Handbook of Memory, which has accumulated 553 citations, establishing a core theoretical baseline for the field.

Originality in this trajectory is suggested by the chronological progression from theoretical formulation to mechanistic exploration. The follow-up 2009 paper, titled 'Source monitoring 15 years later,' indicates a deliberate effort to update the original framework with emerging functional MRI data. This suggests the researcher identified a gap in understanding the neural substrates of source memory and addressed it by bridging cognitive theory with neurobiological evidence.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its substantial uptake within the scientific community. The core paper's 553 citations and the follow-up's 915 citations demonstrate sustained and growing interest. Furthermore, the fact that 95.0% of classified citations originate from independent researchers underscores the broad, cross-institutional impact of this framework, confirming its status as a widely adopted reference point in memory research.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 12

CORE PAPER

Source monitoring: Attributing mental experiences

2000 · The Oxford Handbook of Memory · 553 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 286 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Psychology papers from 2000 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Metacognition and affect: What can metacognitive experiences tell us about the learning process? (2006)	—	—	Background
2	Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought (2001)	—	—	—
3	Metacognition: A Textbook for Cognitive, Educational, Life Span & Applied Psychology (2008)	Columbia University, Kent State University	United States	—
4	Metacognition and consciousness (1995)	Nassau Community College	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).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Source monitoring 15 years later: what have we learned from fMRI about the neural mechanisms of source memory?

2009 · 915 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 646 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The psychological drivers of misinformation belief and its resistance to correction (2022)	Boston University, Monash University, Radboud University	Australia, Netherlands, United Kingdom	—
2	Judging Truth. (2020)	Duke University	United States	Background
3	Aging in an Era of Fake News. (2020)	Harvard University	United States	—
4	Mental Time Travel: Episodic Memory and Our Knowledge of the Personal Past (2016)	Université Grenoble Alpes	France	—
5	Remembering in conversations: the social sharing and reshaping of memories. (2012)	—	—	—
6	Human Neuroscience and the Aging Mind: A New Look at Old Problems (2010)	The University of Texas at Dallas	United States	Background
7	Are episodic memories special? On the sameness of remembered and imagined event simulation (2018)	—	—	—
8	Neural changes underlying the development of episodic memory during middle childhood (2012)	University of California, Davis	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 advanced the neuroscientific understanding of self-reflection by empirically dissociating the distinct functional roles of medial frontal and posterior cingulate cortical regions.

The researcher's primary contribution rests on the seminal 2006 paper, 'Dissociating medial frontal and posterior cingulate activity during self-reflection.' This work appears to establish a critical distinction in how these two brain regions process self-referential information, moving beyond earlier models that may have treated them as functionally homogeneous during introspection.

This line of work addresses a fundamental gap in cognitive neuroscience by isolating the specific neural substrates of self-reflection. By focusing on the dissociation between medial frontal and posterior cingulate activity, the researcher provided a more granular map of the brain's self-processing network. The absence of follow-up papers by the same author suggests this single study served as a definitive, standalone contribution to the field's theoretical framework.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 444, indicating widespread adoption and influence within the scientific community. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 95% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has resonated across diverse institutions and research groups, rather than relying on self-citation or local collaboration.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Dissociating medial frontal and posterior cingulate activity during self-reflection

2006 · 444 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 341 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2006 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Rethinking Rumination (2008)	University of California, Riverside, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Yale University	United States	Background
2	Optimizing performance through intrinsic motivation and attention for learning: The OPTIMAL theory of motor learning. (2016)	Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center	United States	Background
3	Rumination and the default mode network: Meta-analysis of brain imaging studies and implications for depression (2020)	Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone	United States	**Influential**
4	Social cognition and the brain: a meta-analysis. (2009)	—	—	—
5	Attending to the present: mindfulness meditation reveals distinct neural modes of self-reference (2007)	Emory University School of Medicine, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Clinic, University of Toronto and Centre for Addiction and Mental Health	Canada	Background
6	Patterns of brain activity supporting autobiographical memory, prospection, and theory of mind, and their relationship to the default mode network (2010)	—	—	—
7	Psilocybin-assisted mindfulness training modulates self-consciousness and brain default mode network connectivity with lasting effects (2019)	—	—	—

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
Yale University	United States	SCImago #76 · THE 10 · QS 21	2
University of Toronto and Centre for Addiction and Mental Health	Canada	—	1
Nassau Community College	United States	—	1
University of California, San Diego	United States	SCImago #120 · THE 47 · QS 66	1
Boston University	United States	SCImago #272 · THE =76 · QS =88	1
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	1
University of Minnesota	United States	SCImago #165 · THE 88 · QS 210	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Vanderbilt University	United States	SCImago #613 · THE =92 · QS 250	1
University of Western Australia	Australia	SCImago #646 · THE 153 · QS 77	1
Monash University	Australia	THE =58 · QS =36	1
Harvard University	United States	SCImago #4 · THE =5 · QS 5	1
Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center	United States	—	1
Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone	United States	—	1
Université Grenoble Alpes	France	SCImago #738 · THE 351–400 · QS 321	1
Duke University	United States	SCImago #115 · THE 28 · QS 62	1

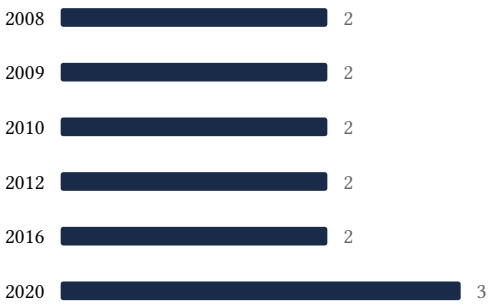
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	11
Australia	1
Canada	1
France	1
Netherlands	1
United Kingdom	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).

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	Source monitoring: Attributing mental experiences	12	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Dissociating medial frontal and posterior cingulate activity during self-reflection	7	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)