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	25
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.

90.0% independent of 20 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	18
Self-citation	2
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 advanced the understanding of how event memories are constructed from experience, extending this framework to examine how pupil-linked arousal signals track the temporal organization of events in memory.

CLAIM: The researcher's contribution centers on elucidating the mechanisms by which event memories are constructed from experience, as established in the core 2019 paper published in Hippocampus, and further explored through the lens of physiological arousal signals in subsequent work.

ORIGINALITY: This line of work appears to address the gap in understanding the temporal dynamics of memory construction. By moving from the general construction of event memories to the specific role of pupil-linked arousal signals in tracking temporal organization, the researcher suggests a novel physiological correlate for how the brain organizes experiences over time.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has garnered 312 citations, indicating substantial uptake in the field. The follow-up work in Nature Communications has accumulated 196 citations. Notably, 90% of the citing papers for this scholar are from independent researchers, demonstrating that this contribution has resonated widely beyond the researcher's immediate circle and influenced independent scientific inquiry.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 12 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Transcending time in the brain: How event memories are constructed from experience

2019 · Hippocampus · 312 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 190 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2019 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Schemas, reinforcement learning and the medial prefrontal cortex (2025)	—	—	**Influential**
2	Time, space, memory and brain-body rhythms (2026)	—	—	—
3	Human-inspired Episodic Memory for Infinite Context LLMs (2024)	University College London	United Kingdom	—
4	Motifs of human high-frequency oscillations structure processing and memory of continuous audiovisual narratives. (2025)	The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research	United States	—
5	Distinct place cell dynamics in CA1 and CA3 encode experience in new environments (2021)	—	—	—
6	The brain in motion: How ensemble fluidity drives memory-updating and flexibility (2020)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	United States	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

Pupil-linked arousal signals track the temporal organization of events in memory

2020 · Nature Communications · 196 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 117 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2020 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Sequence chunking through neural encoding of ordinal positions (2025)	—	—	—
2	Multiple routes to enhanced memory for emotionally relevant events (2023)	Princeton University, Universität Hamburg	Germany, United States	Background
3	Pupil diameter is not an accurate real-time readout of locus coeruleus activity (2022)	—	—	Background
4	More than a moment: What does it mean to call something an 'event'? (2023)	University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
5	Bayesian Surprise Predicts Human Event Segmentation in Story Listening. (2023)	Hebrew University, Washington University in St. Louis	Israel, United States	—
6	The forgotten wave of early pupillometry research (2024)	—	—	—

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 foundational links between structural connectivity and both resting-state and task-based functional connectivity in the human brain, as evidenced by a highly cited 2013 PNAS publication.

The researcher's primary contribution lies in elucidating the structural foundations of functional connectivity in the human brain. This work is anchored by a seminal 2013 paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), which investigates the relationship between structural architecture and both resting-state and task-based functional networks. The titles indicate a focus on mapping how physical brain structures underpin dynamic functional interactions, a critical area for understanding neural organization. By addressing the structural basis of these functional states, the work appears to bridge a gap between anatomical connectivity and functional dynamics, offering a unified framework for interpreting brain activity. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher in this specific dataset suggests this single publication serves as a standalone, high-impact contribution rather than part of a longer series by the author. The significance of this work is underscored by its substantial citation count of 682, indicating widespread recognition within the scientific community. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 90% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the findings have been adopted and built upon by the broader field rather than just the researcher's immediate circle. This high degree of independent uptake confirms the work's influence on subsequent studies in neuroscience and functional connectivity research.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

Structural foundations of resting-state and task-based functional connectivity in the human brain

2013 · PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences) · 682 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 587 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2013 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Structure–function coupling in macroscale human brain networks (2024)	University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
2	Brain network communication: concepts, models and applications (2023)	Indiana University, University of Melbourne and Melbourne Health	Australia, United States	Background
3	Neurodevelopment of the association cortices: Patterns, mechanisms, and implications for psychopathology (2021)	Child Mind Institute, Nathan Kline Institute, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
4	Network hubs in the human brain (2013)	—	—	—
5	Communication dynamics in complex brain networks (2017)	McGill University	Canada	Background
6	Changes in structural and functional connectivity among resting-state networks across the human lifespan (2014)	Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	3
Child Mind Institute	United States	—	1
McGill University	Canada	SCImago #168 · THE =41 · QS 27	1
Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	SCImago #2	1
Weill Cornell Medicine	United States	SCImago #220	1
UCLA	United States	—	1
University of Minnesota	United States	SCImago #165 · THE 88 · QS 210	1
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	1
The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research	United States	—	1
Hebrew University	Israel	—	1
Indiana University	United States	THE =198	1
New York University	United States	SCImago #116 · THE =31 · QS 55	1
Universität Hamburg	Germany	SCImago #419 · QS 193	1
Princeton University	United States	SCImago #386 · THE =3 · QS =25	1
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—	1

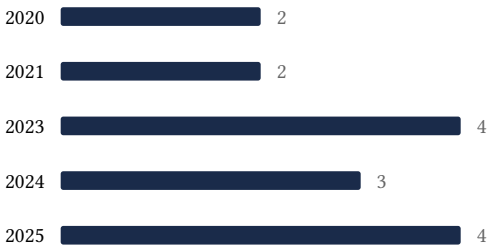
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	10
Canada	1
China	1
Australia	1
Israel	1
United Kingdom	1
Germany	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	Transcending time in the brain: How event memories are constructed from experience	12	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Structural foundations of resting-state and task-based functional connectivity in the human brain	6	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)