

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

## Tanya Spruill

Unknown affiliation

[Google Scholar profile](#)

**Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap.** This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). 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	5	38
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.

**100.0% independent** of 20 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	20
Self-citation	0
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 link between chronic psychosocial stress and hypertension through a seminal 2010 paper that has garnered significant independent scholarly attention.*

The researcher's primary contribution centers on the 2010 publication titled 'Chronic psychosocial stress and hypertension.' This work serves as the cornerstone of the provided evidence, representing a focused effort to define the relationship between psychological factors and cardiovascular health outcomes.

This line of work appears to address the critical need to understand how non-physiological stressors contribute to hypertension. By isolating psychosocial stress as a key variable, the researcher provided a conceptual framework that likely influenced subsequent discussions on the etiology of high blood pressure, distinguishing environmental and psychological drivers from purely genetic or lifestyle causes.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its citation record, with 732 citations indicating substantial uptake within the scientific community. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers. This high degree of independent validation suggests the work has become a standard reference point for scholars outside the researcher's immediate circle, confirming its broad impact and utility in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

#### CORE PAPER

### [Chronic psychosocial stress and hypertension](#)

2010 · 732 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 392 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	<a href="#">2023 ESH Guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension The Task Force for the management of arterial hypertension of the European Society of Hypertension: Endorsed by the International Society of Hypertension (ISH) and the European Renal Association (ERA) (2023)</a>	Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, AP-HP, Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou, Université Paris Cité, Aristotle University	Austria, Belgium, China	—
2	<a href="#">Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People, Version 8 (2022)</a>	Amsterdam UMC Location Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam UMC, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago	Australia, Austria, Belgium	—
3	<a href="#">2023 ESH Guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension The Task Force for the management of arterial hypertension of the European Society of Hypertension: Endorsed by the International Society of Hypertension (ISH) and the European Renal Association (ERA) (2023)</a>	Aristotle University, Aristotle University Thessaloniki, Hippokratio Hospital, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia and University of Brescia	Austria, Belgium, Croatia	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
4	<a href="#">Association between psychosocial stress and hypertension: a systematic review and meta-analysis.</a> (2017)	Capital Medical University, Wayne State University School of Medicine	China, United States	Background
5	<a href="#">Status of Hypertension in China: Results From the China Hypertension Survey, 2012-2015.</a> (2018)	Christiana Care Health System, MedStar Washington Hospital Center, National Center for Cardiovascular Disease	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 developed and validated psychometric measures of ethnicity-related stress, establishing their associations with well-being and ethnic group differences in a seminal 2001 study.*

The researcher's primary contribution lies in the development and validation of measures for ethnicity-related stress, as demonstrated in the core 2001 paper titled 'Measures of Ethnicity-Related Stress: Psychometric Properties, Ethnic Group Differences, and Associations With Well-Being.' This work appears to address a critical gap in the literature by providing standardized tools to quantify stress specific to ethnic experiences, rather than relying on general stress metrics. The titles suggest a focus on rigorous psychometric evaluation and the examination of how these stressors vary across different ethnic groups and impact overall well-being.

The originality of this line of work is inferred from its foundational nature; by establishing the psychometric properties of these specific measures, the researcher provided a necessary methodological advance for the field. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher in the provided data suggests that this single publication served as a definitive, standalone contribution that established the validity and utility of these measures for the broader scientific community.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 511, indicating that the work has been widely recognized and utilized. Furthermore, the citation analysis reveals that 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, underscoring the broad, field-wide impact of this work beyond the researcher's immediate circle. This high level of independent uptake suggests that the measures developed have become a standard or influential reference point for other scholars studying ethnicity-related stress and well-being.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

### CORE PAPER

#### [Measures of Ethnicity-Related Stress: Psychometric Properties, Ethnic Group Differences, and Associations With Well-Being](#)<sup>1</sup>

2001 · 511 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 277 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Psychology papers from 2001 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">The social psychology of stigma</a> (2005)	University of California-Santa Barbara	United States	Background

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
2	<a href="#">Racism as a Determinant of Health: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis</a> (2015)	Australian National University, Deakin University, University at Albany, State University of New York	Australia, United States	—
3	<a href="#">Racism and Psychological and Emotional Injury</a> (2007)	Teachers College, Columbia University	United States	Background
4	<a href="#">Coping with racism: a selective review of the literature and a theoretical and methodological critique.</a> (2009)	St. John's University	United States	Background
5	<a href="#">Discrimination and the stress response: psychological and physiological consequences of anticipating prejudice in interethnic interactions.</a> (2012)	University of California, Santa Barbara	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 established a foundational framework linking ethnicity-related stressors to well-being outcomes, a seminal contribution that has been widely adopted by independent scholars.*

CLAIM: The researcher's core contribution is the identification and analysis of ethnicity-related sources of stress and their specific effects on well-being, as detailed in the 2000 paper titled 'Ethnicity-related sources of stress and their effects on well-being.' This work stands as a singular, foundational piece in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: By focusing explicitly on the intersection of ethnicity and stress, this line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding how specific demographic stressors impact psychological and physical health. The titles indicate a targeted examination of these unique stressors, distinguishing this research from general stress literature by highlighting the distinct role of ethnic identity in well-being outcomes.

SIGNIFICANCE: The enduring relevance of this contribution is evidenced by its 324 citations, indicating substantial uptake within the academic community. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the citations come from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has influenced scholars outside the researcher's immediate network and institution, thereby confirming its broad and independent impact on the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

#### CORE PAPER

#### [Ethnicity-related sources of stress and their effects on well-being](#)

2000 · 324 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">How does stigma "get under the skin"?: the mediating role of emotion regulation.</a> (2009)	Yale University	United States	Background
2	<a href="#">Prejudice as stress: conceptual and measurement problems.</a> (2003)	Columbia 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 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
KU Leuven	Belgium	SCImago #180 · THE 46 · QS 60	3
Aristotle University	Greece	—	2
Erasmus MC	Netherlands	—	2
University of Lausanne	Switzerland	SCImago #862 · THE =125 · QS =212	2
Helena Venizelou Hospital	Greece	—	2
University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	SCImago #351 · THE 84 · QS 79	2
Université Paris Cité	France	THE =190 · QS 300	2
Maastricht University	Netherlands	SCImago #783 · THE =131 · QS 239	2
Turku University Hospital and University of Turku	Finland	—	2
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	2
National Institute of Cardiology	Poland	—	2
University of Zagreb	Croatia	SCImago #1126 · THE 1201–1500 · QS 701-710	2
Klinikum Wels-Grieskirchen	Austria	—	2
Hospital Clínic, University of Barcelona	Spain	—	2
Medical University of Gdansk	Poland	SCImago #2948 · THE 1001–1200	2

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	12
Austria	3
Belgium	3
Australia	3
Germany	3
Netherlands	3
Spain	3
Sweden	3
United Kingdom	3
France	2
Greece	2
Hungary	2

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.

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Core paper</b>	<b>Indep. cites</b>	<b>Supports</b>
Contribution 1	Chronic psychosocial stress and hypertension	5	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Measures of Ethnicity-Related Stress: Psychometric Properties, Ethnic Group Differences, and Associations With Well-Being <sup>1</sup>	5	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Ethnicity-related sources of stress and their effects on well-being	2	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5