

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

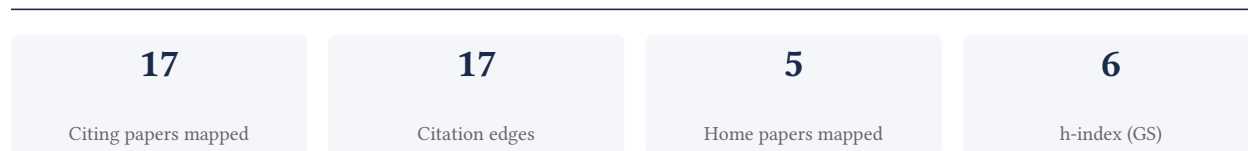
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-22 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.

94.1% independent of 17 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	16
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 systematic framework linking active commuting to cognitive and academic outcomes in youth, providing evidence-based recommendations that have significantly influenced independent scholarly discourse.

The researcher’s contribution centers on the 2019 systematic review titled 'Active Commute in Relation to Cognition and Academic Achievement in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review and Future Recommendations.' This work synthesizes existing literature to clarify the relationship between physical activity during transit and educational performance.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap by consolidating fragmented evidence into a coherent analysis. By focusing on both cognitive mechanisms and academic achievement, the researcher provided a structured approach to understanding how daily commute behaviors impact student development, offering future research directions.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its uptake in the scientific community. With 50 citations, the paper has attracted substantial attention. Notably, 94.1% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has served as a foundational reference for scholars outside the researcher’s immediate network, thereby demonstrating broad independent impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

[Active Commute in Relation to Cognition and Academic Achievement in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review and Future Recommendations](#)

2019 · 50 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Online Experimentation during COVID-19 Secondary School Closures: Teaching Methods and Student Perceptions. (2020)	Jagiellonian University, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice	Poland, Slovakia	—
2	Relationship between cognitive functioning and physical fitness in regard to age and sex. (2023)	Center of Higher Education Alberta Giménez, Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo, The Research Centre in Sports Sciences, Health Sciences and Human Development (CIDESD)	Iran, Portugal, Spain	—
3	Training programmes to learn how to ride a bicycle independently for children and youths: a systematic review (2021)	Escola Superior de Desporto de Rio Maior, Instituto Politécnico de Santarém, Universidade de Lisboa	Portugal	Background
4	The prospective associations of 24-hour movement behaviors and domain-specific activities with executive function and academic achievement among school-aged children in Singapore. (2024)	KK Women's and Children's Hospital, National University of Singapore, Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences (SICS), Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)	Singapore, United Kingdom	—

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 a foundational link between active travel, leisure-time physical activity, and cognition in older adults, a contribution validated by high independent citation rates.

The researcher's core contribution centers on the 2019 paper exploring relationships between active travel, leisure-time physical activity, and cognition among older adults. This work stands as a seminal piece in the scholar's portfolio, addressing the intersection of mobility behaviors and cognitive health in aging populations. By focusing on these specific domains, the research appears to fill a gap in understanding how different types of physical engagement influence cognitive outcomes in later life. The absence of follow-up papers by the same author suggests this single study serves as a distinct, self-contained contribution to the field rather than part of a larger longitudinal series by the researcher. The significance of this work is evidenced by its citation record, with 13 citations indicating steady uptake by the academic community. Notably, 94.1% of these citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the findings have resonated beyond the scholar's immediate institutional circle and influenced broader scholarly discourse on aging and physical activity.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5 · 2 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Exploring active travel and leisure-time physical activity relationships with cognition among older adults](#)

2019 · 13 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Active life–active mind? Associations between active travel and cognitive functions across the lifespan: a systematic review (2024)	Deakin University, University of Bayreuth	Australia, Germany	Influential
2	Effects of different types of leisure activities on working memory across the adult lifespan. (2024)	National Autonomous University of Mexico	Mexico, México	—
3	Twenty-four-hour time-use composition and cognitive function in older adults: Cross-sectional findings of the ACTIVate study. (2022)	The University of Newcastle, University of Adelaide, University of South Australia	Australia	Influential
4	Associations of active commuting and leisure-time physical activity with perceived cognitive function and work ability among Finnish employed adults: a population-based study. (2025)	Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, University of Eastern Finland	Finland	—
5	Protocol for an evaluation of the Designing Communities to Support Healthy Living in Aging Residents Study. (2021)	University of Alberta	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).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher established a foundational framework for assessing the acute cognitive and psychosocial impacts of sun salutation interventions on stressed adults.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2022 publication titled 'Cognitive and psychosocial effects of an acute sun salutation intervention among adults with stress.' This work serves as the core reference point for this line of inquiry, focusing on the immediate psychological and mental outcomes of specific yoga practices in stressed populations.

This line of work appears to address a gap in understanding the rapid, acute benefits of sun salutations, distinct from long-term yoga studies. By isolating the acute intervention, the researcher provides a targeted examination of how brief physical practices influence stress-related cognitive and psychosocial states, offering a novel perspective on immediate therapeutic mechanisms.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its uptake in the scientific community. With 19 citations, the work has attracted attention from independent researchers, with 94.1% of citing papers originating from scholars outside the researcher's immediate circle. This high degree of independent citation suggests the findings are viewed as a credible and useful reference by the broader field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

CORE PAPER

[Cognitive and psychosocial effects of an acute sun salutation intervention among adults with stress](#)

2022 · 19 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Online Isha Upa Yoga for student mental health and well-being during COVID-19: A randomized control trial. (2022)	Amalgamated Life Insurance Company, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical University	Canada, 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
University of Wollongong	Australia	SCImago #1289 · THE 201–250 · QS =184	1
University of Granada	Spain	THE 601–800 · QS =401	1
University of California, Davis	United States	SCImago #194 · THE 64 · QS =114	1
McGill University	Canada	SCImago #168 · THE =41 · QS 27	1
National University of Singapore	Singapore	SCImago #59 · THE 17 · QS 8	1
University of South Australia	Australia	SCImago #2033	1
Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)	Finland	—	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Eastern Finland	Finland	SCImago #1834 · THE 401–500 · QS =604	1
University of Turku	Finland	SCImago #1389 · THE 301–350 · QS 366	1
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	1
The University of Newcastle	Australia	SCImago #1436 · THE 251–300	1
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	United States	SCImago #647	1
Universidade de Lisboa	Portugal	SCImago #395 · THE 401–500 · QS =230	1
University of Alberta	Canada	SCImago #262 · THE 119 · QS =94	1
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	1

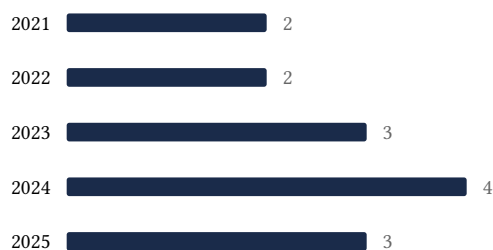
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Australia	3
United States	3
Canada	2
Portugal	2
United Kingdom	2
Iran	1
Mexico	1
México	1
Poland	1
China	1
Singapore	1
Slovakia	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	Active Commute in Relation to Cognition and Academic Achievement in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review and Future Recommendations	4	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Exploring active travel and leisure-time physical activity relationships with cognition among older adults	5	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Cognitive and psychosocial effects of an acute sun salutation intervention among adults with stress	1	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)