

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Daniel J. Paulus

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 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

21	21	5	33
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 21 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	21
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 mechanistic model linking neuroticism to depression via emotion dysregulation, psychological inflexibility, and shame, a framework widely adopted by independent scholars.

CLAIM: The researcher's core contribution is the 2016 paper titled 'Emotion dysregulation, psychological inflexibility, and shame as explanatory factors between neuroticism and depression,' which proposes specific mediating variables in the pathway from personality traits to depressive outcomes.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address the need for granular psychological mechanisms explaining how broad personality constructs like neuroticism translate into clinical depression. By isolating emotion dysregulation, psychological inflexibility, and shame as explanatory factors, the research offers a nuanced theoretical bridge that moves beyond simple correlation.

SIGNIFICANCE: With 228 citations, the paper is well-cited within its field. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the framework has been adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than just the author's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

[Emotion dysregulation, psychological inflexibility, and shame as explanatory factors between neuroticism and depression](#)

2016 · 228 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 118 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2016 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The relationship between neuroticism as a personality trait and mindfulness skills: a scoping review. (2024)	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Spain	—
2	Mindful Parenting is Associated with Adolescents' Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Through Adolescents' Psychological Inflexibility and Self-Compassion. (2020)	University of Coimbra	Portugal	—

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 a unified scientific and practical framework for treating emotional disorders, establishing a foundational reference point for integrated clinical approaches.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2016 paper 'Toward a unified treatment for emotional disorders: update on the science and practice,' which proposes an integrated approach to clinical care. This work stands as the primary artifact in this specific line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the researcher listed in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address the fragmentation often found in emotional disorder treatments by advocating for a cohesive model that bridges scientific understanding with clinical practice. The title suggests a move toward standardization and integration, offering a comprehensive update that likely consolidated disparate therapeutic strategies into a single, actionable framework for practitioners.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 220 citations indicating substantial uptake within the field. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has resonated broadly across the scientific community beyond the researcher’s immediate institutional or collaborative network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[Toward a unified treatment for emotional disorders: update on the science and practice](#)

2016 · 220 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 153 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2016 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Emotion regulation as a transdiagnostic treatment construct across anxiety, depression, substance, eating and borderline personality disorders: A systematic review (2017)	Deakin University, Monash University	Australia	—
2	A systematic review and meta-analysis of the Unified Protocol as a transdiagnostic emotion regulation based intervention (2019)	University of Technology Sydney	Australia	—
3	On the efficacy of the unified protocol for transdiagnostic treatment of emotional disorders: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2021)	G. d'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara	Italy	—
4	The Unified Protocol for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders Compared With Diagnosis-Specific Protocols for Anxiety Disorders: A Randomized Clinical Trial. (2017)	Boston University, Brown University, Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	—
5	Internet-delivered transdiagnostic and tailored cognitive behavioral therapy for anxiety and depression: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. (2017)	Babeş-Bolyai University, Linköping University	Romania, Sweden	—

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 advanced transdiagnostic anxiety research by isolating neuroticism’s unique contributions alongside other vulnerability factors, a framework widely adopted by independent scholars.

CLAIM: The researcher’s core contribution involves examining the unique roles of three transdiagnostic vulnerability factors in the pathway from neuroticism to anxiety, as detailed in their 2016 publication. This work stands as a singular, foundational piece in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests a methodological shift toward disentangling overlapping psychological constructs. By focusing on unique contributions rather than general associations, the researcher appears to address a critical gap in understanding how distinct vulnerability factors independently influence anxiety outcomes.

SIGNIFICANCE: With 141 citations, the paper demonstrates substantial academic uptake. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has resonated broadly across the field beyond the researcher’s immediate network, validating its utility and impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4 · 2 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

From neuroticism to anxiety: Examining unique contributions of three transdiagnostic vulnerability factors

2016 · 141 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 81 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Psychology papers from 2016 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Sexual Violence and Shame: A Meta-Analysis. (2026)	University of Wisconsin-Madison	United States	—
2	Neuroprotective effects of oleuropein: Recent developments and contemporary research. (2021)	Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, University of Central Punjab	Pakistan	—
3	Shame on Me! Self-Conscious Emotions and Big Five Personality Traits and Their Relations to Anxiety Disorders Symptoms in Young, Non-Clinical Adolescents. (2018)	Maastricht University & Virenze-RIAGG	Netherlands	Result
4	Inflexible Youngsters: Psychological and Psychopathological Correlates of the Avoidance and Fusion Questionnaire for Youths in Nonclinical Dutch Adolescents. (2017)	Maastricht University	Netherlands	Methodology

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).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

RESULT Shame on Me! Self-Conscious Emotions and Big Five Personality Traits and Their Relations to Anxiety Disorders Symptoms in Young, Non-Clinical Adolescents.

“[31] tested the unique roles of shame (guilt was not included in this study) and two other vulnerability factors, namely psychological inflexibility and emotion dysregulation, as mediators in the relation between neuroticism and anxiety symptoms in a sample of 97 inpatient adolescents aged 12–17 years.”

METHODOLOGY Inflexible Youngsters: Psychological and Psychopathological Correlates of the Avoidance and Fusion Questionnaire for Youths in Nonclinical Dutch Adolescents.

“In addition, the AFQ-Y has also been shown to correlate positively with measures of psychopathological symptoms (Greco et al. 2008; Feinstein et al. 2011; Fergus et al. 2012; Livheim et al. 2016; Paulus et al. 2016; Simon and Verboon 2016; Valdivia-Salas et al. in press; Venta et al. 2012), although it should be noted that most of this research focused on the relation between psychological inflexibility and internalizing (emotional) symptoms.”

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Houston	United States	SCImago #893 · THE 401–500 · QS =556	3
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Spain	SCImago #207 · THE 183 · QS 172	2
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	1
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad	Pakistan	SCImago #3431 · QS =654	1
Hospital Sant Joan de Déu	Spain	—	1
Charles University	Czech Republic	SCImago #797 · THE 401–500 · QS =265	1
Aarhus University	Denmark	SCImago #293 · THE 101 · QS 131	1
Maastricht University	Netherlands	SCImago #783 · THE =131 · QS 239	1
Oregon Health and Science University	United States	SCImago #689 · THE 351–400	1
University of Miami	United States	SCImago #545 · THE 201–250 · QS =314	1
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia	Peru	SCImago #5964 · THE 1001–1200 · QS 1001-1200	1
Boston University	United States	SCImago #272 · THE =76 · QS =88	1
University of Mississippi	United States	SCImago #2125 · QS 1001-1200	1
University of Technology Sydney	Australia	SCImago #475 · THE =145 · QS 96	1
G. d'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara	Italy	—	1

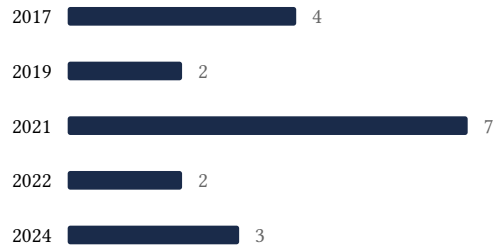
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	8
Spain	3
Australia	2
Netherlands	2
Sweden	2
Germany	1
Iran	1
Italy	1
United Kingdom	1
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Peru	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	Emotion dysregulation, psychological inflexibility, and shame as explanatory factors between neuroticism and depression	2	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Toward a unified treatment for emotional disorders: update on the science and practice	5	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	From neuroticism to anxiety: Examining unique contributions of three transdiagnostic vulnerability factors	4	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)