

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

Everett L Worthington

Virginia Commonwealth University

[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

39	39	5	109
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.

79.5% independent of 39 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	31
Self-citation	0
Co-author	6
Same-institution	2

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 theoretical framework and measurement approach for interpersonal forgiveness in close relationships, creating a seminal body of work that has been widely adopted by independent scholars.

The researcher's contribution centers on defining and operationalizing interpersonal forgiveness within the context of close relationships. This work is anchored by the 1997 paper 'Interpersonal forgiving in close relationships,' which serves as the core foundation for this specific line of inquiry.

Originality is suggested by the chronological progression from the initial 1997 publication to the 1998 follow-up in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. The title of the latter, 'Interpersonal forgiving in close relationships: II. Theoretical elaboration and measurement,' indicates that the researcher moved beyond initial conceptualization to provide rigorous theoretical expansion and specific measurement tools, addressing the need for empirical precision in this domain.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation counts, with the core paper cited 2836 times and the follow-up 3086 times. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 89.7% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that this framework has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than remaining confined to the researcher's immediate circle.

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

CORE PAPER

[Interpersonal forgiving in close relationships.](#)

1997 · 2,836 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,637 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1997 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Does gratitude enhance prosociality? A meta-analytic review (2017)	National University of Singapore, University of Nottingham	Singapore, United Kingdom	—
2	Altruism in Humans (2011)	University of Kansas	United States	—
3	Almost human: Anthropomorphism increases trust resilience in cognitive agents (2016)	George Mason University, Google Inc., Northrop Grumman	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

[Interpersonal forgiving in close relationships: II. Theoretical elaboration and measurement.](#)

1998 · Journal of Personality and Social Psychology · 3,086 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,787 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1998 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Construction and factorial validation of a short form of the Self-Compassion Scale (2011)	University of Leuven, University of Texas at Austin	Belgium, United States	—
2	Psychological Capital: Developing the Human Competitive Edge (2006)	Bellevue University, University of Nebraska, University of Washington	United States	—
3	The road to forgiveness: a meta-analytic synthesis of its situational and dispositional correlates. (2010)	University of Maryland	United States	—
4	Is gratitude a moral affect? (2001)	National Institute for Health-care Research	United States	—
5	Educational Research: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Approaches (2020)	University of South Alabama	United States	—
6	Rethinking Rumination (2008)	University of California, Riverside, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Yale University	United States	Background
7	Altruism in Humans (2011)	The University of Kansas	United States	—
8	The Psychology of Passion: A Dualistic Model (2015)	Université du Québec à Montréal	Canada	—
9	Dispositional Forgiveness of Self, Others, and Situations (2005)	Harvard University	United States	Result

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 the Religious Commitment Inventory-10, a brief, reliable scale for assessing religious commitment in research and counseling contexts.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development and validation of the Religious Commitment Inventory-10, a concise psychometric instrument designed for both academic research and clinical counseling applications. This work, published in 2003, established a standardized method for measuring religious commitment with greater efficiency than prior instruments.

This line of work appears to address the need for a brief, yet robust, assessment tool in the study of religion and spirituality. By refining and validating a ten-item scale, the researcher provided a practical solution for contexts where longer inventories are impractical, thereby facilitating broader empirical inquiry into religious commitment.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of over 2,100 times. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that nearly 90% of citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the instrument has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

■ CORE PAPER

The Religious Commitment Inventory--10: Development, refinement, and validation of a brief scale for research and counseling.

2003 - 2,101 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,183 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2003 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Religion, Spirituality, and the Workplace: A Review and Critique (2023)	Colorado State University, Wheaton College	United States	—
2	Religion, Spirituality and Health Research: Warning of Contaminated Scales (2024)	—	—	—
3	An extensive effect of religiosity on the purchasing decisions of halal products (2023)	Universitas Medan Area, Universitas Pembangunan Panca Budi	Indonesia	—
4	Intention to choose Halal products: the role of religiosity (2012)	International Islamic University	Pakistan	—
5	Factors affecting Halal purchase intention—evidence from Pakistan's Halal food sector (2015)	Air University	Pakistan	—
6	Religion and Mental Health: Research and Clinical Applications (2018)	—	—	—
7	The effects of religion on consumer behavior: A conceptual framework and research agenda (2016)	Arizona State University, Northeastern University, University of Virginia	United States	Influential
8	Purchase intention of “Halal” brands in India: the mediating effect of attitude (2018)	Amity University Uttar Pradesh	India	—

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 theoretical framework linking forgiveness to emotion-focused coping, proposing it reduces health risks and promotes resilience.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the articulation of forgiveness as an emotion-focused coping strategy that mitigates health risks and enhances resilience. This claim is anchored in the seminal 2004 paper published in *Psychology and Health*, which presents the underlying theory, review, and hypotheses.

This work appears to address a gap by formally integrating forgiveness into health psychology through a specific coping mechanism lens. By framing forgiveness not merely as a moral virtue but as a functional psychological strategy, the researcher provided a novel theoretical structure for understanding its physiological and psychological impacts.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 1,498. Furthermore, the high degree of independent uptake, with nearly 90% of classified citations originating from researchers outside the scholar’s immediate circle, suggests the framework has become a widely accepted and influential reference point in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

Forgiveness is an emotion-focused coping strategy that can reduce health risks and promote health resilience: Theory, review, and hypotheses

2004 · Psychology and Health · 1,498 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 844 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2004 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Self-Reported Experiences of Discrimination and Health: Scientific Advances, Ongoing Controversies, and Emerging Issues (2015)	Columbia University, Emory University, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	Background
2	Microaggressions in the Learning Environment: A Systematic Review (2020)	Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	United States	—
3	Older Adults' Experience of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Stresses and Joys (2021)	University of Michigan, University of Michigan-Dearborn	United States	—
4	Traumatic loss and major disasters: strengthening family and community resilience (2007)	University of Chicago	United States	—
5	May Robots be Held Responsible for Service Failure and Recovery? The Role of Robot Service Provider Agents' Human-likeness (2023)	—	—	—
6	How the emoji use in apology messages influences customers' responses in online service recoveries: The moderating role of communication style (2023)	Brock University, National Dong Hwa University, The University of Western Australia	Australia, Canada, Taiwan	—

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
Virginia Commonwealth University	United States	SCImago #938 · THE 401-500 · QS 901-950	4
National Institute for Healthcare Research	United States	—	2
Harvard University	United States	SCImago #4 · THE =5 · QS 5	2
University of Virginia	United States	SCImago #451 · THE =166 · QS 275	2
University of South Alabama	United States	SCImago #5451 · QS 1201-1400	1
University of California, Davis	United States	SCImago #194 · THE 64 · QS =114	1
Université du Québec à Montréal	Canada	—	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Northrop Grumman	—	—	1
Wheaton College	United States	—	1
Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research	United States	SCImago #2139	1
University of Washington-Harborview Medical Center	United States	—	1
Atlantic Technological University	Ireland	SCImago #5758	1
Universitas Medan Area	Indonesia	SCImago #5243	1
Universitas Pembangunan Panca Budi	Indonesia	—	1
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	United States	—	1

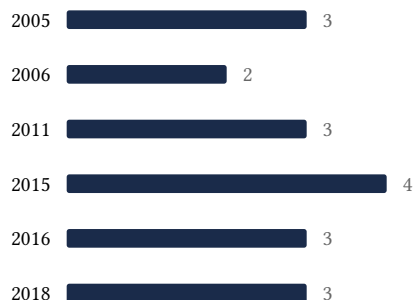
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	25
Canada	3
Belgium	2
Pakistan	2
Australia	1
Singapore	1
Taiwan	1
United Kingdom	1
Netherlands	1
India	1
Indonesia	1
Ireland	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.



Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
	health resilience: Theory, review, and hypotheses		