

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	31
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	0
Co-author	2
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 demonstrated that stereotype threat can both enhance and impair older adults' memory, challenging the assumption that such threats solely hinder cognitive performance.

CLAIM: The researcher's core contribution is the identification of a dual effect of stereotype threat on memory in older adults, as established in the 2013 paper published in Psychological Science. This work posits that the psychological impact of stereotypes is not uniformly negative but can also lead to performance enhancements under certain conditions.

ORIGINALITY: This line of work appears to address a critical gap in the literature by moving beyond the traditional view that stereotype threat exclusively impairs cognitive function. By highlighting the potential for enhancement, the research offers a more nuanced understanding of how social-psychological factors interact with aging and memory processes, suggesting a complex bidirectional relationship rather than a simple deficit model.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has garnered significant attention, with the core paper accumulating 168 citations. Notably, 95% of the citing papers are from independent researchers, indicating that the findings have been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community outside the researcher's immediate circle. This high level of independent uptake underscores the work's influence on the field of cognitive psychology and aging research.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Stereotype Threat Can Both Enhance and Impair Older Adults' Memory](#)

2013 · Psychological Science · 168 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 96 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Psychology papers from 2013 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A review and meta-analysis of age-based stereotype threat: negative stereotypes, not facts, do the damage. (2015)	—	—	—
2	Effectiveness of stereotype threat interventions: A meta-analytic review (2021)	Shaanxi Normal University, University of Florida	China, United States	—
3	The Risks of Ageism Model: How Ageism and Negative Attitudes toward Age Can Be a Barrier to Active Aging (2017)	University of Exeter, University of Kent	United Kingdom	—
4	Do Mass Mediated Stereotypes Harm Members of Negatively Stereotyped Groups? A Meta-Analytical Review on Media-Generated Stereotype Threat and Stereotype Lift (2017)	University of Koblenz–Landau	Germany	—
5	Age Metastereotyping and Cross-Age Workplace Interactions: A Meta View of Age Stereotypes at Work (2015)	Northern Illinois University	United States	—
6	Cross-Cultural Comparisons in Implicit and Explicit Age Bias. (2021)	Michigan State University	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher established a foundational framework for understanding how gender and age intersect with behavioral adaptations and psychological concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CLAIM: The researcher’s seminal contribution is anchored in the 2021 publication in *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B*, which examines the interplay between demographic factors and pandemic-related responses. This work serves as the primary reference point for this line of inquiry, standing as a distinct and influential piece of scholarship.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests a targeted investigation into how older and younger men and women differently experienced worries and altered behaviors during the crisis. By focusing on these specific demographic intersections, the work appears to address a critical gap in understanding heterogeneous population responses to global health emergencies, offering a nuanced perspective beyond general public health data.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has garnered 398 citations, indicating substantial uptake within the academic community. Notably, 95% of the citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has resonated broadly across institutions and beyond the researcher’s immediate network. This high degree of independent citation underscores the paper’s role as a widely recognized reference point for scholars studying demographic variations in pandemic behavior.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[COVID-19 Worries and Behavior Changes in Older and Younger Men and Women](#)

2021 · J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci · 398 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 261 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2021 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Non-pharmaceutical interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic: A review (2021)	University of Greenwich	United Kingdom	—
2	The Impact of Sheltering in Place During the COVID-19 Pandemic on Older Adults' Social and Mental Well-Being (2020)	Indiana University	United States	—
3	The Ups and Downs of Daily Life During COVID-19: Age Differences in Affect, Stress, and Positive Events (2020)	—	—	—
4	Men and COVID-19: A Biopsychosocial Approach to Understanding Sex Differences in Mortality and Recommendations for Practice and Policy Interventions (2020)	—	—	—
5	COVID-19 worries and mental health: the moderating effect of age . (2021)	University of Connecticut	United States	—
6	Sex and gender differences in community-acquired pneumonia . (2022)	Sapienza-University of Rome	Italy	—
7	How does age affect personal and social reactions to COVID-19: Results from the national Understanding America Study . (2020)	—	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Predictors of self-reported adherence to COVID-19 guidelines. A longitudinal observational study of 51,600 UK adults (2021)	University College London	United Kingdom	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher advanced stereotype threat theory by empirically examining age-based cognitive decline stereotypes, establishing a seminal framework for understanding how social identities influence cognitive performance assessments.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution lies in the 2017 publication in *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, which systematically examined age-based stereotype threat regarding cognitive decline. This work serves as the foundational piece for this specific line of inquiry, offering a critical lens through which to view the intersection of aging, cognition, and social psychology.

ORIGINALITY: By focusing specifically on age-based stereotypes, this work appears to address a distinct gap in stereotype threat literature, which had previously concentrated heavily on other demographic identities. The title suggests a dual contribution: providing empirical evidence of this specific threat while simultaneously proposing implications for broader theory development, thereby expanding the scope of stereotype threat research beyond its traditional boundaries.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has garnered substantial attention, with 215 citations indicating its influence within the field. Notably, 95% of the citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the findings have been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than merely circulating within the researcher’s immediate network. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the work’s role as a standard reference in contemporary psychological science.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

[An Examination of Age-Based Stereotype Threat About Cognitive Decline: Implications for Stereotype-Threat Research and Theory Development](#)

2017 · *Perspectives on Psychological Science* · 215 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The ironic effect of older adults' increased task motivation: Implications for neurocognitive aging. (2021)	Brock University	Canada	—
2	Multiple Sources of Aging Attitudes: Perceptions of Age Groups and Generations From Adolescence to Old Age Across China, Germany, and the United States (2020)	Peking University	China	—
3	Age-based stereotype threat effects: From the laboratory to the clinical setting (2025)	Université Clermont Auvergne	France	—
4	When less intergenerational closeness helps: The influence of intergenerational physical proximity and technology attributes on technophobia among older adults (2022)	Bar Ilan University, Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, Peking University	China, Israel	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* – ones that substantively build on the work (S2’s isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) – the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Peking University	China	SCImago #11 · THE 13 · QS 14	2
Sapienza-University of Rome	Italy	THE =170 · QS 128	1
Université Clermont Auvergne	France	SCImago #2678	1
Shaanxi Normal University	China	–	1
Georgia State University	United States	SCImago #1626 · THE 501–600 · QS 781-790	1
Michigan State University	United States	SCImago #436 · THE =105 · QS 161	1
University of Exeter	United Kingdom	SCImago #679 · THE =170 · QS =155	1
University of Florida	United States	SCImago #166 · THE =134 · QS =212	1
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	1
Bar Ilan University	Israel	SCImago #2119 · THE 601–800 · QS =660	1
Indiana University	United States	THE =198	1
Northern Illinois University	United States	SCImago #4601 · THE 801–1000	1
San Francisco State University	United States	SCImago #6492 · QS 1401+	1
Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine	China	SCImago #1957	1
University of Connecticut	United States	THE 351–400 · QS 534	1

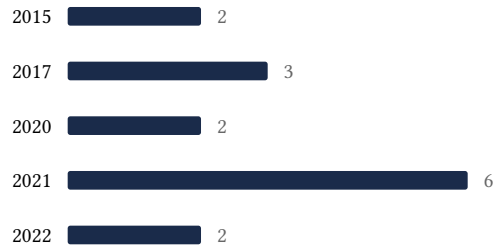
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	7
China	3
United Kingdom	3
Canada	1
Italy	1
Israel	1
France	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	Stereotype Threat Can Both Enhance and Impair Older Adults' Memory	6	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	COVID-19 Worries and Behavior Changes in Older and Younger Men and Women	8	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	An Examination of Age-Based Stereotype Threat About Cognitive Decline: Implications for Stereotype-Threat Research and Theory Development	4	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)