

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

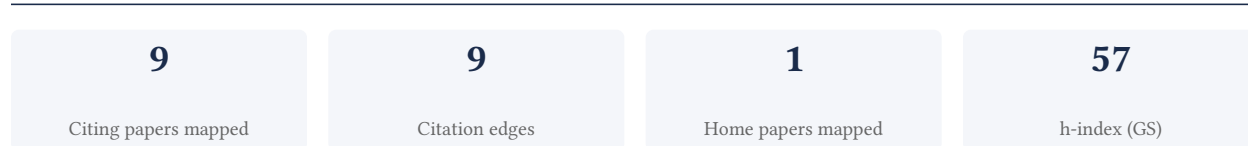
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to 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



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.

88.9% independent of 9 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	8
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
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 global benchmark for mental disorder prevalence among college students through a seminal WHO-affiliated study published in a top-tier journal.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the publication of a seminal paper titled 'WHO World Mental Health Surveys International College Student Project: Prevalence and Distribution of Mental Disorders' in the Journal of Abnormal Psychology in 2018. This work serves as the core anchor for this line of research, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher identified in the provided data.

ORIGINALITY: Based on the title and the involvement of the World Health Organization, this work appears to address a critical gap in understanding the global distribution of mental health issues within the specific demographic of international college students. The study likely provided one of the first comprehensive, cross-national datasets on this topic, offering a standardized framework for assessing prevalence that was previously lacking in the literature.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 3,504, indicating it has become a widely referenced standard in the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[WHO World Mental Health Surveys International College Student Project: Prevalence and Distribution of Mental Disorders](#)

2018 · Journal of Abnormal Psychology · 3,504 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,993 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2018 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A systematic review of peer support interventions for student mental health and well-being in higher education (2023)	Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, King's College London, University of Surrey	United Kingdom	—
2	A systematic review and meta-analysis on the prevalence of mental disorders among children and adolescents in Europe (2022)	Cardiff University, Teesside University	United Kingdom	Background
3	Age, Period, and Cohort Trends in Mood Disorder Indicators and Suicide-Related Outcomes in a Nationally Representative Dataset, 2005–2017 (2019)	Florida State University, Lynn University, Pomona College	United States	—
4	Digital Mental Health Interventions for Depression, Anxiety, and Enhancement of Psychological Well-Being Among College Students: Systematic Review (2019)	Northwestern University, Rush University Medical Center	United States	—
5	Stress and anxiety among university students in France during Covid-19 mandatory confinement (2020)	Université de Bordeaux, Université Paris Cité, University of Bordeaux	France	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	Coping With the COVID-19 Pandemic: Examining Gender Differences in Stress and Mental Health Among University Students (2021)	Carleton University	Canada	Background
7	Mental Health and Well-Being of University Students: A Bibliometric Mapping of the Literature (2020)	Nazarbayev University, Nazarbayev University School of Medicine	Kazakhstan	Background
8	Physical Activity and Mental Health in Undergraduate Students (2022)	Universidad de León, Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (UFV), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	Spain	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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Surrey	United Kingdom	SCImago #812 · THE 201–250 · QS =262	1
Cardiff University	United Kingdom	SCImago #664 · THE 201–250 · QS 181	1
University of Cape Town	South Africa	SCImago #1052 · THE =164 · QS 150	1
Université Paris Cité	France	THE =190 · QS 300	1
San Diego State University	United States	SCImago #2473 · THE 1001–1200 · QS 1001-1200	1
University of Bordeaux	France	THE 401–500 · QS =494	1
Rush University Medical Center	United States	SCImago #1893	1
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	1
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	Belgium	—	1
Ulster University	United Kingdom	THE 601–800 · QS =609	1
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	SCImago #163 · THE =41 · QS =32	1
Curtin University	Australia	SCImago #1031 · THE 251–300 · QS 183	1
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	1
Harvard Medical School	United States	SCImago #12	1
Stellenbosch University	South Africa	SCImago #1887 · THE 301–350 · QS 302	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United Kingdom	3
United States	3
Spain	2
France	1
Germany	1
Hong Kong	1
Australia	1
Mexico	1
Netherlands	1
South Africa	1
Kazakhstan	1
Belgium	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	WHO World Mental Health Surveys International College Student Project: Prevalence and Distribution of Mental Disorders	8	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5