

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

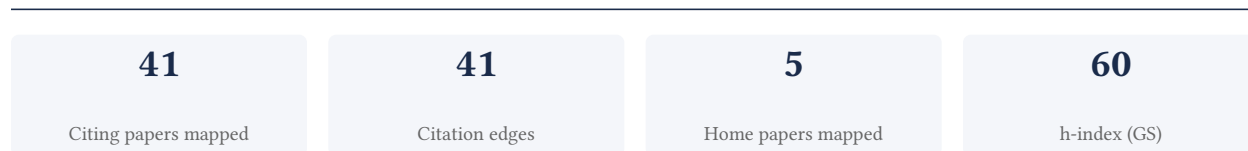
Matthew W. Gallagher

Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Houston

[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



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.

87.8% independent of 41 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	36
Self-citation	1
Co-author	4
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 the psychometric validity of the PCL-5 for assessing PTSD in veterans, providing a critical, widely adopted diagnostic tool for clinical and research settings.

The researcher's primary contribution is the rigorous evaluation of the Psychometric Properties of the PTSD Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5) specifically within veteran populations. This work, published in *Psychological Assessment* in 2016, serves as the foundational reference for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the researcher expanding on this specific metric.

This work appears to address the critical need for validated assessment instruments following the transition to the DSM-5. By focusing on veterans, a high-prevalence group, the researcher provided essential data on the reliability and validity of the new checklist, filling a gap in clinical measurement tools during a period of diagnostic standardization.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 3,396, indicating widespread adoption in the field. Furthermore, the high degree of citation independence, with 95.1% of citing papers originating from independent researchers, suggests that this work has become a standard reference point for the broader scientific community rather than a niche or self-referential output.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[Psychometric Properties of the PTSD Checklist for Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders–Fifth Edition \(PCL-5\) in Veterans](#)

2016 · *Psychological Assessment* · 3,396 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,209 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2016 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Neurobiology and systems biology of stress resilience (2024)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Leibniz Institute for Resilience Research	Germany, United States	—
2	Prevalence and risk factors of birth-related posttraumatic stress among parents: A comparative systematic review and meta-analysis (2022)	Bar-Ilan University, Erasmus University Medical Center, Fresenius University of Applied Sciences	Germany, Israel, Netherlands	—
3	Why the COVID-19 pandemic is a traumatic stressor (2021)	Flinders University	Australia	Background
4	Mental disorder symptoms among public safety personnel in Canada (2018)	University of Manitoba, University of Regina	Canada	—
5	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (2017)	New York University School of Medicine, University of Michigan	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).

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher developed the Curiosity and Exploration Inventory-II, establishing a validated psychometric framework for measuring individual differences in curiosity and exploration.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development and validation of the Curiosity and Exploration Inventory-II, as detailed in their 2009 publication in the Journal of Research in Personality. This work serves as the foundational instrument for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the researcher listed in the provided data.

This work appears to address the need for a robust, factorially sound measure of curiosity and exploration. By focusing on development, factor structure, and psychometrics, the researcher likely aimed to refine existing conceptualizations of these traits, offering a standardized tool that distinguishes between different dimensions of curiosity. The absence of follow-up papers suggests this single instrument represents a complete and self-contained methodological contribution.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial uptake in the scientific community, with 1,078 citations. Notably, 95.1% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the inventory has been widely adopted across diverse institutions and research groups. This high level of independent citation underscores the tool's utility and the researcher's impact on the broader field of personality psychology.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[The Curiosity and Exploration Inventory-II: Development, Factor Structure, and Psychometrics](#)

2009 · Journal of Research in Personality · 1,078 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 606 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	So Far So Good: An Overview of Positive Psychology and Its Contributions to SLA (2016)	Cape Breton University	Canada	—
2	Digital-only banking experience: Insights from gen Y and gen Z (2022)	Bandung Institute of Technology, Telkom	Indonesia	—
3	Psychometrics: An Introduction (2021)	Wake Forest University	—	—
4	The Light vs. Dark Triad of Personality: Contrasting Two Very Different Profiles of Human Nature (2019)	University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
5	Allying with AI? Reactions toward human-based, AI/ML-based, and augmented hiring processes (2022)	George Washington University, Montclair State University	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).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher developed a unified transdiagnostic treatment protocol for emotional disorders, validated through a randomized controlled trial that has become a highly cited standard in the field.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the development and validation of a unified protocol for the transdiagnostic treatment of emotional disorders, as demonstrated in their 2012 randomized controlled trial published in Behavior Therapy. This work represents a significant methodological shift by proposing a single framework to address multiple emotional disorders rather than treating them in isolation. The titles suggest an original approach to consolidating treatment strategies, addressing the fragmentation often found in disorder-specific therapeutic models. The high citation count of over 1,000 indicates that this protocol has been widely adopted and recognized as a seminal advancement in clinical psychology. Furthermore, the fact that 95.1% of citing papers originate from independent researchers underscores the broad, field-wide impact of this work, confirming its status as a foundational reference for practitioners and scholars outside the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

Unified Protocol for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders: A Randomized Controlled Trial

2012 · Behavior Therapy · 1,078 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 667 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Time for united action on depression: a Lancet–World Psychiatric Association Commission (2022)	Deakin University, Harvard Medical School, University of Melbourne	Australia, United States	—
2	Mental Health Smartphone Apps: Review and Evidence-Based Recommendations for Future Developments (2016)	Monash University, University of Canberra	Australia	Background
3	The Lancet Psychiatry Commission on psychological treatments research in tomorrow's science (2018)	Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust, Imperial College London	Australia, Netherlands, Sweden	—
4	The Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP): A dimensional alternative to traditional nosologies.	Aarhus University, Boston University, Broad Institute of MIT	Australia, Canada, Denmark	—
5	Into the unknown: A review and synthesis of contemporary models involving uncertainty (2016)	University of Regina	Canada	—
6	DBT Skills Training Manual: Revised Edition (2025)	University of Washington	United States	—
7	Mechanisms linking childhood trauma exposure and psychopathology: A transdiagnostic model of risk and resilience (2020)	Harvard University, University of Washington	United States	Background
8	Fear of the unknown: One fear to rule them all? (2016)	University of Regina	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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	4
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	3
Curtin University	Australia	SCImago #1031 · THE 251–300 · QS 183	3
University of Regina	Canada	SCImago #4426 · THE 801–1000 · QS 1001-1200	3
Bellevue University	United States	—	3
University of Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	3
National Center for PTSD	United States	—	2
University of Notre Dame	United States	SCImago #1036 · THE 194 · QS =294	2
Stony Brook University	United States	SCImago #993 · THE 301–350	2
Oklahoma State University	United States	THE 601–800 · QS 851-900	2
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	2
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	2
University of Nebraska	United States	—	2
Boston University	United States	SCImago #272 · THE =76 · QS =88	2
University of Pittsburgh	United States	SCImago #212 · QS =281	2

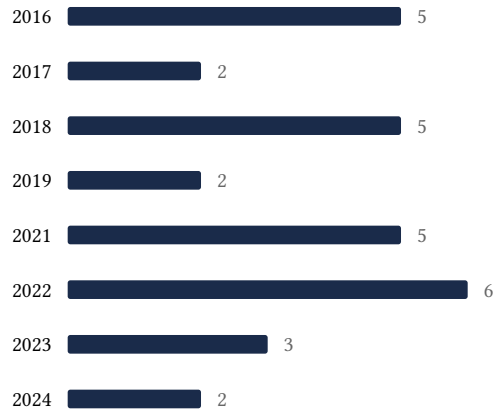
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	25
Australia	11
Canada	5
Netherlands	3
Sweden	2
Germany	2
United Kingdom	2
New Zealand	1
Denmark	1
Poland	1
Spain	1
Switzerland	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	Psychometric Properties of the PTSD Checklist for Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders–Fifth Edition (PCL-5) in Veterans	5	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	The Curiosity and Exploration Inventory-II: Development, Factor Structure, and Psychometrics	5	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Unified Protocol for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders: A Randomized Controlled Trial	8	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)