

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

## Edward L. Deci

Australian Catholic University, Sydney; University of Rochester; Univ College of Southeast Norway

[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

14	15	3	190
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 6 classified citing papers

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

8 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 linking self-determination theory to intrinsic motivation, social development, and well-being, as evidenced by a seminal 2000 publication.*

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the articulation of a comprehensive theoretical model connecting self-determination theory with intrinsic motivation, social development, and well-being, anchored by a seminal paper published in American Psychologist in 2000.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address the need for an integrated psychological framework that explains how basic psychological needs facilitate intrinsic motivation and broader developmental outcomes. By synthesizing these domains, the researcher provided a unified theoretical perspective that likely influenced subsequent discourse in psychology.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has accumulated over 86,000 citations, indicating profound impact and widespread adoption within the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of sampled citations originate from independent researchers, underscoring the work's broad relevance and acceptance beyond the researcher's immediate academic circle.

### INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

#### CORE PAPER

#### [Self-determination theory and the facilitation of intrinsic motivation, social development, and well-being](#)

2000 · American Psychologist · 86,313 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 39,209 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2000 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Impact of classroom environment, teacher competency, information and communication technology resources, and university facilities on student engagement and academic performance</a>	Luminus Technical University College, Skyline University College	Jordan, United Arab Emirates	—

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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

## Contribution 2

### Claim – Contribution 2

*The researcher established a foundational theoretical framework linking human needs to the self-determination of behavior, fundamentally shaping the understanding of goal pursuit motivations in psychology.*

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a seminal theoretical framework that elucidates the 'what' and 'why' of goal pursuits by connecting human needs to the self-determination of behavior. This work is anchored in the 2000 publication in Psychological Inquiry, which stands as the core pillar of this research line without subsequent follow-up papers by the same author.

ORIGINALITY: The titles suggest this work addressed a critical gap in understanding the underlying mechanisms of human motivation. By explicitly framing goal pursuits through the lens of self-determination and human needs, the researcher appears

to have provided a novel conceptual structure that distinguishes between the nature of goals and the drivers behind their pursuit, offering a distinct perspective from prior behavioral models.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The enduring impact of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count, indicating widespread adoption and influence within the field. Furthermore, the fact that all classified citing papers originate from independent researchers underscores the work’s broad relevance and acceptance across the global academic community, rather than being confined to a single institutional or collaborative network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

**CORE PAPER**

**The 'what' and 'why' of goal pursuits: Human needs and the self-determination of behavior**

2000 · Psychological Inquiry · 62,127 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 28,937 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2000 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Theories of Motivation in Education: An Integrative Framework</a> (2023)	Open University of the Netherlands, University of Passau	Germany, Netherlands	Influential
2	<a href="#">Untitled</a> (2023)	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Universidad Europea de Madrid	Chile, Greece, Spain	—
3	<a href="#">Tourist behaviour: The role of digital marketing and social media</a>	Iğdır University, The University of Newcastle, University of South Australia	Australia, Turkey	—

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 foundational theoretical framework for intrinsic motivation and self-determination in human behavior, as evidenced by a seminal monograph with over 80,000 citations.*

The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive theoretical framework regarding intrinsic motivation and self-determination in human behavior. This work is anchored by the 2013 publication 'Intrinsic Motivation and Self-Determination in Human Behavior,' which serves as the core reference for this line of inquiry.

This contribution appears to address the need for a unified theoretical understanding of human behavioral drivers. By synthesizing concepts of intrinsic motivation and self-determination, the work likely provided a novel structural approach to understanding psychological autonomy, distinguishing itself from prior fragmented studies through its comprehensive scope.

The significance of this work is demonstrated by its extensive citation record, with the core text accumulating over 80,000 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature indicates that 100% of sampled citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting broad adoption and influence across the global academic community beyond the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

## CORE PAPER

### Intrinsic Motivation and Self-Determination in Human Behavior

2013 · Plenum Press · 80,007 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 28,259 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2013 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Theories of Motivation in Education: An Integrative Framework</a> (2023)	Open University of the Netherlands, University of Passau	Germany, Netherlands	Influential
2	<a href="#">Untitled</a> (2024)	G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College (Autonomous), Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM), Institute of Infrastructure, Technology, Research and Management (IITRAM)	India	—
3	<a href="#">“ChatGPT is the companion, not enemies”: EFL learners' perceptions and experiences in using ChatGPT for feedback in writing</a> (2024)	Macao Polytechnic University	China	—

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
Universidad Europea de Madrid	Spain	SCImago #1661	1
Manipal Academy of Higher Education	India	THE 601–800	1
University of South Australia	Australia	SCImago #2033	1
University of Passau	Germany	SCImago #6267 · THE 601–800	1
Open University of the Netherlands	Netherlands	—	1
Skyline University College	United Arab Emirates	—	1
Luminus Technical University College	Jordan	—	1
Iğdır University	Turkey	—	1
The University of Newcastle	Australia	SCImago #1436 · THE 251–300	1
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece	SCImago #1021 · THE 801–1000 · QS =485	1
Lovely Professional University	India	SCImago #2684 · THE 501–600 · QS 901–950	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College (Autonomous)	India	—	1
Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM)	India	—	1
Institute of Infrastructure, Technology, Research and Management (IITRAM)	India	SCImago #9336	1
Macao Polytechnic University	China	SCImago #8827 · QS 901-950	1

## Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Australia	1
Chile	1
China	1
Germany	1
Greece	1
India	1
Jordan	1
Netherlands	1
Spain	1
Turkey	1
United Arab Emirates	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.

2023		2
2024		2

## 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.

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Core paper</b>	<b>Indep. cites</b>	<b>Supports</b>
Contribution 1	Self-determination theory and the facilitation of intrinsic motivation, social development, and well-being	1	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	The 'what' and 'why' of goal pursuits: Human needs and the self-determination of behavior	3	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Intrinsic Motivation and Self-Determination in Human Behavior	3	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)