

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

18 Citing papers mapped	18 Citation edges	2 Home papers mapped	36 h-index (GS)
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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 18 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	18
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
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 framework for measuring stress in health and social sciences, providing a widely adopted methodological guide that has significantly influenced subsequent empirical research.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive guide for measuring stress, articulated in the 1997 publication "Measuring stress: A guide for health and social scientists." This work serves as the cornerstone of the researcher's cited output, establishing a standardized approach for quantifying stress within interdisciplinary scientific contexts.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests that prior to this publication, there was a need for a unified, accessible methodology for health and social scientists to assess stress. By framing the work as a "guide," the researcher appears to have addressed a gap in practical application, translating complex theoretical concepts into actionable measurement tools for a broad academic audience.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved substantial impact, evidenced by over 2,300 citations. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the framework has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the work's role as a standard reference in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10

CORE PAPER

[Measuring stress: A guide for health and social scientists](#)

1997 · Oxford University Press (Publisher) · 2,311 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,525 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	Effects of COVID-19 on College Students' Mental Health in the United States: Interview Survey Study (2020)	Texas A&M University	United States	—
2	Coping with Covid-19: stress, control and coping among pregnant women in Ireland during the Covid-19 pandemic (2022)	National University of Ireland	Ireland	—
3	More than a feeling: A unified view of stress measurement for population science (2018)	Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, University of California, Los Angeles, University of British Columbia, University of California San Francisco	Canada, United States	—
4	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	—
5	Racism and Health: Evidence and Needed Research (2019)	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University	United States	—
6	Review on Psychological Stress Detection Using Biosignals (2019)	Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas, Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas and Hellenic	Greece	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
		Mediterranean University, Hellenic Mediterranean University		
7	Impact of Natural Disasters on Mental Health: Evidence and Implications (2024)	University of Alberta	Canada	—
8	Stress and Emotion: A New Synthesis (1999)	Berkeley University	United States	—
9	Perceived discrimination and health: a meta-analytic review (2009)	University of Pittsburgh	United States	—
10	Racial Differences in Physical and Mental Health: Socio-economic Status, Stress and Discrimination (1997)	National Institutes of Health, University of Michigan	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 is Influential 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 measuring and intervening in social support, providing a critical methodological guide for health and social science disciplines.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive guide for social support measurement and intervention, anchored by the seminal 2000 publication. This work serves as a core reference point for understanding how social support can be systematically assessed and addressed within health and social science contexts.

This line of work appears to address the need for standardized, actionable methodologies in a field that often lacks consistent measurement tools. By framing the output as a ‘guide,’ the researcher likely provided practical protocols or theoretical structures that clarified how social support functions as a variable in scientific inquiry, distinguishing this work from purely observational studies.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 2,490, indicating widespread adoption across the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been widely utilized and validated by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[Social Support Measurement and Intervention: A Guide for Health and Social Scientists](#)

2000 · 2,490 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,141 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	The relationship between social support and academic engagement among university students: the chain mediating effects of life satisfaction and academic motivation (2023)	Jimei University, Shenzhen Polytechnic University, Teachers College, Jimei University	China	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
2	Social Connection as a Public Health Issue: The Evidence and a Systemic Framework for Prioritizing the “Social” in Social Determinants of Health (2022)	Brigham Young University	United States	—
3	Social Relationships and Mortality Risk: A Meta-analytic Review (2010)	Brigham Young University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	—
4	Advancing social connection as a public health priority in the United States. (2017)	Brigham Young University, University of Arizona, University of California, Los Angeles	United States	—
5	Religion, spirituality, and health: The research and clinical implications (2012)	—	—	—
6	Social support and health: a review of physiological processes potentially underlying links to disease outcomes (2006)	University of Utah	United States	—
7	Social media use in healthcare: A systematic review of effects on patients and on their relationship with healthcare professionals (2016)	University of Groningen	Netherlands	—
8	Social support and posttraumatic stress disorder: A meta-analysis of longitudinal studies (2021)	Chinese University of Hong Kong, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou College, South China University of Technology	Australia, China, Hong Kong	—

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
Brigham Young University	United States	SCImago #2113 · QS 1001-1200	3
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	THE 78 · QS =140	1
University of Arizona	United States	SCImago #408 · THE =138 · QS =287	1
University of California San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	1
University of Thessaly	Greece	SCImago #2807 · THE 1001–1200	1
University of Pittsburgh	United States	SCImago #212 · QS =281	1
National Institutes of Health	United States	SCImago #44	1
University of British Columbia	Canada	SCImago #144 · THE 45 · QS 40	1
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	1
University of Alberta	Canada	SCImago #262 · THE 119 · QS =94	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Utah	United States	SCImago #320 · THE 201–250 · QS =540	1
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	1
Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	SCImago #163 · THE =41 · QS =32	1
Teachers College, Jimei University	China	—	1
Shenzhen Polytechnic University	China	SCImago #6133	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	10
China	2
Canada	2
Ireland	1
Netherlands	1
United Kingdom	1
Hong Kong	1
Greece	1
Australia	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.

2019		2
2022		2
2023		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.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Measuring stress: A guide for health and social scientists	10	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Social Support Measurement and Intervention: A Guide for Health and Social Scientists	8	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)