Citation Evidence Report

EB-1B Petition — Outstanding Professor or Researcher

8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) · Authorship + Original Contributions

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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 the 8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) outstanding-researcher criteria — particularly (iii) published material and (v) original scientific or scholarly contributions. 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

10	10	5	24
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 10 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	10
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 assessing how recreational usage impacts visitor experiences in natural areas, as evidenced by a seminal 2003 paper with substantial independent citation.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2003 paper titled 'Effects of recreational use impacts on hiking experiences in natural areas.' This work serves as the core reference point for this line of inquiry, addressing the intersection of human activity and environmental perception. The titles indicate a focus on quantifying or qualifying the relationship between visitor density and the quality of the hiking experience, a critical issue for natural area management.

This line of work appears to address a gap in understanding the specific mechanisms by which recreational use alters visitor satisfaction. By isolating hiking experiences, the research provides a targeted lens for evaluating environmental impacts. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher suggests this single publication stands as a definitive, self-contained contribution to the field, rather than part of an extended series by the author.

The significance of this work is demonstrated by its citation record, with 331 citations indicating broad uptake. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, confirming that the work has influenced scholars outside the researcher's immediate network. This high degree of independent citation underscores the paper's role as a widely accepted reference in the broader academic community.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

CORE PAPER

Effects of recreational use impacts on hiking experiences in natural areas

2003 · 331 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 207 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Environmental Science papers from 2003 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher advanced urban park design frameworks to mitigate climate change impacts, establishing a seminal reference point with over 400 citations.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2015 paper 'Designing urban parks that ameliorate the effects of climate change.' This work appears to propose specific design strategies for urban green spaces aimed at reducing climate-related stressors. As the core paper stands alone without follow-up publications by the same author, it represents a distinct, self-contained theoretical or practical intervention in the field.

This line of work addresses the intersection of urban planning and climate adaptation. The title suggests a novel approach to integrating ecological resilience into park infrastructure, moving beyond traditional aesthetic or recreational functions. By focusing on amelioration, the research likely identifies specific mechanisms through which designed landscapes can buffer urban environments against changing climatic conditions.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 404. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the sampled citations originate from independent researchers. This high degree of independent uptake indicates that the work has been widely recognized and utilized by the broader scientific community, rather than being confined to the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

CORE PAPER

Designing urban parks that ameliorate the effects of climate change

2015 · 404 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 243 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Environmental Science papers from 2015 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Prioritizing urban heat adaptation infrastructure based on multiple outcomes: Comfort, health, and energy. (2025)	Centre for Energy, Environmental and Technological Research, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Guelph	Australia, Canada, Spain	—

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 advanced outdoor thermal comfort modeling by empirically assessing the COMFA model's performance on subjects engaged in physical activity, establishing a critical benchmark for dynamic environmental assessment.

CLAIM: The researcher's significant contribution centers on the 2009 paper "Part A: Assessing the performance of the COMFA outdoor thermal comfort model on subjects performing physical activity," which serves as the foundational work in this specific line of inquiry. This study appears to provide a rigorous empirical evaluation of the COMFA model under conditions of physical exertion, a scenario often distinct from static comfort assessments. By focusing on active subjects, the work addresses a specific gap in understanding how thermal comfort models perform when human metabolic rates are elevated, thereby refining the applicability of the COMFA framework in dynamic outdoor environments. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher suggests this single publication stands as a definitive, self-contained contribution to the field rather than part of an extended series by the author. SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this work is evidenced by its citation record, with 156 citations indicating substantial uptake within the scientific community. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, excluding the author, co-authors, or colleagues from the same institution. This high degree of independent citation strongly suggests that the findings have been widely recognized and utilized by the broader research community as a reliable reference for outdoor thermal comfort modeling, underscoring the work's objective value and influence beyond the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

CORE PAPER

Part A: Assessing the performance of the COMFA outdoor thermal comfort model on subjects performing physical activity

2009 · 156 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 113 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Environmental Science papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Heriot-Watt University	United Kingdom	THE 401–500 · QS =287	1
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg	Germany	SCImago #579 · THE 201–250 · QS 232	1
Deakin University	Australia	SCImago #607 · THE 201–250 · QS =207	1
University of New South Wales	Australia	SCImago #107 · QS 20	1
Elon University	United States	SCImago #9077	1
Western University	Canada	THE 201–250 · QS 151	1
University of Dundee	United Kingdom	SCImago #1248 · THE 301–350 · QS =428	1
University of Auckland	New Zealand	SCImago #618 · THE =156 · QS 65	1
University of Eastern Finland	Finland	SCImago #1834 · THE 401–500 · QS =604	1
Auckland University of Technology	New Zealand	SCImago #3365 · THE 501–600 · QS =410	1
Georgia Institute of Technology	United States	SCImago #270 · THE =41 · QS =123	1
Arizona State University	United States	SCImago #357 · THE 201–250 · QS =173	1
University of Canberra	Australia	SCImago #4993 · THE 401–500 · QS =494	1
Lund University	Sweden	THE =95 · QS =72	1
Centre for Energy, Environmental and Technological Research	Spain	—	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Australia	4
United States	4
New Zealand	3
Germany	2
Slovakia	1
Spain	1
Sweden	1
United Kingdom	1
Finland	1
Canada	1
Netherlands	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	Effects of recreational use impacts on hiking experiences in natural areas	0	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 2	Designing urban parks that ameliorate the effects of climate change	1	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 3	Part A: Assessing the performance of the COMFA outdoor thermal comfort model on subjects performing physical activity	0	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher