

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

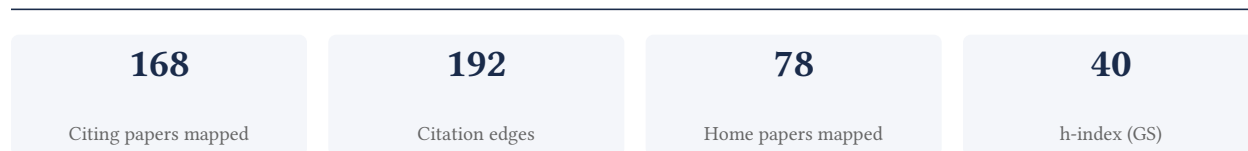
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

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.

100.0% independent of 1 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	1
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 advanced the understanding of SARS-CoV-2 transmission dynamics by characterizing superspreading events and identifying critical opportunities for targeted interventions and control strategies.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2020 paper published in PLoS Biology, titled 'Superspreading events in the transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2: Opportunities for interventions and control.' This work stands as the core piece of this research line, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author building directly upon it in the provided record.

This line of work appears to address the critical need to understand heterogeneous transmission patterns during the early stages of the pandemic. By focusing on superspreading events, the research suggests a shift from uniform transmission models to those accounting for outlier events, thereby highlighting specific leverage points for public health interventions. The title indicates a focus on actionable insights for control measures derived from these dynamic observations.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 373, indicating that the work has been widely recognized and utilized by the scientific community. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the impact extends beyond the researcher's immediate institutional or collaborative network and has influenced broader independent scholarship.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

CORE PAPER

[Superspreading events in the transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2: Opportunities for interventions and control](#)

2020 · PLoS Biology · 373 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 224 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2020 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	SARS-CoV-2 viral load and shedding kinetics (2023)	University of Geneva	Switzerland	—

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
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	2
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata	India	SCImago #6679	2
University of Gour Banga	India	SCImago #7935	2
National Aerospace University Kharkiv Aviation Institute	Ukraine	SCImago #10016	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Geneva	Switzerland	SCImago #830 · THE =166 · QS =155	1
North Carolina State University	United States	SCImago #484 · THE 301–350 · QS =272	1
University of California, Berkeley	United States	SCImago #95 · THE 9 · QS =17	1
University of Dayton	United States	SCImago #4880	1
Dalian University of Technology	China	SCImago #250 · THE 401–500 · QS =482	1
Tsinghua University	China	SCImago #8 · THE 12 · QS =17	1
Duke University	United States	SCImago #115 · THE 28 · QS 62	1
Santa Fe Institute	United States	SCImago #3445	1
The College of New Jersey	United States	SCImago #8041	1
Binghamton University	United States	—	1
University of California Merced	United States	SCImago #1812 · THE 401–500	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	6
China	2
India	2
Japan	1
Switzerland	1
Ukraine	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.

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	Superspreading events in the transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2: Opportunities for interventions and control	1	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5