# Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

## Aleksander Holynski

Google DeepMind, Columbia University

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

| 3 | 3 | 1 | 28 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 3 classified citing papers

| Citation type | Count |
|---|---|
| Independent | 3 |
| 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 developed InstructPix2Pix, a method for learning to follow image editing instructions, published at CVPR 2023 and cited over 3,300 times.*

The researcher's primary contribution is the development of InstructPix2Pix, a system for learning to follow image editing instructions. This work was published in the 2023 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) and stands as a seminal piece in this specific line of inquiry.

The title suggests the work addresses the challenge of translating natural language instructions into precise image edits. By focusing on learning to follow instructions, the research appears to bridge the gap between textual guidance and visual manipulation, offering a novel approach to controllable image generation without requiring paired training data for every specific edit.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 3,304. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers indicates that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers. This high level of independent uptake demonstrates that the work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3**

**CORE PAPER**

**InstructPix2Pix: Learning to Follow Image Editing Instructions**

2023 · 2023 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) · 3,304 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,878 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Computer Science papers from 2023 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The Dawn of LMMs: Preliminary Explorations with GPT-4V(ision) (2023) | Microsoft, University of Washington | United States | — |
| 2 | Diffusion Models: A Comprehensive Survey of Methods and Applications (2023) | Carnegie Mellon University, OpenAI, Peking University | China, United States | — |
| 3 | Improved Distribution Matching Distillation for Fast Image Synthesis (2024) | Adobe, Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 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 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 California, Merced | United States | SCImago #1812 · THE 401–500 | 1 |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology | United States | SCImago #41 · THE 2 · QS 1 | 1 |
| University of Washington | United States | SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81 | 1 |
| Microsoft | United States | — | 1 |
| University of California, Los Angeles | United States | SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46 | 1 |

| Institution | Country | World ranking | Citing papers |
|---|---|---|---|
| University of California at Merced | United States | — | 1 |
| OpenAI | United States | — | 1 |
| Adobe | United States | — | 1 |
| Carnegie Mellon University | United States | SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52 | 1 |
| Peking University | China | SCImago #11 · THE 13 · QS 14 | 1 |

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

| Country | Citing papers |
|---|---|
| United States | 3 |
| China | 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 | InstructPix2Pix: Learning to Follow Image Editing Instructions | 3 | 8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) — Criterion 5 |