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

11	11	5	9
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 11 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	11
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 provided empirical evidence on how cannabis alters emotion processing, utilizing event-related potential methodologies to elucidate specific neurophysiological mechanisms of substance-induced cognitive changes.

CLAIM: The researcher's contribution centers on a 2016 study titled 'An event-related potential study on the effects of cannabis on emotion processing,' which serves as the foundational work in this specific line of inquiry. This paper represents a focused investigation into the neurophysiological impacts of cannabis on emotional cognition.

ORIGINALITY: By employing event-related potential techniques, this work appears to address the need for precise, time-locked neural data regarding how cannabis influences emotion processing. The titles indicate a methodological approach that captures dynamic brain responses, offering a distinct perspective compared to broader behavioral or self-report studies that may lack temporal resolution.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has accumulated 37 citations, indicating sustained academic interest. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the findings have been adopted and built upon by the broader scientific community rather than solely by the researcher's immediate circle. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the work's relevance and utility to external investigators in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

CORE PAPER

An event-related potential study on the effects of cannabis on emotion processing

2016 · 37 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Empathy-related differences in the anterior cingulate functional connectivity of regular cannabis users when compared to controls. (2024)	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	Mexico	—

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.

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher provided early empirical evidence on the association between cannabis use and anxiety or depression among college students following Colorado's legalization.

The researcher's contribution centers on a 2016 study examining the relationship between cannabis use and measures of anxiety and depression in a sample of college campus users and non-users post-state legalization in Colorado. This work stands as a standalone core paper in this specific line of inquiry, with no follow-up publications by the same researcher building directly upon it.

This line of work appears to address a timely gap in understanding mental health outcomes during a period of significant policy change. By focusing on a college population shortly after legalization, the study offers a snapshot of potential psychological impacts in a demographic often at the forefront of usage trends, distinguishing itself through its specific temporal and geographic context.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, which includes 55 citations. Notably, all 11 citing papers classified for this scholar were authored by independent researchers, indicating that the work has been taken up by the broader scientific community outside the researcher's immediate circle, suggesting independent validation and relevance to the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

The relationship between cannabis use and measures of anxiety and depression in a sample of college campus cannabis users and non-users post state legalization in Colorado

2016 · 55 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Unhealthy behavior clustering and mental health status in United States college students. (2019)	Northeastern Illinois University, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, University of Wollongong	Australia, United States	—
2	Intrinsic Frontolimbic Connectivity and Mood Symptoms in Young Adult Cannabis Users. (2019)	McLean Hospital, The University of Texas at Dallas, University of California, San Diego	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.

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established a causal link between transcranial alpha stimulation and default mode network up-regulation, a finding validated by independent citations.

The researcher's core contribution centers on the 2022 paper titled 'Transcranial stimulation of alpha oscillations up-regulates the default mode network.' This work appears to demonstrate that specific neuromodulation techniques can directly influence large-scale brain networks, specifically the default mode network, through the manipulation of alpha oscillations.

This line of work addresses the need for precise, non-invasive methods to modulate intrinsic brain activity. By linking external stimulation protocols to internal network dynamics, the research offers a mechanistic understanding of how targeted oscillatory inputs can alter functional connectivity, a gap in understanding the controllability of resting-state networks.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 99 citations indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the findings have been widely adopted and built upon by the broader field rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

Transcranial stimulation of alpha oscillations up-regulates the default mode network

2022 · 99 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 63 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Medicine papers from 2022 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Analysis of EEG features and study of automatic classification in first-episode and drug-naïve patients with major depressive disorder. (2023)	Southern Medical University, the Affiliated Brain Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University, The Brain Hospital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	China	—
2	EEG microstates in early-to-middle childhood show associations with age, biological sex, and alpha power. (2023)	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Deakin University, Monarch Mental Health Group	Australia, Canada, 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
Western University	Canada	THE 201–250 · QS 151	2
University of Ottawa	Canada	SCImago #610 · THE =187 · QS =219	2
University of Vienna	Austria	THE =95 · QS 152	2
McMaster University	Canada	SCImago #465 · THE =116 · QS =173	2
Lawson Health Research Institute	Canada	—	2
Southern Medical University	China	SCImago #392 · THE 251–300	1
University of Geneva	Switzerland	SCImago #830 · THE =166 · QS =155	1
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health	Canada	SCImago #5667	1
University of Florida	United States	SCImago #166 · THE =134 · QS =212	1
Heidelberg University	Germany	—	1
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	1
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	United States	—	1
National Institutes of Health	United States	SCImago #44	1
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	United States	SCImago #4219 · QS 1201-1400	1
Florida State University	United States	SCImago #1224 · THE 301–350 · QS 549	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	6
Canada	3

Country	Citing papers
Australia	3
Austria	2
China	1
Germany	1
Mexico	1
Switzerland	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	An event-related potential study on the effects of cannabis on emotion processing	1	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	The relationship between cannabis use and measures of anxiety and depression in a sample of college campus cannabis users and non-users post state legalization in Colorado	2	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Transcranial stimulation of alpha oscillations up-regulates the default mode network	2	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)