
Laura Upenieks, Ph.D.

EMPLOYMENT

August 2020-Present: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Baylor University

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Affiliations

Duke University Senior Research Fellow, Center for Health Policy & Inequalities
University of Texas at Austin Population Health Center (CAPS TXan)

Past Positions

2019-2020: Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio

EDUCATION

2019 Ph.D. Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

Dissertation Title: Probing the Religion-Health Connection: Integrating Insights from the Life Course Perspective and Social Networks

Funded by the *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council* (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship

Committee Members: Markus H. Schafer (chair), Scott Schieman, and Andrew Miles

2014 M.A. Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

2013 Honors Bachelor of Science (HBSc). Psychology and Sociology. University of Toronto (with High Distinction)

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RESEARCH

*Denotes graduate student co-author at time of acceptance/submission

Peer Reviewed Journals

Upenieks, Laura, and Terrence D. Hill. 2023. "Christian Nationalism, Religious Struggles, and the Structural Amplification of Emotional Distress." *Social Science Quarterly*
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.13327>

Upenieks, Laura and Rebecca Bonhag. 2023. "Masculine God Imagery and Sense of Life Purpose: Examining the Moderating Role of America's "Four Gods." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12881>

Bierman, Alex, **Laura Upenieks** (equal co-authorship) and Yeonjung Lee. 2023. "Mattering and Self-Esteem as Bulwarks Against the Consequences of Financial Strain for Loneliness in Later Life: Differentiating Between- and Within-Person Processes." *Research on Aging*
<https://doi.org/10.1177/01640275231221326>

Upenieks, Laura, Christos Orfanidis*, and Terrence D. Hill. 2023. "The Nature of Power: Elaborating the Association between Divine Control and Mental Health." *Society and Mental Health* <https://doi.org/10.1177/21568693231201990>

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<https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X231213950>

Schafer, Markus H., and **Laura Upenieks**. 2023. "On Religious Ambiguity: Childhood Family Religiosity and Adult Flourishing in a Twin Sample." Forthcoming at *Social Science Research*
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2023.102949>

Upenieks, Laura, Terrence D. Hill, and Christos Orfanidis*. 2023. "Crisis of Faith and Sleep Quality in the United States: A Literal Dark Night of the Soul?" *Journal of Religion and Health*
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-023-01958-6>

Upenieks, Laura, Brendan M. Ryan, and Howie M. Carson. 2023. "When a Bad Day at the Golf Course is a Bad Day at the Office: Occupational Stressors, Institutional Supports, and the Mental Health of NCAA Golf Coaches." *Frontiers in Sport and Active Living*
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fspor.2023.1286965>

Andre, Nick*, **Laura Upenieks**, and Rebecca Bonhag. 2023. "Does Religious Service Attendance Condition the Link between Relationship Status and Mattering to Others? Evidence from the United States during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Review of Religious Research* 65(3):344-73.

Upenieks, Laura, Christopher G. Ellison, and Neal M. Krause. 2023. "Trust the Lord with All

Your Heart: The Role of Education in the Relationship Between Trust in God and Well-Being in Later Life.” *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 26(7): 704-20.

Upenieks, Laura. 2023. “Are Religious People Any Happier? Probing the Divine Relationship and Extrinsic Religiosity and the Role of Education and Income.” Forthcoming at *Journal of Religion and Health*.

Andersson, Matthew A., and **Laura Upenieks.** 2023. “‘How I Was Brought Up’: A Life-Course Approach to the Stress of Higher Status.” *Sociological Spectrum* 43(2-3):53-71.

Upenieks, Laura, and Brendan M. Ryan. 2023. “Good, Good Enough, or Great? Social and Performance Predictors of Collegiate Golf Participation among Northern California Youth.” Forthcoming at *International Journal of Golf Sciences*.

Upenieks, Laura, Christopher G. Ellison, and Neal M. Krause. 2023. “To Err is Human, to Forgive, Divine: Religious Doubt, Psychological Well-Being and the Moderating Role of Divine Forgiveness.” *Journal of Religion, Spirituality, and Aging*
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15528030.2023.2262406>

Holleman, Anna, **Laura Upenieks,** and David E. Eagle. “Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Seminarians: Personal Experiences of Trauma and Selection into Pastoral Ministry.” *Journal of Psychology and Theology* <https://doi.org/10.1177/00916471231206361>

Upenieks, Laura, Elizabeth M. Bounds, Karen K. Melton, Perry Glanzer, and Sarah A. Schnitker. 2023. “Attachment to God, Contingent Self-Worth, and Mental Health Outcomes in Collegiate Athletes.” *Journal of Religion and Health* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-023-01907-3>

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Bierman, Alex E., **Laura Upenieks,** and Yeonjung Lee. 2023. “Perceptions of Increases in Cost of Living and Psychological Distress During a Period of Rapid Inflation.” *Journal of Aging and Health* <https://doi.org/10.1177/08982643231195924>

Louie, Patricia, Terrence D. Hill, and **Laura Upenieks.** 2023. “Do Early Life Traumas Buffer or Amplify the Impact of Cumulative Pandemic Stress on Anger?” *Advances in Life Course Research* 58, 100576.

Upenieks, Laura, and Xi Zhu*. 2023. “Life Course Religious Attendance and Cognitive Health at Midlife: Exploring Gendered Contingencies.” *Research on Aging*
<https://doi.org/10.1177/01640275231188998>

Clifton, Triston*, Mackenzie Brewer, and **Laura Upenieks.** 2023. “Religious Affiliation and Debt Among U.S. Households.” *Social Science Research* 115, 102911.

Upenieks, Laura, and David E. Eagle. 2023. "Divine Struggles Among Those Doing God's Work: A Longitudinal Assessment Predicting Depressive Symptoms and Burnout and the Role of Social Support in United Methodist Clergy." *Sociology of Religion*
<https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srad014>

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Bonhag, Rebecca, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2023. "Working Only for the Weekend? How Workplace Social Connections Impact Worker's Sense of Mattering and Mental Health." *Society and Mental Health* <https://doi.org/10.1177/21568693231165786>

Upenieks, Laura, Terrence D. Hill, Gabriel Acevedo, and Harold G. Koenig. 2023. "'Electronic Church' 2.0: Are Virtual and In-Person Attendance Associated with Mental and Physical Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Sociology of Religion* 84(3):292-323.

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Upenieks, Laura, Blake Victor Kent (equal first authorship), Oluwaseyi Isehunwa, Ying Zhang, Alka Kanaya, and Alexandra Shields. 2023. "Religion/Spirituality and Risk of Prevalent Hypertension across Ethnic Cohorts in the United States." *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* 57(8):649-61.

Louie, Patricia, **Laura Upenieks**, and Terrence D. Hill. 2023. "Cumulative Pandemic Stressors, Psychosocial Resources, and Psychological Distress: An Initial Test of a Pandemic Stress Process." *Society and Mental Health* 13(3):245-60.

Hill, Terrence, **Laura Upenieks**, Julia Wolf, Lynne Cossman, and Christopher Ellison. 2023. "Do Religious Struggles Mediate the Association between Neighborhood Disorder and Health in the United States?" *Journal of Religion and Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-023-01780-0>

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DeAngelis, Reed*, **Laura Upenieks**, and Patricia Louie. 2023. "Religious Involvement and Allostatic Resilience: Findings from the Nashville Stress and Health Study." *Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-022-01505-1>

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Schafer, Markus H., and **Laura Upenieks**. 2023. "Do Sexual Expectations Matter for Older Men and Women? Anticipated Sexual Futures and Late-Life Sexuality over Two Decades." *The Gerontologist* 63(2):240-50.

Zhu, Xi*, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2023. "Age Differences in Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Assessing the Buffering Role of Attachment to God." *Journal of Aging and Health* 35(9): 607-22.

Upenieks, Laura. 2023. "The Assurance of Things Hoped For, The Conviction of Things Not Seen: Racial Differences in the Effects of Changes in Religiosity and Hope in Later Life." *Journal of Religion, Spirituality, and Aging* 35(2):112-138.

Upenieks, Laura, Rebecca Bonhag*, and Amanda McGowan*. 2023. "Religious Doubt and Depression in Later Life: Gender Differences in the Buffering Role of a Supportive Pastoral Relationship." *International Journal of Psychogeriatrics*
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1041610222000448>

Upenieks, Laura. 2023. "Spiritual Support and Well-Being in Later Life: Revisiting the Role of God-Mediated Control." *Journal of Religion, Spirituality, and Aging* 35(2):169-92.

Upenieks, Laura and Scott Schieman. 2022. "Religiosity over the Life Course and Flourishing: Is There an Educational Gradient?" *Review of Religious Research* 64:711-37.

Upenieks, Laura, Ioana Sendroiu, Ron Levi, and John L. Hagan. 2022. "Beliefs in Legality and Benefits for Mental Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 63(2):266-82.
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Hill, Terrence D., Georgiana Bostean, **Laura Upenieks,** Amy M. Burdette, John P. Bartkowski, and Christopher G. Ellison. 2022. "(Un)Holy Smokes? Religion and Traditional and E-Cigarette Use." *Journal of Religion and Health* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-022-01721-3>

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<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0277488>

Upenieks, Laura, Christopher G. Ellison, and Neal M. Krause. 2022. "Humble with God? How Race and Education Shape the Association between God-Mediated Control and Humility." *Review of Religious Research* 64:687-709.

Upenieks, Laura and Neal M. Krause. 2022. "Transcendental Awe of God and Dimensions of Well-Being: Exploring the Mediating Role of Meaning in Life." *Journal of Religion, Spirituality, and Aging* <https://doi.org/10.1080/15528030.2022.2114575>

Upenieks, Laura, Joanne Ford-Robertson, and Terrence D. Hill. 2022. "Rest for Your Souls? Religion, Meaning and Purpose in Life, and Sleep Quality in the United States." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 61(3-4):619-41.

Upenieks, Laura. 2022. "We Made You Pay Attention": Narratives of Men's Advantage in Women's College Basketball." *The International Journal of Sport and Society* 14(1):59-79

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Upenieks, Laura, and Brendan M. Ryan. 2022. "A Lifespan Approach to the Social Correlates of Motivations of Elite Mid-Amateur Golfers in North America." *International Journal of Golf Science* 10(1).

Upenieks, Laura. 2022. "Religious/Spiritual Struggles and Well-Being During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Does "Talking Religion" Help or Hurt?" *Review of Religious Research* 64:249-78.

Upenieks, Laura. 2022. "Searching for Meaning: Religious Transitions as Correlates of Life Meaning and Purpose in Emerging Adulthood." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 25(4):414-34.

Louie, Patricia, **Laura Upenieks**, Christy L. Erving, and Courtney Thomas. 2022. "Do Racial Differences in Coping Resources Explain the Black-White Paradox in Mental Health? A Test of Multiple Mechanisms." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 63(1):55-70.

Best Publication Award, Sociology of Mental Health Section, American Sociological Association (2022)

Upenieks, Laura. 2022. "Religious/Spiritual Struggles and Suicidal Ideation in the COVID-19 Era: A Protective Role for Divine Control and Religious Attendance?" *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality* 14(3): 338-50.

Louie, Patricia and **Laura Upenieks**. 2022. "Vicarious Discrimination, Psychosocial Resources, and Mental Health among Black Americans." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 85(2):187-209.

Upenieks, Laura, and Joanne Ford-Robertson. 2022. "Changes in Spiritual but Not Religious Identity and Well-Being in Emerging Adulthood in the United States: Pathways to Health Sameness?" *Journal of Religion and Health* 61:4635-73.

Upenieks, Laura, Scott Schieman, and Rachel Meiorin*. 2022. "A Protective Rung on the Ladder? How Past and Current Subjective Social Status Shaped Changes in Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *SSM-Population Health* 17: 101060.

Upenieks, Laura. 2022. "Do Christian Nationalist Beliefs Predict Mental Health Problems? The Role of Religious (Non)-Involvement." *Socius* 8: 23780231221081641

Upenieks, Laura, Joanne Ford-Robertson, and James E. Robertson. 2022. "Trust in God and/or Science: Sociodemographic Differences in the Effects of Beliefs in an Engaged God and Mistrust of the COVID-19 Vaccine." *Journal of Religion and Health* 61(6):657-86.

Upenieks, Laura, and Yingling Liu.* 2022. "Does Religiosity Predict Future Health Expectations? Using a Life Course Framework to Test Multiple Mechanisms." *Journal of Religion and Health* 61(3):2539-68.

Upenieks, Laura. 2022. "Psychological Resilience after Cancer via Religion/Spirituality: Spiritual Capital Through a Life Course Lens." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 61(1):119-41.

Upenieks, Laura. 2022. “Aspiring to Do All Things Through Him Who Strengthens? Quixotic Hope, Religiosity, and Mental Health.” *Society and Mental Health* 12(1):64-83.

Upenieks, Laura, Scott Schieman, and Alex Bierman. 2022. "Jitters on the Eve of the Great Recession: The Belief in Divine Control as a Protective Resource?" *Sociology of Religion* 83(2):194-221.

Upenieks, Laura and Joanne Ford-Robertson. 2022. “Give Thanks in All Circumstances? Gratitude Towards God and Health in Later Life after Major Life Stressors.” *Research on Aging* 44(506):392-404.

Upenieks, Laura, Jeremy E. Uecker, and Markus H. Schafer. 2022. “Couple Religiosity and Well-Being among Older Adults in the United States?” *Journal of Aging and Health* 34(2):266-82.

Miles, Andrew, and **Laura Upenieks.** (equal authorship). 2022. “Moral Self-Appraisals Explain the Emotional Rewards of Prosocial Behavior.” *Journal of Happiness Studies* 23(5):1793-1814.

Miles, Andrew, Meena Andiappan, **Laura Upenieks,** and Christos Orfanidis.* 2022. “Prosocial behavior can safeguard mental health and foster emotional well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic.” *PLOS ONE* 17(7):e0272152.

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Books and Book Chapters

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Upenieks, Laura, and William Magee. 2016. "Supervisory Level and the Impulse to Harm a Coworker: Advancing a Bourdieusian Perspective" In *Emotions and Organizational Governance*. Published online: 08 Jun 2016; 279-311. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/S1746-979120160000012010>

Tepperman, Lorne, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2016. Social Control: Integration and Regulation. Oxford University Press. (equally co-authored).

Works Under Review

Andiappan, Meena, Andrew Miles, **Laura Upenieks**, and Christos Orfanidis*. 2023. "All Kind Acts Are Not Equal: An Exploration and Examination of the Moderating Effects of Prosocial Characteristics on Enactor's Positive Affect." Revised and Resubmitted at *Journal of Happiness Studies*.

Upenieks, Laura, Rudra Chakraborty*, and Terrence D. Hill. 2023. "Sin in the Digital Flesh? Religion and the Pandemic Sexting Behavior of Men and Women." Revised and Resubmitted at *Journal of Sex Research*.

Froese, Paul, Rebecca Bonnag, Jeremy E. Uecker, Matthew A. Andersson, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2023. "Prayer and Mental Well-Being: An Overview of Original and Comprehensive Prayer Data." Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Religion and Health*.

Upenieks, Laura, Brendan Ryan, and Chris Knoester. 2023. "Better to Have Played than Not Played? Youth Sport Participation, Reasons for Dropout, and Mental Health in Adulthood." Revise and Resubmit at *Sociology of Sport*.

Upenieks, Laura and Christopher G. Ellison. 2023. "Religious Doubt and Mental Well-Being in Later Life: Is Humility a Protective Resource?" Revise and Resubmit at *Psychology and Theology*.

Kent, Blake Victor, **Laura Upenieks**, Daniel Jang, Christopher G. Ellison, and Bradley R.E. Wright. 2023. "The Effect of Religious Service Attendance on Emotional Well-Being: A Micro-Longitudinal Analysis of the SoulPulse Study." Revise and Resubmit at *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Upenieks, Laura, Elizabeth M. Bounds, Jenae Nelson, Karen K. Melton, Perry Glanzer, and Sarah A. Schnitker. 2023. "Gratitude to God and Mental Well-Being in U.S. Collegiate Athletes: The Explanatory Power of Perceived Indebtedness to God and Meaning in Life."

Sendroiu, Ioana, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2023. "Who Gets to 'Dream Big'? The Cost of High Expectations in Low Quality Neighborhoods."

Upenieks, Laura, and Terrence D. Hill. 2023. "Gender Variations in the Indirect Effects of In-Person and Virtual Religious Attendance on Psychological Distress during the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Upenieks, Laura and Christos Orfanidis*. 2023. "Perceived Accountability to God, the Religious Role, and Psychological Well-Being."

Upenieks, Laura, and Markus H. Schafer. 2023. "A Life Course Approach to the Religion-Volunteering Link: Evidence from the United States."

Upenieks, Laura, and Blake Victor Kent. 2023. "Do Religion and Spirituality Buffer the Effect of a Childhood Trauma on Depressive Symptoms? Examination of a South Asian Cohort."

Garcia-Alexander, Ginny, **Laura Upenieks**, Terrence G. Hill, Amy M. Burdette, Christopher G. Ellison, and Xiaohe Xu. 2023. "Christian Nationalism and Fertility Ideals and Behavior in the United States."

Upenieks, Laura, Amanda C. McGowan, and Terrence D. Hill. 2023. "Not Conformed to this World? Masculine Discrepancy Stress, Subjective Well-Being, and the Buffering Role of Religion."

Works in Progress

Full Drafts Available

Upenieks, Laura. 2023. "Occupational Stressors and Flourishing among Roman Catholic Priests: The Eucharist as the "Source and Summit."

Upenieks, Laura, Elizabeth M. Bounds, Karen K. Melton, Perry Glanzer, and Sarah A. Schnitker. 2023. "Be Strong in the Lord: Trait Courage, the Divine Relationship, and Mental Well-Being among U.S. Collegiate Athletes."

Upenieks, Laura, and Terrence D. Hill. 2023. "Severing or Extending the Long Arm of Childhood: Does Religion Buffer or Amplify the Sociogenetic Effects of Parental Psychopathology?"

Upenieks, Laura, Brendan M. Ryan, and Chris Knoester. 2023. "Grit and Subjective Well-Being in the United States: A Test of Non-Linearities by Childhood Sports Participation."

Upenieks, Laura, and David E. Eagle. 2023. "Do R/S Struggles Mediate the Relationship Between Childhood Abuse and the Mental Health of Seminary Students?"

Upenieks, Laura, Blake Victor Kent, Alka M. Kanaya, Martha L. Daviglus, Heather A. Eliassen, Julie R. Palmer, Shelley Cole and Alexandra E. Shields. 2023. "The Belief in Miracles, R/S Struggles, and Mental Health Outcomes: Exploring Variation by Racial and Ethnic Cohorts."

Bonhag, Rebecca, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2023. Belief in God and the Self-Concept: Mattering and Dignity in a World of Faith-Based Boundaries.”

Schafer, Markus H., and **Laura Upenieks**. 2023. “Shifts in American Religiosity and Spirituality from 1995-2014: How Has Community Life Changed?”

Upenieks, Laura, Blake Victor Kent, Alka M. Kanaya, Martha L. Daviglus, Heather A. Eliassen, Julie R. Palmer, Shelley Cole and Alexandra E. Shields. 2023. “Forgiveness and Health across Racial-Ethnic Cohorts: Exploring the Conditioning Roles of Religious Attendance and Closeness to God.”

TEACHING

Baylor University

Instructor of Record

SOC 5332 Graduate Seminar: *Sociology of Health* (January-May 2022)

SOC 1305 *Introduction to Sociology* (August 2020-December 2020, August 2021-December 2021, January-May 2023)

SOC 4353 *Sociology in Medicine* (August 2021-December 2021, August 2022-December 2022)

SOC 4393 *Sociology of Aging* (January-May 2021, January-May 2022, January-May 2023, January-May 2024)

SOC 4311 *Sociology of Sport* (January-May 2021, August 2022-December 2022, January-May 2024)

University of Texas at San Antonio

Instructor of Record

SOC 3203.001 *Aging and Society*: August 2019-December 2019

SOC 3353.001 *Sociological Theory*: January 2020-May 2020

SOC 3213.001 *Medical Sociology*: January 2020-May 2020

University of Toronto

Instructor of Record

SOC 498 *Social Determinants of Health and Policy*: January 2018-April 2018

Teaching Assistant

SOC 363 *Sociology of Mental Health and Mental Disorders*: January-April 2019

SOC 362 *Quality of Social Life*: September-December 2017
SOC 313 *Social Control*: January-May 2017, May-December 2014
SOC 312 *Population and Society*: January 2014-April 2014
SOC 243 *Sociology of Health*: January-May 2018, September-December 2013
SOC 202 *Quantitative Methods*: September-December 2018, January 2017-May 2017, January-May 2016, December 2014-April 2015
SOC 100 *Introduction to Sociology*: September-December 2017, January-May 2016, September-December 2016, September-December 2015

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Faculty

Andersson, Matthew A., Markus H. Schafer, and **Laura Upenieks** (Co-Principal Investigators). Geographic Political Polarization and the Health of US Older Adults. (Submitted: National Institute of Aging (NIA) Pilot Project). (not funded).

Bozick, Robert, and **Laura Upenieks**. "Effects of Religion and Spirituality on Health Following the COVID-19 Pandemic." (Submitted to the John Templeton Foundation, not funded).

2020 Baylor University Summer Sabbatical Award (2 months of summer salary)

COVID-19 Strategic Action Fund, University of Toronto (Co-Investigator; Andrew Miles, Principal Investigator) (\$57,393)

Project Title: "Using Prosocial Behavior to Safeguard Mental Health and Foster Emotional Well-Being"

National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP) Research Fellowship (NORC, University of Chicago) (2020-2022)

Graduate

2019 Canadian Sociology Association Outstanding Graduating Sociology Student Award

2019 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Aging and the Life Course, American Sociological Association (\$500)

2019 University of Toronto Dr. Clara Benson Honor Award

Awarded to the graduating undergraduate female student-athlete who has contributed most to university athletics from the standpoint of academics, athletics, leadership and community service

2018 University of Toronto Athlete of the Year Award

2016 University of Toronto Scholar Athlete Award, University of Toronto, Athletic Department (\$3000)

2016-2017 Provost Scholar Award, University of Toronto Athletic Department (\$2,000)

2016-2019 SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) (\$105,000)

2014-2015 University of Toronto PhD Fellowship (\$11,000)

2014-2015 University of Toronto, Department of Sociology Outstanding PhD Admissions Award (\$4000)

2015-2016 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), University of Toronto (\$15,000)

2015 University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Science Conference Travel Grant Award (\$250)

2013-2014 University of Toronto M.A. Fellowship (\$10,996)

2010-2019 Ontario University Athletic Association Academic Excellence Award

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Daniels, Colton L, and **Laura Upeniaks**. 2023. "Criminal and Delinquent Behaviors and Religiousness: A Longitudinal Exploration of Religion's Role in Emerging Adulthood." Presented at the 2023 Association for the Sociology of Religion Conference (Philadelphia).

Upeniaks, Laura, and Xi Zhu*. 2023. "Life Course Religious Attendance and Cognitive Health at Midlife: Exploring Gendered Contingencies." Presented at the 2023 American Sociological Association (Philadelphia).

Louie, Patricia, **Laura Upeniaks**, and Terrence D. Hill. 2023. "Cumulative Pandemic Stressors, Psychosocial Resources, and Psychological Distress: An Initial Test of a Pandemic Stress Process." Presented at the 2023 Population Association of America Conference (New Orleans)

Upeniaks, Laura. 2022. Geographic Political Polarization and the Health of US Older Adults. *2021 NSHAP Fellows Conference* (NORC; University of Chicago).

Seto, Christopher H*., and **Laura Upeniaks**. 2022. "Under God and Under Threat: Christian Nationalism and Conspiracy Beliefs as Links Between Political Orientation and Gun Ownership." Presented at the 2022 *Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, United States.

Andersson, Matthew A., and **Laura Upeniaks**. 2022. "'How I Was Brought Up': A Life-Course Approach to the Stress of Higher Status." Presented at the 2022 *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, United States.

Upeniaks, Laura, Joanne Ford-Robertson, and James E. Robertson. 2022. "Trust in God and/or Science: Sociodemographic Differences in the Effects of Beliefs in an Engaged God and Mistrust of the COVID-19 Vaccine." Presented at the 2022 *Southern Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, San Antonio, United States.

Clifton, Triston*, Mackenzie Brewer, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2022. "Religious Affiliation and Debt Among U.S. Households." Presented at the 2022 *Population of America Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, United States.

Upenieks, Laura and Joanne Ford-Robertson. 2021. "Give Thanks in All Circumstances? Gratitude Towards God and Health in Later Life after Major Life Stressors." Presented at the 2021 *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Phoenix, United States; conference held virtually).

Upenieks, Laura, and Yingling Liu.* 2021. "Marital Strain and Support and Subjective Well-Being in Later Life: Ascribing a Role to Childhood Adversity." Presented at the 2021 *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Phoenix, United States; conference held virtually).

Louie, Patricia, **Laura Upenieks**, Arjumand Siddiqi, David R. Williams, and David Takeuchi. 2021. "Race, Flourishing, and All-Cause Mortality, 1995-2016." Paper presented at the *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, virtual conference.

Louie, Patricia, **Laura Upenieks**, Christy L. Erving, and Courtney Thomas. 2021. "Do Racial Differences in Coping Resources Explain the Black-White Paradox in Mental Health? A Test of Multiple Mechanisms." Paper presented at the 2021 *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, virtual conference.

Upenieks, Laura, and Yingling Liu*. "Does Religiosity Predict Future Health Expectations? Using a Life Course Framework to Test Multiple Mechanisms." Paper presented at the *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*, virtual conference.

Upenieks, Laura, and Patricia A. Thomas. "Gaining Faith, Losing Faith: How Education Shapes the Relationship between Religious Transitions and Mental Health over the Life Course." Paper presented at the *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*, virtual conference.

Upenieks, Laura and Colton L. Daniels.* "Unfair Treatment by the Police and Race: Is Religiosity a Protective Resource for Well-Being?" (Presented at the 2021 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, United States).

Hill, Terrence, Kelsey Gonzalez, Amy Burdette, Andrew Davis, Rina James, Eric Bjorklund, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2021. "Conservatism and Pandemic Lifestyles." (Presented at the *Advancing Health Lifestyles Research Mini-Conference*, University of Colorado-Boulder.)

Upenieks, Laura. "A Faith to Move Mountains? Childhood Abuse, Changes in Religiosity, and Adult Mental Health." (Presented at the 2020 *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, United States; conference held virtually).

Upenieks, Laura, Jeremy E. Uecker, and Markus H. Schafer. "Couple Religiosity and Well-Being in Later Life Spousal (Non)Religious Homogamy or Partner Spillover?" (Presented at the 2020 *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, United States;

conference held virtually) and the *2021 NSHAP Fellows Conference* (NORC; University of Chicago).

Upenieks, Laura. “Does the Belief in Biblical Literalism Matter for Mental Health? Assessing Variations by Gender and Religious Dimensions.” (Accepted at the *2020 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Conference*, Pittsburgh, United States; cancelled due to COVID-19).

Upenieks, Laura. “The Influence of Close Ties on Depression: Does Network Religiosity Matter?” (*2020 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, United States; conference held virtually).

Upenieks, Laura and Markus H. Schafer. “Religious Attendance over the Life Course and Physical Well-Being in Later Life: Integrating Life Course Models of Health. (*2020 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, United States; conference held virtually).

Upenieks, Laura, and Markus H. Schafer. “Changes in Religious Attendance and Network Turnover in Later Life: The Role of Health Status.” (Invited talk at the *2020 University of California Berkeley Network Symposium*, San Francisco, United States; conference held virtually).

Upenieks, Laura, Scott Schieman, and Alex Bierman. “Jitters on the Eve of the Great Recession: The Belief in Divine Control as a Protective Resource?” Paper accepted for presentation at the Stress Conference, June 6-8, Savannah, United States (*Conference cancelled due to COVID-19*).

Upenieks, Laura. 2019. “How Do Mental Health Transitions Shape the Role of Adult Children in Older Adults’ Social Networks?” (Invited Talk *2019 Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting Emerging Scholars Session*, Austin, Texas).

Sendroiu, Ioana, and **Laura Upenieks.** 2019. “Future Expectations across Neighborhood Contexts: A Longitudinal Perspective.” (*2019 Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Austin, Texas).

Schafer, Markus, **Laura Upenieks,** and Julia DeMaria. 2019. “Do HIV+ Older Adults Have Distinctive Personal Networks? Stigma, Network Activation, and the Role of Disclosure in South Africa.” (*2019 Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Austin, Texas).

Ellison, Christopher G., **Laura Upenieks,** Reed T. DeAngelis, and Pablo Gonzalez. 2019. “Relationship Strain and Well-Being: Exploring the Moderating Role of Religion.” (*2019 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting*, St. Louis, Missouri).

Upenieks, Laura, Ioana Sendroiu, Ron Levi, and John Hagan. “The Palliative Function of Legality Beliefs on Mental Well-Being.” (*2019 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, New York, United States).

Sendroiu, Ioana, and **Laura Upenieks**. “The Contextual Effects of Trust on Perceived Support: Evidence from Roma and non-Roma in East-Central Europe.” (2019 *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, New York, United States).

Upenieks, Laura, and Ioana Sendroiu. “Contexts of Past Religious Conflict and Health Consequences for Religious and Ethnic Minorities: Evidence from East-Central Europe.” (2019 *Association for the Sociology of Religion Meeting*, New York, United States).

Upenieks, Laura. 2018. “Neighborhood Danger and Sleep Problems in Later Life: The Buffering Role of Religion.” (2018 *Gerontological Society of America Special Symposium* “New Evidence from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project.” Boston, United States).

Schafer, Markus, and **Laura Upenieks**. “Functional Impairment and Ties with Adult Children: Longitudinal Evidence from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project.” “(2018 *Gerontological Society of America Special Symposium*: “Social Networks in Later Life.” Boston, United States).

Upenieks, Laura. “Keeping ‘In Touch’: Demographic, Social, and Neighborhood Patterns of Interpersonal Touch in Later Life (2018 *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, United States).

Schafer, Markus H., Jason Settels, and **Laura Upenieks**. “As Goes the City? Older Americans’ Home Upkeep in the Aftermath of the Great Recession.” (2018 *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, United States).

Upenieks, Laura and Markus H. Schafer. “Religious Attendance over the Life Course and Later-Life Physical Health: Evidence from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth.” (2018 *Association for the Sociology of Religion Meeting*, Philadelphia, United States).

Upenieks, Laura and Ioana Sendroiu. “We Made You Pay Attention: Narratives of Men’s Advantage in Women’s College Basketball.” (2018 *International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology Meetings*, Toronto, Canada).

Upenieks, Laura. “The Influence of Close Ties on Depression and Self-Rated Health: Does Network Religiosity Matter?” (2017 *Association for the Sociology of Religion Meeting*, Montreal, Canada).

Upenieks, Laura, Andreea Mogosanu, and Markus Schafer. “Childhood Religiosity and Adult Mortality” (2017 *Association for the Sociology of Religion Meeting*, Montreal, Canada).

Upenieks, Laura, and Ioana Sendroiu. “Gender ‘In Practice’: Rethinking the Use of Male Practice Players in NCAA Division 1 Women’s Basketball” (2017 *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Montreal 2017).

Upenieks, Laura, and Markus Schafer. “Tactile Inequality? Neighborhood Characteristics and the Frequency of Interpersonal Touch in Later Life. (2017 *IAGG World Congress on Gerontology*, San Francisco, United States).

Schafer, Markus, **Laura Upenieks**, and Andie MacNeil. “Socio-Spatial Disorder and Mortality among Older Adults”. (2017 *Canadian Sociological Association Congress*, Ryerson University).

Miles, Andrew, and **Laura Upenieks**. “An Expanded Model of the Moral Self: Beyond Care and Justice (2017 *Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, United States).

Miles, Andrew, and **Laura Upenieks**. “Prosocial Spending and Happiness: Integrating Moral Identity?” (2017 *University of Toronto Morality Lab*, Rotman Business School and *University of Toronto Mississauga Graduate Conference*).

Upenieks, Laura, Markus Schafer, and James Iveniuk. “Putting Sex in Context in Later Life: The Effect of Neighborhoods and Households on Sexual Interest.” (2016 *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, United States).

Upenieks, Laura, and Scott Schieman. “When God *Really Is* Love: How Beliefs about Divine Support Shape Empathic and Compassionate Concern for Others” (2016 *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference*, Atlanta, United States.)

Upenieks, Laura, Steven L. Foy, and Andrew Miles. “Beyond America: Comparing the Impact of Religious and Secular Organizational Involvement on Self-Rated Health Cross-Nationally.” (2016 *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Seattle, United States).

Magee, William and **Laura Upenieks**. “Stuck in the Middle with You? Supervisory Level and Anger About Work.” (2016 *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Seattle, United States).

Upenieks, Laura, Scott Schieman, and Alex Bierman. “The Belief in Divine Control and the Sense of Personal Control: What’s the Most Optimal Combination for Mental Health? (2016 *Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting*, Seattle, United States).

Upenieks, Laura and Markus Schafer. “Aging, Neighborhood Disorder, and Mental Health: The Mediating and Moderating Role of Neighborhood Cohesion.” (2015 *Canadian Sociological Association Congress*, Ottawa, Canada).

Upenieks, Laura and Markus Schafer. “Does Disorder Get “Into the Head” or “Under the Skin?” Layered Contexts and Bi-Directional Associations.” (2015 *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, United States).

Schafer, Markus, Jason Settels, and **Laura Upenieks**. “Seasonal Variation in Social Network Resources among Older Adults”. (2015 *Together Through Time Conference*, Penn State University).

Schafer, Markus and **Laura Upenieks**. “Advice as Age-Graded Social Exchange: Distributional Patterns and Implications for Life Meaning.” (2015 *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Orlando, United States).

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Boards

January 2021-2023 *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*
November 2020-present *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

February 2022-present *Review of Religious Research*

November 2022-present *International Journal for Psychiatry in Medicine*

Anonymous Reviewer for:

Advances in Life Course Research, Ageing and Society, American Sociological Review, British Journal of Sociology, Canadian Review of Psychology, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Journal of Adult Development, Journal of Aging and Health, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Journal of Gerontology Series A: Psychological Sciences, Journal of Gerontology Series B: Social Sciences, Journal of Happiness Studies, Journal of Religion and Health, Research on Aging, Review of Religious Research, Social Currents, Social Indicators Research, Social Problems, Social Science and Medicine, Social Science Research, Society and Mental Health, Sociological Focus, Sociological Forum, Sociological Inquiry, Sociological Perspectives, Sociology of Religion, Socius

Ph.D. Committees

Jason Burt (Baylor University, expected completion Spring 2022): *committee member*

Rebecca Bonhag (Baylor University, completed Spring 2022): *committee member*

Yingling Liu (Baylor University, completed Fall 2021): *dissertation co-chair*

Colton Daniels (University of Texas at San Antonio, completed April 2021): *dissertation committee member*.

Masters Committees

Chair

James Malo (Baylor University, expected completion March 2023)

Amanda McGowan (Baylor University, completed April 2022)

Committee Member

Xi Zhu (Baylor University, completed March 2021)

Arlene Campos (University of Texas at San Antonio, completed Summer 2021)

Undergraduate Thesis Committees

Kaylena Berles (Baylor University, completed April 2023)

Lindsay Mahler (Baylor University, completed April 2023)

Karissa Lonin (Baylor University, completed April 2023)

Delaney Shiu (Baylor University, completed April 2021)

University Service Committees

Baylor University

Member of the Graduate Committee (2022-2024)

Search Committee Member (Fall 2021, Fall 2022)

Member of the Undergraduate Committee (2020-2022)

University of Texas at San Antonio (2019-2020)

Member of the Graduate Council

Member of the Graduate Admissions Committee

Member of the Graduate Exit Exam Committee

Search Committee Member (two lines), Department of Sociology

Session Organizer

Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting (2018), Philadelphia, United States

Session Title: Religion and Health: Emerging Topics and Pathway Considerations

Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meetings (2016)

Calgary, Canada

Session Title: Social Networks in Later Life

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2020-Present: *Population Association of America (PAA)*

2015-Present: *American Sociological Association (ASA)*

2016-Present: *Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR)*

2016-Present: *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)*

2016-Present: *Gerontological Society of America (GSA)*

2015-2020: *Canadian Sociological Association (CSA)*

MEDIA

Research has been featured by: *ASA Member News and Notes* (“*Hot of the Press: Journal Highlights*”), *Aging America*, *Bryan County News*, *Chronicle of Evidence-Based Mentoring*, *Deseret News*, *HealthCanal*, *Mature Times UK*, *Medical Xpress Science Daily*, *Psychology Today*, *Research on Religion Podcast*, *SexHealthMatters*, *University of Toronto Research Bulletin*, *TIME Magazine*, *Waco-Tribune Herald*, *Washington Post*.

Appeared on the *Sociology of Religion* Podcast (June 2021)

Appeared on Sirius XM PGA Tour Radio College Golf Show (September 2022)