
Laura Upenieks, Ph.D.

EMPLOYMENT

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

August 2024-Present: Undergraduate Program Director 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

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

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)

St. George Campus

RESEARCH

2024 Early Career Award, American Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Section

2023 Outstanding Faculty Award Winner for Research and Scholarship, Baylor University

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

Peer Reviewed Publications

Upenieks, Laura, Joanne Ford-Robertson, and Chris Knoester. 2025. "Religiosity and U.S. Adult Support for Youth Tackle Football: Risk Aversion or Playing for the Glory of God?" Forthcoming at *Sociology of Sport*.

Schafer, Markus H., and **Laura Upenieks**. 2025. "Shifts in American Religiosity and Spirituality from 1995-2014: How Has Community Life Changed?" Forthcoming at *Sociology of Religion*.

Upenieks, Laura, Blake Victor Kent, Alka M. Kanaya, Martha L. Daviglus, Heather A. Eliassen, Julie R. Palmer, Shelley Cole and Alexandra E. Shields. 2025. "Belief in Miracles, R/S Struggles, and Depressive Symptoms: Exploring Variation by Racial and Ethnic Cohorts in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." Forthcoming at *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture*.

Upenieks, Laura, Elizabeth M. Bounds, Karen K. Melton, Perry Glanzer, and Sarah A. Schnitker. 2025. "Patience as a Virtue in Sport: Religiosity, Patience, and Mental Well-Being among NCAA Athletes in the United States." Forthcoming at *Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics*.

Hill, Terrence D., Qiliang He, Jennifer Zhang, **Laura Upenieks**, and Christopher G. Ellison. 2025. "A Socioecological Model: Neighborhood Disorder, Religious Attendance, and Sleep Efficiency." *Sleep Health* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sleh.2024.11.003>

Upenieks, Laura, Christopher G. Ellison, and Neal M. Krause. 2025. "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* 37(1):98-119.

Upenieks, Laura and Christopher G. Ellison. 2024. "Parental Sanctification, God Images, and Parental Well-Being in the United States." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12945>

Upenieks, Laura, and Markus H. Schafer. 2024. "Faith and Volunteering at Midlife: Variation by Religious Continuity, Discontinuity, or Initiation Since Childhood?" *Sociology of Religion* <https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srae038>

Upenieks, Laura, David E. Eagle, and Anna Holleman. 2024. "Do R/S Struggles Mediate the Relationship Between Childhood Abuse and the Mental Health of Seminary Students?" *Review of Religious Research* <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X241302420>

Jung, Jong Hyun, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2024. "Belief in Divine Support and Sense of Mattering. The Image of God as a Moderator?" *Review of Religious Research* <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X241295346>

Hill, Terrence D., Pui Yen Cheung, David S. Curtis, Yehua D. Wei, Laura Upenieks, and Ming Wen. "Neighborhood Context, Divine Struggles, and Psychological Distress." *Society and Mental Health* <https://doi.org/10.1177/21568693241300627>

Upenieks, Laura, and Terrence D. Hill. 2024. "Gender Variations in the Indirect Effects of In-Person and Virtual Religious Attendance on Psychological Distress during the COVID-19 Pandemic." Forthcoming at *Social Currents*.

Upenieks, Laura and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2024. "Prone to Wellness? Dispositional Awe, Religion/Spirituality, and Well-Being among Academic Scientists." *Social Science Research* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2024.103063>

Upenieks, Laura. 2024. "Catholic Sacraments of Initiation and Religious/Spiritual Pathways to Well-Being in Emerging Adulthood: Longitudinal Evidence from the United States." *Review of Religious Research* <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X241286153>

Upenieks, Laura, Blake Victor Kent, Alka M. Kanaya, Heather A. Eliassen, and Alexandra E. Shields. 2024. "Forgiveness and Health across Racial-Ethnic Cohorts: Exploring the Conditioning Roles of Religious Attendance and Closeness to God." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2024.2426731>

Froese, Paul, Rebecca Bonhag, Jeremy E. Uecker, Matthew A. Andersson, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2024. "Prayer and Mental Well-Being: An Overview of Original and Comprehensive Prayer Data." *Journal of Religion and Health* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-024-02121-5>

Bonhag, Rebecca, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2024. "Varying Beliefs in God and the Self-Concepts of Mattering and Dignity in a US Sample." *Review of Religious Research* <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X241268209>

Upenieks, Laura, Elizabeth M. Bounds*, Jenae Nelson, Karen K. Melton, Perry Glanzer, and Sarah A. Schnitker. 2024. "Gratitude to God and Mental Well-Being in U.S. Collegiate Athletes: The Explanatory Power of Perceived Indebtedness to God and Meaning in Life." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2024.2358975>

Kent, Blake Victor, **Laura Upenieks**, Daniel Y. Jang, Christopher G. Ellison, and Bradley RE Wright. 2024. "'See You Sunday?'" Effects of Attending a Specific Weekend Religious Service on Emotional Well-Being: A State/Trait Analysis of the SoulPulse Study." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 63(4):938-57.

Upenieks, Laura, Brendan Ryan, and Chris Knoester. 2024. "Better to Have Played than Not Played? Youth Sport Participation, Reasons for Dropout, and Mental Health in Adulthood." *Sociology of Sport* <https://doi.org/10.1123/ssj.2023-0165>

Upenieks, Laura. 2024. "Occupational Stressors and Flourishing among Roman Catholic Priests: The Eucharist as the "Source and Summit"." *Review of Religious Research* 66(4):305-31.

Upenieks, Laura, and Terrence D. Hill. 2024. "The Moderating Role of Offspring Religiosity in the Intergenerational Transmission of Parental Psychopathology." *Mental Health, Religion & Culture* 27(4):349-72.

Upenieks, Laura, Elizabeth M. Bounds*, Karen K. Melton, Perry Glanzer, and Sarah A. Schnitker. 2024. "Trait Courage, Attachment to God, and Mental Well-Being Among US Collegiate Athletes." *Journal of Religion and Health* 63(4):2941-2962.

Upenieks, Laura, Amanda C. McGowan*, and Terrence D. Hill. "Masculine Discrepancy Stress, Subjective Well-Being, and the Buffering Role of Religiosity." *American Journal of Men's Health* 18(3): 15579883241255187.

Upenieks, Laura, Rudra Chakraborty*, and Terrence D. Hill. 2024. "Sin in the Digital Flesh? Religiosity and the Sexting Behavior of Women and Men in the United States." *Journal of Religion and Health* 63(4):3105-33.

Upenieks, Laura, and Christopher G. Ellison. 2024. "Religious Doubt and Mental Well-Being in Later Life: Is Humility a Protective Resource?" *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 52(4): 361-378.

Upenieks, Laura, Blake Victor Kent, Megha Nagaswami, Yue Gu, Alka M. Kanaya, and Alexandra E. Shields. 2024. "Do Religion and Spirituality Buffer the effect of childhood trauma on depressive symptoms? Examination of a South Asian cohort from the USA." *Journal of Religion and Health* 63(4):2998-3026.

Upenieks, Laura, and Christos Orfanidis. "Perceived Accountability to God, the Religious Role, and Psychological Well-Being." *Mental Health, Religion & Culture* 27(3):215-40.

Upenieks, Laura, and Terrence D. Hill. 2024. "Christian Nationalism, Religious Struggles, and the Structural Amplification of Emotional Distress." *Social Science Quarterly* 105(1):5-24.

Upenieks, Laura, and Rebecca Bonhag. "Masculine God imagery and sense of life purpose: Examining contingencies with America's "Four Gods"." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 63(1):76-102.

Bierman, Alex, **Laura Upenieks**, Yeonjung Lee, and Fahimeh Mehrabi*. 2024. "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* 46(3-4):241-57.

Upenieks, Laura, Christos Orfanidis*, and Terrence D. Hill. 2024. "The Nature of Power: Elaborating the Association Between Divine Control and Mental Health." *Society and Mental Health* 14(3):216-39.

Upenieks, Laura, and Scott Schieman. "Divine Compensation? Gender, Religiosity, and the Link between Feeling Underpaid and Psychological Distress." *Review of Religious Research* 65(4):445-75.

Schafer, Markus H., and **Laura Upenieks**. 2024. "On Religious Ambiguity: Childhood Family Religiosity and Adult Flourishing in a Twin Sample." *Social Science Research* 118:102949

Upenieks, Laura, Terrence D. Hill, and Christos Orfanidis*. 2024. "Crisis of Faith and Sleep Quality in the United States: A Literal Dark Night of the Soul?" *Journal of Religion and Health* 63(4):3066-87.

Upenieks, Laura, Brendan M. Ryan, and Howie M. Carson. 2024. "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, and David E. Eagle. 2024. "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* 85(1):83-111.

Holleman, Anna, **Laura Upenieks**, and David E. Eagle. 2024. "Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Seminarians: Personal Experiences of Trauma and Selection into Pastoral Ministry." *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 52(1), 3-17.

Upenieks, Laura, Elizabeth M. Bounds*, Karen K. Melton, Perry Glanzer, and Sarah A. Schnitker. 2024. "Attachment to God, Contingent Self-Worth, and Mental Health Outcomes in Collegiate Athletes." *Journal of Religion and Health* 63(1), 445-465.

Upenieks, Laura, and Xi Zhu*. 2024. "Life Course Religious Attendance and Cognitive Health at Midlife: Exploring Gendered Contingencies." *Research on Aging* 46(2):95-112.

Bierman, Alex, **Laura Upenieks**, and Yeonjung Lee. 2024. "Perceptions of Increases in Cost of Living and Psychological Distress among Older Adults." *Journal of Aging and Health* 36(7-8): 414-23.

Bonhag, Rebecca, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2024. "Working Only for the Weekend? How Workplace Social Connections Impact Worker's Sense of Mattering and Mental Health." *Society and Mental Health* 14(1):56-72.

Seto, Christopher H.*, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2024. "Under God and Under Threat: Christian Nationalism and Conspiracy Beliefs as Links Between Political Orientation and Gun Ownership." *Justice Quarterly* 41(2):291-316.

Hill, Terrence, **Laura Upenieks**, Julia Wolf, Lynne Cossman, and Christopher Ellison. 2024. "Do Religious Struggles Mediate the Association between Neighborhood Disorder and Health in the United States?" *Journal of Religion and Health* 63(1):202-23.

DeAngelis, Reed*, **Laura Upenieks**, and Patricia Louie. 2024. "Religious Involvement and Allostatic Resilience: Findings from the Nashville Stress and Health Study." *Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* 11(1):137-49.

Upenieks, Laura and Neal M. Krause. 2024. "Transcendental Awe of God and Dimensions of Well-Being: Exploring the Mediating Role of Meaning in Life." *Journal of Religion, Spirituality, and Aging* 36(1):5-25.

Hill, Terrence D., Georgiana Bostean, **Laura Upenieks**, Amy M. Burdette, John P. Bartkowski, and Christopher G. Ellison. 2024. "(Un)Holy Smokes? Religion and Traditional and E-Cigarette Use." *Journal of Religion and Health* 63(2):1334-59.

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.

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

Upenieks, Laura, and Neal M. Krause. 2023. "Religious/Spiritual Pathways between Practical Wisdom and Depression: Testing the Importance of the Divine Relationship in Later Life." *Journal of Religion, Spirituality, and Aging* 35(3):227-50.

Upenieks, Laura. 2023. "Spiritually Well, Mentally Well? Early Life Religious Antecedents of Mental Well-Being among United Methodist Clergy in North Carolina." *Journal of Religion and Health* 62:2656-85.

Upenieks, Laura, Terrence D. Hill, and Joanne Ford-Robertson. 2023. "Religion and Pandemic Weight Gain: A Refuge from the Storm?" *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 51(3):392-411.

Upenieks, Laura, Alex Bierman, and Yeonjung Lee. 2023. "Divine Relations as a Basis of Subjective Social Status During Later-Life: Direct and Moderating Effects." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 62(S1):141-62.

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.

Upenieks, Laura, Scott Schieman, and Christopher G. Ellison. 2023. "Does Religiosity Buffer the Adverse Mental Health Effects of Work-Family Strain? Examining the Role of an Overlooked Resource." *Review of Religious Research* 65(1):7-36.

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.

Upenieks, Laura, Terrence D. Hill, and James E. Robertson. 2023. "Picturing You: God Images, Gun Ownership, and Empowerment in the United States." *Social Science Quarterly* 104:92-109.

Upenieks, Laura and Christopher G. Ellison. 2023. "Changes in Religiosity and Reliance on God During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Protective Role for Mental Health Under Conditions of Financial Strain?" *Review of Religious Research* 64:853-81.

Upenieks, Laura. 2023. "Uncertainty in Faith, Fear of Death? Transitions in Religious Doubt and Death Anxiety in Later Life." *Journal of Death and Dying* 87(3):814-37.

Upenieks, Laura, and Patricia A. Thomas. 2023. "Matters of the Heart: Childhood Abuse, Religious Transitions, and Cardiovascular Risk over the Life Course." *Journal of Aging and Health* 35(5-6):405-18.

Upenieks, Laura. 2023. "With You Until the End of the Age? A Longitudinal Consideration of Change in Religiosity and Loneliness in Later Life." *Research on Aging* 45(3-4):299-391.

Upenieks, Laura, Patricia Louie, and Terrence D. Hill. 2023. "Welcome to the Dark Side: The Role of Religious/Spiritual Struggles in the Black-White Mental Health Paradox." *Society and Mental Health* 13(2):151-68.

Upenieks, Laura and Joanne Ford-Robertson. 2023. "Childhood Abuse, Goal-Striving Stress, and Self-Esteem: An Explanatory Role for Perceptions of Divine Control?" *Journal of Religion and Health* 62:906-31.

Upenieks, Laura. 2023. "Unpacking the Relationship between Prayer and Anxiety: A Consideration of Prayer Types and Expectations in the United States." *Journal of Religion and Health* 62:1810-31.

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*. 2024. "Religious Doubt and Depression in Later Life: Gender Differences in the Buffering Role of a Supportive Pastoral Relationship." *International Journal of Psychogeriatrics* 36(8):643-54.

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.

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Best Publication Award, Sociology of Mental Health Section, American Sociological Association (2023)

Miles, Andrew, **Laura Upenieks**, and Christos Orfanidis. 2022. "Beyond Prosociality: Recalling Many Types of Moral Behavior Produces Positive Emotion." *PLOS ONE* 17(11):e0277488.

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, 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).

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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Upenieks, Laura and Colton L. Daniels.* 2022. “Unfair Treatment by the Police and Race: Is Religiosity a Protective Resource for Well-Being?” *Social Currents* 9(4): 387-409.

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Sendroiu, Ioana, **Laura Upenieks**, and Markus H. Schafer. 2021. “The Divergent Mental Health Effects of Dashed Expectations and Unfulfilled Aspirations: Evidence from American Lawyers’ Careers.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 84(4): 376-97.

Bonhag, Rebecca,* and **Laura Upenieks** (equal co-authorship). 2021. “Mattering to God and to the Congregation: Gendered Effects in Mattering as a Mechanism between Religiosity and Mental Health.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 60(4):890-913.

Upenieks, Laura, and Patricia A. Thomas. 2021. “Gaining Faith, Losing Faith: How Education Shapes the Relationship between Religious Transitions and Later Depression.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 62(4):582-98.

Bierman, Alex, **Laura Upenieks** (equal first authorship), and Scott Schieman. 2021. “Socially Distant? Social Network Confidants, Loneliness, and Self-Rated Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Social Currents* 8(4): 299-313.

Upenieks, Laura. 2021. “Through Him and With Him? God-Mediated Control, Divine Forgiveness and Health in Later Life.” *Journal of Aging and Health* 33(7-8): 504-17.

Schafer, Markus H., and **Laura Upenieks.** 2021. “Functional Disability and the Role of Children in U.S. Older Adults’ Core Discussion Networks.” *Network Science* 9(2): 194-212.

Bierman, Alex, **Laura Upenieks**, Paul Glavin, and Scott Schieman. 2021. “Economic Hardship and Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Social Causation, Social Selection, or Economic Dependence?” *Social Science and Medicine* 275:113774.

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Upenieks, Laura, and Scott Schieman. 2021. "The Belief in Divine Control and the Mental Health Effects of Stressful Life Events: A Study of Education-Based Contingencies." *Review of Religious Research* 63:185-215.

Liu, Yingling*, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2021. "Marital Quality and Well-Being among Older Adults: A Typology of Supportive, Aversive, Indifferent and Ambivalent Marriages." *Research on Aging* 43(9-10): 428-39.

Upenieks, Laura, Markus H. Schafer, and Andreea Mogosanu. 2021. "Does Childhood Religiosity Delay Death?" *Journal of Religion and Health* 60(1):420-43.

Hill, Terrence D., Kelsey E. Gonzalez*, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2020. "Religiosity and Mobility in Aging Populations: A Multi-Level Analysis of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic." *Journal of Aging and Health* 33(5-6): 377-386.

Upenieks, Laura and Markus H. Schafer. 2020. "Religious Attendance over the Life Course and Physical Well-Being in Later Life: Integrating Life Course Models of Health. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 61(4):486-502.

Upenieks, Laura. 2020. "The Influence of Close Ties on Depression: Does Network Religiosity Matter?" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 59(3):484-508.

Schafer, Markus H., **Laura Upenieks**, and Julia DeMaria*. 2020. "Do HIV+ Older Adults Have Distinctive Personal Networks? Stigma, Network Activation, and the Role of Disclosure in South Africa." *AIDS and Behavior* 25(5): 1560-72.

Sendroiu, Ioana, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2020 (equal authorship). "The Contextual Effects of Trust on Perceived Support: Evidence from Roma and Non-Roma in East-Central Europe." *British Journal of Sociology* 71(4):702-21.

Schafer, Markus H., Jason Settels, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2020. "As Goes the City? Older Americans' Home Upkeep in the Aftermath of the Great Recession." *Social Problems* 67(2):379-97.

Magee, William, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2019. "Gender Differences in Self-Esteem, Unvarnished Self-Evaluation, Future Orientation, Self-Enhancement and Self-Derogation in a U.S. National Sample." *Personality and Individual Differences* 149:66-77.

Schieman, Scott, Alex Bierman, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2019. "Heartless Conservatives and Bleeding Heart Liberals? How Religiosity Shapes the Relationship between Political Orientation and Empathy." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 58(2): 360-77.

Upenieks, Laura, Steven L. Foy, and Andrew Miles. 2018. "Beyond America: Comparing the Impact of Religious and Secular Organizational Involvement on Self-Rated Health Cross-Nationally." *Socius* 4: 1-19.

Miles, Andrew, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2018. "An Expanded Model of the Moral Self: Beyond Care and Justice." *Social Science Research* 72:1-19.

Schafer, Markus H., **Laura Upenieks**, and James Iveniuk. 2018. "Putting Sex into Context in Later Life: Environmental Disorder and Sexual Interest among Partnered Seniors. *The Gerontologist* 58:181-190.

Upenieks, Laura, Jason Settels, and Markus H. Schafer. 2018. "For Everything A Season? A Month-By-Month Analysis of Social Network Resources." *Social Science Research* 69:111-125.

Schafer, Markus H., **Laura Upenieks**, and Andie MacNeil. 2018. "Socio-Spatial Disorder and Mortality among Older Adults." *Research on Aging* 40(8):762-90.

Schieman, Scott, Alex Bierman, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2018. "The Empowering Powerful Other? How Divine Control Beliefs Shape the Relationship between the Sense of Personal Control and Psychological Distress. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 57(1):123-138.

Schieman, Scott, Alex Bierman, **Laura Upenieks**, and Christopher G. Ellison. 2017. "Love Thy Self? How Belief in a Supportive God Shapes Self-Esteem." *Review of Religious Research* 59(3):293-318.

Schafer, Markus H., and **Laura Upenieks**. 2017. "Trans-Congregational Triadic Closure: Churchgoers' Networks Within and Beyond the Pews." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 55(3):597-621.

Magee, William and **Laura Upenieks**. 2017. "Stuck in the Middle with You? Supervisory Level and Anger About Work". *Canadian Review of Sociology* 54(3):309-330.

Upenieks, Laura, Markus H. Schafer, and James Iveniuk. 2016. "Does Disorder Get 'Into the Head' and 'Under the Skin': Layered Contexts and Bi-Directional Associations." *Health & Place* 39:131-141.

Schafer, Markus H., and **Laura Upenieks**. 2016. "The Age-Graded Nature of Advice: Distributional Patterns and Implications for Life Meaning". *Social Psychology Quarterly* 79(1): 22-43.

Schafer, Markus H., and **Laura Upenieks**. 2015. "Environmental Disorder and Functional Decline among Older Adults: A Layered Context Approach". *Social Science and Medicine* 124:152-161.

Books and Book Chapters

Upenieks, Laura. 2024. "Religion and Mental Health." Invited chapter for *Springer Handbook of Mental Health*, edited by Kristen Marcussen, Mary Gallagher, and Richard Adams.

Upenieks, Laura. 2023. "Religion and Mortality." Accepted and Forthcoming at *William Cockerham's Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia for Religion and Health*.

Hill, Terrence D., **Laura Upenieks**, and Christopher G. Ellison. 2021. "Religious Involvement, Health Locus of Control, and Sleep Disturbance: A Study of Older Mexican Americans." Pp. 161-179 in *Understanding the Context of Cognitive Aging: Mexico and the United States*, edited by J. Angel and M. Lopez-Ortega. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature.

Pannor-Silver, Michelle, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2019. Qualitative research/Quantitative research. Forthcoming in *Encyclopaedia of Gerontology and Population Aging* (edited by Danan Gu, United Nations, and Matthew E. Dupre, Duke University).

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

Murdock, Racheal*, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2025. "God's Plan, God's Community? Divine Control, Congregational and Spiritual Support, and Subjective Well-Being." Revised and Resubmitted at *Journal of Religion and Health*.

Upenieks, Laura, and Samuel H. Fishman. 2025. "Religiosity and Inequality in High School Course Selection? Evidence from Add Health."

Upenieks, Laura, Riley Peterson*, and Terrence D. Hill. 2025. "Socioeconomic Status, Religiosity, and Loneliness: Resource Substitution or Resource Multiplication?"

Upenieks, Laura, Alex E. Bierman (equal first authorship), and Yeonjung Lee. 2025. "The Non-Linear Implications of Frequency of Caregiving for Psychological Distress in the Context of Sense of Divine Control: Considering Multiple Levels of Analysis."

Fishman, Samuel H., and **Laura Upenieks**. 2025. "Religious Attendance and Precursors to Deaths of Despair."

Bonhag, Rebecca, and **Laura Upenieks** (equal co-authorship). 2025. "Fear of a Dying Planet and Fear of a Dying God: Beliefs about God and Attitudes toward Climate Change in the United States."

Bounds, Elizabeth*, **Laura Upenieks**, Karen K. Melton, Perry Glanzer, and Sarah A. Schnitker. 2025. "A Multilevel Analysis of Collegiate Student-Athletes' Goals, Character Strengths, and Well-Being."

Garcia-Alexander, Ginny, **Laura Upenieks**, Terrence D. Hill, Christopher G., Ellison, Xiaohe Xu, and Amy Burdette. 2025. "Christian Nationalism and the Fertility Ideals and Behavior of White Women in America."

Works in Progress

Full Drafts Available

Upenieks, Laura and Rachael Murdock. 2025. "Theological Conservatism and Well-Being in Roman Catholic Priests: The Mediating Role of Social Support."

Upenieks, Laura, and David E. Eagle. 2025. "R/S Struggles among Divinity Students: Effect Modification by HEXACO Personality Traits."

Upenieks, Laura. 2025. "Bread of Life, Diverse Realities: Understandings of the Eucharist Through a Sociodemographic Lens."

Upenieks, Laura. 2025. "From Loss to Life: Does Childhood Faith Ease the Impact of Parental Death?"

Upenieks, Laura, and Markus H. Schafer. 2025. "Educational Gradients in Chronic Pain Interference: Religion/Spirituality as Compensation or Enhancement?"

Upenieks, Laura, Brendan M. Ryan, and Chris Knoester. 2025. "Grit and Subjective Well-Being in the United States: A Test of Non-Linearities by Childhood Sports Participation."

Upenieks, Laura, and David E. Eagle. 2025. "Religious and Spiritual Struggles and Depressive Symptoms Among Seminary Students: Childhood Religiosity as Boon or Buffer?"

Upenieks, Laura. 2025. "Religion, Physical Health, and Mortality: Sharpening our Understanding of the Double-Edged Sword." Invited Chapter for *Handbook of Social Epidemiology*.

Upenieks, Laura, Rebecca Bonhag, and Matthew A. Andersson. 2025. "Does Religion Maintain Dignity in a College-Centric World? Results from the United States."

TEACHING

Baylor University

Instructor of Record

SOC 5332 Graduate Seminar: *Sociology of Health* (January-May 2022, 2025)

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 4357 *Health Inequalities in America* (August 2024-December 2024)

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, June-July 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

Katherine Angulo Valenzuela, Timothy O'Malley, and Laura Upenieks (Co PIs). "Pathways to Communion." \$1.2 million. (January 2025 to December 2029). Lilly Endowment Inc. *National Youth and Young Adult Initiative on Youth and Service*.

Schafer, Markus H., **Laura Upenieks**, and Jo-Ann Tsang. 2024. "Leveraging Natural Experiments to Understand the Prosociality of Faith-Based Organizations" (Submitted: Templeton Foundation, \$150,000). (not funded).

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

Upenieks, Laura, and Timothy O'Malley. 2024. "Will Our Children Have Faith? A Sociological Response." Presented at the University of Notre Dame Advisory Council Meetings (September 5-7, 2024).

Upenieks, Laura, Joanne Ford-Robertson, and Chris Knoester. 2024. "Religiosity and U.S. Adult Support for Youth Tackle Football: Risk Aversion or Playing for the Glory of God?" Presented at the 2024 Association for the Sociology of Religion Conference (Montreal).

Upenieks, Laura, and Markus H. Schafer. 2024. "Educational Gradients in Chronic Pain Interference: Religion/Spirituality as Compensation or Enhancement?" Presented at the 2024 Association for the Sociology of Religion Conference (Montreal).

Andersson, Matthew A., James Malo, Daniel Y. Jang, Markus H. Schafer, **Laura Upenieks**, and Sam Fishman. "County Political Contexts and Adult Mental Health: Results from AddHealth." Presented at the 2024 American Sociological Association (Montreal).

Daniels, Colton L., and **Laura Upenieks**. 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).

Upenieks, 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 Upenieks**, 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).

Upenieks, 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 Upenieks**. 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 Upenieks**. 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.

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.” 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

July 2024-present *Society and Mental Health*

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

Amanda McGowan (Baylor University, expected completion Fall 2024): *dissertation co-chair*

Xi Zhu (Baylor University, expected completion Fall 2024): *dissertation co-chair*

Tristen Clifton (Baylor University, Fall 2024): *dissertation co-chair*

Jason Burt (Baylor University, 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

Rachael Murdock (Baylor University, expected completion Spring 2025)

James Malo (Baylor University, completed March 2023)

Amanda McGowan (Baylor University, completed April 2022)

Committee Member

Anastasia McSwain (Baylor University, completed May 2024)

Nick Andre (Baylor University, completed February 2023)

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 Baylor Religion Survey Committee (2023-2024)

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

ASA Religion Section, Session Organizer (August 2025)

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: *Apple News Week, Associated Press, 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, New York Times, 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)