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## Laura Upenieks, PhD

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Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio  
Office: Multidisciplinary Studies Building Room 4.02.34  
Email: [laura.upenieks@utsa.edu](mailto:laura.upenieks@utsa.edu)  
Phone: Office Phone Number  
[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Laura\\_Upenieks](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Laura_Upenieks)

### EDUCATION

#### **2019 PhD 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 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**  
St. George Campus

### RESEARCH

#### *Publications*

#### *Peer Reviewed Journals*

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.

Schafer, Markus, Jason Settels, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2019. "As Goes the City? Older Americans' Home Upkeep in the Aftermath of the Great Recession." Online first at *Social Problems*. doi: 10.1093/socpro/spz022

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 Schafer. 2018. "For Everything A Season? A Month-By-Month Analysis of Social Network Resources." *Social Science Research* 69:111-125.

Schafer, Markus, **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 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***

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.

Permanent link to this document: <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***

**Upenieks, Laura**, and Markus H. Schafer. 2019. "Childhood Religious Exposure and Adult Mortality: Evidence from the United States." Invitation to revise and resubmit at *Journal of Religion and Health*.

Schafer, Markus H. and **Laura Upenieks**. 2019. How Does Disablement Shape the Role of Children in Older Adults' Core Networks?

**Upenieks, Laura**, and Ioana Sendroiu. 2019. "We Made You Pay Attention": Narratives of Men's Advantage in Women's College Basketball."

Sendroiu, Ioana, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2019. "The Contextual Effects of Trust on Perceived Support: Evidence from Roma and non-Roma in East-Central Europe"

**Upenieks, Laura**, Ioana Sendroiu, Ron Levi, and John Hagan. 2019. "The Palliative Function of Legality Beliefs on Mental Well-Being."

**Upenieks, Laura**. 2019. "The Influence of Close Ties on Depression: Does Network Religiosity Matter?"

Sendroiu, Ioana, and **Laura Upenieks**. 2019. "Can Aspirations be Self-Defeating? Future Expectations in Context over the Life Course."

***Works in Progress***

**Upenieks, Laura.** 2019. “Religious Attendance over the Life Course and Physical Well-Being in Later Life: Integrating Life Course Models of Health.

Winner of *Best Graduate Student Paper*, Section on Aging and the Life Course, American Sociological Association (2019)

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.”

**Upenieks, Laura**, James D. Iveniuk, and Markus H. Schafer. 2019. “Neighborhood Conditions and Self-Neglect in Later Life: Longitudinal Evidence from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project.

**Upenieks, Laura**, Ioana Sendroiu and Christopher G. Ellison. 2019. “Contexts of Past Religious Conflict and Health Consequences for Religious and Ethnic Minorities: Evidence from East-Central Europe.”

**Upenieks, Laura**, and Andrew Miles (equal authorship). 2019. “Moral Self-Appraisals Explain the Emotional Rewards of Prosocial Behavior.”

**TEACHING**

**University of Toronto**

***Course Instructor***

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

**AWARDS**

***Undergraduate***

Arnold Palmer Scholarship (2009-2013): \$2500 value each year

University College Admission Scholarship (2009): \$800 value

Alen Milne McCombie Scholarship (2012), University College: \$750 value

University College St. Margaret's College Alumnae Association Prize (2012): \$1464 value

***Graduate***

U of T Scholar Athlete Award, University of Toronto, Athletic Department (2016): \$3000 value

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

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

University of Toronto Ph.D Fellowship, (2014-2015): \$11,000 value

University of Toronto, Department of Sociology, 'Outstanding Ph.D Admissions Award' (2014-2015): \$4000 value

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

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

University of Toronto M.A. Fellowship (2013-2014): \$10,996.00 value

Ontario University Athletic Association Academic Excellence Award (2010-2017)

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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

Sendroiu, Ioana, and **Laura Upeniaks**. 2019. "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).

**Upeniaks, Laura**, Ioana Sendroiu and Christopher G. Ellison. 2019. "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).

**Upeniaks, 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 Upeniaks**. (2018). "Functional Impairment and Ties with Adult Children: Longitudinal Evidence from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project." Paper presented at the Gerontological Society of America Special Symposium "Social Networks in Later Life." (*2018 Gerontological Society of America Special Symposium: "New Evidence from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project."* Boston, United States).

**Upeniaks, 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 Upeniaks**. "As Goes the City? Older Americans' Home Upkeep in the Aftermath of the Great Recession." (*2018 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, United States).

**Upeniaks, 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).

**Upeniaks, 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).

**Upeniaks, 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).

**Upeniaks, 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 Upeniaks**. “Seasonal Variation in Social Network Resources among Older Adults”. (2015 *Together Through Time Conference*, Penn State University).

Schafer, Markus and **Laura Upeniaks**. “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**

#### ***Anonymous Reviewer for:***

*Social Science Research, Socius, Society and Mental Health, Social Currents, Sociology of Religion, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Sociological Focus, Sociological Inquiry, Sociological Forum, Journal of Gerontology Series A: Psychological Sciences, Journal of Gerontology Series B: Social Sciences, Journal of Aging and Health, Journal of Happiness Studies, Canadian Review of Psychology*

#### ***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**

2015-Present: American Sociological Association (ASA)  
2015-Present: Canadian Sociological Association (CSA)  
2016-Present: Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR)  
2016-Present: Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

### **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, Washington Post.*



**REFERENCES**

Professor Markus Schafer  
Department of Sociology, University of Toronto  
Toronto, Canada  
725 Spadina Avenue  
M5S 2J4  
[markus.schafer@utoronto.ca](mailto:markus.schafer@utoronto.ca)  
Phone: 416-946-5900

Professor Scott Schieman  
Department of Sociology, University of Toronto  
Toronto, Canada  
725 Spadina Avenue  
M5S 2J4  
[scott.schieman@utoronto.ca](mailto:scott.schieman@utoronto.ca)  
Phone: 416-946-5905

Professor Andrew Miles  
Department of Sociology, University of Toronto  
[andrew.miles@utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.miles@utoronto.ca)  
Toronto, Canada  
725 Spadina Avenue  
M5S 2J4  
Phone: 905-569-4440