

Melinda Lundquist Denton
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249

Education

2006 Ph.D. in Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
1999 M.A. in Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
1996 B.A. in Sociology and Communication, Seattle Pacific University

Employment

2013-present Associate Professor of Sociology and Labatt Scholar, University of Texas at San Antonio
2012-2013 Associate Professor of Sociology, Clemson University
2006-2012 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Clemson University
2001-2006 Project Manager, National Study of Youth and Religion, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Research Publications

Books

Denton, Melinda Lundquist and Richard Flory. Forthcoming, February 2020. *Back-Pocket God: Religion and Spirituality in the Lives of Emerging Adults*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Pearce, Lisa D. and Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2011. *A Faith of Their Own: Stability and Change in the Religiosity of America's Adolescents*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Smith, Christian with Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2005. *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Articles

Hardy, Sam A., Jeffrey L. Hurst, Joseph Price, and Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2019. "The Socialization of Attitudes about Sex and their Role in Adolescent Pornography Use." *Journal of Adolescence*, 72, 70-82.

Pearce, Lisa, Jeremy Uecker, and Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2019. "Religion and Adolescent Outcomes: How and Under What Conditions Religion Matters." *Annual Review of Sociology* 45:201-222.

- Denton, Melinda Lundquist and Jeremy Uecker. 2018. "What God has Joined Together: Family Formation and Religion among Young Adults." *Review of Religious Research* 60(1):1-22.
- Culver, Julian and Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2017. "Religious Attachment and the Sense of Life Purpose among Emerging Adults." *Religions* 8(12): 274.
- Denton, Jason and Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2017. "Physical Activity Levels, Religious and Cultural Beliefs, and Exercise Beliefs and Attitudes of Female Refugees from Muslim-Dominant Cultures." *Physical Therapy Journal of Policy, Administration, and Leadership*.
- Denton Jason, Shandra Esparza, David S Fike, Jaime Gonzalez, and Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2016. "Improvements in Cultural Competency through Classroom and Local Cross-Cultural Service-Learning Activities." *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 30(2): 6-13.
- Hardie, Jessica, Lisa D. Pearce and Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2016. "The Dynamics and Correlates of Religious Service Attendance in Adolescence" *Youth & Society*. 48(2): 151-175. (Previously available in an online-first format. Published in print in 2016).
- Denton, Melinda Lundquist and Julian Culver. 2015. "Family Disruption and Racial Variation in Adolescent Religiosity." *Sociology of Religion* 76(2):222-239.
- Rendon, Joshua J., Xiaohe Xu, Melinda Lundquist Denton, and John P. Bartkowski. 2014. "Religion and Marriage Timing: A Replication and Extension." *Religions* 5(3): 834-851.
- Denton, Melinda Lundquist. 2012. "Family Structure, Family Disruption and Profiles of Adolescent Religiosity." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 51(1):42-64.
- Denton, Melinda Lundquist. 2004. "Gender and Marital Decision Making: Negotiating Religious Identity and Practice." *Social Forces* 82(3): 1151-1180.
- Smith, Christian, Robert Faris, Melinda Lundquist Denton and Mark Regnerus. 2003. "Mapping American Adolescent Subjective Religiosity and Attitudes of Alienation Toward Religion." *Sociology of Religion* 64(1): 111-133.
- Smith, Christian, Melinda Lundquist Denton, Robert Faris and Mark Regnerus. 2002. "Mapping American Adolescent Religious Participation" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 41(4): 597-612.

Books in Progress

- Bartkowski, John P., Xiaohe Xu, and Melinda Lundquist. Denton. *Mormon to the Core: Religion in the Lives of Latter-day Saint Teens and Young Adults*.

Articles in Progress

Pearce, Lisa, Melinda Lundquist Denton and Jeremy Uecker. "Religion in Adolescence and Career Expectations in the Transition to Adulthood."

DeAngelis, Reed and Melinda Lundquist Denton. "Born of God: Childhood Financial Strain, Adulthood Self-Esteem, and the Moderating Role of Perceived Divine Control."

Denton, Melinda Lundquist, George Hayward, and Claire Chipman. "Marriage Goals and Aspirations of Emerging Adults."

Denton, Melinda Lundquist and Aida I. Ramos. "Religiosity among Latino Youth: Are Latino Protestants Unique?"

Book Chapters

Lisa D. Pearce and Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2009. "Religiosity in the Lives of Youth" in *Handbook of Youth and Young Adulthood: New Perspectives and Agendas*, Andy Furlong, editor. New York: Routledge Press.

Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist. 2000. "Male Headship and Gender Equality." Chapter 5 (pp. 160-91) in *Christian America?: What Evangelicals Really Want*, by Christian Smith. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Research Reports

Melinda Lundquist Denton, Lisa D. Pearce, and Christian Smith. 2008. *Religion and Spirituality on the Path through Adolescence, Research Report Number 8*. National Study of Youth and Religion, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Christian Smith, Robert Faris, Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2004. *Are American Youth Alienated from Organized Religion?, Research Report Number 6*. National Study of Youth and Religion, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Melinda Lundquist Denton and Christian Smith. 2001. *Methodological Issues and Challenges in the Study of American Youth and Religion*. National Study of Youth and Religion, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Book Reviews

Review of *Believing in Belonging: Belief and Social Identity in the Modern World*, Abby Day, Oxford University Press. *American Journal of Sociology* 118(2): 499-501.

Review of *Finding Faith: The Spiritual Quest of the Post-Boomer Generation*, Richard Flory and Donald E. Miller, Rutgers University Press. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48(2):403-404.

Review of *American Religions and the Family: How Faith Traditions Cope with Modernization and Democracy*, Don S. Browning and David A. Clairmont, eds. New York: Columbia University Press. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 70:255-256.

Review of *Remaking the Godly Marriage: Gender Negotiations in Evangelical Families*, John Bartkowski, Rutgers University Press. *Contemporary Sociology* 31(4): 409-410.

Media Publications

Denton, Melinda Lundquist. "Are Religious Kids Meaner or Nicer?" *Christianity Today*, October 16, 2016

Lisa D. Pearce and Melinda Lundquist Denton. "The Spiritual Life of the American Teenager." *The Public Intellectual*, August 4, 2011.

Lisa D. Pearce and Melinda Lundquist Denton. "What Being Religious Really Means to Young People." *The Huffington Post*, January 14, 2011.

Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton. "Teenagers, Not Aliens." *Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 4 2005.

Funded Research Grants

Adolescent Religiosity and Parental Religious Homogamy, Summer 2012.

\$6,750 grant to Melinda Lundquist Denton from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Clemson University.

National Study of Youth and Religion, Wave 2: *The Religious Practices of American Youth*. 2004-2008.

\$1,101,092 grant to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Co-Principal Investigators: Christian Smith and Lisa Pearce

Co-Investigator: Melinda Lundquist Denton

NSYR, *Wave 2 subcontract to Clemson University*, 2006-2008, **\$60,242**

Principal Investigator: Melinda Lundquist Denton

Collaborative Research Grants

National Study of Youth and Religion, Wave 4: *Tracking the Religious Lives of American Youth Through the End of Emerging Adulthood to the Settling-Down Years*. 2009-2013.

\$779,898 grant to University of Notre Dame from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Principal Investigator: Christian Smith

Co-Investigators: Lisa Pearce, Melinda L. Denton, Steve Vaisey, Kyle Longest

National Study of Youth and Religion, Wave 3: *Tracking the Religious Lives of American Youth into Emerging Adulthood*. 2007-2010.

\$1,096,631 grant to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Principal Investigator: Christian Smith

Co-Investigators: Lisa Pearce, Melinda L. Denton, Steve Vaisey, Kyle Longest

National Study of Youth and Religion, Wave 3: *Continuity and Change in the Religious lives of American Youth: Tracking Purpose, Gratitude, Beliefs about Science-and-Religion, and Measures of Positive Psychology Among Third-Wave NSYR Respondents into Young Adulthood*. 2007-2009.

\$99,750 grant to University of Notre Dame from the John Templeton Foundation

Principal Investigator: Christian Smith

Co-Investigators: Lisa Pearce, Melinda L. Denton, Steve Vaisey, Kyle Longest

National Study of Youth and Religion, Wave 1: *The Religious Practices of American Youth*. 2001-2005.

\$3,960,000 grant to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Principal Investigator: Christian Smith

Co-Investigator: Lisa Pearce

Project Manager and Research Associate: Melinda L. Denton

National Study of Youth and Religion Planning Grant: *American Youth and Religious Practices*. 2000-2001.

\$136,610 grant to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Principal Investigator: Christian Smith

Research Associate: Melinda L. Denton

Invited Presentations

“Religion and Spirituality among Emerging Adults.” Keynote speaker for South Carolina Synod Rostered Leaders Convocation. Asheville, NC, October 22, 2018.

“Family Formation and Religion among Emerging Adults.” Keynote speaker for South Carolina Synod Rostered Leaders Convocation. Asheville, NC. October 23, 2018.

“Religion and Spirituality among Emerging Adults.” Research presentation for the Pivot Northwest Conference and the Seattle Pacific University Young Adult Initiative, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. September 7-8, 2017.

“Understanding the Religious Lives of American Youth.” Workshop facilitator for the Youth Ministry Grant Initiative at the Center for Congregations, Inc. Indianapolis, IN, November 18, 2015.

"Risk and Resilience: Adolescent Faith in the Wake of Family Disruption." Presentation at the Spring Symposium for the Center for Family and Demographic Research at BGSU, *Relational Spirituality: Advancing 21st Century Science on Faith in Diverse Families*. Bowling Green, OH, March 12, 2013.

"Teens, Texting, and Torah." Panelist at the International Convention of the BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization). Washington, DC, February 15, 2013.

"A Faith of Their Own." Keynote presentation at the 2012 annual meeting for Lutheran Campus Ministers, Region 9. Isle of Palms, SC, January 28, 2012.

"The spirituality of a new generation." Plenary presentation at the *Captured by a Compelling Narrative Conference*, sponsored by the Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities and hosted by Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL, October 28, 2011

"Religion and Youth in the U.S.: Adolescent life outcomes across multiple profiles of religiosity" by Melinda "Lundquist Denton. Presented at the international seminar: "Youth, Inequalities and the Future of Rio de Janeiro" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 6-8 2011.

"Understanding the Religious Lives of American Youth." Keynote presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for Professors of Mission, Techny, IL, June 16, 2011.

"Faith Forms: The Unfolding of Religion and Spirituality in Adolescence." Centennial symposium keynote address at Messiah College, Harrisburg, PA, January 28, 2010.

"Does the Shape of Families Shape Faith?" Working Conference, invited scholar participant, Austin, TX, May 2009 and Chicago, IL, May 2010.

Soul Searching faculty and student book discussion at Southern Wesleyan University, Central, SC, February 2010.

"Balancing Act: The Transition to a Mixed Method Research Agenda" presented to the graduate students of Florida State University Department of Sociology, March 2009.

"Understanding the Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers: Findings from the National Study of Youth and Religion" presented with Christian Smith at the University Day of Common Learning at Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA, October 2005.

Academic Conference Presentations

2019. "Religion in Adolescence and Career Expectations in the Transition to Adulthood" by Lisa Pearce, Melinda Lundquist Denton and Jeremy Uecker. 2019 Presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis, MO.

2018. Author Meets Critic review of *Faithful Measures: New Methods in the Measurement of Religion* (NYU Press), by Christopher D. Bader and Roger Finke. Panelist at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Las Vegas, NV.

2018. Author Meets Critic review of *The Rise of Network Christianity: How Independent Leaders are Changing the Religious Landscape* (Oxford University Press), by Brad Christerson and Richard Flory. Panelist at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Las Vegas, NV.
2017. “Great Expectations? Religion and the Marriage Goals of Emerging Adults.” by Melinda Lundquist Denton, George Hayward, and Claire Chipman. Presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, D.C.
2015. “Religiosity among Latino Youth: Are Latino Protestants Unique?” by Melinda Lundquist Denton and Aida Ramos. Presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Newport Beach, CA.
2015. “Social, Economic, and Human Capital Effects on College Bound Track Placement.” By Stephanie Southworth and Melinda Lundquist Denton. Presented by Stephanie Southworth at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA..
2015. “Correlates of Body Mass Index in Middle-Aged Texas Adults.” Poster Presentation at Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association, February 2015, Indianapolis, IN.
2014. “Religion and the Romantic Relationships of Emerging Adults” by Julian Culver and Melinda Lundquist Denton. Presented by Julian Culver at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN
2014. “Theoretical and Methodological Challenges in Enhancing the Scientific Study of the Role of Spirituality in Youth Development” panelist at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Austin, TX.
2013. “Transitions of Family and Faith: Racial Variation in the Effects of Family Transition on the Religious Lives of Adolescents” at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts.
2011. “The Faith of Their Families: Predictors of Generational Religious Stability and Change” at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
2011. “Author Meets Critics: *A Faith of Their Own*, by Lisa Pearce and Melinda Lundquist Denton” at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
2010. “Family Structure, Family Disruption and Profiles of Adolescent Religiosity” at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, Maryland.

2009. "Religion and What Young Adults Hope to Accomplish before Marrying" with Lisa D. Pearce and Gretchen Gooding at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, Colorado.
2009. "Parent-Child Relationship Quality: Exploring the Dimensions of Adolescent Religiosity" at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, California.
2009. "The Differential Effects of Religion across Black and White Adolescent-Parent Relationships" at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, California.
2008. "Comparing Typical Survey Measures of Religious Change with Youth Self Reports of Change" at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, Kentucky.
2006. "Congregational Social Support and the Quality of Parent-Teen Relationships" at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, Oregon.
2004. "Religion and the Quality of Relationships between Parents and Adolescents," at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Kansas City, Missouri.
2004. "Exploring the Religious and Spiritual Lives of U.S. Teenagers: Findings from the National Study of Youth and Religion," with Christian Smith and Roxann Miller at the annual meetings of the Religion Communicators Council, Birmingham, Alabama.
2003. "Survey and Interviews Research Methodology of the NSYR," at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Norfolk, Virginia.
2003. "Conducting Nationally Representative In-Depth Interviews with Teens Around the Country," at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Norfolk, Virginia.
2003. "Understanding the Religious and Spiritual Lives of U.S. Teenagers: Initial Findings from The National Study of Youth and Religion." with Christian Smith and Roxann Miller at the annual meetings of the Religion Communicators Council, Indianapolis, Indiana.
2002. "Of Mice and Members: Using the Web to Research Religious Phenomena." Panel member at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, Utah.
2002. "Are American Adolescents Alienated from Religion?" at the annual meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Chicago, Illinois.
1999. "Religion and Women's Workforce Participation," at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts.

1998. “The Triumph of Ambivalence: American Evangelicals on Sex-Roles and Marital Decision-Making,” at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Awards

Best Research Poster Presentation, Health Policy & Administration Section of the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association, February 2015 for “Correlates of Body Mass Index in Middle-Aged Texas Adults” by Jason Denton and Melinda L. Denton.

Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers with Christian Smith nominated for 2008 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion.

Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers with Christian Smith awarded 2006 Books of Distinction Award (Templeton Foundation).

American Sociological Association Section on Sociology of Religion 2004 Student Paper Award for “Gender and Marital Decision Making: Negotiating Religious Identity and Practice.”

Teaching and Advising

Families and Inequality (Honors Course), UTSA

Families in Social Context (graduate), UTSA

Sociology of Youth and Emerging Adulthood (graduate), UTSA

Families in Society (undergraduate), UTSA

Quantitative Research Methods (undergraduate), UTSA

Introduction to Social Research (undergraduate), UTSA

Sociology of Religion (graduate), UTSA

Independent Study: Relationships of Young Adults (graduate), UTSA

Introduction to Sociology (undergraduate), Clemson University

Introduction to Sociology-Honors (undergraduate), Clemson University

Research Methods I (undergraduate), Clemson University

The Family (undergraduate), Clemson University

The Family-Honors (undergraduate), Clemson University

Sociology of Religion (undergraduate), Clemson University

Family & Society (undergraduate), University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Independent Study: Youth and Adolescence (graduate), Clemson University

Graduate Seminar (graduate): Co-taught with Christian Smith a semester-long graduate training seminar for NSYR qualitative interviewers, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Dissertation Committee Member

Vanessa Reimer, Ph.D. 2016. York University, Department of Women’s Studies, Toronto, Ontario

Thesis Committee Chair

Rodolfo Ochoa, M.S. 2018, UTSA, Department of Sociology

Julian Culver, M.S. 2015, University of Texas at San Antonio, Department of Sociology

Erin Shealy, M.S. 2013, Clemson University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Thesis Committee Member

Timothy Haverda, M.S. in progress, UTSA, Department of Sociology
Reed DeAngelis, M.S. 2017, UTSA, Department of Sociology
Joseluis Morales, M.S. 2015, UTSA, Department of Sociology
Courtney Barrie, M.S. 2014, UTSA, Department of Sociology
Joshua Rendon, M.S. 2014, UTSA, Department of Sociology
Aimee Hanvey, M.S. 2009, Clemson University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Tylee Potter, M.S. 2008, Clemson University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Jin-Tae Yun, M.S. 2007, Clemson University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Jennifer Turchi, M.S. 2007, Clemson University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Majdouline Ahmad Aziz, M.S. 2007, Clemson University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Honors Thesis Chair

Amanda Hernandez, 2017, University of Texas at San Antonio, Women's Studies
"Family, God, and Womanhood: Latina Higher Education Decision-Making"

Honors Thesis Committee Member

Danequa Flemon, 2015, University of Texas at San Antonio, Department of Sociology

McNair Scholars Advisor

Elise Williams, 2018, University of Texas at San Antonio, Sociology and Public Health
"An Investigation of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as a Predictor for Type II Diabetes Mellitus In Adults"

Amanda Hernandez, 2017, University of Texas at San Antonio, Women's Studies
"Educational Expectations and Aspirations among Latina/o Youth"

Service Activities

University of Texas at San Antonio:

Committee on Conflicts of Interest, 2018-present

COLFA Grievance Committee, 2017-present

Sociology Department Service:

Merit Guidelines Committee, 2017-present

QLP/Assessment Committee, 2015-present

DFRAC, 2015-present

Performance Appraisal Committee, 2015-present (On leave so did not participate Spring 2017)

Department Faculty Advisory Committee (DFAC), 2014-present

Academic Curriculum and Policy Committee, 2013-present

Faculty Mentor to Junior Faculty, 2013-2018

Medical Sociology Position Search Committee Co-Chair, 2014-2015

Graduate Admissions Committee, 2013-2015

Sociology Spring Colloquium Paper Judge, March 2014

Clemson University:

President's Commission on Women, 2012-2013

-Chair, Campus Climate Subcommittee, 2012-2013

Faculty Senate Alternate, 2012-2013

Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Business and Behavioral Science, 2012-2013

Faculty Assessor, General Education ePortfolio Summer Assessment, Summer 2011

College of Business and Behavioral Science Research Committee, 2006-2008

Sociology Department Service:

Faculty Advisory Council, 2012-2013

Tenure, Promotion, and Review Committee, 2012-2013

ePortfolio Assessment Committee, 2011-2013

Department Curriculum Committee, 2006-2013

Undergraduate Sociology Curriculum Committee, co-chair, 2009-2013

Search Committees:

- Permanent Sociology Lecturer, 2011-2012
- Department Chair, 2012

Professional Activities

Religious Research Association, President-elect, 2020

Editorial Board Member for the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 2018 - present

Program Chair for the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2018

Book Review Editor for the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 2012 - 2017

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Membership Committee Chair, 2016 – 2017

Religious Research Association Publication Committee Chair, 2015 – 2017

Religious Research Association Board of Directors, 2013 - 2017

Religious Research Association Nominating Committee, 2014

Association for the Sociology of Religion Nominating Committee, 2013

ASA Section on Sociology of Religion Nominating Committee, 2012

Founding Board Member, Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood (SSEA), 2011-2013

External Reviewer, Seattle Pacific University program grant from Murdock Foundation, 2011

Advisory Board member, Girl Scouts Research Institute study on Morals and Ethics, 2009

Reviewer for John Templeton Foundation grant proposal, 2008

Ad Hoc Reviewer for: *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Social Problems*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Contemporary Jewry*, *Spirituality in Clinical Practice*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *Social Science Research*, *Journal of Family Psychology*

Professional Association Memberships:

American Sociological Association

[Sections: Sociology of Family, Sociology of Religion]

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Religious Research Association

Association for the Sociology of Religion