

Melinda Lundquist Denton
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EMPLOYMENT

2006- Assistant Professor of Sociology, Clemson University

EDUCATION

2006 Ph.D. in Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Dissertation: "Religion and the Relationship Quality of Parents and Adolescents" (Co-Chaired by Christian Smith and Lisa D. Pearce)

1997-1999 M.A. in Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Thesis: "Gender Roles and Marital Decision-making among American Evangelicals: Negotiating Ideology and Practice"

1995 Pew Younger Scholars Summer Seminar Participant, University of Notre Dame, under the direction of Roger Finke

1992-1996 B.A. in Sociology and Communication, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington, *Summa Cum Laude*

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Marriage and family, Religion, Adolescents, Culture

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2004. "Gender and Marital Decision Making: Negotiating Religious Identity and Practice." *Social Forces*. 82(3): 1151-1180.

Christian Smith, 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.

Christian Smith, 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.

Book

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

Book Chapters

Lisa D. Pearce and Melinda Lundquist Denton. "Religiosity in Adolescence." Forthcoming in *International Handbook on Youth and Young Adulthood*, Andy Furlong, editor. 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

Christian Smith, Robert Faris, Melinda Lundquist Denton. 2004. "Are American Youth Alienated from Organized Religion?" Chapel Hill, NC: National Study of Youth and Religion.

Melinda Lundquist Denton and Christian Smith. 2001. "Methodological Issues and Challenges in the Study of American Youth and Religion." Chapel Hill, NC: National Study of Youth and Religion.

Book Review

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. In *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. In *Contemporary Sociology* 31(4): 409-410.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Articles

"Parent-Child Relationship Quality: Exploring the Dimensions of Adolescent Religiosity."

"Changes in Parent-Child Relationship Quality: A Qualitative Analysis"

Book Manuscript

Religious Change in the lives of American Teenagers (working title), (second author with Lisa D. Pearce)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Co-Investigator and Consultant, National Study of Youth and Religion, Waves II and III: July 2006 – present

Research Associate, National Study of Youth and Religion, Wave II: January 2005 - June 2006
Responsibilities include assisting with the writing of the grant proposal and the survey instrument for the second wave of NSYR; preparing data files for second round of telephone survey; acting as a consultant to the Youth Survey Contact Director, Wave II Project Manager, and Wave II Interview Coordinator; and conducting semi-structured follow-up interviews with youth respondents.

Project Manager, National Study of Youth and Religion (www.youthandreligion.org), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: August 2001-June 2006.

Responsibilities included:

- Coordinating the administration of national telephone survey of 3,370 parent-teen pairs – development of survey instrument, conducting teen focus groups and pilot interviews, liaison to survey research firm, training and monitoring of interviewers, codebook preparation, cleaning and managing data
- Coordinating in-person interviews of 267 teens across the U.S. – writing IRB proposal, sample selection, training of interviewers, coordinating travel and equipment for interviewers, conducting interviews, data management
- General NSYR project administration – reconciling budget reports, overseeing website development, supervising research assistants, writing IRB renewals

Research assistant, National Study of Youth and Religion Planning Grant: Summer 2000-Summer 2001. Responsibilities included conducting background research for the construction of the telephone survey instrument, compiling a comprehensive bibliography of research on youth and religion, writing summary reports of existing research for inclusion in the full grant proposal, and conducting semi-structured pilot interviews with teens.

Research assistant for the Religious Identity and Influence Project, under the direction of Chris Smith, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Spring 1998, Summer 1998, Spring 1999-Spring 2000.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ongoing Professor, *SOC 201: Introduction to Sociology*, Department of Sociology, Clemson University

Ongoing Professor, *SOC 432: Sociology of Religion*, Department of Sociology, Clemson University

Spring 2004 Instructor, *SOCI 30: Family and Society*, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Spring 2003 Co-taught with Chris Smith a semester-long graduate student training seminar for NSYR qualitative interviewers

- Fall 2000 Instructor, *SOCI 30: Family and Society*, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Summer 1999 Teaching Assistant for Chris Smith at a Pew Younger Scholars Summer Seminar on "Religion and Social Practice," at the University of Notre Dame.
- Fall 1998 Lead Teaching Assistant for Chris Smith, *SOCI 10: Sociological Perspectives*, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Fall 1997 Teaching Assistant for Chris Smith, *SOCI 10: Sociological Perspectives*, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

AWARDS

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

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Denton, Melinda Lundquist. 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.

Denton, Melinda Lundquist. 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.

Smith, Christian, Melinda Lundquist Denton and Roxann Miller. 2004. "Exploring the Religious and Spiritual Lives of U.S. Teenagers: Findings from the National Study of Youth and Religion," at the annual meetings of the Religion Communicators Council, Birmingham, Alabama.

Denton, Melinda Lundquist. 2003. "Survey and Interviews Research Methodology of the NSYR," at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Norfolk, Virginia.

Denton, Melinda Lundquist. 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.

Smith, Christian, Melinda Lundquist Denton and Roxann Miller. 2003 "Understanding the Religious and Spiritual Lives of U.S. Teenagers: Initial Findings from The National Study of Youth and Religion," at the annual meetings of the Religion Communicators Council, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Denton, Melinda Lundquist. 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.

Denton, Melinda Lundquist. 2002. "Are American Adolescents Alienated from Religion?" at the annual meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Chicago, Illinois.

Lundquist, Melinda. 1999. "Religion and Women's Workforce Participation," at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts.

Lundquist, Melinda. 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.

Lundquist, Melinda. 1998. "Interpreting Mixed Messages: Evangelicals on Sex-Roles and Decision-Making," at the annual meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, California.

OTHER CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, Georgia, 2007.

Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, California, 2004.

Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, Georgia, 2003.

Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, Illinois, 2002.

Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, California, 1998.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

American Sociological Association [Sections: Sociology of Family, Sociology of Religion]
Southern Sociological Society
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Association for the Sociology of Religion

Manuscript reviewer: *Social Forces*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Social Problems*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*