

04/25/26

Jason A. Freeman, Ph.D.

### Contact Information

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### Employment

Summer 2023-	Assistant Chair, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, Towson University
Fall 2022-	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, Towson University
Fall 2016-2022	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, Towson University

### Education

Ph.D., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2016

**Comprehensive Exams:** Genetics and Society; Religion.

**Dissertation:** *Three Studies Exploring Genetic and Social Influences on the Association Between Religiosity and Substance Use Behaviors.*

**Abstract:** Studies consistently find an inverse association between religiosity and substance use behaviors. However, there is still a lot we do not know about this association. In my dissertation I attempt to answer three specific questions about the association between religiosity and substance use behaviors. The first question I attempt to answer is, "Does the association between religiosity and substance use behaviors differ across family statuses (i.e. marital status, parental status)?" The second question I attempt to answer is, "Is there a genetic component of the covariance of religiosity and substance use behaviors?" And the last question I attempt to answer is, "Does the association between religiosity and substance use behaviors and/or the genetic correlation between religiosity differ across the life course?" Each question is designed to give us a deeper understanding of the association between religion and substance use behaviors, two phenomena that have a significant effect on human societies.

**Committee:** Michael Shanahan (Co-Chair), Guang Guo (Co-Chair), Kenneth Bollen, Terrie Moffitt and Lilly Shanahan

M.A., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2011

**Thesis:** *Genes and Behavior in Context: Moral Communities as a Source of Social Control.*

**Committee:** Michael Shanahan (Chair), Guang Guo, Kenneth Bollen, and Margarita Mooney

M.A., Sociology, East Carolina University, 2008

**Thesis:** *Whose Report Do You Believe? The Role of Religion in the Formation of the Black Identity of People of African Descent in the Western Hemisphere.*

**Committee:** Ken Wilson (Chair), Bob Edwards, Reginald Watson and Lee Maril

B.A., Sociology, magna cum laude, East Carolina University, 2004

**Research and Teaching Interests: Sociology of Religion; Medical Sociology; Life Course Sociology; Social Theory; and Race and Ethnic Relations.**

#### **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

**Freeman, Jason Alan.** 2022. "The Influence of Parental Religiosity on the Health of Children during Late Adolescence/Early Adulthood: A Test of Mediation." *Sociological Perspectives* 65 (2): 297-327.

**Freeman, Jason.** 2021. "Does the Association between Religiosity and Substance Use differ between Adolescence and Early Adulthood?" *Sociological Inquiry* 91(1): 3-29.

**Freeman, Jason A.** 2019. "Is Apostasy Heritable? A Behavior Genetics Study." *Twin Research and Human Genetics* 22(2):88-94.

Shanahan, Lilly, Kristen M. Schorpp, Vanessa V. Volpe, Kathryn Linthicum, and **Jason A. Freeman.** 2016. "Developmental Timing of Suicide Attempts and Cardiovascular Risk during Young Adulthood." *Health Psychology* 35 (10):1135-1143.

**Freeman, Jason,** Shawn Bauldry, Vanessa Volpe, Michael J. Shanahan and Lilly Shanahan. 2016. "Sex Differences in Associations between Subjective Social Status and C-Reactive Protein in Young Adults." *Psychosomatic Medicine* 78(5): 542-551.

Shanahan, Lilly, **Jason Freeman** and Shawn Bauldry. 2014 "Is Very High C-Reactive Protein in Young Adults Associated with Indicators of Chronic Disease Risk?" *Psychoneuroendocrinology* 40:76-85.

Shanahan, Lilly, Shawn Bauldry, **Jason Freeman,** and Carmen L. Bondy. 2014. "Self-Rated Health and C-Reactive Protein in Young Adults." *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity* 36:139-46.

## Book Chapters

- Jackson, Hannah L., Joshua P. Rutsohn, and **Jason A. Freeman**. 2016. "Mixed Race Identity and Body Image Distortion among Adolescents in the United States: Add Health I." Pp. 379-392 in *Minority and Cross-Cultural Aspects of Neuropsychological Assessment: Enduring and Emerging Trends (Studies on Neuropsychology, Neurology and Cognition)*, edited by Richard Ferraro. London: Psychology Press.
- Mooney, Margarita, Lin Wang, **Jason Freeman** and Matt Bradshaw. 2014. "Does Believing or Belonging Have a Greater Effect on Stressful Life Events among Young Adults?" Pp. 289 – 310 in *Religion and Inequality in America: Research and Theory on Religion's Role in Stratification*, edited by Lisa A. Keister and Darren E. Sherkat. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

## Other Publications

- Freeman, Jason**. 2022. "SIGACCESS: 50 Years of Support Research on Accessibility in Computing." SIGACCESS Newsletter. SIGACCESS January 2022 Newsletter, Issue 132. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/fullHtml/10.1145/3523265.3523272>
- Freeman, Jason**. 2018. "'The Emergence and Evolution of Religion By Means of Natural Selection' by Jonathan H. Turner, Alexandra Maryanski Anders Klostergaard Peterson, and Armin W. Geertz." *Social Forces* 97(1):e1 . <https://academic.oup.com/sf/article/97/1/e1/4996568>
- Shanahan, Michael J. and **Jason Freeman**. 2013. "Gesellschaft: Vom Sozialverhalten zur DNA – und zurück." *Spektrum*, April 9. Retrieved June 1, 2013. (<http://www.spektrum-campus.de/alias/dachzeile/vom-sozialverhalten-zur-dna-und-zurueck/1188723>)
- Shanahan, Michael J., Shawn Bauldry and **Jason Freeman**. 2010. Beyond Mendel's Ghost: Sociology and Molecular Genetics, Present and Future. *Contexts Magazine*, 34-39. <http://contexts.org/articles/fall-2010/beyond-mendels-ghost/>

## Articles in Preparation

- Freeman, Jason and Ashley Rodriguez**. 2026. How Stable is the Religious "None" Status Across the Life Course in the United States? Evidence from Add Health. *Sociological Perspectives*. Submitted April 3, 2026.
- Freeman, Jason and Ashley Rodriguez**. 2026. Racialized Secularization: Life-Course Trajectories and the Divergent Meaning of Religious Non-Affiliation among Black and White Americans. *Sociological Inquiry*. Submitted April 25, 2026.

## Teaching Experience

2025-Present	<b>"Sociology 381: Sociological Theory"</b> , Towson University <b>"TSEM 190: Honors Towson Seminar"</b> , Towson University
Minimester 2024	<b>"Sociology 370: Blacks in Great Britain, From Liverpool to London, U.K. (Study Abroad)"</b> , Towson University
Minimester 2023	<b>"Sociology 370: Blacks in Great Britain, From Liverpool to London, U.K. (Study Abroad)"</b> , Towson University
2020-Present	<b>"Sociology 102: Honors Introduction to Sociology"</b> , Towson University
2017-Present	<b>"Sociology 241: Blacks in America"</b> , Towson University
2017-Present	<b>"Sociology 300: Sociological Analysis"</b> , Towson University
2016-Present	<b>"Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology"</b> , Towson University <b>"Sociology 335: Medical Sociology"</b> , Towson University
Summer 2015	<b>"Sociology 250: Sociological Theory"</b> , University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Summer 2014- Fall 2014	<b>"Sociology 429: Religion and Society"</b> , University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Summer 2013	<b>"Sociology 250: Sociological Theory"</b> , University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Summer 2012	<b>"Sociology 122: Race and Ethnic Relations"</b> , University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## Graduate Teaching Assistant Experience

July 2021-May 2022	Towson Faculty Development and Research Committee (FDRC) Grant Title: Estimating the Heritability of Religiosity Utilizing GCTA-GREML (\$6,000)
Fall 2015	Graduate Teaching Assistant for Dr. Guang Guo Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <b>Course(s): Analysis of Categorical Data</b>
Spring 2006– Fall 2007	Graduate Teaching Assistant for Dr. Kenneth Wilson Department of Sociology, East Carolina University <b>Course(s): Introduction to Sociology; Methods of Social Research</b>

Fall 2005 –  
Spring 2006

Graduate Teaching Assistant for Dr. Andrew Jacobs  
Department of Sociology, East Carolina University  
**Course(s): Introduction to Sociology; Sociology of Japan and East Asia;  
Sociological Perspectives of Sport**

### **Invited Panelist**

- August 2021                    The Black Church and the Black Lives Matter Movement
- August 2019                    Salon Session: Politicization of Religion and Religionization of Politics.  
Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Conference, New York, NY.
- August 2018                    Presidential Panel Session: Religion and Genetics/ Biomarkers. Association for  
the Sociology of Religion Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

### **Professional Presentations**

- February 2023                    “Estimating the Heritability of Religiosity Utilizing GCTAGREML”. Presented at  
the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD
- August 2018                    “The Association between Religiosity and Substance Use: A Fixed-Effects  
Analysis.” Presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual  
Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- August 2017                    “Does the Covariance between Religiosity and Substance Use Behaviors Vary  
Across the Life Course?” Presented at the Association for the Sociology of  
Religion Annual Conference, Montreal, Quebec, CA.
- August 2016                    “Does Family Status Moderate the Association between Religiosity and  
Substance Use Behaviors” Presented at the American Sociological Association,  
Seattle, WA.
- August 2014                    “Substance Use Behaviors and the Increase in the Heritability of Religiosity  
during Early Adulthood.” Presented at the American Sociological Association,  
San Francisco, CA.
- August 2013                    "The Relationship between Subjective Social Status and C-Reactive Protein."  
Presented at the American Sociological Association, New York, NY.
- June 2013                      “Pathways to Adulthood and Substance Use: Evidence from the National  
Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.” Accepted at the 14th International  
Congress of IFPE, Leipzig, Germany. (with Michael J. Shanahan, Shawn Bauldry  
and Richard Miech)

- November 2012 “Explaining the Increase in Heritability of Religiosity from Adolescence to Early Adulthood as a Consequence of Time-Specific Genetic Effects.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Phoenix, AZ.
- September 2012 “Does Believing or Belonging have a Greater Protective Effect on Stressful Life Events among Young Adults?” Presented at the Religion and Stratification Conference, Durham, NC.
- August 2012 “Does Religiosity Moderate the Association between Risky Polymorphisms of the CHRNA5-CHRNA3-CHRNA4 Gene Cluster and Smoking?” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Denver, CO.
- July 2012 “Explaining the Increase in Heritability of Religiosity from Adolescence to Early Adulthood as a Consequence of Time-Specific Genetic Effects.” Presented at the Add Health User’s Conference, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.
- April 2011 “Genetic Variation of the Serotonin Transporter Moderates the Socioeconomic Health Gradient Model Predicting Hypertension.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America , Washington D.C.
- August 2010 “Genes and Behavior in Context: Moral Communities as a Source of Social Control.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA. (with Michael J. Shanahan).
- April 2010 “A Multi-level Model of Religiosity, Gene Candidates, and Antisocial Behavior” Presented at the Add Health User’s Conference, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. (With Michael J. Shanahan.)
- August 2009 “New Hypotheses about Gene-environment Correlations.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA. (Presented with Shawn Bauldry and Michael J. Shanahan).
- April 2008 “Whose Report Do You Believe? The Role of Religion in the Formation of the Black Identity of People of African Descent in the Western Hemisphere.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Richmond, VA.
- April 2005 “Mom Says the Meanest Things: Informal Labels and their Long-Term Effects.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Charlotte, NC.
- November 2004 “Listening for God: Religious References in African-American Primetime Comedies.” Presented at the National Undergraduate Honors Conference, Annenberg School of Communication.” Los Angeles, CA.

April 2004                    “What is Music?” Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, GA.

### **Academic Grants, Awards and Honors**

Spring 2021                    Towson Faculty Development and Research Committee Grant (\$6000)

Summer 2015                    SAGE Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award (\$600)

Fall 2012 –  
Spring 2013                    Carolina Consortium on Human Development at the Center for Developmental Science Predoctoral Fellowship (\$21,180)

Fall 2008 –  
Spring 2009                    UNC Minority Presence Fellowship (\$18,000)

Spring 2008                    Melvin J. Williams Academic Excellence Award

Fall 2004                        John R. and Ruth Maiolo Undergraduate Academic Scholarship (\$500)

### **Graduate Research Experience**

Fall 2013  
– Spring 2016                    Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Lilly Shanahan  
Department of Psychology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Fall 2009 –  
Spring 2011                    Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Michael Shanahan  
Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Spring 2008                    Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Mary Jackson  
Department of Criminal Justice, East Carolina University

Fall 2007                        Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. John Kerbs  
Department of Criminal Justice, East Carolina University

Spring 2004                    Undergraduate Research Assistant for Dr. Rebecca Torres and Dr. Jeffry Popke  
Department of Geography, East Carolina University

## Professional Development

June 2019	Towson Teaching of Writing Retreat
August 2016	Presenting about Teaching? Publish about Teaching! A Workshop Sponsored by TRAILS and Teaching Sociology  Teaching Introductory Sociology for New Instructors  Teaching Quantitative Literacy and Reasoning in the Social Sciences
August 2014	Workshop on Creating Writing Assignments for Sociology, Dr. Diane L. Pike, Augsburg College
March 2014	International Workshop on Statistical Genetic Methods for Human Complex Traits: The Introductory Course
September 2013	Summer School on Life Course and Longitudinal Research, Oxford University
August 2013	Workshop on Teaching Social Theory, Dr. Charles H. Powers, Santa Clara University
Fall 2012 – Spring 2013	Carolina Consortium on Human Development at the Center for Developmental Science Predoctoral Fellowship
Spring 2011	Seminar on Teaching Sociology, Dr. Howard Aldrich, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
May 2011	<i>Genetic Analysis of Complex Human Diseases</i> Summer Course at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Hussman Institute for Human Genomics

## Professional Service

Fall 2024-	Towson University International Committee
Fall 2022-	Towson Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Promotion, Tenure, and Retention Committee
Fall 2022-Spring 2025	Towson University College of Liberal Arts Elections Committee
Spring 2022	CLA College Council
Winter 2020 -Winter 2022	Application Evaluation, Honors College
Winter 2020	

Spring 2020	Faculty Search Committee
Spring 2018	
Summer 2019	Discussion Leader, Honors College
Summer 2018	
Spring 2019	TU4U Faculty Representative
Spring 2017	
Fall 2018 —Spring 2020	Chair, Library Committee
Spring 2017	Faculty Peer Observation of Lisa Swanson
	College of Liberal Arts 2017 Commencement
Fall 2014	Carolina Firsts Advocate
Fall 2011 – Spring 2012	Co-President, Graduate Student Association
Fall 2009 – Spring 2010	
Fall 2005 – Spring 2006	President, Delta Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociological Honor Society
Fall 2004 – Spring 2005	Vice President, Delta Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociological Honor Society

**Graduate Student Advising**

2021- Undergraduate Thesis Advisor  
Sadie Weis, Towson University, Social Science

## **Professional Memberships**

Association for the Sociology of Religion

Eastern Sociological Society

## **References**

Dr. Michael J. Shanahan, PhD  
University of Zurich  
Jacob Center for Productive Youth  
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Dr. Anne Hastings, PhD  
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