

MAHIR RAHMAN

WEBSITE

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied anthropology, critical medical anthropology, sexual/reproductive health, adolescent health, maternal/child health, violence/stigma, subjectivity, arts-based methods, participatory research, personal/group training, nutrition counseling.

Latin America, Perú, United States, Florida

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Applied Anthropology, Medical Concentration (Expected 2031)
University of South Florida
- MPH** Maternal and Child Health (Expected 2031)
University of South Florida
- M.A.** Applied Anthropology, Medical Track
Thesis: Navigating (M)otherhood: Perception, Practice, & Policy of Adolescent Pregnancy in the North Coast of Perú. (Advisor: Dr. Heide Castañeda)
University of South Florida
- B.A.** Anthropology, minor in Spanish, certificate in Medical Anthropology
Summa cum laude
Thesis: Selling Sex Ed: Interactions between the Political Economy and Sexual Health in Huanchaco, Perú. (Advisor: Dr. Adrienne Strong)
University of Florida

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 - University of South Florida**
Teaching Assistant, Health, Illness, and Culture (Fall 2025)
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2024)

EMPLOYMENT

- 2026 - Adolescent Health Navigator, Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County**
Connect adolescents to care providers, address barriers to care, and ensure linkage to services and supports.
- 2026 - Digital Media Coordinator, USF Department of Anthropology**
Create and organize content to enhance undergraduate and graduate enrollment, guide department media and public relations, and manage departmental website.
- 2025 - Personal Trainer, Nutrition Coach, Group Fitness Instructor, USF Recreation**
Design and implement individualized workout plans based on client goals. Organize and host group fitness classes (Cycle) for the student body.

- 2024 - 25** *Personal Trainer/Group Coach, **Body Fit Training***
Utilize science-driven and backed fitness programs and techniques to tailor fitness experiences for every individual. Sell memberships and programs in addition to training.
- 2023 - 24** *Group Fitness Instructor, **Gainesville Health and Fitness***
Organize and host weekly cycle classes on behalf of the local fitness facility. Cleared in advanced dual-structured formats (i.e., Cycle x Strength). Conducted cycle training for current and new instructors.
- 2023 - 24** *Group Fitness Instructor, **Recsports***
Organize and host weekly cycle classes on behalf of the University of Florida RecSports. Cleared in cycle, bootcamp, and movestrong (weightlifting) formats. Specialize in classes for youth programs, at-risk populations, and faculty/staff.
- 2023** *Spanish Instructor, **P.K. Younge Developmental School***
Developed four lesson plans to assist in instruction of third to fifth grade students in basic Spanish linguistic and cultural skills.

FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

- 2026 -** *Roots and Shoots Fellow, **Jane Goodall Institute USA***
Engage with (inter)national youth leaders, alumni, and staff at the JGI to support community initiatives, outreach, mentorship, event planning, and visual projects.
- 2026 -** *Event Management Intern, **USF Athletics***
Assist in planning, budgeting, operation, and execution of athletics events for an institution in the NCAA Division I level in the American Athletics Conference.
- 2025 -** *Research Intern, **Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County***
Co-design and implement research projects using innovative and collaborative methods focusing on adolescent sexual and reproductive health.
- 2022 - 24** *Student Advisor, **Common App***
Promote equity within the college application process for underserved individuals.
- 2022 - 24** *Teaching Fellow, **Teach for America***
Aid underprivileged students to develop better reading/comprehension skills based on self-developed curricula aligned with school/state-mandated alignments.
- 2021** *Health Promotion Intern, **School District of Osceola County Risks & Benefits***
Organize and host weekly cycle classes on behalf of the University of Florida RecSports. Cleared in cycle, bootcamp, and movestrong (weightlifting) formats. Specialize in classes for youth programs, at-risk populations, and faculty/staff.
- 2019 - 21** *National Council Member, **Jane Goodall Institute***
Assist other youth leaders in developing local programs to address animal, social, and environmental issues within their respective communities.

VISUAL PROJECTS

- 2026 Sparking Change[makers]: Strategizing & Inspiring in Times of Uncertainty**
Virtual photovoice gallery at annual summit
Jane Goodall Institute
- 2026 60 Years of Anthropology at USF: Virtual Exhibition Walkthrough**
Virtual walkthrough of USF's Anthropology exhibit commemorating 60+ years.
USF Department of Anthropology
- 2026 Mapping Resilience: Stories of Young Motherhood**
Exhibition of journey maps, photos, and audio-visual content
Museum of Motherhood

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2026 - The Fourth Trimester: Experiences of Preparation and Belonging amongst Spanish-Speaking Migrants**
Qualitative analysis and program evaluation of group pregnancy and child birthing classes among migrant Spanish-speaking women in rural Pasco County.
- 2026 Navigating Navigation: Patient Perspectives of Services at a Youth-Centered Clinic**
Co-PI: Danielle Lewald, Tanner Cobb, *Ybor Youth Clinic*
Program evaluation of navigation services at Ybor Youth Clinic
- 2026 - Parental Perceptions of Adolescent Consent in Health Settings**
PI: Dr. Rachel Logan, *University of California, San Francisco*
Assessing Florida parents' perspectives with regards to FL Parents Rights Policy (SB166).
- 2025 - 26 Maternidad Adolescente en Alto Moche, Perú**
Co-PI: Dr. Carolina Camus Espinoza, *Universidad Nacional de Trujillo*
Examining experiences of adolescent motherhood in Alto Moche through ethnographic methods.
- 2025 - 26 Reunion Neuroscience Post-Trial Study**
Advisor: Dr. Amanda Elmore, Dr. Richard Powis, *USF College of Public Health*
Using ethnographic methods (interviews) post-trial to examine the effects of psilocybin and postpartum depression.
- 2025 - 26 Teen Pregnancy Journey Mapping**
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Cheryl Vamos, *USF College of Public Health*
Community Advisor: Danielle Lewald, *Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County*
Analysis of perceptions and experiences regarding adolescent's journeys through pregnancy using journey mapping and photovoice.
- 2025 - Adolescent Pregnancy Hillsborough County**

Advisor: Dr. Amy Brown, *USF Morsani College of Medicine*
Developing standard and normal practices of care in medical facilities for high rates of adolescent pregnancies in Tampa.

- 2025 - 26 Reproductive Wellbeing Learning Collaborative**
Advisor: Dr. Cheryl Vamos, Dr. Jill McCracken, *USF College of Public Health*
Analyzing community interventions and instruments to promote reproductive well-being amongst young adults (13-24) in Hillsborough County.
- 2024 - 26 Biopolitics and Community Perceptions of Adolescent Pregnancy**
Co-PI: Dr. Heide Castañeda, *University of South Florida*
Master's Thesis Research; Using ethnographic methods to investigate local hysterias of adolescent pregnancy through student, faculty, and healthcare professional perspectives.
- 2024 - 25 Evaluation of US and CT in Pelvic Pain**
Advisor: Dr. Jason Wilson, *Tampa General Hospital*
Conducting chart data collection and analysis on diagnosis technique for women presenting with abdominal pain in the Emergency Room.
- 2023 - 24 Social Responsibility in Chemical Engineering Education**
Advisor: Dr. Sindia Rivera-Jimenez, *University of Florida*
Exploring the Integration of Social Responsibility Themes in Engineering Education: A Mixed-Methods Study on Effectiveness and Barriers
- 2023 - 24 Undergraduate Honors Thesis**
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Adrienne Strong, *University of Florida*
Conduct cross-cultural ethnographies in Trujillo, Peru and Kissimmee, Florida to investigate the interrelations between the economy, health, and education.
- 2023 - 24 Transgender Flourishment and Wellbeing**
Advisor: Corinne Futch, *University of Florida*
Examine literature and conduct visual ethnographies on transgender youth happiness, flourishing, and well-being.
- 2022 - 23 Early Stallings Foodways and Biomarkers**
Advisor: Emily Bartz, *University of Florida*
Examine foodways and detect biomarkers in sherds and fire-tempered basins to process hickory nuts in the Early Stallings communities.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Rahman, M., 2025. Chisme Realities: Histories through Positionality. *Practicing Anthropology*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08884552.2024.2432656>.

Rahman, M., 2023. La Femina Poderosa. *Esferas NYU Undergraduate Journal* (14).

Rahman, M. & Futch, C., 2022. Brotherhood, Male-Sexual Assault, and Homophobia. *UF Journal of Undergraduate Research* (24). <https://doi.org/10.32473/ufjur24130903>.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Rahman, M., Cobb, T., Lewald, D., 2026. Improving Navigation Services at the Ybor Youth Clinic. Prepared for *Ybor Youth Clinic* and *USF Pediatrics and Infectious Disease*.

Rahman, M., Takayama, A., Abdullah, S., Lewald, D., & Vamos, C., 2026. Pregnant and Parenting Adolescent Experiences in Tampa Bay. Prepared for *Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County*.

Elmore, A., **Rahman, M.**, Parajuli, A., Hernandez, A., Powis, R., Coura de Moura, J., Bannaon, Y., & Fallon, D., 2025. Patient Perspectives and Experiences of RE104 Treatment for Postpartum Depression. Prepared for *Reunion Neuroscience*.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Indicates roundtable*

- 2026** On the Verge of "Normal(s)": Body Politics and Converging Crises. Anthropological Association, St. Louis, MO.*
- 2026** On the Verge of Repair: Ethnographic Practice, Collaborative Research, and the Promise of Liberative Praxes American Anthropological Association, St. Louis, MO.*
- 2026** **Rahman, M.**, Takayama, A., Abdullah, S., Lewald, D., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., Shockley, S., Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., Riley, J., & Vamos, C. Mothers on the Margins: Layered Motherhood and Adolescent Pregnancy in Tampa, Florida. American Anthropological Association, St. Louis, MO.
- 2026** **Rahman, M.**, Takayama, A., Abdullah, S., Lewald, D., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., & Riley, J., & Vamos, C. Mapping Adversity, Photographing Resilience: Creating Methods for Trauma Informed Practice. Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences Conference, Plant City, FL.
- 2026** **Rahman, M.**, Takayama, A., Abdullah, S., Lewald, D., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., & Riley, J., & Vamos, C. Curating Destinies: Navigating Identity and Care among Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents. Museum of Motherhood, St. Petersburg, FL.
- 2026** Abdullah, S., **Rahman, M.**, Takayama, A., Lewald, D., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., Riley, J., & Vamos, C. Mapping Reproductive Resistance: Journey Mapping and Adolescent Motherhood. Museum of Motherhood, St. Petersburg, FL.
- 2026** Takayama, A., **Rahman, M.**, Abdullah, S., Lewald, D., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., Riley, J., & Vamos, C. Galleries of Resilience: Documenting Adolescent Motherhood through Photovoice. Museum of Motherhood, St. Petersburg, FL.

- 2026** **Rahman, M.** Addressing Adolescent Gender-Based Violence using Person-Centered Adolescent Care in the North Coast of Perú. Society for Applied Anthropology, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2026** **Rahman, M.** Negotiating (M)otherhood: Construction of Self through Community Perception of Pregnant Adolescents. Society for Applied Anthropology, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2026** **Rahman, M.** Management of Teen Pregnancy through OB Practice and Adolescent Narratives in the North Coast of Perú. Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, Seattle, WA.
- 2026** **Rahman, M.,** Takayama, A., Abdullah, S., Lewald, D., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., Riley, J., & Vamos, C. “Motherhood has shaped me into a stronger and more resilient person”: Documenting Experiences of Young Moms in Tampa Bay. USF Health Research Day, Tampa, FL.
- 2026** Elmore, A., Parajuli, A., Hernandez, A., **Rahman, M.,** Powis, R., Coura de Moura, J., Bannaon, Y., & Fallon, D. Patient Perspectives and Experiences of Psilocybin Treatment for Postpartum Depression. USF Health Research Day, Tampa, FL.
- 2025** Embarazos Espeluznantes (Spooky Pregnancies): Reproductive Governance and Adolescent Pregnancy in Perú. American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA.
- 2025** Walsh, E., McCracken, J., Cash, C. J., Rice, A., Greene, K., Holbrook, E., Prather, K., Rahman, M., Lewald, D., Weiss, A., & Vamos, C. Tampa Bay Youth Reproductive Well-Being Needs Assessment. Florida Public Health Association Conference, Kissimmee, FL.
- 2024** **Rahman, M.** Embarazos Adolescentes: Avoidance and Acceptance in Huanchaco Perú. Society for Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe, NM.
- 2024** **Rahman, M.** Embodiment in Ethnographies. Association for Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2024** Otro Mundo es Posible en Florida: Chisme, Strategies, and Soties of Love from the University of Florida. Association for Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship, Los Angeles, CA.*
- 2023** **Rahman, M.** Selling Sexual Education. American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Canada.

INVITED TALKS

- 2026** “Rewilding: Paving Paths for New Normals.” Jane Goodall Institute, Chicago, Illinois.

2026	“Mapping Resilience, Stories of Young Motherhood: Teen Pregnancy Journey Mapping Project.” Healthy Start Coalition Community Meeting, Stetson Tampa Law Center.
2026	“Capturing Change[makers]: Photovoice as a Tool for Community and Action.” Jane Goodall Institute, Washington DC.
2025	“Socialización de Resultados Iniciales del Proyecto Embarazo Adolescente en Huanchaco.” Colegio Jose Olaya y Centro de Salud Huanchaco, Huanchaco, Perú.
2025	“Salud y Sociedad: Introducción a Antropología Medica.” Universidad Nacional de Trujillo, Trujillo, Perú.
2024	“Future Career Panel.” Jane Goodall Institute, National Youth Leadership Council, Washington DC.
2024	“Grassroots Project Planning.” Jane Goodall Institute, Jackson Hole, WY.
2024	“International Research Experience.” Undergraduate Research at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
2023	“Gestión de Proyectos con Enfoque de Género.” Programa de Formación de funcionarios de los Gobiernos Locales e Integrantes de las Instancia de Concertación de la Provincia de Sánchez Carrión, Trujillo, Perú.

SELECT MEDIA ATTENTION

2026	“USF students use innovative storytelling methods to amplify the voices of young mothers.” <u>USF Public Health News</u> .
2025	“Mapping Resilience: Stories of Young Motherhood.” <u>Fox13 Tampa Bay</u> .
2022	“How I Embraced Change during my First College Semester.” <u>Forbes</u> .
2021	“Bring Politics to the Dinner Table.” <u>The Gainesville Sun</u> .

GRANTS

2025	\$500 , “Young Motherhood Exhibition” Jane Goodall Institute Sponsorship
2025	\$500 , “Evaluating Teen Mother Needs through Journey Mapping and Photovoice” Jane Goodall Institute Project Grant
2025	\$2500 , “Biopolitics and Community Perceptions of Adolescent Pregnancy” USF Department of Anthropology, Susan K. Ryan Grant
2024	\$2000 , “Biopolitics and Community Perceptions of Adolescent Pregnancy” USF Department of Anthropology, Alvin Wolfe Applied Anthropology Award

2024	\$1000, “Sexual Education and Political Economy” University of Florida, Brendan O’Sullivan Award for Academic Excellence
2023	\$5000, “Sexual Education and Political Economy” University of Florida, Summer Undergraduate International Research Program
2023	\$3000, “Sexual Education and Political Economy” University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Scholars Program
2021	\$850, “Osceola Women’s Wellness Project” PERIOD. Menstrual Hygiene Equity Grant

AWARDS

2025	Best Personal Trainers of South Tampa Tampa Magazine, Best of South Tampa
2024	SEC Exchange Student Leader of the Year Nomination Southeastern Conference, University of Florida
2024	Presidential Service Award University of Florida
2024	Agency of the Year University of Florida, Student Government
2024	Fitness Instructor of the Year University of Florida, Recreation and Wellness
2023	Phi Beta Kappa Society Election University of Florida
2021	Certificate of Recognition Jane Goodall Institute

SCHOLARSHIPS

2026	\$88,224, University of South Florida PhD Stipend (3 Years)
2024	\$31,300, University of South Florida MA Stipend (2 Years)
2023	\$500, University of Florida Beyond120 Experiential Scholarship
2021	\$28,503, Florida Academic Scholar - Florida’s Bright Futures Program
2021	\$10,000, KUA Dr. Gant Quarter Century Community Service Scholarship

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL SERVICE

- 2026 -** *Volunteer, Young Lives Tampa Bay*
- 2025 -** *Newsletter Chair, Critical Anthropology of Global Health (AAA)*
- 2025 -** *Digital Media Chair, Council on Anthropology of Reproduction (AAA)*
- 2025 -** *Conference Committee, PACES Hillsborough County*
- 2025 -** *Plan Development Committee, Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County*
- 2025 -** *Adolescent Health Advisory Board, Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County*
- 2024 -** *Assistant Basecamp Coordinator, Jane Goodall Institute – Tampa Bay Basecamp*
- 2024 – 26** *Social Media Coordinator, USF Anthropology Graduate Student Organization*
- 2022 – 24** *Executive Director; Outreach Coordinator, University of Florida Gator Diplomats*
- 2022 – 24** *Student Advisory Board, University of Florida for Accessibility and Gender Equity*
- 2021 – 22** *Education Volunteer, Planned Parenthood Gainesville*
- 2021 – 24** *Agency Head; Vice Chair of Constant Engagement; Assistant Director of Programming, DEI Agency of Student Government at the University of Florida*
- 2020 – 21** *Founder and Coordinator, Osceola Women’s Wellness Project*

LANGUAGES

English: Native Proficiency
Bangla: Native Proficiency
Spanish: Professional Fluency, Florida Gold Biliteracy Seal

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

National Academy of Sports Medicine: Certified Personal Trainer, Certified Nutrition Coach
Athletics and Fitness Association of America: Certified Group Fitness Instructor
American Red Cross: Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED
ADOBE Visual Design Specialist: Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2025 -** Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
- 2022 -** American Anthropological Association
Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (2025)
Society for Applied Anthropology (2023)
Society for Medical Anthropology (2022)

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

American Journal of Sexuality Education