

MAHIR RAHMAN

WEBSITE

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied anthropology, critical medical anthropology, sexual/reproductive health, adolescent health, sexual education, adolescent pregnancy, global health, maternal/child health, narratives and subjectivity, resistance and resilience, arts-based methods, participatory research.

Latin America, Perú, United States, Florida

EDUCATION

- PhD** University of South Florida **May 2031**
Applied Anthropology
Medical Concentration
- MA** University of South Florida **May 2026**
Applied Anthropology
Medical Track
Thesis: Navigating (M)otherhood: Perception, Practice, & Policy of Adolescent Pregnancy in the North Coast of Perú. (Advisor: Dr. Heide Castañeda)
- BA** University of Florida, Anthropology **May 2024**
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)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

EMPLOYMENT

- USF Department of Anthropology** **January 2026 – Present**
Digital/Social Media Coordinator
Create and organize content to enhance undergraduate and graduate enrollment, while highlighting the student and faculty experience.
- USF Recreation and Wellness** **August 2025 – Present**
Personal Trainer, Group Fitness Instructor, Fitness Consultant
Design and implement individualized workout plans based on client goals. Organize and host group fitness classes (Cycle) for the student body.
- Body Fit Training** **September 2024 – May 2025**
Personal Trainer/Group Coach

Utilize science-driven and backed fitness programs and techniques to tailor fitness experiences for every individual. Sell memberships and programs in addition to training.

Gainesville Health and Fitness

October 2023 – July 2024

Group Fitness Instructor

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.

Recsports

July 2023 – July 2024

Group Fitness Instructor

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.

P.K. Younge Developmental School

August 2023 – December 2023

Spanish Instructor

Developed four lesson plans to assist in instruction of third to fifth grade students in basic Spanish linguistic and cultural skills.

FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Jane Goodall Institute, USA

January 2026 – Present

Roots & Shoots Fellow

Engage with (inter)national youth leaders, alumni, and staff at the JGI to support community initiatives, outreach, mentorship, event planning, and visual projects.

University of South Florida Athletics

January 2026 – Present

Events Management Intern

Assist in planning, budgeting, operation, and execution of athletics events for an institution in the NCAA Division I level in the American Athletics Conference.

Healthy Start Coalition Hillsborough County

May 2025 – Present

Research Intern

Co-design and implement research projects using innovative and collaborative methods focusing on adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

Common App

June 2022 – June 2024

Student Advisor Intern

Promote equity within the college application process for underserved individuals.

Teach for America

January 2022 – December 2022

Teaching Fellow

Aid underprivileged students to develop better reading/comprehension skills based on self-developed curricula aligned with school/state-mandated alignments.

SDOC Risks and Benefits Management

May 2021 – August 2021

Health Promotion Intern

Curate health promotion campaigns for the School District of Osceola County. Organize the facilitation of employee Open Enrollment and Health Benefits for over 8,000 employees.

Jane Goodall Institute, Roots and Shoots USA

December 2019 – December 2021

National Youth Leader Council Member

Assist other youth leaders in developing local programs to address animal, social, and environmental issues within their respective communities.

VISUAL PROJECTS

Sparkling Change[makers]: Strategizing & Inspiring in Times of Uncertainty Virtual Photovoice Gallery and Short Ethnographic Film, <i>Jane Goodall Institute</i>	Dec 2026
60 Years of Anthropology at USF: Virtual Exhibition Walkthrough Virtual walkthrough of USF's Anthropology exhibit commemorating 60+ years.	April 2026
Mapping Resilience: Stories of Young Motherhood Exhibition of journey maps, photos, and audio-visual content, <i>Museum of Motherhood</i>	April 2026

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Active Projects

Adolescent Health Consent

PI: Dr. Rachel Logan, University of California, San Francisco

Assessing Florida parents' perspectives with regards to FL Parents Rights Policy (SB166).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Inactive Projects

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

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.

Transgender Flourishment and Wellbeing

Advisor: Corinne Futch, *University of Florida*

Examine literature and conduct visual ethnographies on transgender youth happiness, flourishing, and well-being.

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

1. **Rahman, M.**, (2025). Chisme Realities: Histories through Positionality. *Practicing Anthropology*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08884552.2024.2432656>
2. **Rahman, M.**, (2023). La Femina Poderosa. *Esferas NYU Undergraduate Journal* (14).
3. **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

1. 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*.
2. **Rahman, M.**, Takayama, A., Abdullah, S., Lewald, D., & Vamos, C., (2026). Pregnant and Parenting Adolescent Experiences in Hillsborough County. Prepared for *Healthy Start Hillsborough County*.

CONFERENCES

1. **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. [Workshop Presentation].
2. **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. [Oral Presentation].
3. 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. [Oral Presentation].
4. 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. [Oral Presentation].

5. **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. [Paper presentation].
6. **Rahman, M.** Negotiating (M)otherhood: Construction of Self through Community Perception of Pregnant Adolescents. Society for Applied Anthropology, Albuquerque, NM, 2026. [Paper presentation].
7. **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. [Poster presentation].
8. **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. [Poster presentation].
9. 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, 2026. [Poster presentation].
10. **Rahman, M.** Embarazos Espeluznantes (Spooky Pregnancies): Reproductive Governance and Adolescent Pregnancy in Perú. American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, 2025. [Flash presentation]
11. 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, 2025. [Poster presentation]
12. **Rahman, M.** Embarazos Adolescentes: Avoidance and Acceptance in Huanchaco Perú. Society for Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe, NM, 2024 [Paper presentation].
13. **Rahman, M.** Embodiment in Ethnographies. Association for Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship, Los Angeles, CA, 2024. [Paper presentation].
14. **Rahman, M.** 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, 2024. [Panel presentation].
15. **Rahman, M.** Selling Sexual Education. American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Canada, 2023. [Poster presentation].

INVITED TALKS

1. Healthy Start Coalition Community Meeting. Mapping Resilience, Stories of Young Motherhood: Teen Pregnancy Journey Mapping Project. Stetson Tampa Law Center, May 2026. [Oral Presentation]
2. Jane Goodall Institute: Roots and Shoots. Capturing Change[makers]: Photovoice as a Tool for Community and Action. Washington DC, March 2026. [Oral Presentation]
3. Colegio Jose Olaya y Centro de Salud Huanchaco. Socialización de Resultados Iniciales del Proyecto Embarazo Adolescente en Huanchaco. Huanchaco, Perú, July 2025. [Oral Presentation]
4. Universidad Nacional de Trujillo. Salud y Sociedad: Introducción a Antropología Medica. Trujillo, Perú, July 2025. [Oral Presentation]
5. Jane Goodall Institute: Roots and Shoots. Future Career Panel for National Leadership Council. Washington DC, November 2024. [Panelist]
6. Jane Goodall Institute Roots and Shoots. Grassroots Project Planning. Jackson Hole, WY, July 2024. [Oral Presentation].
7. Jane Goodall Institute Roots and Shoots. Project Panel for National Leadership Council. Washington DC, April 2024. [Panelist]

8. University of Florida. International Research Experience Panel. Gainesville, FL, October 2023. [Panelist]
9. Programa de Formación de funcionarios de los Gobiernos Locales e Integrantes de las Instancia de Concertación de la Provincia de Sánchez Carrión. Gestión de Proyectos con Enfoque de Género. Trujillo, Perú, July 2023. [Oral Presentation].

SELECT MEDIA ATTENTION

1. Hurtado, L., Rahman, M. Lewald, D. (2025). Mapping Resilience, Stories of Young Motherhood. *Fox13 Tampa Bay*.
2. Rahman, M., (2023). Combatting Injustice through Academia. *UF Spanish and Portuguese Studies Newsletter*.
3. Rahman, M., (2022). How I Embraced Change During My First College Semester. *Forbes*.
4. Rahman, M., (2021). Bring Politics to the Dinner Table. *The Gainesville Sun*.

GRANTS

Jane Goodall Institute Sponsorship	2025
Awarded an additional \$500 to facilitate an exhibition on young motherhood.	
Jane Goodall Institute Project Grant	2025
Awarded \$500 for community-based project, “Evaluating Teen Mother Needs through Journey Mapping and Photovoice” alongside the Healthy Start Coalition.	
Susan K. Ryan Grant	2025
Awarded \$2500 from the USF Department of Anthropology in support of MA Thesis fieldwork.	
University of Florida Summer Undergraduate International Research Program	2023
Awarded a total of \$5000 to conduct cross-cultural and international anthropological research on sexual education, health, and the political economy.	
University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Scholars Program	2023
Awarded a total of \$3000 to conduct Anthropological research on sexual education, health, and the political economy.	
PERIOD. Menstrual Hygiene Equity Grant	2021
Awarded \$850 to develop a holistic hygiene product distribution campaign (Osceola Women’s Wellness Project) amongst low-income students and community members in Osceola County.	

AWARDS

Best Personal Trainers of South Tampa	2025
Awarded by the Tampa Magazines’ Best of South Tampa as a personal trainer for Body Fit Training Tampa.	
Alvin Wolfe Applied Anthropology Award	2024
This award, named in honors of Distinguished Professor Emeritus Alvin W. Wolfe is offered to an incoming M.A. student judged to have special potential for success in applied anthropology, \$2000.	
SEC Exchange Student Leader of the Year Nomination	2024
Nominated as one of 16 students at the Southeastern Conference (SEC) due to community and student body impact.	

Brendan O’Sullivan Award for Academic Excellence	2024
Awarded <u>\$1000</u> for being the highest GPA undergraduate graduating senior and academic achievements within the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida.	
University of Florida Presidential Service Award	2024
Completion of over 2200 service hours throughout time at the University.	
University of Florida Student Government Agency of the Year	2024
Awarded Agency of the Year as the head of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion operations of the UF Student Government.	
University of Florida Fitness Instructor of the Year	2024
Selected as the Fitness Instructor of the Year in the entire UF Recreation and Wellness programs.	
Elected to Phi Beta Kappa Society	2023
Elected to the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Society due to academic achievement and involvement within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.	
University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s List	2022
Achieved academic awards for the following semesters: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Fall 2023	
Jane Goodall Institute Certificate of Recognition	2021
Recognized for the organization of nine service-oriented projects in local community, including menstrual hygiene product distribution and educational art galleries.	

SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Florida Beyond120 Experiential Scholarship	2023
Awarded a total of <u>\$500</u> to fund additional travel and materials costs in relation to Honors Thesis / Dissertation pilot project.	
KUA Dr. Gant Quarter Century Community Service Scholarship	2021
Awarded <u>\$10000</u> in academic pursuits due to contribution of over 850 service hours in the school district of Osceola County.	

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL SERVICE

Young Lives Tampa Bay
Volunteer, <i>from January 2026</i>
Critical Anthropology of Global Health, AAA SIG
Newsletter Chair, <i>from November 2025</i>
Council on Anthropology of Reproduction, AAA SIG
Social Media Chair, <i>from November 2025</i>
PACES Hillsborough County
Conference Committee, <i>from September 2025</i>
Healthy Start, Plan Development Committee
Member, <i>from August 2025</i>
Healthy Start, Adolescent Health Advisory Board
Member, <i>from August 2025</i>
Jane Goodall Institute, Roots and Shoots Tampa Basecamp
Basecamp Coordinator Assistant, <i>from November 2024</i>

University of South Florida Anthropology Graduate Student Association

Social Media Coordinator, *from August 2024*

University of Florida Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity

Student Advisory Board, *from April 2022 to April 2024*

University of Florida Gator Diplomats

Executive Director, *from April 2023 to April 2024*

Outreach Coordinator, *from May 2022 to April 2023*

General Body Member, *from February 2022 to May 2022*

Planned Parenthood

Volunteer, *from September 2021 to June 2022*

Students Taking Action Against Racism (DEI Agency at the University of Florida)

Agency Head, *from April 2023 to April 2024*

Vice Chair of Constant Engagement, *from June 2022 to April 2023*

Assistant Director of Programming, *from June 2021 to April 2022*

Osceola Women’s Wellness Project

Founder and Organizer, *since April 2020 to August 2021*

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

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

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

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

American Journal of Sexuality Education