

# MAHIR RAHMAN

WEBSITE

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13303 Thomasville Circle UA  
Tampa, FL 33617

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Applied anthropology, critical medical anthropology, sexual/reproductive health, sexual education, adolescent pregnancy, global health, maternal/child health, narratives and subjectivity, resistance, Latin America, Perú

## EDUCATION

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**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

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

## EMPLOYMENT

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**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**

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**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**

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**Sparking Change[makers]: Strategizing & Inspiring in Times of Uncertainty****Dec 2026**

Virtual Photovoice Gallery and Short Ethnographic Film, *Jane Goodall Institute*

- 60 Years of Anthropology at USF: Virtual Exhibition Walkthrough** April 2026  
Virtual walkthrough of USF's Anthropology exhibit commemorating 60+ years.
- Mapping Resilience: Stories of Young Motherhood** April 2026  
Exhibition of journey maps, photos, and audio-visual content, *Museum of Motherhood*

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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- Maternidad Adolescente en Alto Moche, Perú** June 2025 – Present  
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** May 2025 – Present  
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** March 2025 – Present  
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** September 2024 – Present  
Co-PI: 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** September 2024 – Present  
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** August 2024 – Present  
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** July 2024 – Present  
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.
- Social Responsibility in Chemical Engineering Education** January 2023 – April 2024  
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** August 2022 – April 2024  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Adrienne Strong, *University of Florida*  
Community Advisor: Dr. Carolina Camus Espinoza, *Universidad Nacional de Trujillo*
- Conduct cross-cultural ethnographies in Trujillo, Peru and Kissimmee, Florida to investigate the interrelations between the economy, health, and education.
- Transgender Flourishment and Wellbeing** August 2022 – August 2023  
Advisor: Corinne Futch, *University of Florida*
- Examine literature and conduct visual ethnographies on transgender youth happiness, flourishment, and well-being.

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**

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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**

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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. Reunion Neuroscience.

**CONFERENCES**

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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

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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

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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

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<b>Jane Goodall Institute Sponsorship</b>	<b>2025</b>
Awarded an additional \$500 to facilitate an exhibition on young motherhood.	
<b>Jane Goodall Institute Project Grant</b>	<b>2025</b>
Awarded \$500 for community-based project, “Evaluating Teen Mother Needs through Journey Mapping and Photovoice” alongside the Healthy Start Coalition.	
<b>Susan K. Ryan Grant</b>	<b>2025</b>
Awarded \$2500 from the USF Department of Anthropology in support of MA Thesis fieldwork.	
<b>University of Florida Summer Undergraduate International Research Program</b>	<b>2023</b>
Awarded a total of \$5000 to conduct cross-cultural and international anthropological research on sexual education, health, and the political economy.	
<b>University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Scholars Program</b>	<b>2023</b>
Awarded a total of \$3000 to conduct Anthropological research on sexual education, health, and the political economy.	
<b>PERIOD. Menstrual Hygiene Equity Grant</b>	<b>2021</b>
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

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<b>Best Personal Trainers of South Tampa</b>	<b>2025</b>
Awarded by the Tampa Magazines’ Best of South Tampa as a personal trainer for Body Fit Training Tampa.	
<b>Alvin Wolfe Applied Anthropology Award</b>	<b>2024</b>
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.	
<b>SEC Exchange Student Leader of the Year Nomination</b>	<b>2024</b>
Nominated as one of 16 students at the Southeastern Conference (SEC) due to community and student body impact.	
<b>Brendan O’Sullivan Award for Academic Excellence</b>	<b>2024</b>
Awarded \$1000 for being the highest GPA undergraduate graduating senior and academic achievements within the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida.	
<b>University of Florida Presidential Service Award</b>	<b>2024</b>
Completion of over 2200 service hours throughout time at the University.	
<b>University of Florida Student Government Agency of the Year</b>	<b>2024</b>
Awarded Agency of the Year as the head of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion operations of the UF Student Government.	
<b>University of Florida Fitness Instructor of the Year</b>	<b>2024</b>
Selected as the Fitness Instructor of the Year in the entire UF Recreation and Wellness programs.	

<b>Elected to Phi Beta Kappa Society</b>	<b>2023</b>
Elected to the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Society due to academic achievement and involvement within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.	
<b>University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List</b>	<b>2022</b>
Achieved academic awards for the following semesters: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Fall 2023	
<b>Jane Goodall Institute Certificate of Recognition</b>	<b>2021</b>
Recognized for the organization of nine service-oriented projects in local community, including menstrual hygiene product distribution and educational art galleries.	

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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## COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL SERVICE

<b>Young Lives Tampa Bay</b>
Volunteer, <i>from January 2026</i>
<b>Critical Anthropology of Global Health, AAA SIG</b>
Newsletter Chair, <i>from November 2025</i>
<b>Council on Anthropology of Reproduction, AAA SIG</b>
Social Media Chair, <i>from November 2025</i>
<b>PACES Hillsborough County</b>
Conference Committee, <i>from September 2025</i>
<b>Healthy Start, Plan Development Committee</b>
Member, <i>from August 2025</i>
<b>Healthy Start, Adolescent Health Advisory Board</b>
Member, <i>from August 2025</i>
<b>Jane Goodall Institute, Roots and Shoots Tampa Basecamp</b>
Basecamp Coordinator Assistant, <i>from November 2024</i>
<b>University of South Florida Anthropology Graduate Student Association</b>
Social Media Coordinator, <i>from August 2024</i>
<b>University of Florida Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity</b>
Student Advisory Board, <i>from April 2022 to April 2024</i>
<b>University of Florida Gator Diplomats</b>
Executive Director, <i>from April 2023 to April 2024</i>
Outreach Coordinator, <i>from May 2022 to April 2023</i>
General Body Member, <i>from February 2022 to May 2022</i>
<b>Planned Parenthood</b>
Volunteer, <i>from September 2021 to June 2022</i>
<b>Students Taking Action Against Racism (DEI Agency at the University of Florida)</b>
Agency Head, <i>from April 2023 to April 2024</i>
Vice Chair of Constant Engagement, <i>from June 2022 to April 2023</i>
Assistant Director of Programming, <i>from June 2021 to April 2022</i>

**Osceola Women’s Wellness Project**

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

**LANGUAGES**

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**English:** Native Proficiency

**Bangla:** Native Proficiency

**Spanish:** Professional Fluency, Florida Gold Biliteracy Seal

**SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

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**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**

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

**MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS**

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American Journal of Sexuality Education