

# 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.*

**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.*

## 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 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.

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**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, and event planning.

**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.

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**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, flourishing, and well-being.

**Early Stallings Foodways and Biomarkers** **November 2021 – June 2022**

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.

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**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

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1. Elmore, A., Parajuli, A., Hernandez, A., **Rahman, M.**, 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., Vamos, C., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., & Riley, J. Curating Destinies: Navigating Identity and Care among Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents. Museum of Motherhood, St. Petersburg, FL, 2026. [Oral Presentation].
2. Abdullah, S., **Rahman, M.**, Takayama, A., Lewald, D., Vamos, C., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., & Riley, J. Mapping Reproductive Resistance: Journey Mapping and Adolescent Motherhood. Museum of Motherhood, St. Petersburg, FL, 2026. [Oral Presentation].
3. Takayama, A., **Rahman, M.**, Abdullah, S., Lewald, D., Vamos, C., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., & Riley, J. Galleries of Resilience: Documenting Adolescent Motherhood through Photovoice. Museum of Motherhood, St. Petersburg, FL, 2026. [Oral Presentation].
4. **Rahman, M.**, Takayama, A., Abdullah, S., Lewald, D., Vamos, C., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., & Riley, J. Mapping Reproductive Resistance: Journey Mapping and Photovoice with Adolescent Mothers in Hillsborough County. USF Health Research Day, Tampa, FL, 2026. [Poster 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., Vamos, C., Lewald, D., Baaske, C., Macelli, B., S. Shockley, Sanchez, L., Duffy, N., Mitchell, A., & Riley, J. Mapping Reproductive Resistance: Journey Mapping and Photovoice with Adolescent Mothers in Hillsborough County. 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. Colegio Jose Olaya y Centro de Salud Huanchaco. Socialización de Resultados Iniciales del Proyecto Embarazo Adolescente en Huanchaco. Huanchaco, Perú, July 2025. [Oral Presentation]
2. Universidad Nacional de Trujillo. Salud y Sociedad: Introducción a Antropología Medica. Trujillo, Perú, July 2025. [Oral Presentation]
3. Jane Goodall Institute: Roots and Shoots. Future Career Panel for National Leadership Council. Washington DC, November 2024. [Panelist]
4. Jane Goodall Institute Roots and Shoots. Grassroots Project Planning. Jackson Hole, WY, July 2024. [Oral Presentation].
5. Jane Goodall Institute Roots and Shoots. Washington DC, Project Panel for National Leadership Council. Washington DC, April 2024. [Panelist]
6. University of Florida. International Research Experience Panel. Gainesville, FL, October 2023. [Panelist]
7. 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. Rahman, M., (2023). Combatting Injustice through Academia. *UF Spanish and Portuguese Studies Newsletter*.
2. Rahman, M., (2022). How I Embraced Change During My First College Semester. *Forbes*.
3. Rahman, M., (2021). Bring Politics to the Dinner Table. *The Gainesville Sun*.

## GRANTS

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<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.	

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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<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.	

## COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL SERVICE

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### **Critical Anthropology of Global Health, AAA SIG**

Newsletter Chair, *from November 2025*

### **Council on Anthropology of Reproduction, AAA SIG**

Social Media Chair, *from November 2025*

### **PACES Hillsborough County**

Conference Committee, *from September 2025*

### **Healthy Start, Plan Development Committee**

Member, *from August 2025*

### **Healthy Start, Adolescent Health Advisory Board**

Member, *from August 2025*

### **Jane Goodall Institute, Roots and Shoots Tampa Basecamp**

Basecamp Coordinator Assistant, *from November 2024*

### **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

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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

**2025 - Present**

American Anthropological Association

**2022 - Present**

Society for Applied Anthropology

**2023 - Present**

Society for Medical Anthropology  
Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology

**2022 - Present**  
**2025 - Present**