

Aanmona Priyadarshini

Visiting Lecturer

3225 Daniel Avenue, Heroy Hall 422, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, 75205 / Cell: +1 (929) 413-9750 /
aanmona@gmail.com or apriyadarshini@smu.edu
She/her pronouns

Professional summary Dedicated, student-focused academic professional with five years of experience in teaching, academic advising, research design, program management, and grant administration. Experienced in building collaborative initiatives that integrate community engagement, student success, and cross-disciplinary learning. Passionately committed to fostering inclusive academic environments that empower diverse learners and advance equitable access to educational and professional opportunities through strategic, innovative, and culturally responsive programming.

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| Skills | Teaching | Research Design |
| | Critical Urban Ethnography | Infrastructure |
| | Sustainability | Policy Analysis |
| | Intersectional Advising Policies | Strategic Academic Planning |
| | Collaboration | Interdisciplinary Methods |

Education

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| 2012 - 2023 | Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA |
| 2010 - 2012 | M.A. in Women's Studies and Gender Studies, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL |
| 2003 - 2004 | M.S.S. in Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh |
| 1999 - 2003 | B.S.S. in Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh |

Grants and Fellowship

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| 2023 - PRESENT | Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (DCII) Research Fund Southern Methodist University. |
| 2016 - 2017 | Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant University of Pittsburgh. |
| 2015 - 2016 | Indo-Pacific Council (INPAC) Grant Asian Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh. |
| 2013 - 2014 | Andrew Mellon Fellowship University of Pittsburgh. |
| 2012 - 2016 | University of Pittsburgh Arts and Science Fellowship University of Pittsburgh |
| 2010 - 2012 | Fulbright Scholarship Loyola University Chicago. |

Employment

2023 - PRESENT

DALLAS, TX

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University

- Teach undergraduate and graduate students while providing academic guidance and support.
- Mentor undergraduate and graduate students on academic requirements, course selection, career planning, academic policies, and available campus resources.
- Guide students in preparing grant applications for major funding programs while ensuring compliance with federal regulations.
- Develop and design innovative courses, including *Anthropology of Space and Place* and *Feminist Theory*.
- Enhance student engagement by implementing inclusive and culturally responsive teaching methods, such as the “Collage” technique, to support diverse learning styles.
- Lead interdisciplinary initiatives to foster collaborative research among students and faculty, ex. "GIS-based ethnographic community mapping" and "Social Lives of Infrastructure" projects.
- Equip students with the skills to produce academic and non-academic creative writing based on ethnographic research, including op-eds, AnthroSource essays, and photo-story.
- Monitor and assess curriculum, implementing interventions to improve student outcomes.
- Collaborate with colleagues to develop culturally responsive and intersectional advising practices and policies that foster an inclusive academic environment.

2019 - 2020

DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Senior Lecturer, Development Studies Program, BIGD, BRAC University, Bangladesh

- Supervised students in research, providing theoretical guidance and methodological support.
- Advised students on academic planning, graduation pathways, and career development to ensure their professional and educational success.
- Support students in identifying potential higher education institutions and navigating the admission application process for international programs.
- Partnered with faculty on cross-departmental seminars, fostering academic collaboration and broadening research perspectives.
- Evaluated educational outcomes using data-driven analysis, informing continuous course enhancements for sustained student success.
- Actively contributed to a supportive academic community, encouraging open dialogue and shared growth among students and colleagues.

2008 - 2010

DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Research Officer , Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme Consortium, Bangladesh Development Institute, BRAC University

- Led women empowerment research, ensuring quality outcomes through strategic design, data analysis, teamwork, and budget management.
- Organized international conferences and workshops, fostering global collaboration among academics and female students from five universities: University of Sussex (UK), Federal University of Bahia (Brazil), American University in Cairo, University of Ghana, and BRAC University (Bangladesh).
- Collaborated with scholars to publish an edited book, peer-reviewed journal articles, bilingual research reports, and newsletters; organized international conferences; and facilitated a digital storytelling workshop.
- Presented research findings at international conferences, influencing policy decisions and academic discourse.

2007 - 2008

DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Senior Research Officer, "Economic and Health Disparities in Urban Neighborhoods", BANDHU Social Welfare

- Led a research project analyzing how access to resources, mobility, safety, housing, and public services is differentially distributed along socioeconomic lines within the city.
- Designed the research proposal and methodology, managed project strategy and resource allocation, oversaw the budget, authored reports, and developed policy briefs.
- Facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogues between slum residents, health professionals, and city councils to strengthen community support mechanisms.

Teaching Experiences

6000-LEVEL COURSES ARE GRADUATE-LEVEL, WHILE 4000-LEVEL AND BELOW ARE UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

6000 Level - Anthropology of Space and Place
6000 Level - Cities, Communities, and Infrastructures
6000 Level - History of Anthropology (Part II)
6000 Level - Research Proposal and Design
6000 Level - Social Organization
6000 Level - Anthropology of Gender and Development
6000 Level - Applied Anthropology
4000 Level - Humanity and Global Environmental Change
3000 Level - People and Culture of Southeast Asia
3000 Level - Gender, Sex, and Sexuality: Global Perspectives
3000 Level - Gender, Violence, and Health
3000 Level - Introduction to Ethnographic Methods
3000 Level - Good Eats and Forbidden Flesh
3000 Level - Cultural Diversity in America
2000 Level - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Teaching Interests

AI and Everyday Lives
Technologies of Care: Medicine, AI, and the Future of Healing
Gender and Globalization: Cultural and Ethical Issues
Global Urbanism: Implosions/Explosions
Sustainable Living: An Introduction to Systems and Resilience Thinking
Migration, Ethnicity, and Nationalism
Toxic Topics: Anthropology, Environment, and Health
Health in Cross-Cultural Perspective
Magic, Myth, and Religion Across Cultures
Migration, Ethnicity, and Nationalism
Material Cultures
Technoscience and Society
Language in Culture and Society
City and Religion
Anthropology of Senses
Life in the Anthropocene

Supervision and
Mentoring

Moyukh Mahtab

MA THESIS SUPERVISOR, 2020

"A Microhistory of a Mass Mobilization": Peasant Agency and Solidarity in the 1990 Anti-Shrimp Movement of Polder 22, Khulna.

Received the Research Excellence Award 2022 for the Best Thesis at BRAC University.

PhD candidate, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin.

Litzy Martinez Solis

PERUNA MENTOR

Undergraduate, first-generation student.

Shakhawat Hossain Akash

MENTOR, 2024 - CONTINUE

"Wounded Bodies: Exploring Everyday Experiences of the Protestors in Post-Insurgency Period in Bangladesh."

PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University.

Fajor Ahmed

MENTOR 2025

Undergraduate student, major in Human Rights on the Gender Studies track.

Freshman/first-year senator

Shriya Siddhartha

MENTOR, 2024

"An Ethnographic Examination of Factors Affecting Diabetic Retinopathy Treatment Access and Adherence."

Undergraduate student, Department of Biochemistry, Southern Methodist University.

Dedman College Scholar

Research Interests

Urban Ethnography

Infrastructure

Urban Sustainability and Resilience

Digital Infrastructure and Development

Artificial Intelligence and Everyday Life

Natural and Cultural Heritage

Environmental Humanities

'Natural' Disaster

Health Disparity

Food Desert

Waste economies

Material Cultures

Tourism

Climate Change

Interdisciplinary Methodology

Visual Ethnography

Research Projects

Lead Researcher, "GIS-based Ethnographic Community Mapping"

2024 - CONTINUE, DEDMAN COLLEGE INTERDISCIPLINARY INSTITUTE (DCII) RESEARCH FUND

- Developing interdisciplinary methods integrating GIS and ethnographic tools.
- Collaborating with local communities, urban scholars, Dallas city officials, and policymakers.

Principal Investigator, "Social Lives of Infrastructure"

2025 - CONTINUE, DEDMAN COLLEGE INTERDISCIPLINARY INSTITUTE (DCII) RESEARCH FUND

- This project integrates GIS and ethnographic methods to explore how access to, and the quality of, neighborhood infrastructure—such as internet connectivity, transportation networks, road conditions, sound barriers, and healthcare facilities—impact the economic opportunities, security, and overall well-being of low-income communities in Southern Dallas, TX.

Doctoral Dissertation, "Shattered Sacred, Broken Lives: Destruction and Reconstruction of Religious Sites in Ramu, Bangladesh."

2015 - 2023, WENNER-GREN GRANT AND ANDREW MELLON FELLOWSHIP FUNDED

- The research investigates how the 2012 destruction and subsequent tourism-driven reconstruction of Buddhist sites transformed sacred landscapes, altered religious practices, and reconfigured the urban space by producing new spatial hierarchies.
- The research is based on 18 months of ethnographic fieldwork, incorporating participant observation, archival research, visual methods and architectural analysis.

Principal Investigator, "Living with Rubble."

2015 - 2016, INDO-PACIFIC COUNCIL (INDOPAC) FUNDED

- Examining the affective power of sacred rubble created from the destruction of Hindu communities' temples and idols in Bangladesh, the research analyzed the politics sacred rubble animates, the social relations it shatters, and the new religious practices and values it engenders.

MA Thesis, "'Invisible Margin': Marginalization and Activism of Adivasi Women in Bangladesh."

2010 - 2012, FULBRIGHT FUNDED

- The study explored the marginalization of Adivasi (indigenous) women in urban contexts and analyzed their grassroots activism aimed at reclaiming rights to city spaces and cultural heritage.

MSS Thesis, "Population Policy: 'The New Axis of Governance-Discipline-Sovereignty' and People's Reaction."

2003 - 2004, JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDED

- Grounded in Foucauldian concepts of biopolitics and governmentality, the study examined how population policies intersect with state sovereignty and disciplinary power, shaping reproductive behaviors, migration, and the social organization of marginalized communities.

Research Officer, "Women and Media," Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme Consortium, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2008-2010, DFID FUNDED

- The research explores how media serves as both a site of oppression and a tool for women's empowerment.
- A journal paper, an edited book were published and international conferences and workshops were organized.

Senior Research Officer, "Economic and Health Disparities in Urban Neighborhoods" BANDHU Social Welfare, Bangladesh.

2007 - 2008, DFID FUNDED.

- The study closely examined how urban planning, spatial divisions, and infrastructural development shape city life in ways that create uneven access to resources, rendering some urban spaces sites of limited opportunity, heightened risk, and adaptive resilience for underrepresented and low income groups.

Publications

Forthcoming

"Shattered Sacred, Wounded Lives: Destruction and Reconfiguration of City Space" in *An Anthology of Bangladesh Studies*. Sayeed Ferdous, Mirza Taslima Sultana, and Sanjana Sajid Parsa (eds.). New York, NY: Routledge.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

2024, "Bangladesh - Khola Koborer Golpo-jomin," *Sorbojon Kotha* 11:1.

2014, "Women Watching Television: Surfing between Fantasy and Reality," with Samia A Rahim, in *Feminisms, Empowerment, and Development: Changing Women's Lives*. Andrea Cornwall and Jenny Edwards, eds. Pp. 277- 294. London: Zed Books.

2010, "Women Watching Television," with Samia A. Rahim, *IDS Bulletin* 41 (2): 116 – 124.

2009, "People's Discourses Against the Dominant Discourse of Population Control," *Samajnikirikkhon* 110: 7-27.

2009, "Population Policy: The New Axis of Governance-Discipline-Sovereignty," *Samajnikirikkhon* 107: 15-37.

2008, "Some Conceptual, Theoretical and Methodological Issues on Peer Education in HIV/AIDS Prevention," *The Journal of Social Studies* 119: 48-66.

Peer-reviewed Essays

2025 "Remembering the dead without graves," People's July, New Age.

2025 "Freedom is a Verb," New Age.

2024, "Bangladesh – Khola Koborer Golpo-jomin," Daily Star Bangla.

2024, "Bangladesh, the Land of Open Graves," New Age.

2022, "Am Gachey Kokhono Kathal Hoy Na," Daily Star Bangla.

2022, "Hirok Rajjer Jinda Lashera," Daily Star Bangla.

2021, "Tale of a Forgotten Dragonfly," New Age.

2021, "Lal Paharer Rupkotha O Chupkothader Golpo," Daily Star Bangla.

2021, "Proboler Nirmane 'Onner' Puja," Daily Star Bangla.

2020, "Making of Living Dead in Moment of Calamity," New Age.

2020, "Fear and Hope in the Time of Pandemic," New Age.

Conference
Presentation

- "Living in and with Rubble: City and Its Ruins"

2025 Annual American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA.
- "Cultural Resistance and the Afterlife of Rubble in Cities of Post-Conflict Asia"

PRESENTER

54th Annual Conference of SouthWest Conference on Asian Studies, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, TX, USA.
- "Cartographies of Destruction: Demolition of Religioscape in Bangladesh."

PRESENTER

2024. Bangladesh Development Institute (BDI) International Conference, University of California Berkley, San Francisco, CA, USA.
- "Ashes Beneath the Palace."

PRESENTER

2024. Theoretical Archeology Group conference, Santa Fe, NM, USA.
- "Women Watching Television: Surfing Between Fantasy and Reality."

PRESENTER

2009. 'Pathways of Women's Empowerment: What are we Learning?' International conference, Cairo, Egypt.

Invited Talks

2025. Workshop on "Community-Based Participatory Research"

Invited Speaker

Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, USA.
2020. "Poetics and Politics of Destruction and Reconstruction of Religious sites in Bangladesh."

DISCUSSANT

Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University, Bangladesh.
2021. "My Buddha is Bigger than Your's"

GUEST LECTURER

Department of Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

Organized Events

- Interdisciplinary Workshop on "Urban Space Analysis Methodology"

11 November, 2025. Social Lives of Infrastructure Research Cluster, Southern Methodist University.
- Kickoff Meeting on "Urban Infrastructure"

7 October, 2025. Social Lives of Infrastructure Research Cluster, Southern Methodist University.
- Kickoff Metting GIS@SMU

18 September, 2025. GIS@SMU Research Cluster, Southern Methodist University.
- Public Talk on "GIS in Social Science"

17 April-2025, GIS@SMU Research Cluster, Southern Methodist University.
- Workshop on Ethnographic Methods in Educational Research

2024, Simmons School of Education and Human Development, SMU.

An International Conference on "Pathways of Women’s Empowerment: "

2010, CAIRO, EGYPT

Workshop on “Digital Story Telling for Changing Women’s Lives.”

2010, Pathways of Women’s Empowerment, international research, and communication program, BRAC auditorium, BRAC University.

Service to University: Intramural

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| JAN 2025 - PRESENT | Lead Researcher, GIS@SMU - Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (DCII) Research Cluster, Southern Methodist University (SMU). |
| JUN 2025 - PRESENT | Lead Researcher, Social Lives of Infrastructure, DCII, SMU. |
| JAN 2025 - PRESENT | Research Associate, NIST funded "Enhancing Neighborhood Infrastructure and Community Resilience and Wellbeing," Southern Methodist University (SMU). |
| SEP 2025 - PRESENT | Peruna Mentor |
| JUN 2025 | Invited Speaker, Workshop on "Community-Based Participatory Research in Urban Space," Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (DCII), SMU. |
| JUN 2025 | Course Designer, "Feminist Theory" and "Gendered Geographies," WGST. |
| JUN 2025 | Post-hoc Assessment Rater, Southern Methodist University (SMU). |
| NOV 2024 | Invited Speaker, Workshop on "Urban Community Mapping," Lyle School of Engineering, Southern Methodist University (SMU). |
| JAN 2024 - PRESENT | Member, Association of Asian and Pacific American Scholars and Allies, SMU. |
| SEP 2023 - PRESENT | Member, New Feminist Discourses and Social Change, SMU. |
| APR 2024 | Invited Speaker, Ethnographic Methods, Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Southern Methodist University (SMU). |
| SEP 2023 - MAY 2024 | Cultural Advisor, SMU Guildhall School, Southern Methodist University (SMU). |
| 2023 - 2024 | Research Associate, University of Pittsburgh. |

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| Academic Memberships | American Anthropological Association (AAA) |
| | Critical Urban Anthropology Association (CUAA) |

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| Award | Winner of “Women’s Dream” International Art Exhibition |
| | 2020, Drik Gallery, Bangladesh. |

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| Languages | Hindi Highly proficient | Bengali Native |
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| Websites | SMU | Linkedin |
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