

Mir Rafiul Ahmed

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LinkedIn — Website — Github

RESEARCH INTEREST

Development Economics, Experimental & Behavioral Economics, and Public Policy

EDUCATION

University of Maine

Sept 2024 – Aug 2026

M.S. in Economics (Applied Economics concentration)

CGPA: 3.68/ 4.00 (after 1st year)

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet

Feb 2018 – Feb 2023

B.S.S. in Economics

CGPA: 3.79/ 4.00 (Completed with academic distinction Magna cum Laude)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UMaine School of Economics

Dec 2024 – Present

Graduate Research Assistant

Under the supervision of Dr. Caroline L. Noblet (Associate Professor, UMaine School of Economics), I work on experimental environmental economic research on how people interpret and respond to PFAS contamination, focusing on public awareness, risk perception, and behavioral impacts on rural resilience and Maine's food systems. The project is part of an interdisciplinary team recognized with the 2024 Research Collaboration Award from UMaine's College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences.

I am also working with Dr Keith S. Evans and Dr. Caroline Noblet to contribute to research aimed at expanding market opportunities for Maine's marine aquaculture industry. The research prioritizes aquaculture supply chains, identifying seafood market barriers, and analyzing consumer preferences to guide industry strategy and policy for Maine's coastal economy.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist in designing, conducting and analyzing controlled experiments & studies to understand decision making related to environmental contamination and information processing.
- Collaborate with faculty and research teams to publish findings in peer-reviewed journals and present at academic conferences.
- Support grant-funded research projects, including literature reviews, report writing, and maintaining compliance with funding agency requirements
- Prepare and deliver research presentations for academic conferences, stakeholder meetings, and interdisciplinary workshops to communicate key findings and policy implications.

South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM)

Feb 2023 – May 2024

Senior Research Assistant

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Key Responsibilities:

- Developing and pitching concept notes and project proposals for hosting national and international seminars, conferences, and training programs for international foundations, multilateral organizations, donor agencies, multinational corporations, and government representatives
- Designing questionnaires, conducting FGD, KII & IDI for different projects

- Data analysis and interpretation, writing research reports
- Survey management with field enumerators
- Collecting, analyzing & presenting relevant data for research output

Project involvement with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Labor Organization (ILO)

SUST Research Center

Jul 2022 – Dec 2022

Research Assistant (Contractual)
Sylhet, Bangladesh

Worked on a funded project that examined the impact of poverty on cognitive development in farmers in Sunamganj, Sylhet, under the supervision of Md. Gias Uddin Khan and Dr. M.A.H. Pradhan.

Key responsibilities included survey design (including KII, FGD, IDI), fieldwork coordination, data analysis, literature review, and drafting research chapters.

South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM)

Nov 2021 – Dec 2022

Research Intern
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Working as a Research Intern, I assisted in data analysis, literature reviews, and the preparation of research reports and policy briefs on development and labor market issues in South Asia.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UMaine School of Economics

Sept 2024 – Dec 2024

Graduate Teaching Assistant
Fall 2024:

- ECO 220 Intermediate Microeconomics
- ECO 403/503 Experimental Economics

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- Ahmed, M. R., Noblet, C. L., & Evans, K. S. (2025). Reeling in the facts: How do US consumers view seafood quality and the marine environment. *UMaine Student Symposium*, Orono, ME, United States. [Poster]
- Khan, G. U., Ahmed, M. R., & Shaid, A. (2023). *Does poverty hinder cognitive development? An empirical study from Sylhet* *SANEM 6th Annual Economists' Conference*, Dhaka, Bangladesh. <http://sanemnet.org/saec-2023> [Conference Paper]

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Aahad, A., Ahmed, R. (2024, March 15). *Miles to go to develop a healthier Bangladesh*. The Business Standard. [Article]

Das, D., Ahmed, R. (2023). *Women's career aspirations, role in the workforce, and pay gap: Nobel Prize in Economics 2023*. Thinking Aloud, 10 (7). [Article]

Raihan, S., Sharmin, E., Das, P., Ahmed, R. (2023). *Towards a Women Financial Inclusion Strategy of Bangladesh (WFIS-B)*. Thinking Aloud, 10(5). [Article]

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Technical Skills: R, STATA, MATLAB, Tableau, Power BI, ArcGIS

Typesetting: Google Suite, MS Office, Overleaf

Data Science & Analytics Technologies: Data Science Pipeline (Cleansing, Wrangling, Visualization, Modeling, Interpretation), Statistics, Hypothesis Testing, Time Series Econometrics - Forecasting, Spatial Analysis, Regression Analysis

Survey Design and Management: Google Forms, Qualtrics, Kobo Toolbox, Survey CTO

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

- President, UMaine School of Economics Grad Club (Jul 2025 – Jun 2026)
- Founder and Executive Director, Econ Insider (Apr 2020 – Apr 2022)
- Branding and Communication Secretary, SUST Economic Association (Jul 2019 – Jul 2020)
- Executive Member, Bangladesh Economics Students Network (Oct 2019 – Oct 2020)

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

- Executive Editor, *Monthly Digest on Contemporary Economics*, Econ Insider Online Report
- Executive Editor, *The 2010s: Decade in Review*, Econ Insider Online Report

CERTIFIED LICENSES

- IRB Member (Jan 2025), CITI Program
- Social and Behavioral Research (Jan 2025), CITI Program

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Bangla – C2 user – Native Language

English – C1 user – Expert in all band Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking

AWARDS & HONORS

- Roger D. Coopman Scholarship 2025, UMaine School of Economics
- Semifinalist National Blockchain Olympiad 2022
- Participated in 18 business and policy case competitions and secured multiple achievements.
- Best Science Project in STEM Fair 2016 by U.S. Department of State and Notre Dame College

REFERENCES

Dr Caroline L. Noblet

Associate Professor, School of Economics

University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469

Email: caroline.noblet@maine.edu

Dr Md Mahbubul Hakim

Professor, Department of Economics

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet

Email: mahbubulhakim@gmail.com