Rahatul Amin Ananto

Ph.D. Candidate | *Human–Robot Interaction Researcher*
McGill University · Montréal, Canada
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PhD candidate at McGill University with experience deploying and evaluating robotic systems in laboratory and real-world settings. Research spans robot-mediated collaboration, human experiences with social robots, and tools for analyzing unexpected interaction outcomes. Combines hands-on robotics prototyping, mixed-methods human-subject research, and tool development. Seeking a human-centered robotics R&D or interaction evaluation role; available February 2027.

TECHNICAL & RESEARCH SKILLS

Research & evaluation User studies, in-the-wild fieldwork, experimental design, human factors, interviews, behavioral observation, qualitative coding, mixed-methods analysis.

Data & emerging AI Mixed-effects modeling, inter-rater reliability, linguistic analysis, local LLM workflows; VLA fundamentals and contextual safety interests.

Robotics Telepresence robots, social robots, robot deployments, research prototyping; hands-on exposure to Kinova and Franka arms, ROS2, SLAM, autonomous navigation,

Software & tools Python, TypeScript/JavaScript, React, Electron, SQLite, Git; research interfaces and data-collection tools, Claude, Codex.

RESEARCH & ROBOTICS EXPERIENCE

PhD Researcher - Human-Robot Interaction | RAISE Lab, McGill University | Montréal, QC | Jan 2022-Present

- Led field deployments of a telepresence robot in public hallways and documented 1,671 encounters; analyzed how people responded to robot appearance, motion, and perceived purpose.
- Designed and conducted a controlled study with 32 participant pairs to evaluate changes in communication and collaboration during robot-mediated interaction.
- Developed MoFASA, a framework for examining how individuals interpret robot behavior and identifying interaction cases that aggregate results can overlook.
- Built MoFASA Tools, an Electron/React/TypeScript and SQLite desktop application for structuring and analyzing individual HRI cases, with LLM-assisted summaries.
- Prepared and troubleshot robotic setups for lab and field research; developed experimental workflows and data-collection tools for studies with people.

Graduate Research Assistant - Human-Robot Interaction | University of Manitoba | Winnipeg, MB | Sep 2019-Feb 2022

- Designed and conducted long-term, in-home research on people's experiences with a companion robot - Sony AIBO, using participant interviews and interaction analysis.
- Investigated social robot adoption and experiences of loneliness; disseminated findings through HRI and HAI publications and an MSc thesis.

SELECTED PROJECTS & LEADERSHIP

Roboethics Education & Outreach | McGill University / IEEE ICRA activities | 2022-2026

- Helped organize and deliver robotics ethics workshops and hackathons for more than 250 high-school and university students, including international cohorts; developed an interactive playground for exploring ethical scenarios.

Autonomous Telepresence Navigation - Undergraduate Capstone Supervision | McGill University | 2026

- Supervised a group consisting of 5 students capstone project investigating SLAM-based autonomous navigation for a telepresence robot.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Associate Software Engineer - Quality Assurance | THERAP Bangladesh Ltd. | Jan 2019-Aug 2019

- Supported software test planning, defect tracking, and release validation in a production engineering environment.

Junior Quality Assurance Engineer | Sourcetop Inc. | Jan 2018-Dec 2018

- Contributed to software quality assurance and systematic issue identification for application development.

EDUCATION

PhD, Electrical and Computer Engineering | McGill University | 2022-Present |

Expected thesis submission: Dec 2026

MSc, Computer Science (HRI) | University of Manitoba | 2019-2022

BSc, Computer Science | BRAC University | 2014-2017 | Underwater Robotics and Software Engineering

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Rahatul Amin Ananto, Seol Han, Rachel Ruddy, and AJung Moon. 2026. Understanding Social Appropriateness Perceptions in Secondary Users of Domestic Robots. In Companion Proceedings of the 21st ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI Companion '26), March 16–19, 2026, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 5 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3776734.3794530

Lixiao Zhu, Mae Ababneh, **Rahatul Amin Ananto**, Kadambari Bhujbal, Seol Han, Christopher Yee Wong, & Ajung Moon. (2026). Would the robot cheapen your croissant? How robots impact brand, service and quality perception. *35th IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN 2026)*, Kitakyushu, Japan. In press.

Rahatul Amin Ananto, Shalaleh Rismani, Lixiao Zhu, Christopher Yee Wong, Ajung Moon. Roboethics for everyone -a hands-on teaching module for K-12 and beyond. In Proceedings of the Canadian Engineering Education Association (CEEA-ACEG), 2024. (Full Paper. 8 pages. Accepted)

Christopher Yee Wong, **Rahatul Amin Ananto**, Tanaka Akiyama, Joseph Nemargut, Ajung Moon. Perspectives on robotic systems for the visually impaired. In the Companion of the 2024 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction. 2024. https://doi.org/10.1145/3610978.3640698. (Late Breaking Report. 2 Pages)

Rahatul A. Ananto, James E. Young. 2021. We Can Do Better! An Initial Survey Highlighting an Opportunity for More HRI Work on Loneliness. In the Companion of 2021 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human Robot Interaction (HRI'21), March 8–11, 2021, Boulder, CO, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (Late Breaking Report. 6 Pages)
https://doi.org/10.1145/3434074.3447213

M.SC. THESES

Rahatul A. Ananto. Can Robots Help with Loneliness? An Exploration of Social Robot Adoption by Lonely Individuals. MSc Thesis (2022). University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.

RECOGNITION

Vadasz Scholar - McGill Engineering Doctoral Award (2022-2025)

CS Entrance Award, University of Manitoba (2019-2021)

Vice Chancellors List, BRAC University (2016, 2017)

Dean's List, BRAC University (2016)