

# Issa Belmond Thullah

907 Bowe Street, Richmond, VA  
thullahib@vcu.edu  
+1 804 903 1767

## EDUCATION

---

**Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration** (in progress) | 2024 - 2027  
L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs  
Virginia Commonwealth University

**Certificate in Public Management** | 2022  
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs  
Syracuse University

**Focus Project Title:** Collective Impact Approach to Environmental Protection & Climate Change

**Master of Arts in Applied Security and Strategy** | 2020  
Strategy and Security Institute  
University of Exeter (United Kingdom)

**Master of Development Management** | 2019  
Department of Governance and Leadership  
University of Sierra Leone

**Bachelor of Arts in Political Science** | 2014  
Department of Political Science  
University of Sierra Leone

## STATISTICAL AND COMPUTER SKILLS

---

- Microsoft Office Suite: MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint
- Stata (Data Entry & Analysis)
- GIS

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

- i. Emergency Preparedness
- ii. Disaster response and recovery
- iii. Homeland Security
- iv. ACA Medicaid

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

### RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

| 2024-2025

Worked as a research assistant for a utility-scale solar project directed by Dr. Damian Pitt at the L. Douglas Wilder School, Virginia Commonwealth University, in Fall 2024.

Assisted in research for a disaster recovery study directed by Dr. Hans Louis-Charles at the L. Douglas Wilder School, Virginia Commonwealth University, Fall 2024.

### RESEARCH FOR PUBLICATION (IN PROGRESS)

To AI or Not to AI: A Snapshot of AI Policy among Emergency Management Journals (in progress) with Dr. Louis-Charles and Amidu Kalokoh

Medicaid Expansion and healthcare disparities (in progress) solo project

### THESIS PAPERS

| 2014-2020

Socio-economic Consequences of Border Porosity on Sierra Leone National Security. MStrat dissertation, Strategy and Security Institute, University of Exeter, September 2020.

Northwest vs. Southeast Divide in The Politics of Sierra Leone 1996-2007. Undergraduate Thesis Submitted to The Department of Political Science, University of Sierra Leone, July 2014.

### PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH PAPERS

| 2016-2022

Pollution of Key Rivers—A Threat to Socio-economic and Health Security. Security threat assessment paper, NSA 010/22, August 2022.

Challenges in quarantine homes could hinder the fight against COVID-19 in Sierra Leone. Security threat assessment paper, NSA 003/21, April 2021.

Challenges affecting health service delivery. Security threat assessment paper, NSA 004/19, June 2019.

The Spate of sexual assault at detention centers: A threat to human security. Security threat assessment paper, NSA 002/18, January 2018.

---

### TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

| 2024-2025

HSEP-310-001, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, Undergraduate, L. Douglas Wilder School, Virginia Commonwealth University, Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

HSEP-370-001, Disaster Response and Recovery, Undergraduate, L. Douglas Wilder School, Virginia Commonwealth University, Spring 2025.

URSP 350, Great Cities of the World, Undergraduate, L. Douglas Wilder School, Virginia Commonwealth University, Spring 2025.

## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

---

### 2021–2024 **Team Lead, Research and Assessment Directorate, ONS, Sierra Leone**

- Developed and implemented security policies on national development priorities
- Prepared security threat assessments to inform policy directives on disasters and other emergencies
- Conducted research and produced security updates on economic security, criminal justice, health, and environmental threats.
- Conducted research and developed an up-to-date tracker on security matters in the African region

### 2020–2024 **Manager, National Situation Room, ONS, Sierra Leone**

- Managed the National Situation Room's response to disasters/emergencies
- Supervised the collation and analysis of reports on disasters/emergencies
- Coordinated personnel from the military, police, fire force, and correctional services for effective disaster response
- Produced daily security highlights and weekly national security situation reports on disasters/emergencies
- Conducted research on hazards that could undermine national security

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

---

### 2022–2023 **Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's Mentoring Programme**

- Mentored a Commonwealth scholar from Nigeria and helped him adjust to the UK teaching system and culture
- Guided my mentee on how to apply his knowledge and skills in the workplace after completing his scholarship
- Provided support to new Commonwealth scholars, assisting them in acquiring the skills and knowledge needed to achieve their development impact goals.

### 2022 **Syracuse Samaritan Center & Clear Path for Veterans, Syracuse, New York**

- Assisted U.S. Army veterans at Clear Path for Veterans in Syracuse, New York
- Distributed hot meals to the homeless and needy at Syracuse's Samaritan Center
- Participated in revitalizing Thornden Park as part of planning efforts in Syracuse

### 2014–2015 – **National Ebola Response Center (117 Call Center), Sierra Leone**

- Managed public calls and reports on Ebola Virus Disease
- Supervised the collation and analysis of data related to the Ebola Virus Disease
- Prepared health briefs for the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and its partners

### 2013–2015 – **Political Science Society, University of Sierra Leone**

- Served as President and teaching assistant
- Supervised students' projects and dissertations
- Developed learning materials for students
- Designed activities to enhance the learning engagement of students

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

**2025** ▪ “Medicaid Expansion and Immigrant Enrollment Coverage” – APPAM Conference, Seattle, Washington.

**2025** ▪ “Discretionary Biases in Service Delivery by Street-Level Bureaucrats” – Social Equity Leadership Conference, Rockville, Maryland.

**2022** ▪ “Collective Impact Approach to Environmental Protection and Climate Change” – an Ignite Talk delivered at the Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit

**2020** ▪ “Disaster mitigation, response, and adaptation” – a presentation delivered at the Horton Command and Staff College, Leicester Square, Sierra Leone

## MAJOR AWARDS, HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND/OR SCHOLARSHIPS

---

**2025** – Dominion Justice in Society Scholarship Award for academic excellence

**2025** – Social Equity Leadership Conference, Rockville, Maryland

**2022** – Mandela Washington Fellowship, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University

**2019** – Commonwealth Scholarship Award, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

## REFERENCES

---

Dr. Hans Louise-Charles  
Associate Professor  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Phone: 804 904 7291  
Email: [louischah@vcu.edu](mailto:louischah@vcu.edu)

Dr. Martin Robson  
Academic Director, Strategy and Security  
University of Exeter  
Phone: +44 1392 725076  
Email: [M.Robson@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:M.Robson@exeter.ac.uk)