



**THE
VIRGINIA
SOCIAL SCIENCE
ASSOCIATION**

**98th ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, April 12, 2025**

***Gateway Event Center*
Virginia State University**

VSSA LEADERSHIP 2024-2025

VSSA Officers:

President	Keith Kline (Virginia Military Institute)
Vice President	Moushumi Roy (Virginia State University)
Immediate Past President	Nadjhia Normil-Skakavac (Virginia State University)
Treasurer	Beverly Colwell Adams (University of Virginia; Emerita)
Secretary	Shu-Shan Lee (Hampton University)
VSSJ Editor-in-Chief	Carl Riden (Longwood University)
VSSJ Associate Editor	Christa Moore (University of Virginia's College at Wise)
Parliamentarian	Christa Moore (University of Virginia's College at Wise)

VSSA Board Members:

Praveen Rao Bolli (Virginia State University)
Chris Saladino (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Shahid Shahidullah (Virginia State University)
Judi Sheppard (Norfolk State University; retired)
Aubrey Whitehead (Virginia Military Institute)

VSSA Advisory Board:

Beverly Colwell Adams (University of Virginia; Emerita)
C. Nana Derby (Virginia State University)
Bud Levin (Blue Ridge Community College; retired)
Chris Saladino (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Shahid Shahidullah (Virginia State University)
Peter Wallenstein (Virginia Tech)

Virginia Social Science Journal (VSSJ) Editorial Board:

Carl Riden, Editor-in-Chief (Longwood University)
Christa Moore, Associate Editor (University of Virginia's
College at Wise)
Beverly Colwell Adams (University of Virginia; Emerita)
Judi Sheppard (Norfolk State University; retired)

2025 VSSA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND VSU PARTNERSHIP

Local Arrangements:

Academy of Faculty Enrichment (Virginia State University)

Program Chair:

Moushumi Roy (Virginia State University)

Student Paper Award Subcommittee:

Christa Moore (University of Virginia's College at Wise)
Chris Saladino (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Aubrey Whitehead (Virginia Military Institute)

The Virginia Social Science Association Mission

Bringing together all groups related to the social science disciplines of Anthropology, Business, Criminal Justice, Economics, Geography, History, International Relations, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. Those groups include faculty from K-12, as well as institutions of higher education in Virginia, undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals who apply the social sciences.

We envision three main interrelated missions regarding teaching, research, and outreach:

- Promoting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary work in the social sciences
- Offering all students opportunities for professional development in presenting their scholarship
- Bringing together teachers at all levels of education in Virginia

VSSA 2025 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Gateway Event Center, Virginia State University

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: 8:00 – 8:45 AM

Location: Salon A

**OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
8:50 – 9:00 AM**

Location: Salon A

Keith Kline, Virginia Military Institute, VSSA President

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 9:00 – 9:20 AM

Location: Salon A

Peter Wallenstein, Virginia Tech, VSSA Past President 2004 - 2008
“Vignettes from the History of Virginia State University”

SESSION I: 9:30 – 10:45 AM

Panel I-1: Racism, Sexism, and Religion—a Historical Perspective

Location: Salon A

Moderator: Peter Wallenstein, Virginia Tech

Presenters:

Robert K. Coleman, College of William and Mary

“‘The Ground Moved’: Reconstructing the Holocaust in Zhytomyr, Ukraine”

James Curiel, Norfolk State University

“Heaven and Hell”

Raymond Pierre Hylton, Virginia Union University

Kimberly A. Matthews, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Singing a Forgotten Song: The Long Omission and Rediscovery of the 1960 Richmond Sit-ins”

Stephen M. Magu, Norfolk State University
“European Culture, Christianity and Colonialism: Gendering (re)Production”

Panel I-2: Youth and Family Context to Crime and Incarceration

Location: Salon B

Moderator: Shahid Shahidullah, Virginia State University

Presenters:

Zina T. McGee, Hampton University
“Broken Chains, Unbroken Love: Exploring the Family Ties of Incarcerated Women”

Juanita Ameyaw-Manu, Virginia State University
Praveen Rao Bolli, Virginia State University
“Understanding the Relationship between Fear of Crime and Youth Self-Confidence”

Demetrius Wilkins, Virginia State University
Praveen Rao Bolli, Virginia State University
“Fear of Crime and Social Ties: The Impact of Fear of Crime on Youth Peer Networks”

Elijah Coles-Brown, Virginia State University
Praveen Rao Bolli, Virginia State University
“Understanding Youth Fear of Crime Effect on Self-confidence, Delinquent Peer Association, and Neighborhood Involvement”

Panel I-3: Socio-Economic Determinants of Health and Health Management

Location: Salon C

Moderator: Beverly Colwell Adams, University of Virginia, Emerita

Presenters:

Brianna Conner, Piedmont Virginia Community College
Sushma Shukla, Piedmont Virginia Community College
“The Effect of Smartwatches on Health Management”

Francisco Lopez, Virginia State University
“Economic Stressors and Health Outcomes among Immigrant Populations in the US”

Ty’Nasia Taylor, Virginia State University
Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University
“Exploring the Social Determinants of Obesity”

Destiny Jackson, Virginia State University
Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University
“The Impact of Staffing Levels and Competency on Resident Safety, Satisfaction, and Regulatory Compliance in Nursing Facilities”

Panel I-4: US and International Socio-Political Realm

Location: President’s Room

Moderator: Shu-Shan Lee, Hampton University

Presenters:

Anna Yemelianova, Virginia Military Institute
“Military Service and Participation in Right Wing Terrorism”

Ella Swager, Randolph-Macon College
“Descriptive Presentation and Women’s Perceived Political Representation: A Case Study of Hilary Clinton’s and Kamala Harris’ Presidential Campaigns”

Audrey G. Davis, Virginia Military Institute
“Politicizing Ethnicity: Polarizing Effects of Blanket Party Bans in Africa”

Jocelyn Holinka, Virginia Tech
“Judicial Reform: Possible Effects and the 2024 Presidential Elections”

SESSION II: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Salon B

2025 Award Recipients Plenary Session

“What I Do and How I Got Here”

Moderator: Keith Kline, Virginia Military Institute

VSSA Scholar and Public Service Award Recipients

VSSA Scholar Award in Political Science and Economics
Ceslav Ciobanu, Virginia State University

VSSA Scholar Award in Education, History, and Cultural Studies
Latorial Faison, Virginia State University

VSSA Public Service Award
Michael McIntosh, Virginia State University

JOHN RAMSEY AWARDS LUNCHEON: 12:15 – 1:30 PM

Location: Salon B

Presiding Officer: Keith Kline, Virginia Military Institute, VSSA President

Welcome Remarks: 12:45 – 1:00 PM

Tia Minnis, Virginia State University, Provost

Special Recognitions

Award Presentations

VSSA Scholar Awards

VSSA Public Service Award

Mario D. Zamora Distinguished Service Awards

Graduate Student Paper Award

Peter Wallenstein Undergraduate Student Paper Award

Voting on VSSA Officer and Board Member nominees for 2025 – 2026

SESSION III: 1:45 – 3:00 PM

Panel III-1: Education—Fostering Student Belongingness, Satisfaction, and Success

Location: Salon A

Moderator: Christa Moore, University of Virginia's College at Wise

Presenters:

Kenya C. Ramey, Virginia State University

“We Been Doing This Work’ Call to Action Towards Rebuilding the Black Teacher Pipeline”

John Aughenbaugh, Virginia Commonwealth University

Chris Saladino, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Applying Inclusive Teaching When Creating New Courses in Social Science; Politics and Sports”

Scott T. Frein, Virginia Military Institute

Sara S. Whipple, Virginia Military Institute

“Factors Predicting Life Satisfaction at the End of the Freshman Year in VMI Cadets”

Chaya R. Jain, Virginia State University
Camille Hall, Virginia State University
“Metacognition-Based Learning to Increase Academic Success”

Panel III-2: Health Care

Location: Salon B

Moderator: Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University

Presenters:

Delilah Martindale, Virginia Military Institute
“Preventing Suicide: The Effect of Visibility on Mental Health Infrastructure”

Aniya Cobb, Virginia State University
Tyanna Mitchell, Virginia State University
Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University
“Exploring Maternity Care, Contraception and Reproductive Health Paradigms within the Realm of Healthcare Access”

Prophet Sheffield, Virginia State University
Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University
“Racial Disparities in Healthcare: The Mistreatment of Black Patients in Hospitals”

Ja’Niya Twine, Virginia State University
Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University
“How Limited Funds Restrict Abortion Access for African American Women”

Panel III-3: Culture, Criminal Justice, and Politics

Location: Salon C

Moderator: Nadjhia Normil-Skakavac, Virginia State University

Presenters:

Healy Alvarado, College of William and Mary
“The Potlatch of Spray Paint: An Examination of the True Motivations Behind Richmond Virginia’s Graffiti Subculture”

Noah T. Pryor, Virginia State University
“The Psychological Impact of Media Coverage on Public Distress Following Mass Shootings: A Content Analysis of U.S. Cases (2015-2025)”

Brenda Garnett, Virginia State University
Praveen Rao Bolli, Virginia State University
“What Do We Know about White Collar Crimes? A Systematic Review and Qualitative Meta-Synthesis”

Caesura Dennis, Virginia State University
Praveen Rao Bolli, Virginia State University
“Understanding Stock Market Crimes Post COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systematic Review and Qualitative Meta-Synthesis”

Panel III-4: Young Adults' Well-Being

Location: President's Room

Moderator: Aubrey Whitehead, Virginia Military Institute

Presenters:

Rhegan Murray, Randolph-Macon College
“Students, Therapists, or Lawyers: An Analysis on the Role of Student Mandatory Reporters for Campus Sexual Assault”

Tiara Bullock, Virginia State University
Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University
“Substance Usage/Abuse Effects on Mental Health of Students in the Context of HBCU/VSU and MSI/VCU”

Destinie J. Tillman, Virginia State University
Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University
“The Rise of Anxiety Disorders in Young Adults”

Keith A. Kline, Virginia Military Institute
Sara S. Whipple, Virginia Military Institute
Valentina Dimitrova-Grajzl, Virginia Military Institute
Julie H. Shank, Virginia Military Institute
“Associations of Psychological Variables with Resting Cardiovascular Levels During and After a Period of High Background Stress”

COFFEE/TEA BREAK: 3:00-3:15 PM

Location: Salon A

SESSION IV: 3:15 – 4:30 PM

Panel IV-1: Child Welfare

Location: Salon A

Moderator: Carl Riden, Longwood University

Presenters:

Isabella Fasone, George Mason University

“Child Brides in FLDS: A Dive into the Complexities of Religious Child Abuse”

Selikem Kartey, Randolph-Macon College

“Navigating Displacement: The Impact of Immigration Processes on the Identity Development of Displaced Children”

Miles Payne, Virginia State University

“Analyzing Factors that Contribute to Juvenile Delinquency and Prevention Strategies”

Christa Moore, University of Virginia’s College at Wise

Erin Warfel, Western Kentucky University

Whitney Cassity-Caywood, Western Kentucky University

Chloe Corley, Western Kentucky University

Grace Asabere, Western Kentucky University

“Cultures of Child Protection: Exploring State-Specific and Nationwide Child Welfare Systems”

Panel IV-2: Vulnerability, Crime, and Punishment

Location: Salon B

Moderator: Nadjhia Normil-Skakavac, Virginia State University

Presenters:

Meghan Rohr, George Mason University

“Saved or Destroyed? What Happens to Wildlife After Confiscation”

Brianna King, Virginia State University

“Invisible Chains: An Analysis of Socioeconomic and Cultural Influences on Women’s Pathways into Sex Trafficking”

Osemudiamen Edionwele, Virginia State University

“Voices from the Margins: How AI in Corrections Shapes Trust and Equity for Virginia’s Vulnerable”

Abigail Maame David-King, Virginia State University
“The Ripple Effect of Parental Incarceration: Examining its Impact on Child Delinquency Through a Quantitative Lens”

Panel IV-3: Minority Group Mistreatment, Identity, and Well-Being

Location: Salon C

Moderator: Shahid Shahidullah, Virginia State University

Presenters:

Diamond Rain Baker, Virginia Military Institute

Aubrey Whitehead, Virginia Military Institute

“Why Does the Acceptance of Mental Health Vary Across Generations in the African American Community?”

Carolyn Flowers, Washington and Lee University

Heather Macalister, Washington and Lee University

“Misleading Misogyny: Do Christian Beliefs Lead to Sexist Gender Attitudes?”

Neleah Richardson, James Madison University

“Insights from Exploratory Interviews on Aromantic Identity”

Tiana L. McKan, Norfolk State University

“Traumatic Racism and Self Esteem: Does Racial Socialization Matter in African American Adulthood?”

Panel IV-4: Identity, Economics and Policies

Location: President’s Room

Moderator: Chris Saladino, Virginia Commonwealth University

Presenters:

Sushma Shukla, Piedmont Virginia Community College

“Ancient Indian Trade Networks and Their Role in Early Globalization”

Gabriel Williams, Virginia Military Institute

“Corruption and Coordination: A Theory of Foreign Direct Investment in Corrupt Regimes”

Tassew S. Gizaw, Norfolk State University

“Resilience in the Face of Adversity”

Henry Hermes, College of William and Mary
"The Way Food Should Be: Culinary Advice Literature and Socialist Identity in the Soviet Union, 1939-1984"

Panel IV-5: Health and Wellness—An Exploration Applying the Social Sciences Prism

Location: Virtual presentations

Moderator: Praveen Rao Bolli, Virginia State University

Presenters:

Jada Pittman, Virginia State University
Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University
"Meta-Analysis of Nature and Health"

Pyali Chatterjee, ICFAI University (India)
"Addressing Violations of Albino's Rights from Childhood: A Socio-Legal Issue"

Marisa Davila, Virginia State University
Moushumi Roy, Virginia State University
"COVID-19 and Mental Health among College Students"

Aruna Iyappan, Saveetha School of Law, SIMATS (India)
Ilayavel Shanmugam, Saveetha School of Law, SIMATS (India)
R. Siva Kumar, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (India)
Asha Sundaram, Saveetha School of Law, SIMATS (India)
"Girls and Drugs: A Criminological Analysis and Qualitative Insights into the Root Causes of Drug Culture among Young Girls in Chennai, India"



Scan the QR code for the virtual presentations

CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE—THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

VSSA is proud to have the following colleges and universities represented at our 2025 conference:

College of William and Mary
George Mason University
Hampton University
ICFAI University (India)
James Madison University
Longwood University
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (India)
Norfolk State University
Piedmont Virginia Community College
Randolph-Macon College
Saveetha School of Law, SIMATS (India)
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Military Institute
Virginia State University
Virginia Tech
Virginia Union University
University of Virginia
University of Virginia's College at Wise
Washington and Lee University

The Virginia Social Science Association Board extends heartfelt gratitude to the Trojan family at Virginia State University for hosting this year's conference. Special thanks and recognition go to the Academy of Faculty Enrichment (AFE) for their invaluable partnership in making this memorable event a reality. We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to the VSU student ambassadors who graciously volunteered their time and efforts to ensure the seamless execution of this event. Hail, State!