

Laura Brugger

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in/lbrugger2 

SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCHER & POLICY ANALYST

HIGHLIGHTS

- Socio-environmental research & policy professional with expertise in mixed-methods research, policy analysis, and spatial analysis/GIS.
- Knowledgeable of climate and environmental policy concepts such as environmental policy monitoring, carbon removal, and nature-based solutions.
- Skilled in policy translation, data visualization, and program evaluation.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY RESEARCHER | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

July 2024- Present

(term limited)

Washington University in St. Louis

- Founded and led the Disasters & Democracy Lab, integrating interdisciplinary research; secured 4 grants in Y1.
- Designed MEL/MRV frameworks for soil carbon and forest restoration, tracking 10%+ soil organic matter gains.
- Led mixed-methods research on policy equity for post-Hurricane Helene small business grant evaluation.
- Developed GIS analysis linking disaster risk, vulnerability, resilience, & voter turnout across 3,000+ counties.
- Developed and led a policy framework linking disaster exposure to civic engagement and governance outcomes.

SENIOR DATA ANALYST

Washington University in St. Louis

Aug 2021- July 2024

- Performed quantitative and spatial analyses across 5+ policy domains.
- Directed end-to-end data collection, management, and analysis for \$5.6M+ in funded research projects.
- Authored 20+ policy briefs translating complex analyses into actionable insights, cited in federal policy discussions, including the White House (2023).
- Built interactive Shiny GIS dashboard to visualize spatial analyses and enhancing accessibility.

GRANT SPECIALIST/PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Mar 2015-Aug 2021

Saint Louis University

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Jan 2011-Mar 2015

The Covering House

KEY SKILLS

- Mixed Methods Research
- Applied Research Design
- Program Evaluation/MEL Frameworks
- Data Analysis
- Data Tools (R, ArcGIS, QGIS, GitHub)
- Spatial Analysis/GIS
- Policy Analysis
- Policy Translation
- Data Visualization

EDUCATION

PH.D, PUBLIC & SOCIAL POLICY

Saint Louis University

M.A., SOCIOLOGY

Saint Louis University

B.A., PSYCHOLOGY & SPANISH

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Tropical Forest Landscapes Certificate

Yale, IP

Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Research Methods

Saint Louis University, 2019