LAURA BRUGGER

Social & Environmental Policy Researcher

I am a **socio-environmental scientist** applying geospatial and mixed-methods research to **climate risk**, **environmental justice**, and **socio-ecological resilience**. I examine bidirectional relationships between people and the planet and translate complex environmental and social data into **actionable insights** for evidence-driven policy and program design.

🎓 EDUCATION

2024
Saint Louis University
Ph.D. in Public and Social Policy
📍 St. Louis, MO

2019
Saint Louis University
M.A. in Sociology
📍 St. Louis, MO

2011
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
B.A. in Psychology & Spanish
📍 Lincoln, NE

💼 PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024 -
Assistant Research Professor
Washington University in St. Louis
📍 St. Louis, MO
- Lead interdisciplinary climate, disaster, and social data research to identify structural inequities and inform policy and program design.
- Conduct geospatial and quantitative analyses (R, Stata, ArcGIS) supporting evidence-based decision-making.
- Direct research teams and translate findings into clear, actionable insights for partners.

2021 | 2024
Senior Statistical Data Analyst
Social Policy Institute, Washington University in St. Louis
📍 St. Louis, MO
- Managed large-scale workforce, survey, and administrative datasets, leading design, cleaning, and advanced analysis workflows.
- Built spatial models linking environmental vulnerability, community resilience, and socioeconomic outcomes to inform policy development.
- Produced briefs, visualizations, and decision tools for public agencies and NGO partners.

2015 | 2016
Program Coordinator / Pre-Award Specialist
Saint Louis University
📍 St. Louis, MO
- Coordinated proposal development and grant administration for interdisciplinary research teams.
- Supported community-engaged sustainability and social science projects.
- Managed budgets, reporting, and compliance for multi-investigator grants.

📖 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2025
Disasters and democracy: Spatial analysis of how Hurricane Helene impacted the 2024 election.
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference.
Alexander, L., Brugger, L., Li, B., & Reeves, A.

☰ CONNECT

✉ *laura.brugger37@gmail.com*
🌐 *laurabrugger.github.io*
in *LinkedIn*
🎓 *Google Scholar*

✿ SKILLS

Geospatial analysis (R, ArcGIS)
Spatial & quantitative methods
Climate/disaster research
Data visualization
Policy & program evaluation
Community-engaged research

✹ CERTIFICATES

Tropical Forest Landscapes Restoration (Yale-IP) · Quantitative Methods (SLU)

👥 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Missouri Coalition for the Environment Board · Midwest Climate Collaborative · Living Earth Collaborative Green Infrastructure & Urban Water Working Groups

📘 ALL PUBLICATIONS

See *my website* for a full list of publications.

2025 What Jobs Offer (and Don't Offer) Benefits to Low-Wage Workers?
CSD Research Brief 25-37, Center for Social Development.
Brugger, L., Despard, M., Miller, S., & Roll, S.

2025 Staying afloat: How families raising children with disabilities used the expanded Child Tax Credit.
Journal of Disability Policy Studies.
Brugger, L., Parker, C., Hamilton, L., Baughman, A., Jarzombek, C., Comeau, M., & Roll, S.

2025 Child tax credit utilization in immigrant households: a focus on child investment and college funds
SN Social Sciences
Brugger, L., Bellisle, D., Maag, E., Udani, A., Roll, S., Hamilton, L., & Lee, J. ·

2024 Spatial Variation in Disaster Risk and Voter Turnout: Insights from Los Angeles, Miami, and San Antonio
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference.
Brugger, L., Spindler-Ruiz, P. & Sandoval, N.

💲 SELECTED FUNDING

2025-2026 Hurricane Helene & the 2024 Election
WashU Geospatial Research Initiative, $20,000
Co-Principal Investigator

2025 Mapping the Vote: Climate & Voter Behavior
WashU Here & Next Initiative, $25,000
Co-Principal Investigator

2022-2025 Workforce Economic Inclusion & Mobility Project
JPMorgan Chase Foundation, $1.58M
Co-Investigator

2023–2024 Activating Inclusive Growth in St. Louis
Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, $1.5M
Co-Investigator

🖥 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022-2024 Policy Evaluation & Analysis
Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

2022-2024 Foundations of Biostatistics
Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

2021-2024 R Skills Lab
Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis