

# LAURA BRUGGER

## Socio-Environmental Research Scientist

I apply geospatial and mixed-methods research to examine **climate risk**, **environmental justice**, and **socio-ecological resilience**. My work investigates bidirectional relationships between people and the planet and translates complex environmental and social data into **actionable insights** that inform evidence-driven policy, planning, 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 | 2021

**Grants Specialist / Program Coordinator**  
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.
- 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.

### CONNECT

 [laura.brugger37@gmail.com](mailto:laura.brugger37@gmail.com)  
 [laurabrugger.github.io](https://github.com/laurabrugger)  
 [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 ● **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