

# 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

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|------|---|---|
| 2024 | ● <b>Saint Louis University</b><br>Ph.D. in Public and Social Policy    |  St. Louis, MO |
| 2019 | ● <b>Saint Louis University</b><br>M.A. in Sociology                    |  St. Louis, MO |
| 2011 | ● <b>University of Nebraska-Lincoln</b><br>B.A. in Psychology & Spanish |  Lincoln, NE  |

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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|-------------------|--|---|
| 2024 -            | ● <b>Assistant Research Professor</b><br>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<br> <br>2024 | ● <b>Senior Statistical Data Analyst</b><br>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<br> <br>2021 | ● <b>Grants Specialist / Program Coordinator</b><br>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

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|------|--|
| 2025 | ● <b>Disasters and democracy: Spatial analysis of how Hurricane Helene impacted the 2024 election.</b><br>Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference.<br>Alexander, L., Brugger, L., Li, B., & Reeves, A. |
| 2025 | ● <b>What Jobs Offer (and Don't Offer) Benefits to Low-Wage Workers?</b><br>CSD Research Brief 25-37, Center for Social Development.<br>Brugger, L., Despard, M., Miller, S., & Roll, S.   |

### CONNECT

-  laura.brugger37@gmail.com  
 laurabrugger.github.io  
 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.

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|------|---|
| 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Staying afloat: How families raising children with disabilities used the expanded Child Tax Credit.</b><br/>Journal of Disability Policy Studies.<br/>Brugger, L., Parker, C., Hamilton, L., Baughman, A., Jarzombek, C., Comeau, M., &amp; Roll, S.</li></ul> |
| 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Child tax credit utilization in immigrant households: a focus on child investment and college funds</b><br/>SN Social Sciences<br/>Brugger, L., Bellisle, D., Maag, E., Udani, A., Roll, S., Hamilton, L., &amp; Lee, J. ·</li></ul>                           |
| 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Spatial Variation in Disaster Risk and Voter Turnout: Insights from Los Angeles, Miami, and San Antonio</b><br/>Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference.<br/>Brugger, L., Spindler-Ruiz, P. &amp; Sandoval, N.</li></ul>     |

## SELECTED FUNDING

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|-----------|--|
| 2025-2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Hurricane Helene &amp; the 2024 Election</b><br/>WashU Geospatial Research Initiative, \$20,000<br/>Co-Principal Investigator</li></ul>   |
| 2025      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Mapping the Vote: Climate &amp; Voter Behavior</b><br/>WashU Here &amp; Next Initiative, \$25,000<br/>Co-Principal Investigator</li></ul> |
| 2022-2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Workforce Economic Inclusion &amp; Mobility Project</b><br/>JPMorgan Chase Foundation, \$1.58M<br/>Co-Investigator</li></ul>              |
| 2023-2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Activating Inclusive Growth in St. Louis</b><br/>Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, \$1.5M<br/>Co-Investigator</li></ul>             |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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|-----------|---|
| 2022-2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Policy Evaluation &amp; Analysis</b><br/>Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis</li></ul> |
| 2022-2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Foundations of Biostatistics</b><br/>Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis</li></ul>     |
| 2021-2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>R Skills Lab</b><br/>Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis</li></ul>                     |