

LAURA BRUGGER

Climate & Environmental Data Scientist | Policy-Driven Spatial Analyst

Climate and environmental data scientist with nearly a decade of experience translating complex climate and social data into actionable policy and conservation insights. I merge rigorous geospatial analysis, climate-hazards modeling, and equity-focused research to inform just, resilient environmental strategies for ecosystems and communities.

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 applied research on climate resilience, environmental risk, and social vulnerability to inform equitable policy and planning.
 - Design and execute geospatial and quantitative analyses (R, ArcGIS, Stata) that translate complex data into actionable insights.
 - Develop maps, tools, and evidence-based deliverables used by government and nonprofit partners to guide decision-making.
 - Manage cross-sector collaborations and mentor early-career researchers to deliver rigorous work on tight timelines.
- 2021 | 2024

Senior Statistical Data Analyst
Social Policy Institute, Washington University in St. Louis

St. Louis, MO

- Analyze large-scale survey and geospatial datasets using statistical modeling and GIS to evaluate climate risk, resilience, and socioeconomic outcomes.
 - Produce 15+ evidence-based maps, dashboards, and briefs that translate complex results into insights for policymakers, funders, and community partners.
 - Deliver 20+ presentations and briefings to diverse audiences, strengthening stakeholder understanding and informing policy and resource decisions.
- 2015 | 2021

Grants Specialist / Program Coordinator
Saint Louis University

St. Louis, MO




- Coordinated proposal development and grant administration for interdisciplinary research teams.
 - Supported sustainability and social policy projects through stakeholder coordination and technical writing.
 - Managed budgets, reporting, and compliance for multi-investigator grants, ensuring timely and accurate deliverables.

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
 [LinkedIn](#)
 [Google Scholar](#)

SKILLS

Spatial & Statistical Analysis
Climate Risk & Resilience Research
Policy Analysis
Program Evaluation
Data Visualization
Community-Based Research
Technical & Scientific Writing

TOOLS

R · ArcGIS Pro / Online ·
QGIS · Stata · Git ·
GitHub

CERTIFICATES

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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

- 2025 ● **Environmental Justice & Mental Health**
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2022-2024 ● **Policy Evaluation & Analysis**
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2022-2024 ● **Foundations of Biostatistics**
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2021-2024 ● **R Skills Lab**
Washington University in St. Louis