

LAURA BRUGGER

Climate & Socio-Environmental Scientist

Climate and socio-environmental scientist with nearly a decade of experience integrating environmental and social data to assess climate risk and resilience. Focused on using spatial analysis and scientific synthesis to support climate adaptation, conservation, and resilience efforts for government and nonprofit partners.

EDUCATION

2024

- **Saint Louis University**
Ph.D. in Public and Social Policy – *Dissertation: “Spatial heterogeneity in the relationship between disasters, resilience, and political participation.”*

 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
 - Led interdisciplinary research integrating geospatial, environmental, and social data, delivering 8+ grant submissions and 4 funded awards that expanded the school's environmental research portfolio over 1.5 years.
 - Launched and directed the Disasters & Democracy Lab, establishing a dedicated research platform that produced grant proposals, 2 research briefs, 1 manuscript in preparation, and 2 academic conference presentations.
 - Convened and led interdisciplinary research teams, resulting in 5 teams advancing new research agendas and multiple collaborative proposals across climate risk, urban ecology, and conservation.
 - Published peer-reviewed research (2–3 articles per year) and applied briefs, sustaining research productivity and accessible evidence for policy and practitioner audiences.
 - Provided scientific leadership in multi-institutional collaborations on nature-based solutions, producing 10 grant proposals and 5 research presentations.

2021

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2024

- **Senior Statistical Data Analyst**
Social Policy Institute, Washington University in St. Louis  St. Louis, MO
 - Led end-to-end data collection, management, and analysis for \$5M+ in funded research projects and delivering decision-ready datasets for multiple principal investigators.
 - Designed and executed quantitative and spatial analyses of climate risk and vulnerability, producing maps and research syntheses used across concurrent policy and research initiatives.
 - Authored scientific briefs and technical outputs translating complex analyses, producing 20+ policy- and practitioner-facing briefings for government, nonprofit, and community stakeholders.
 - Delivered applied research products for policy audiences, with findings cited in federal policy discussions, including the White House (2023).

2015

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2021

- **Grants Specialist / Program Coordinator**
Saint Louis University  St. Louis, MO

CONNECT

 laura.brugger37@gmail.com
 laurabrugger.github.io
 LinkedIn
 Google Scholar

SKILLS

Research Strategy
Scientific Agenda Development
Applied Research Design
Spatial & Statistical Analysis
GIS & Data Visualization
Climate Assessment
Conservation Planning
Evidence Synthesis
Technical Writing
Science-Policy Communication

TOOLS

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

CERTIFICATES

Tropical Forest Landscapes Restoration (Yale) · Climate Intelligence & Systems Change (RegenIntel) · Quantitative Methods (SLU)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Midwest Climate Collaborative · Living Earth Collaborative

ALL PUBLICATIONS

See [my website](#) for a full list of publications.

NONPROFIT EXPERIENCE

- 2025 – ● **Board Member**
Missouri Coalition for the Environment  St. Louis, MO
- 2011 – 2015 ● **Program Manager**
The Covering House  St. Louis, MO

SELECTED RESEARCH OUTPUTS

- 2025 ● **Disasters and democracy: Spatial analysis of how Hurricane Helene impacted the 2024 election.**
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference.
 Seattle, WA
Alexander, L., Brugger, L., Li, B., & Reeves, A.
- 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.
- 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.
 Washington, D.C.
Brugger, L., Spindler-Ruiz, P. & Sandoval, N.

SELECTED FUNDING

- 2026-2027 ● **Assessing the InSPIRe Pilot: Insurance Supplements for Inclusive Disaster Recovery after Helene**
Carolina Community Impact, \$50,000, Co-Investigator
- 2025-2026 ● **Hurricane Helene & the 2024 Election**
WashU Geospatial Research Initiative, \$20,000, Principal Investigator
- 2025 ● **Mapping the Vote: Climate & Voter Behavior**
WashU Here & Next Initiative, \$25,000, Principal Investigator
- 2025 ● **Disasters & Democracy Lab**
WashU Center for the Environment, Principal Investigator
- 2022-2025 ● **Workforce Economic Inclusion & Mobility Project**
JPMorgan Chase Foundation, \$1.58M, 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