

# 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Saint Louis University</b><br/>Ph.D. in Public and Social Policy</li></ul>        |  St. Louis, MO |
| 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Saint Louis University</b><br/>M.A. in Sociology</li></ul>                        |  St. Louis, MO |
| 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>University of Nebraska-Lincoln</b><br/>B.A. in Psychology &amp; Spanish</li></ul> |  Lincoln, NE  |

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- |                   |  |   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 2024 -            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Assistant Research Professor</b><br/>Washington University in St. Louis<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead applied research on climate resilience, environmental risk, and social vulnerability to inform equitable policy and planning.</li><li>• Design and execute geospatial and quantitative analyses (R, ArcGIS, Stata) that translate complex data into actionable insights.</li><li>• Develop maps, tools, and evidence-based deliverables used by government and nonprofit partners to guide decision-making.</li><li>• Manage cross-sector collaborations and mentor early-career researchers to deliver rigorous work on tight timelines.</li></ul></li></ul> |  St. Louis, MO   |
| 2021<br> <br>2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Senior Statistical Data Analyst</b><br/>Social Policy Institute, Washington University in St. Louis<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyze large-scale survey and geospatial datasets using statistical modeling and GIS to evaluate climate risk, resilience, and socioeconomic outcomes.</li><li>• Produce 15+ evidence-based maps, dashboards, and briefs that translate complex results into insights for policymakers, funders, and community partners.</li><li>• Deliver 20+ presentations and briefings to diverse audiences, strengthening stakeholder understanding and informing policy and resource decisions.</li></ul></li></ul>                             |  St. Louis, MO |
| 2015<br> <br>2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Grants Specialist / Program Coordinator</b><br/>Saint Louis University<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinated proposal development and grant administration for interdisciplinary research teams.</li><li>• Supported sustainability and social policy projects through stakeholder coordination and technical writing.</li><li>• Managed budgets, reporting, and compliance for multi-investigator grants, ensuring timely and accurate deliverables.</li></ul></li></ul>  |  St. Louis, MO |

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <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., &amp; Reeves, A.</li></ul> |
|------|--|

### 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