

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
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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
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2016

Program Coordinator / Pre-Award Specialist
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
 [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