

LAURA BRUGGER

Climate & Environmental Data Scientist | Policy-Driven Spatial Analyst

I translate complex climate and social data into actionable policy and conservation insights — merging rigorous geospatial analysis, climate-hazards modeling, and equity-focused research to inform just, resilient environmental strategies.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
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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