

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

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| 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

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| 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

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

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

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| 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
 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.

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| 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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

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| 2025-2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hurricane Helene & the 2024 Election
WashU Geospatial Research Initiative, \$20,000
Co-Principal Investigator |
| 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mapping the Vote: Climate & Voter Behavior
WashU Here & Next Initiative, \$25,000
Co-Principal Investigator |
| 2022-2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Workforce Economic Inclusion & Mobility Project
JPMorgan Chase Foundation, \$1.58M
Co-Investigator |
| 2023-2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Activating Inclusive Growth in St. Louis
Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, \$1.5M
Co-Investigator |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| 2022-2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Policy Evaluation & Analysis
Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis |
| 2022-2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Foundations of Biostatistics
Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis |
| 2021-2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● R Skills Lab
Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis |