

# Laura Brugger

SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCHER & POLICY ANALYST

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Socio-environmental research & policy professional with expertise in mixed-methods research, policy analysis, and spatial analysis/GIS.
- Knowledgeable of climate and environmental policy concepts such as environmental policy monitoring, carbon removal, and nature-based solutions.
- Skilled in policy translation, data visualization, and program evaluation.

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY RESEARCHER | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

July 2024- Present  
(term limited)

Washington University in St. Louis

- Founded and led the Disasters & Democracy Lab, integrating interdisciplinary research; secured 4 grants in Y1.
- Designed MEL/MRV frameworks for soil carbon and forest restoration, tracking 10%+ soil organic matter gains.
- Led mixed-methods research on policy equity for post-Hurricane Helene small business grant evaluation.
- Developed GIS analysis linking disaster risk, vulnerability, resilience, & voter turnout across 3,000+ counties.
- Developed and led a policy framework linking disaster exposure to civic engagement and governance outcomes.

### SENIOR DATA ANALYST

Washington University in St. Louis

Aug 2021- July 2024

- Performed quantitative and spatial analyses across 5+ policy domains.
- Directed end-to-end data collection, management, and analysis for \$5.6M+ in funded research projects.
- Authored 20+ policy briefs translating complex analyses into actionable insights, cited in federal policy discussions, including the White House (2023).
- Built interactive Shiny GIS dashboard to visualize spatial analyses and enhancing accessibility.

### GRANT SPECIALIST/PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Mar 2015-Aug 2021

Saint Louis University

### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Jan 2011-Mar 2015

The Covering House

## KEY SKILLS

- |                                     |  |                      |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| • Mixed Methods Research            | • Data Analysis                        | • Policy Analysis    |
| • Applied Research Design           | • Data Tools (R, ArcGIS, QGIS, GitHub) | • Policy Translation |
| • Program Evaluation/MEL Frameworks | • Spatial Analysis/GIS                 | • Data Visualization |

## EDUCATION

### PH.D, PUBLIC & SOCIAL POLICY

Saint Louis University

Tropical Forest Landscapes Certificate

Yale, IP

### M.A., SOCIOLOGY

Saint Louis University

Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Research Methods

Saint Louis University, 2019

### B.A., PSYCHOLOGY & SPANISH

University of Nebraska-Lincoln