LAURA BRUGGER, PH.D

laura.brugger37@gmail.com
https://laurabrugger.github.io/

EXPERIENCE

2026-Present Conservation Data & Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy
2024-2026 Assistant Research Professor (Primary), Brown School, WashU in St. Louis
2025-2026 Assistant Research Professor (Secondary), School of Public Health, WashU in St. Louis
2021-2024 Senior Data Analyst, Social Policy Institute, WashU in St. Louis
2015-2021 Grants Specialist/Program Coordinator, Saint Louis University
2011-2015 Program Manager, The Covering House, Saint Louis, MO

SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATIONS

2025-Present Affiliated Researcher, Disaster Researchers for Justice

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

2024-2026 Affiliated Faculty, WashU Center for the Environment
Affiliated Faculty, Living Earth Collaborative
Affiliated Faculty, Midwest Climate Collaborative
Affiliated Faculty, WashU Center for Study of Race, Ethnicity, & Equity
Affiliated Faculty, Taylor Geospatial Institute
Affiliated Faculty, Association for Women in Science

EDUCATION

2024 Ph.D., Public and Social Policy (Concentration: Geospatial Analysis**)**, Saint Louis University
Dissertation: 'A perfect storm: Spatial heterogeneity in the relationships between natural disasters, social vulnerability, community resilience and voter turnout' — Advisor: Dr. Ness Sandoval
Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Research Methodology
2019 M.A., Sociology & Anthropology, Saint Louis University
2011 B.A., Psychology; Spanish, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

CERTIFICATIONS

2026 Tropical Forest Landscapes Restoration Certificate, Yale School of the Environment

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Climate Impacts, Disasters, Environmental Justice, Socio-Ecological Resilience, Civic Participation, Geospatial Analysis, Quantitative & Mixed-Methods Research, Participatory Research Design

BOARD AND LEADERSHIP ROLES

2025-*present* Board Member, Missouri Coalition for the Environment

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

1. **Brugger, L.**, Roll, S., Despard, M., & Miller, S. (2026). Safety Net(works): Informal Financial Support Networks and Financial Hardship During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal for Family and Economic Issues.* DOI: 10.1007/s10834-025-10073-5
2. **Brugger, L.**, Davis, S., Hamilton, L., Quick, A., Roll, S., Rollins, L., Smith, S., Zewdi, N. & Zhang, G. (2026). Financial Wellbeing and Employment in the First Year of a Choice-Based Guaranteed Income Model. Available at SSRN: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=6991538
3. Ibrahim, H., **Brugger, L.,** Lee, J., & Roll, S. (2026). Disparities in Economic Hardships among Immigrant Households During Covid-19: Evidence from a National Survey. *Children and Youth Services Review.* DOI: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2026.109185
4. Stanhope, K., Lewis, Q., **Brugger, L.,** Hamilton, L., Roll, S., Rollins, L., & Zewdi, N. (2026). Improvements in Stress and Sleep Following 24-Months of Guaranteed Income: Results from a Randomized Trial among Black Women in Georgia. *Annals of Epidemiology*. DOI: 10.1016/j.annepidem.2025.12.010

5. Roll, S., Hamilton, L., **Brugger, L.,** Beckelman, T., Hill, A., & Johnson, J. (2026). Addressing Food and Nutrition Insecurity among Black Households in Georgia Through Guaranteed Income. *Health Affairs*. DOI: 10.1377/hlthaff.2025.00613
6. **Brugger, L.,** Parker, C., Hamilton, L., Baughman, A., Jarzombek, C., Comeau, M., & Roll, S. (2025). Staying afloat: How families raising children with disabilities used the expanded Child Tax Credit. *Journal of Disability Policy Studie.* DOI: 10.1177/10442073251368340
7. **Brugger, L**., Bellisle, D., Udani, A., Maag, E., Roll, S. & Lee, J. (2025). Immigrant household use of the expanded Child Tax Credit. *SN Business and Economics.* DOI: 10.1007/s43546-025-00871-2
8. Jabbari, J., Roll, S., and **Brugger, L.** (2024). Asking for a friend: Reminders and incentives for crowdsourcing college savings. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics.* DOI: 1016/j.socec.2024.102305
9. Hamilton, L., Bellisle, D., **Brugger, L.,** Roll, S., Fox-Dichter, S., & Pitman, E. (2024). It Saved Us: Parent Perspectives of the 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit. *SN Social Sciences.* DOI: 10.1007/s43545-023-00827-z
10. Miller, S., Roll, S., Brown, C. Taylor, and **Brugger, L.** (2024). Which Side (Of the Balance Sheet) Are You On? Examining the Relationship between Assets, Income, and Participation in the 2020 Protests. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare.* DOI: 10.15453/0191-5096.4671
11. Lateef, H., Mansoo, Y., Horton, D., **Brugger, L**., Yu, M., Jellesma, F., Boahen-Boaten, B., & Borgstrom, E. (2023). Goal Orientation and Adolescent Social Competence: Ubuntu as a Mediator Among Black American Adolescents. *Journal of Prevention*. DOI: 10.1007/s10935-023-00726-2
12. Lateef, H., **Brugger, L.**, Boyd, D., Gale, A., & Williams, E. (2022). Affective Orientation and School Persistence Among African American Youth: Implications for Afrocentric Youth Research and Practice. *Journal of African American Studies.* DOI: 10.1007/s12111-021-09569-9
13. **Brugger, L.** (2021). Rejection-Identification: An examination of group-level and individual-level discrimination among Hispanic immigrants. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences, 43*(3), 311-331. DOI: 10.1177/07399863211033502
14. Markee, M. D., Ascencio, C., **Brugger, L.,** Jonas, R., & Matsuo, H. (2021). Perceptions of the healthcare system among stakeholders. *Patient Experience Journal, 8*(3), 79-87. DOI: 10.35680/2372-0247.1561

Manuscripts under Review

1. Wang, D., **Brugger, L.,** England, S., Kelly, J. C., Bligard, K., Frolova, A., & Raghuraman, N. Impact of Proximity to Sources of Pollution on Birth Outcomes. (Under Review)
2. Iannotti, L., Aboagye-Mensah, G., **Brugger, L**., & Zimmerman, R. Mushrooms and human nutrition: is it time for a new food group? (Under Review). Nutrition Reviews.
3. **Brugger, L.** Spindler-Ruiz, P., & Sandoval, N. (Revise & Resubmit). Spatial Variation in the Relationship between FEMA's National Risk Index and 2020 Voter Turnout in Los Angeles, Miami, and San Antonio. *Nature Cities.*

Technical Reports, Research Briefs, and Blog Posts

1. Brugger, L., Spindler-Ruiz, P., & Sandoval, J.S. Onesimo. (2026). How Disaster Risk Shapes Voter Turnout. (CSD Research Brief No. 26-11). DOI: 10.7936/a3qf-as15
2. Allee, H., Anderson, G., Barth, R., **Brugger, L.,** Chiang, M., Dobill, A., ... & Zhang, G. (2025). The Impacts of the St. Louis Guaranteed Basic Income Program on Quality of Life.
3. Allee, H., Anderson, G., Barth, R., **Brugger, L**., Chiang, M., Dobill, A., ... & Zhang, G. (2025). The Impacts of the St. Louis Guaranteed Basic Income Program on Credit Health.
4. Allee, H., Anderson, G., Barth, R., **Brugger, L**., Chiang, M., Dobill, A., ... & Zhang, G. (2025). The Impacts of the St. Louis Guaranteed Basic Income Program on Economic Security.
5. **Brugger, L.,** Despard, M., Miller, S., & Roll, S. (2025). What Jobs Offer (and Don't Offer) Benefits to Low-Wage Workers? Evidence from a Nationally Representative Survey (CSD Research Brief No. 25-37). Washington University, Center for Social Development.

6. **Brugger, L.,** Davis, S., Elliot, D., Hamilton, L., Roll, S., Rollins, L., Smith, S., Quick, A., Zewde, N. (2025). In Her Hands: A Guaranteed Income Initiative. Final Report.
7. Roll.S., Elliot, D., Smith, S., Quick, A., **Brugger, L**., Davis, S., & Hamilton, L. (2024). Does Guaranteed Income Build Assets for Black Women? Evidence from the In Her Hands Program. Financial Independence Conference Brief.
8. Roll, S., Hamilton, L., & **Brugger, L.** (2024). Project Community Connections, Inc. Direct Cash Transfer Project. Cohort One Report.
9. **Brugger, L.**, Davis, S., Elliott, D., Hamilton, L., Quick, A., Roll, S., Rollins, L., Smith, S., & Zewde, N. (2024). In Her Hands: A guaranteed income initiative. First Year Research Summary.
10. Baughman, A., **Brugger, L**., Comeau, M., Hamilton, L., Jarzombek, C., Parker, C., & Roll, S. (2023). Expanded Child Tax Credit Payments Supported Families Raising Children with Disabilities. *Catalyst Center at Boston University.*
11. **Brugger, L**., Roll, S., Hamilton, L., Baughman, A., Comeau, M., Jarzombeck, C., & Parker, C. (2023). "It helped us more than I could have imagined": How the 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit Supported Families Raising Children with Disabilities. *Catalyst Center at Boston University.*
12. Hamilton, L., Roll, S., Despard, M., Maag, E., Chun, Y., **Brugger, L**., & Grinstein-Weiss, M. (2022). The Impacts of the 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit on Family Employment, Nutrition, and Financial Well-being. Research report for *Brookings*.
13. Maag, E. & **Brugger L.** (2022). Immigrant parents were less likely to have received expanded CTC; those who did used it for essentials. *Tax Policy Center.*
14. **Brugger, L**., Roll, S., Kristensen, K. and Grinstein-Weiss, M. (Nov, 2021). Vaccine hesitance during COVID-19: Exploring motivations and incentives. *Social Policy Institute: Washington University in St. Louis.*
15. Roll, S., Chun, Y., **Brugger, L.,** and Hamilton, L. (2021). How are families in the U.S. using their Child Tax Credit payments? A 50 state analysis. *Social Policy Institute: Washington University in St. Louis.*
16. Maag, E. & **Brugger, L.** (2021). Immigrant parents are less aware of child tax credit than US-born parents and more likely to plan to use it to invest in education, fill gaps in child care and health care. *Tax Policy Center.*

Working Papers

1. **Brugger, L.,** Spindler-Ruiz, P., & Sandoval, N. A perfect storm: Spatial heterogeneity in the relationship between disasters, social vulnerability, resilience, and voter turnout change between 2016 and 2020.
2. **Brugger, L.**, Reeves, A., Li, B., & Foringer, K. Hurricane Helene and 2024 U.S. Voter Turnout. resilience, and voter turnout change between 2016 and 2020.
3. Zheng, H., **Brugger, L.,** Hamilton, L., & Roll, S. Qualitative Results from the In Her Hands Study.

PRESENTATIONS

Scholarly Conference Presentations

1. Cohen, S.(presenting author), Wang, D., **Brugger, L.,** England, S., Kelly, J. C., Bligard, K., Frolova, A., & Raghuraman, N. (2026). Impact of proximity to sources of pollution on birth outcomes. Presentation at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine 2026 Pregnancy Meeting. Las Vegas, NV.
2. **Brugger, L**. (presenting author), Alexander, L., Li, B., & Reeves, A. (2025). Disrupted democracy: How natural disasters suppress political participation. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Seattle, WA.
3. **Brugger, L**. (presenting author), Alexander, L., Li, B., & Reeves, A. (2025). Disasters and democracy: Spatial analysis of how Hurricane Helene impacted the 2024 election. Geospatial Research Initiative Symposium. St. Louis, MO.
4. **Brugger, L.** (presenting author), Spindler-Ruiz, P., & Sandoval, N. (2024*)*. Spatial variation in disaster risk and voter turnout: Insights from Los Angeles, Miami, and San Antonio. Poster Presentation at WashU Center for the Environment Symposium. St. Louis, MO.
5. Hamilton, L., Roll, S. P., Zheng, H., **Brugger, L**., Elliott, D., Smith, S., & Quick, A. (2024). Paydays, not Payday Loans: The Impacts of Guaranteed Income on High-Cost Financial Service Usage among Low-

Income Black Women. Poster Presentation at Boulder Summer Research Conference in Consumer Financial Decisionmaking. Boulder, CO.

6. **Brugger, L.** (presenting author), Spindler-Ruiz, P., & Sandoval, N. (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. National Harbor, MD.
7. **Brugger, L.**, Davis, S., Elliot, D., Hamilton, L.(presenting author), Quick, A., Roll, S., & Smith, S. (2024). Beyond food assistance: The effects of guaranteed income on food and nutrition security for low-income Black families. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. National Harbor, MD.
8. **Brugger, L.** (presenting author). (2023*)*. A perfect storm: How natural disasters and socio-spatial inequalities create barriers to the ballot box. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Atlanta, GA.
9. **Brugger, L.** (presenting author), Bellisle, D., Udani, A., Maag, E. (2023). Immigrant Family Use of the Expanded Child Tax Credit. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Atlanta, GA.
10. Quick, A., **Brugger, L**., Chopin, V., Elliott, D., Hamilton, L., Paputseanos, T., Roll, S. P., & Smith, S. (2023). Combatting the "Welfare Queen": Understanding the Experiences of Black Women in Public Assistance Programs. Panel Presentation at Association for Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Atlanta, GA.
11. Elliott, D., **Brugger, L.**, Chopin, V., Hamilton, L., Paputseanos, T., Quick, A., Roll, S. P., & Smith, S. (2023). "I Don't Want for Something That I Don't Have": Challenges and Compromises of Black Women Navigating an Inadequate Social Safety Net. Panel Presentation at Association for Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Atlanta, GA.
12. Jabbari, J., Roll, S., & **Brugger, L**. (presenting author). (2023*)*. Asking for a Friend: Reminders and Incentives for Crowdsourcing College Savings. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Atlanta, GA.
13. Smith, S., **Brugger, L**., Chopin, V., Elliott, D., Hamilton, L., Paputseanos, T., Quick, A., & Roll, S. P. (2023). The "Strong Black Woman": Physical and Mental Health of Low-Income Black Women in Georgia in the Absence of Medicaid Expansion. Panel Presentation at Association for Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Atlanta, GA.
14. Hamilton, L. (presenting author), Roll, S., Chun, Y. & **Brugger, L**. (2022). The impacts of the 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit on family employment, nutrition, and financial well-being. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Washington DC.
15. Rothwell, D., **Brugger, L.** (presenting author) & Fox-Dichter, S. (2022). The moderating role of paid leave policy amid COVID-19. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Washington, DC.
16. Roll, S., Despard, M. & **Brugger, L.** (presenting author). (2022). The moderating role of liquid assets amid COVID-19. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. Austin, Texas.
17. Hamilton, L., Roll, S. P., Despard, M., Maag, E., Chun, Y., **Brugger, L**., & Grinstein-Weiss, M. (2022). Consumer Choice and Employment Effects of the 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit. Poster Presentation at Boulder Summer Research Conference in Consumer Financial Decisionmaking. Boulder, CO.
18. **Brugger, L.** (presenting author) & Spindler-Ruiz, P. (2021). A geo-spatial visualization tool to analyze socio-spatial variation in Latino voting patterns. Sigma Xi Annual Research Conference. Niagara Falls, New York (virtual).
19. **Brugger, L**. (2021). Rejection-identification: A comparison of group-level and individual level discrimination among Hispanic immigrants. Saint Louis University Graduate Student Research Symposium. Saint Louis, MO.
20. **Brugger, L.** (2019). Discrimination, identity, and cultural heritage importance among first-generation immigrants. Police of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium. Saint Louis, MO
21. **Brugger, L.** (2019). Spatial distribution of tourism infrastructure surrounding archaeological sites in Belize. Saint Louis University Graduate Research Symposium. Saint Louis, Mo.

22. Markee, M. (presenting co-author), Ascencio, C., **Brugger, L.** (presenting co-author), van den Berg, S., & Matsuo, H. (2018). Healthcare perceptions from consumers, healthcare providers, and health insurance providers: A grounded theory approach. Washington University Institute for Public Health Annual Conference. Saint Louis, MO.

Webinar/Seminar Presentations & Guest Lectures

1. **Brugger, L**. (2026). STEM Careers for Queer Women in Science. Guest lecture a Washington University in St. Louis, Saint Louis, MO.
2. **Brugger, L.** (2025). Spatial analysis of Hurricane Helene on voter turnout in the 2024 election. Guest lecture at the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy. Saint Louis MO.
3. **Brugger, L.** (2024). A perfect storm: Spatial heterogeneity in the National Risk Index and voter turnout. Geospatial Research Initiative Inaugural Forum, Washington University in St. Louis. Saint Louis, MO.
4. Baughman, A., **Brugger, L**., Hamilton, L. & Parker, C. (2023). The impact of the Expanded Child Tax Credit on Families Raising Children with Disabilities. Boston University Catalyst Center.
5. **Brugger, L.** Git going with Git and R. (2019). Saint Louis R-Ladies Seminar. Saint Louis, MO.

RESEARCH FUNDING

Bridging Ecology and Public Health: A One Health Approach to Understanding Wildlife, Environment, and Equity in St. Louis 2026-2027
Funder: WashU Here & Next ($20,000), Role: Consultant

Assessing the InSPIRe Pilot: Insurance Supplements for Inclusive Disaster Recovery after Helene 2026-2027
Funder: Carolina Community Impact ($50,000), Role: Consultant

Hurricane Helene and the 2024 Election: Geospatial Analysis of Electoral Disruptions in Hurricane-Affected States
Funder: WashU Geospatial Research Initiative ($20,000), Role: Co-PI 2025-2026

Mapping the Vote: A Pop-Up Initiative to Explore Climate Related Changes and Voter Behavior
Funder: WashU Here & Next ($20,000), Role: Co-PI

Center for the Environment Summer Undergraduate Researcher Funding 2025-2025
Funder: WashU Center for the Environment (Funding for summer undergraduate RA), Role: PI

Retirement with Dignity: Challenges and Opportunities for the Secure 2.0 Act 2023-2025
Funder: Prudential Foundation ($385,000), Role: Co-PI

American Rescue Plan Act Guaranteed Income Data and Evaluation Proposal 2023-2025
Funder: City of Saint Louis. ($299,999), Role: Co-I

Creatives Rebuild New York Mixed Methods Evaluation Proposal 2023-2024
Funder: Creatives Rebuild New York ($582,855), Role: Co-I

Does Guaranteed Income Facilitate Wealth and Credit Building Among Black Households? 2023-2024
Funder: Washington Center for Equitable Growth ($40,000), Role: Co-I

In Her Hands Nutrition Study 2023-2023
Funder: Center for Science in the Public Interest ($50,000), Role: Co-I

Activating Inclusive Growth in St. Louis 2023-2024
Funder: Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth ($1,499,258), Co-I

Workforce Economic Inclusion and Mobility Project 2022-2025
Funder: JPMorgan Chase Foundation ($1,581,000), Role: Co-I

Project Community Connections, Inc. Cash Transfer Pilot 2022-2025
Funder: Project Community Connections, Inc. ($138,039), Role: Co-I

Georgia Resilience and Opportunity Fund Program Evaluation 2021-2023
Funder: Give Directly ($280,000), Role: Co-I

Does Guaranteed Income Facilitate Wealth and Credit Building Among Black Households? 2023-2025
Funder: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ($315,243), Role: Co-I

MetLife data validation project. 2022-2023
Funder: MetLife ($175,000), Role: Co-PI

The 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. 2022-2023

Funder: Boston University Catalyst Center ($49,250), Role: Co-I

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

1. KSDK News. (2025, December 8). Guaranteed basic income a safety net for families across the country, including in St. Louis.
2. First Alert 4 (KMOV). (2025, December 8). St. Louis releases report on Guaranteed Basic Income Program.
3. St. Louis Magazine. (2025, December 8). St. Louis' guaranteed basic income pilot showed some uplift.
4. St. Louis Public Radio. (2025, December 8). $500 monthly payments helped St. Louis families — then a lawsuit and a tornado hit.
5. U.S. Senate Joint Economic Committee. (2021, December 12). Six months of advance CTC payments have dramatically reduced childhood poverty and improved family finances.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018-2026 Washington University in St. Louis
Environmental Justice and Macro Mental Health (Spring 2026)
Policy Evaluation and Analysis, Adjunct Professor (Spring 2023; Spring 2024)
Foundation of Biostatistics, Adjunct Professor (Fall 2022; Fall 2023)
RSkills Lab, Adjunct Professor (Spring 2022; Fall 2022; Spring 2023; Fall 2023; Spring 2024)
Foundations of Biostatistics, Teaching Assistant (2018-2021)
Applied Linear Modeling, Lab Instructor (2019)

2016-2020 Saint Louis University
Cultural Anthropology of Central America, Teaching Assistant (2020)
Interdisciplinary Immersion in Belize, Co-Instructor (2016-2019)

EVENTS ORGANIZED

1. *Disaster Aid, Equity, and Electoral Disruptions: Analyzing the Impact of Climate Hazards and Government Responses.* Panel at Association for Public Policy and Management Conference. November 2025. Seattle, WA.
2. *Measuring Inequities in Climate Change Impacts and Response in Marginalized Communities*. Panel at Association for Public Policy and Management Conference. November 2024. Washington, D.C.
3. *Who Benefits? Financial Health of Immigrant Households and Receiving Communities.* Panel at Association for Public Policy and Management Conference. November 2023. Atlanta, GA.
4. *Beyond Public Health: Pandemic Policy Impacts on Economies and Well-Being.* Panel at Association for Public Policy and Management Conference. November 2022. Washington, D.C.
5. *Financial Vulnerability and the COVID-19 Pandemic: International, National, and Local Evidence*. Panel at Association for Public Policy and Management Conference. March 2022. Austin, TX.

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025-2026 Committee Member, Eden Patterson Thesis Committee
2023-2026 Member, JPMC Research Scholars, Social Policy Institute, Washington University in St. Louis
2022-2023 Member, Strategic Planning Committee, Social Policy Institute, Washington University in St. Louis
2021-2023 Member, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Social Policy Institute, Washington University
2019-2020 Mentor, 1818 Grant Program. Saint Louis University
2018-2019 Mentor, Vocational Inquiry Through Advocacy and Service (VITAS), Saint Louis University

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024 Geospatial Dissertation Research and Innovation Award. Saint Louis University

2019 Patricia Galata Memorial Staff Service Award. Saint Louis University