

# LAURA BRUGGER, PH.D

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<https://laurabrugger.github.io/>

## CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

2024-present Assistant Research Professor (Primary), Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis  
2025-present Assistant Research Professor (Secondary), School of Public Health, Washington University in St. Louis

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

2024-present 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

## NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2021-2024 Senior Data Analyst, Social Policy Institute, Washington University in St. Louis  
2015-2021 Grants Specialist/Program Coordinator, Saint Louis University  
2011-2015 Program Manager, The Covering House, Saint Louis, MO

## 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

IP 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. (In Press). Informal financial support networks and material hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal for Family and Economic Issues*.
2. **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](https://doi.org/10.1177/10442073251368340)
3. **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](https://doi.org/10.1007/s43546-025-00871-2)
4. Stanhope, K., Lewis, Q., **Brugger, L.**, Hamilton, L., Roll, S., Rollins, L., & Zewdi, N. (2025). Differences in Stress and Sleep Among Recipients and Non-Recipients of 12 and 24 Months of Guaranteed Income, a Community-Based Study Among Black Women in Georgia. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5294109>
5. 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.soccec.2024.102305](https://doi.org/10.1616/j.soccec.2024.102305)

6. 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](https://doi.org/10.1007/s43545-023-00827-z)
7. 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](https://doi.org/10.15453/0191-5096.4671)
8. 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](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10935-023-00726-2)
9. 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](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12111-021-09569-9)
10. **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](https://doi.org/10.1177/07399863211033502)
11. 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](https://doi.org/10.35680/2372-0247.1561)

#### Manuscripts under Review

1. 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*.
2. **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*.
3. Roll, S., Hamilton, L., **Brugger, L.**, Beckelman, T., Hill, A., & Johnson, J. (Revise & Resubmit) Addressing Food and Nutrition Insecurity among Black Households in Georgia Through Guaranteed Income. *Health Affairs*.
4. Ibrahim, H., **Brugger, L.**, Lee, J., & Roll, S. (Revise & Resubmit). Disproportionate Economic Hardships of COVID-19 on Immigrant Households. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*.

#### Technical Reports, Research Briefs, and Blog Posts

1. 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](#).
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 Credit Health](#).
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 Economic Security](#).
4. **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.
5. **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](#).
6. 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](#).
7. Roll, S., Hamilton, L., & **Brugger, L.** (2024). [Project Community Connections, Inc. Direct Cash Transfer Project. Cohort One Report](#).
8. **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](#).
9. 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*.

10. **Brugger, L.**, Roll, S., Hamilton, L., Baughman, A., Comeau, M., Jarzombek, 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.*
11. 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*.
12. 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.*
13. **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.*
14. 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.*
15. 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. (Forthcoming 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

1. **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.
2. 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.
3. **Brugger, L.** Git going with Git and R. (2019). Saint Louis R-Ladies Seminar. Saint Louis, MO.

#### RESEARCH FUNDING

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	
2025-2026	
Funder: WashU Geospatial Research Initiative (\$20,000), Role: Co-PI	
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	

## PROPOSED 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: Co-PI	
Climate Attitudes, Political Ideology, & Environmental Exposure: A Longitudinal Study Across the U.S.	
Funder: Russel Sage Foundation (\$50,000), Role: PI	2026-2027
Healthcare Disruptions in Medically Vulnerable Populations During Extreme Weather Events: Evidence from the May 2025 Tornado in St. Louis	2026-2027
Funder: Burroughs Wellcome Fund (\$50,000), Role: Co-PI	
Promoting Health Equity through a Universal Asset Building: A Policy Design Agenda	2026-2028
Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Role: Co-I	
Rooted Resilience	2026-2028
Funder: National Geographic Society (\$150,000), Role: Consultant	

## 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

2018-2024	Washington University in St. Louis 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- present	Committee Member, Eden Patterson Thesis Committee
2023-present	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