

# Christiaan Boersma: Candidate for Nominating Committee



**Affiliation:** NASA ARC/SJSURF

**Position/Title:** Senior Research Scientist

**PhD institution:** Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, 2009

## **Areas of scientific interest:**

Infrared astronomy; Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); Laboratory astrophysics databases

## **AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:**

- Treasurer, Laboratory Astrophysics Division, American Astronomical Society, 2019 – present

## **Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:**

- Board Member, Association for PhD Students, University of Groningen, 2007 – 2009
- Chair, Student Consultation, Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, 2003 – 2004
- Member, Education Board, Department of Astronomy, University of Groningen, 2002 – 2003
- Treasurer and committee member, Student Federation for the Exact Sciences, University of Groningen, 2002 - 2003

## **Statement:**

It is a privilege to be considered for the Nominating Committee. I take the opportunity to support the American Astronomical Society (AAS) very seriously. This, plus the opportunity to enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the Universe in these exciting times, with the James Webb Space Telescope at the forefront, is one that I fully embrace.

Ongoing and previous experiences in leadership roles include Treasurer and Executive Committee member of the Laboratory Astrophysics Division (LAD) of the AAS, Treasurer of the Federation of Students in the Exact Sciences and Mathematics departments of the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. As a member of the LAD logo committee, I've been directly

involved in updating the LAD branding, modernizing and making it recognizable. If elected to the Nominating Committee, I will commit to advancing the goals set forth by the AAS.

An area I deem important is how the AAS can capitalize on the recommendations from the Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics 2020. Another important area is how Astronomy can meet the challenges associated with moving into a post COVID-19 world. Furthermore, it is important to continue promoting Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) in Astronomy.