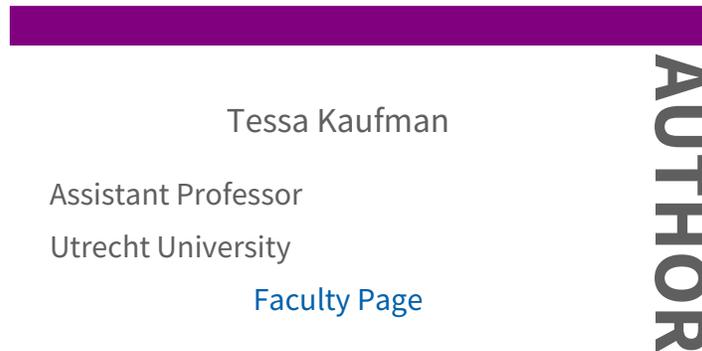


[NEWS](#) | POSTED JUNE 7, 2023

# Member Spotlight: Tessa Kaufman, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Utrecht University; Member of the SRCD SOGIE Caucus.



**Who or what inspirers you and why (and/or who/what inspired you to go into your chosen field of study)?**

I am convinced that we as researchers can make the difference by providing evidence for explicit, but also hidden, persistent disparities for sexually and gender diverse youth. In my work I am to do so by studying these disparities, as well as solutions, and continuously presenting them to the public audience and policy makers.

**Is there a mentor or mentors who have been instrumental to your career and, if so, who and how?**

Dr. Laura Baams ([SOGIE Caucus](#) chair) has provided me with opportunities to do research in this field from the moment I started my research master internship 10 years ago, and has never stopped being an inspiring mentor and, by now, close colleague and friend. In addition, I admire Paul Poteat's work on GSAs, because I love the focus on interventions and how they work.

**What advice would you give to a Graduate student beginning their Ph.D. studies in Developmental Science or related?**

Stay curious. Don't follow the flock, but stick to your own ideas, even if the road to answering the research questions that you find interesting seems long.

**What is your best SRCD memory?**

All my SRCD memories are about the moments that I finally met my international colleagues live, and that I could have inspiring conversations during network sessions or drinks with people who are interested in the same "niche" topic. It really made me much more connected with the SOGIE community.

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**to learn about benefits, networking opportunities, and more!**