

# Interview with Incoming GODORT Chair— Lynda Kellam

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## **Favorite spot in Ithaca, New York**

My favorite spot is my second floor porch looking out over the Fall Creek neighborhood. It is just a great place for people watching. I also love Ithaca Falls and Six Mile Creek. So much natural beauty here.

## **Favorite pastime/hobby**

I am a big music fan so I guess my hobby is listening to music and collecting records. And yes I still have CDs. :) But my real hobby should be finishing my PhD. At least that is what my advisor would say.

## **Favorite TV shows**

My favorite older shows are *X-Files* and *Community*. I also really like Hulu's *The Great* about Catherine the Great. I was a *Game of Thrones* fan but I disowned that last episode.

## **Favorite book**

*Kafka on the Shore* by Murakami. I love magical realism and the imagery and story have always stayed with me.

## **Favorite Government Document**

My favorite government document is probably the *Congressional Record*. It may seem dry, but as a historical document, it is priceless. I've used it since the 1990s when Bob Gaines at UNCG taught me how to use it for a paper on the normalization of relations with Vietnam. I've also used it for multiple projects for my PhD.

## **Favorite movies**

*No Man's Land*. It is about the Bosnian War and its impact on three soldiers who get stuck in the middle. It is a smart film that deals with both the futility of that war and the international response and of war in general.

## **On your reading list now**

I am currently reading *Arc of Justice* by Kevin Boyle. It was recommended to me when I was studying for my comprehensive exams in American history.

## **Music on your phone**

Tons of it. I listen to many types of music. I just love music. I probably need more classical music.

## **Favorite drink**

Bourbon sour.

## **Favorite type of food**

All types (really). My favorite international cuisine is Mexican, but good Mexican food doesn't exist in Ithaca.

## **Favorite conference city**

I love going to Chicago. Great food and always fun even when we got nineteen inches of snow one year!

## **Favorite vacation spot**

I love the Outer Banks of NC. I miss going there and hope to get back soon.

## **Historical figure you'd like to meet**

I would love to meet Ida B. Wells. As the key anti-lynching advocate, she traveled internationally to bring attention to the issue and the rights of African Americans. She was also an inspiring orator so I would love to see her in action.

## **Pet peeve**

I can be annoyed by sarcasm or negativity mainly because I try to stop myself from going down that road. It can be a needless spiral sometimes and brings down creative efforts.

## **What inspires you about your job?**

In my current position I am more involved in project management and being able to see a project from conception to closing is quite inspiring. I am also inspired by the work we are doing at CISER on the Freedom on the Move (<https://freedomonthe.move.org/>) database of runaway slave advertisements and other projects to promote data access and use.