

Senior Fellow for UAV and Autonomy Studies (MI-UAS) THE MITCHELL INSTITUTE



Dr. Caitlin Lee is the Senior Fellow for the Mitchell's Institute's Center for Unmanned and Autonomous Systems

BACKGROUND: Dr. Lee previously served in multiple research leadership roles as a political scientist at RAND Corporation from 2016-2022, including Associate Director in RAND's Acquisition and Technology Policy program, and Acting Associate Director in the Project AIR FORCE Strategy and Doctrine Program. She also authored and co-authored reports on joint all-domain command and control, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance, Air Force officer development, and strategic planning, readiness, and force management. Prior to RAND, Caitlin was the Senior Aviation reporter for the Americas Bureau of Janes, where she covered Air Force acquisition, operations, and technology from 2006 to 2014 from the Pentagon and airfields worldwide, including Afghanistan, the UK and France. She has flown in a variety of US

military aircraft including the F-15, F-16, C-17, V-22, CH-46, and C-2A, as well as the Afghan Air Force C-208. She also covered homeland security and homeland defense at Congressional Quarterly from 2002-2006.

AREAS OF FOCUS: Dr. Lee's areas of expertise include aerospace strategy, operations, and technology, with a focus on the role of unmanned systems, autonomy and artificial intelligence/ machine learning in contributing to aerospace power.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL TITLES: Dr. Lee's dissertation focused on Air Force innovation and the MQ-1 Predator program. Her work has been published in academic journals such as Journal of Strategic Studies and Air and Space Power Journal, and she has provided commentary to CNN, Fox News, Flight Magazine and other media outlets. She is also an adjunct professor of Security Studies at Georgetown University, where she teaches the "Art and Science of Force Planning," and an adjunct staff member of RAND Corporation. She has a Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College in London, an M.A. in Security Studies from Georgetown University, and graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. political science from Northeastern University.
