

USAWC announces permanent DeSerio Chair

By Public Affairs Staff 15 February 2018



Dr. Genevieve Lester has accepted the permanent position of Francis W. DeSerio Chair for Strategic and Theater Intelligence. The USAWC recently converted the DeSerio Chair from a position occupied by a visiting professor to an USAWC Foundation-funded

The Army War College announced it is converting the Francis W. DeSerio Chair for Strategic and Theater Intelligence into a permanent position within the War College.

Dr. Genevieve Lester has accepted the permanent position as the DeSerio Chair, which a visiting professor has filled in the past. The Chair will be Army War College Foundation-funded, along the lines of the Chair of War Studies and the Chair of Strategic Leadership. A visiting professor at the USAWC for the past 2 years, Lester has laid out a plan to develop and integrate a strong intelligence program into the USAWC curriculum.

Over the past two years, Lester has contributed to the academic program of the School of Strategic Landpower. She has run an independent study, developed an elective, conducted research and added a chapter to the

"Building Partnership Capacity in Africa" Integrated Research Project. She also created the DeSerio Society for students, faculty and staff interested in intelligence issues, and hosted two DeSerio lectures -- Amy McAuliffe (Chair of the National Intelligence Council) and Michael Morell (former Director of the CIA).

Prior to coming to Carlisle, Lester taught strategic intelligence at National Defense University's Joint Special Operations MA Program at Fort Bragg. She has broad experience in program development related to security studies, developed a program on core analytical methods at Georgetown University's Security Studies Program and supervised that program's Intelligence Concentration.

Lester is the author of "When Should State Secrets Stay Secret: Accountability, Democratic Governance and Intelligence," (Cambridge University Press, 2015), a national prize-winning book that brought together issues of public policy, international relations, American Politics, organizational theory in an analysis of the conundrums involved in having an effective, yet accountable, intelligence service within a free and democratic society.

She earned a PhD in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley, as well as a Master's degree in International Economic and International Relations from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies and a Bachelors in History from Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. She was also a Fulbright Scholar at the Technical University in Berlin, Germany.

Additionally she has international and security experience as a researcher at Chatham House, Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, the RAND Corporation and as a researcher at the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in Los Angeles.