Elsa B. Kania is an Adjunct Senior Fellow with the Technology and National Security Program at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) and a Research Fellow with the Center for Security and Emerging Technology at Georgetown University. Her research focuses on Chinese military innovation and technological development. At CNAS, she contributes to the Artificial Intelligence and Global Security Initiative and the "Securing Our 5G Future" program, while acting as a member of the research team for the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and National Security. Elsa was a 2018 Fulbright Specialist and is a Non-Resident Fellow with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's International Cyber Policy Centre. She works in support of the U.S. Air Force's China Aerospace Studies Institute through its Associates Program, serves as a Policy Advisor for the non-profit Technology for Global Security, and contributes to the Party Watch Initiative of the Center for Advanced China Research. Elsa has been invited to testify before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, and the National Commission on Service. She was named an official "Mad Scientist" by the U.S. Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

Currently, Elsa is a PhD student in Harvard University's Department of Government, and she is also a graduate of Harvard College (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa). Her thesis was awarded the James Gordon Bennett Prize, and her dissertation will examine Chinese military learning and innovation in historical perspective. Her prior professional experience includes time with FireEye, the Department of Defense, Long Term Strategy Group, and the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy. While at Harvard, she has also worked as a research assistant at the Belfer Center and the Weatherhead Center. Elsa was a Boren Scholar in Beijing, China, and she has professional proficiency in Mandarin Chinese.

Ms. Kania testified before the Commission in 2017.