



# American Society of International Law

## Arthur C. Helton Fellowship 2015 Program Fellows



**Mohammad Hamdy** is an SJD candidate at Harvard Law School and a Teaching Fellow at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. He wrote his master's thesis on the Nile Basin dispute and his SJD dissertation focuses on international investment law, with particular emphasis on the relationship between the legal regime of investment and economic efficiency. His research interests include public international law, international economic law, human rights, legal theory, Arab and Islamic law, and legal education. Hamdy's Helton Fellowship project is a part of ongoing research exploring the role and legal status of human rights NGOs in Egypt. In particular, it seeks to register how NGOs are organized under local laws, how they manage to conduct their activities under the existing restrictive Egyptian NGOs' law, and how they will be able to continue to function after the most recent decrees issued by the President instituting severe criminal penalties for individuals involved in organizations which receive foreign funding.

**Elizabeth Maushart** is a public international lawyer. She currently works as a law clerk to Justice Edwin Cameron at the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Prior to joining the Court, Maushart worked at the Southern Africa Litigation Centre, a strategic litigation organization promoting human rights and the rule of law in Southern Africa; she was also a judicial fellow to United States District Court Judge Philip M. Pro. She earned a J.D. as a Dean's Scholar at Golden Gate University School of Law, a B.A. in Political Science from Gonzaga University, and is an M.A. candidate in Political Science at San Diego State University. She will research prison conditions in South Africa in hopes of determining whether those conditions align with international human rights standards. Specifically, she will focus on overcrowding, lack of access to essential health services, and the spread of HIV in prisons. Based on qualitative data garnered from first hand observations of prison facilities and prisoner interviews, Maushart will conduct a critical analysis of current prison conditions as compared to international human rights legal standards in hopes of pinpointing areas in need of improvement.





**Amy Testa** currently lives in Bangkok, Thailand, where she works at the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). She received an honors B.A. in History and Philosophy from Rollins College and a J.D. with honors from the George Washington University Law School. She is admitted to practice law in Florida, but works predominately in Thailand. For the previous year and a half, Testa has worked with urban refugees in Bangkok, including previously working as a legal advocate at Asylum Access Thailand where she provided counselling to refugees and asylum seekers going through the UNHCR refugee status determination process. She will be working with APRRN

and the Bangkok Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance Network (BASRAN) in order to develop a platform for information sharing among service providers, other civil society organizations, and refugee communities. In particular, she will be drafting handbooks, orientation guides, and other similar material to be published online so that BASRAN members can share these resources with newly arrive refugees easily and quickly, thus increasing access to services and efficiency in information sharing. Her Helton Fellowship project will also include coordinating the translation of resources into the most common languages of the different refugee communities in Bangkok in order to facilitate the spread of accurate information, counter rumors and lessen the risk of exploitation.