



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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### **Bio and Research Statement**

Hélène Thibault is PhD candidate at the School of Political Studies of the University of Ottawa. Her thesis, *State-Religion relations in post-Soviet Tajikistan*, will be defended in 2014. Her dissertation explores the religious revival taking place in Tajikistan following the independence of the country in 1991. It does so by considering the lasting impact of the Soviet legacy on the understanding of the place of religion in society and modes of religiosity. In parallel to her studies, she acquired professional experience with various deployments in the post-Soviet territory: with a local NGO in Georgia (2005), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Kyrgyzstan (2005), Tajikistan (2010) and Ukraine (2012). Her latest publication “The Secular and the Religious in Tajikistan: Contested Political Spaces” can be found in *Studies in Religion/Études religieuses* 42(2); 173-189. "