



and
DEC Migration and Remittances Unit
cordially invite you to a

KNOMAD Seminar

“US & Them”: In praise of aliens and a satire
about exile in our times
A conversation with novelist Bahiyyih Nakhjavani

Date: Monday, April 24, 2017

Time: 12:30-2:00 PM

Venue: MC C2-131

Speaker:

Bahiyyih Nakhjavani, Author

Chair:

Augusto Lopez Claros, Senior Advisor, Development
Economics, World Bank

Description: The reading public has been fascinated of late with the lives of Iranians. From Firoozeh Dumas’s *Funny in Farsi* and *Laughing without an Accent*, to Azadeh Moaveni’s *Lipstick Jihad* and Azar Nafisi’s *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, personal accounts of Iranian family, culture, and politics have climbed the bestseller lists. But few have as yet attempted a fiction about the Iranian diaspora—a big-hearted story that captures the tumultuous character of one of the most successful migrant communities in the world. This is Bahiyyih Nakhjavani’s new novel.



THE STORY: Lili and Goli have argued endlessly about where their mother, Bibijan, should live since the Iranian Revolution. They disagree about her finances too, which remain blocked as long as she insists on waiting for her son—still missing but not presumed dead—to return from the Iran–Iraq war. But once they begin to “share” the old woman, sending her back and forth between Paris and Los Angeles, they start asking themselves where the money might be coming from. Only their Persian halfsister in Iran and the Westernized granddaughter of the family have the courage to face up to the answers, and only when Bibijan relinquishes the past can she

remember the truth.

A story mirrored in fragmented lives, *Us&Them* explores the ludicrous and the tragic, the venal and the generous-hearted aspects of Iranian life away from home. It is a story both familial and familiar in its generational tensions and misunderstandings, its push and pull of obligations and expectations. It also highlights how "we" can become "them" at any moment, for our true exile lies in alienation from others. Bahiyyih Nakhjavani offers a poignant satire about migration, one of the vital issues of our times.



Bahiyyih Nakhjavani, Author, grew up in Uganda, was educated in the United Kingdom and the United States, and now lives in France. She is the author of *The Woman Who Read Too Much* (Redwood Press, 2015), *The Saddlebag* (2001), and *Paper* (2005), as well as non-fiction works about fundamentalism and education. Her novels have been published in French, Italian, Spanish, German, Dutch, Greek, Turkish, Hebrew, Russian, and Korean.

Light refreshments will be served

To RSVP and add the event to your calendar, [CLICK](#)

External participants, please email

icarrasquero@worldbank.org

or call 202-473-0110

to RSVP and request a visitor's pass

To join via

[**WEBEX**](#)

Meeting password: **AzUwpNF6**

Meeting number: **735 896 793**

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Call-in toll number (US/Canada) Toll: 1-650-479-3207

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