Khosrow B. Semnani is the author of *The Ayatollah’s Nuclear Gamble: The Human Cost of Military Strikes Against Iran’s Nuclear Facilities*, published by the University of Utah’s Hinckley Institute of Politics and Omid for Iran. An engineer and entrepreneur by profession, Mr. Semnani completed his early education in Iran and earned dual Bachelor of Science Degrees in Chemistry and Physics from Salt Lake City’s Westminster College (1972), and a Masters of Engineering Administration Degree from the University of Utah (1977). As a physicist, Mr. Semnani’s knowledge and understanding of the effects of chemical and radioactive materials on human health and the environment is based on long years of experience gained as founder and operator of several major nuclear waste facilities. Throughout his career, Mr. Semnani has also been a strong supporter of humanitarian causes around the world. In 1993, he founded the Semnani Family Foundation, which has been a leader in supporting a variety of humanitarian causes and initiatives. It has provided grants to more than 550 charities, and more than 15 different religious and interfaith organizations. Mr. Semnani is also dedicated to promoting a better future for the Iranian people, supporting educational initiatives that enhance the understanding of Iranian history, languages, and civilization. In 2009, Mr. Semnani founded Omid for Iran, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization devoted to supporting the cause of democracy and serving as a collaborative platform for promoting individual freedoms and empowering civil society.

**Program of Iranian Studies**

The Program of Iranian Studies at UCLA is one of the few programs in the Americas (possibly the largest) that covers the entire spectrum of Iranian Studies, and offers courses embracing the languages and cultures of Pre-Islamic and Muslim Iran. Among the distinctive strengths of the Program of Iranian Studies at UCLA is the focus on Old and Middle Iranian philology, ancient Iranian history and religions, as well as the study of classical Persian literature. Courses in Judeo-Persian and Baha’i history and religion are also regularly offered by the Program.
The Program of Iranian Studies at UCLA will be hosting on January 28, 2013 an event on the ecological, humanitarian, and economic consequences of military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. The Iranian philanthropist and industrialist Khosrow B. Semanani will be presenting the findings of his new report entitled “The Ayatollah’s Nuclear Gamble,” which elaborates, on the basis of minute scientific data, on the cataclysmic consequences of a military attack on Iran’s nuclear installations. The lecture delivered by K. Semnani will be followed by a round table of distinguished experts and scholars, who will be discussing the numerous issues raised by the paper. The participants are: Vice Admiral Richard K. Gallahager (US Navy - NATO); Shiva Falsafi (UCLA); Beate Ritz (UCLA); and Romain Wacziarg (UCLA).

Panel Participants:
Vice Admiral Richard Gallagher
United States Navy (retired)

A 1976 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Vice Admiral Gallagher holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Master’s degree in Public Administration. He was designated a naval aviator in 1977. Admiral Gallagher has served operational tours in various fighter squadrons and carrier air wings. He has commanded: Fighter Squadron 142, TOPGUN, the aircraft carriers Inchon and Stennis, and Carrier Group 4. He has served with NATO, and more recently in Europe as the Director of Operations, and then Deputy Commander, of the US European Command. Before retirement in 2012, he served as the U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels.

Romain Wacziarg

Romain Wacziarg is Professor of Economics at the Anderson School of Management. He received his MA and PhD in Economics from Harvard University, and his BA in Economics and Public Policy from the Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris. His research on the links between globalization and economic performance has been published in leading academic journals such as the Quarterly Journal of Economics, the American Economic Review. In addition to his academic experience, he worked as a consultant for the World Bank and the French Ministry of Finance. He is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

Panel Participants:
Shiva Falsafi

Shiva Falsafi is a lawyer and lecturer at the UCLA Department of Women’s Studies. She received her LLM from Harvard University, her JD from Northwestern University, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Her research and teaching interests encompass Civil Society and Democracy, Constitutional Law, Women’s Rights, and International and Comparative Law. She is the author of “Civil Society and Democracy in Japan, Iran, Iraq and Beyond,” and is currently working on an article examining how tensions between religious liberty and women’s equality impact our ability to embrace multiculturalism.

Beate Ritz

Beate Ritz is Professor and Vice Chair of the Epidemiology Department at UCLA, and holds co-appointments in the Environmental Health Department at the UCLA School of Public Health and in Neurology, UCLA School of Medicine. She received her MD and a PhD in Medical Sociology from the University of Hamburg Germany in 1983 and 1987; she also received doctoral training and a PhD degree in Epidemiology in 1995 from UCLA. She has conducted a cancer incidence and mortality study among radiation workers employed at the Rockwell-Rocketdyne facility in LA and published on radiation mortality in uranium workers in Ohio. She has been a reviewer for the National Academy of Sciences report on depleted uranium during Gulf War I.

January 28, 2013 | 314 Royce Hall, UCLA

5:00 pm - Introductions
C. Cindy Fan
Vice Provost, International Institute, UCLA
David Schaberg
Dean, Humanities Division, UCLA
William Schniedewind
Chair, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA
M. Rahim Shayegan
Acting Director, Program of Iranian Studies, UCLA

5:30 pm - Lecture

Iran’s Nuclear Gamble
The Human Cost of Military Strikes Against Iran’s Nuclear Facilities
Khosrow B. Semanani

5:50 pm - Panel Discussion
6:50 pm - Questions and Answers
7:10 pm - Reception in 306 Royce Hall