**Case study: Challenges of bi-culturalism**

**Communication:**In a question and answer interview before the panel, Aris Janigian had mentioned that his wife "may be speaking English but thinking in Korean." Both are fluent English speakers who have been speaking it since childhood. Here, both explain what he meant.

* **Aris:** Armenian was my first language, and Korean was her first language...as she gained her vocabulary and became a beautiful speaker of English, and I did mine, the formative words that we learned and the formative attitudes we garnered from our parents were old-country. They go back deep, hundreds and in some cases thousands of years, and those become kind of the wiring in our brain. On top of that comes language, which is kind of like the programs, the soft wiring that adjusts and modifies and plays off that. What I came to learn about my wife was that her thinking may be very progressive - obviously she is totally capable of knocking you dead any minute of the day with her beautiful sentences and her great thoughts - but the deep processes are old Korean processes, as mine are old Armenian processes.
* **InSun:** When we first got married, my parents called me every day with problems, with this, with that, because they can't speak English...so after college and after I started to work, married this guy, my parents kept calling and calling, well translate this, and translate that, and I'd say okay, okay, okay. After about a year of this, he'd had enough of it. He said, you need to start thinking about our house and our lives together, and you need to say goodbye to Mom and Dad. Husband is number one, and Mom and Dad are number two.
* What I mean by that is filial piety...whatever happened, I was going to show gratitude for the rest of my life and honor them. So I married this guy, and he didn't quite understand that. So are we still working through that? Yes we are. (Laughing.)

<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/multiamerican/2012/06/05/8296/scenes-from-a-bicultural-marriage-communication-an>[/](http://www.scpr.org/blogs/multiamerican/2012/06/05/8296/scenes-from-a-bicultural-marriage-communication-an/) 5.4.2016

Task:

Where do you see differences in family values?

What are some of the challenges InSun and Aris need to tackle due to cultural differences concerning family values?