Culture, Dementia, & Ethnicity: The intersection and its implication for speech-language pathologists

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This workshop will provide attendees with the key parameters for understanding a culture, to frame and construct of aging as intricately related to culture, and segue into a discussion of dementia and ethnicity. Key topics in this workshop will be how culture and ethnicity influence: perceptions of disease and disability, access to care and help-seeking behaviors, how clinicians might be more culturally competent and aware of critical issues when serving diverse clients with dementia. This seminar will emphasize core aspects of South Asian and Middle Eastern cultures, and how aging, dementia, and the role of speech-language pathologists are perceived through the unique lens of these cultures. With this background, the workshop will conclude with a detailed case study presentation to highlight some evidence-based practices when working with culturally diverse individuals and families affected by dementia.

Nidhi Mahendra, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is an Associate Professor and Department Chair in the Department of Communicative Sciences & Disorders at California State University East Bay (CSUEB). She is a certified bilingual speech-language pathologist and directs the Aging and Cognition Research Clinic at CSUEB. Her expertise and research interests are in adult neurogenic language disorders (specifically, dementia and aphasia) and in multicultural issues influencing clinical service delivery. Dr. Mahendra has published 39 articles, 6 textbook chapters, and co-authored two ASHA policy documents on related topics. She was the 2006 recipient of the American Journal of Speech Language Pathology Editors Award and the 2012 recipient of ASHA’s Certificate of Recognition for significant contributions to multicultural affairs.

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This program is offered for .55 CEU’s (Intermediate level; Professional area)