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### UMass Boston's Partnerships with the Brazilian Immigrant Center & Dominican Development Center

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# UMass Boston's Partnerships with the Brazilian Immigrant Center & Dominican Development Center

## Purpose

This partnership bridges the resources and knowledge of community members with those of an urban research university to influence policy and services that affect immigrant communities with the overall goal of promoting health, economic well-being, and culture.

### Promoting Domestic Workers Rights



### Exploring Relationships Between Transnationalism, Culture, & Health







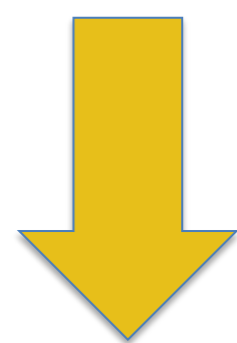
## In Massachusetts

### Research funded by Sociological Initiatives Foundation

UMass Boston faculty trained 10 domestic workers to conduct 200+ interviews in Portuguese.

**68%**  
Job & Income  
Insecurity

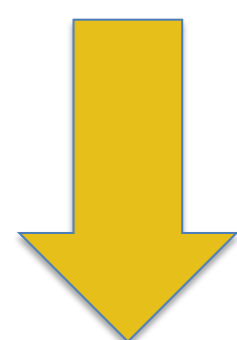
**54%**  
Full Days with  
No Breaks



### Policy Impact – New Law Passed



Community-engaged research informs the 2014 passage of Massachusetts Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights.



Continuing to Build Awareness through reports and events



## In Connecticut

### Established Task Force

Within Connecticut General Assembly (legislature) to better understand domestic workers issues and recommend new policy; BIC director and two staff on 9-person task force and BIC is leader among partnership of multiple organizations.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Project funded by Sociological Initiatives Foundation

*Social Survey of Working Conditions of CT Domestic Workers* will inform language of new legislation. Community field surveyors (right).



### Senate Bill 446 – Upcoming Spring 2015 Vote by House & Senate



BIC Staff at public hearing



Joint Committee on Labor & Public Employees vote out Bill of Rights.





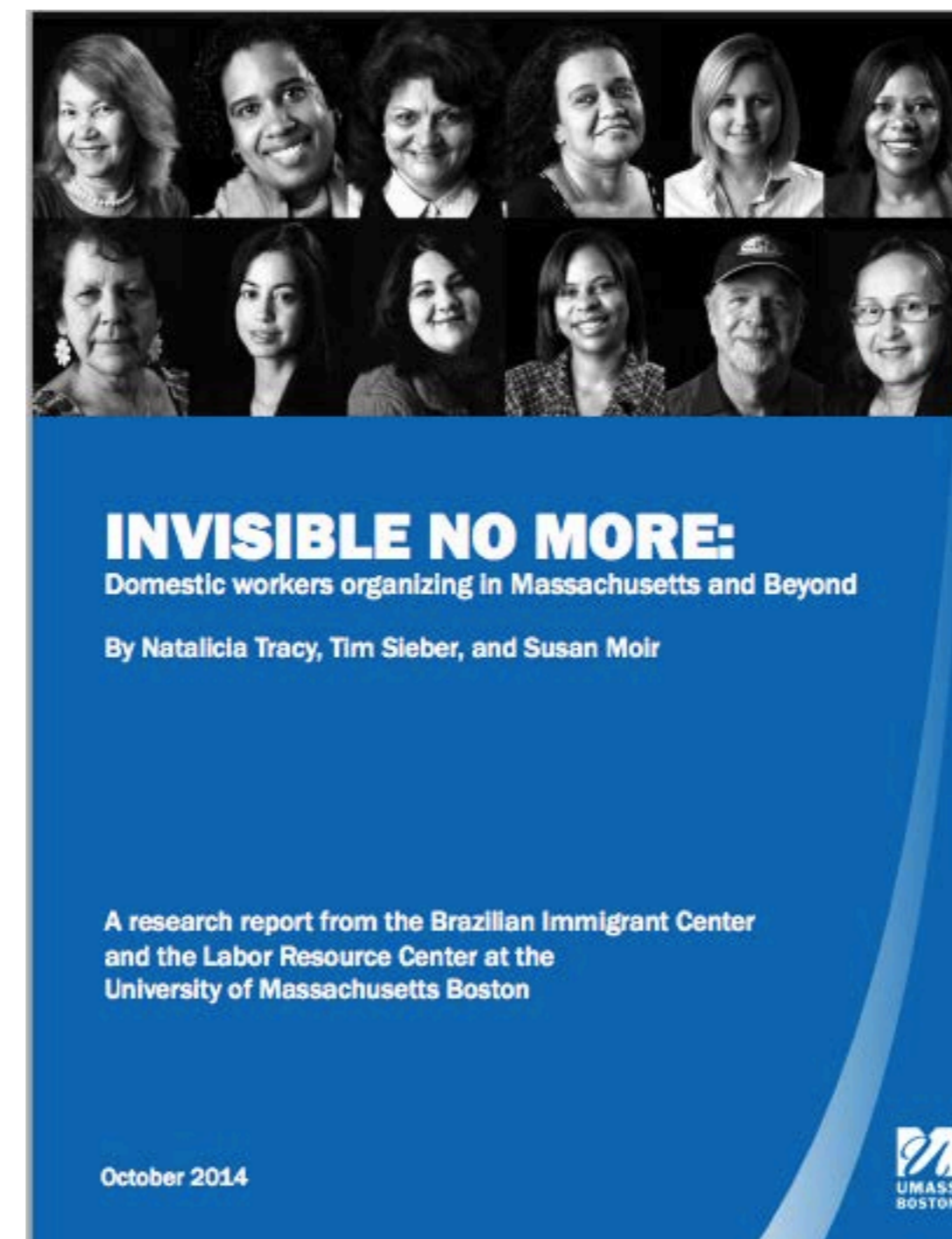
# UMass Boston – Brazilian Immigrant Center Partnership: Promoting Domestic Workers Rights



## Continuing to Build Awareness

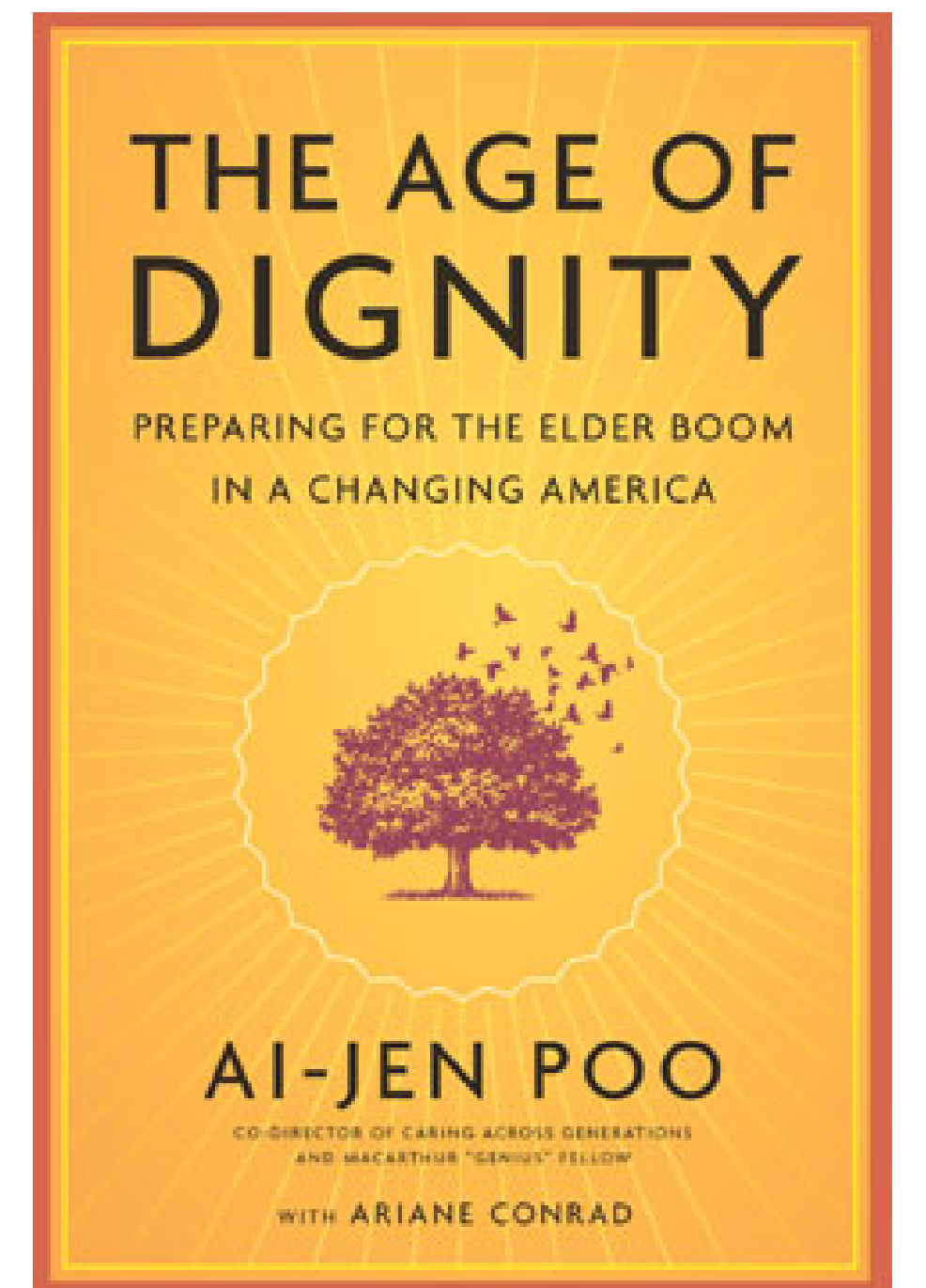
### Report Published in October 2014

Includes research completed in Massachusetts between UMass Boston and Brazilian Immigrant Center as well as additional context on the organizing movement among domestic workers in the state, across the nation, and internationally, and the role that partnerships with labor unions can play in facilitating labor law reform.



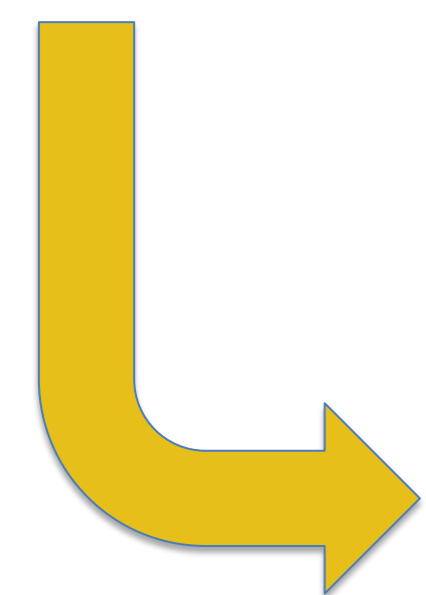
### Celebrating on April 1<sup>st</sup>

UMass Boston hosts event “Celebrating the Dignity of Care: A Conversation with Ai-Jen Poo” who is executive director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, spearheaded the first Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights state legislation (in New York) and was named one of Newsweek’s 150 “fearless women.”



Ai-Jen Poo’s new book

The event coincided with the date of Massachusetts’ Bill taking effect. The Bill will be enforced by the Fair Labor Division of the Attorney General’s Office and the Mass Commission Against Discrimination.



### Seminar Held in October 2014 as public release of report

Thinking Big, Moving Forward: Fall Breakfast Seminar attended by over 100 people. Panelists (right) included UMass Boston’s Natalicia Tracy, who is also the director of BIC, and moderator Susan Moir, director of UMass Boston’s Labor Resource Center.





## Exploring Relationships Between Transnationalism, Culture, & Health

### About

When immigrants maintain ties between the US and their home countries, they live between different cultures. This project explores two transnational communities in Boston – Brazilians and Dominicans.



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### A Participatory, Community-based Research Process

**Part 1:** Various methods explore how Dominicans and Brazilians define and practice their cultures. The research activities also help identify connections between culture and health.

- Story telling
- Cultural conversations
- Social network mapping
- Photovoice

**Part 2:** Organize Part 1 info into Charrettes

- Charrettes are workshops where people work together to plan and design solutions.

**Part 3:** Test method designed in Charrettes

- Goal is to use method to better explain the health of a small group of people.





## Domestic Workers Rights

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