



THE NEW PRESS

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ACTIVIST AND NEW PRESS AUTHOR AI-JEN POO WINS MACARTHUR
GENIUS GRANT

Ai-Jen Poo author of *The Age of Dignity*, selected as a 2014 Fellow

Ai-jen Poo was one of 21 individuals named today by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as one of the [2014 class of MacArthur Fellows](#), which recognizes exceptionally creative individuals with a track record of achievement and the potential for significant contributions in the future.

The New Press is proud to be publishing Ai-Jen's debut book *The Age of Dignity: Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America* in February 2015. Her activism and narrative fit closely with The New Press' own public interest mission. Ms. Poo plans to endow domestic worker fellowships to work alongside her to change public policy, in her words "creating a new fellowship out of this fellowship." *The Age of Dignity* offers solutions including long-term care insurance and advocates a cultural change that recognizes the undervalued work of caregivers and a transformation of what it means to grow old in the United States today. Ai-Jen Poo is poised to transform the domestic workforce with her ever-expanding public platform and unwavering belief that "domestic workers have a tremendous amount of insight on what needs to change in our public policy to fully unleash the potential of the most invisible among us."

The MacArthur "Genius Grants" are awarded annually to between 20 and 40 individuals who show exceptional merit and promise and are citizens and

residents of the United States. Fellows will each receive a no-strings-attached stipend of \$625,000, paid out over five years.

Ai-Jen Poo is recognized for her work to redefine labor paradigms by organizing and empowering domestic and care workers, fighting for legal protection and recognition for this often overlooked portion of the workforce. She is Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) and Co-director of the Caring Across Generations campaign and has been organizing immigrant women workers since 1996. Thanks to efforts by her organizations, domestic worker “Bills of Rights” have passed in a number of states including New York and most recently Massachusetts. As she noted on WNYC with Brian Lehrer this morning, this a growing work force and a growing need in this country.

Ai-Jen’s full bio and hi-res photos are [available here](#) on the NDWA site. Watch [this video](#) released today from the National Domestic Workers Alliance to hear more about Ai-Jen’s work to “create a vehicle for a more caring America.” Ai-Jen Poo will be on NPR’s *All Things Considered* today in 5 the PM EST hour.

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