

Focus on Lange and Parks

In this lecture we followed the careers of two FSA photographers Dorothea Lange and Gordon Parks. We discussed the connections between 'Social Realist' photography and American liberalism, as well as the broader political implications of different economic systems. We considered Gordon Parks' work with Ella Watson in the production of the iconic image, *American Gothic*, 1942. This work can arguably be viewed as collaboration between Watson and Parks. We looked at Parks' work for Life Magazine in order to consider the importance of captions in setting the tone of a story. In particular we focused in the story of Red Jackson, manner in which Life Magazine chose to caption Parks' photographs in order to make Red Jackson's life narrative less optimistic.