



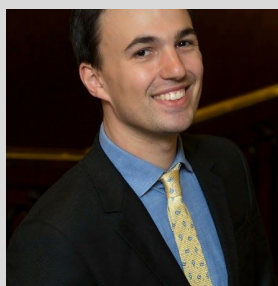
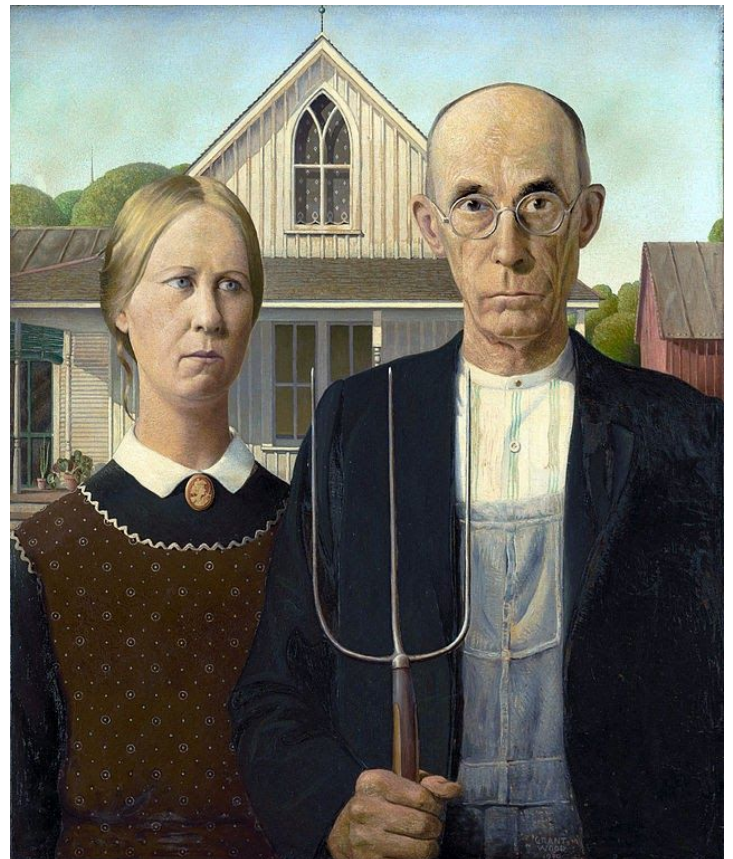
# AMERICAN REGIONALISM:

(Beyond American Gothic)

*Matthew Laing* B Arts (Hons), B Dest, PhD

This much-anticipated lecture tells the story of the American regionalist movement, and seeks to look beyond the movement's best-known work (Grant Wood's American Gothic) to its deeply felt and widely discussed philosophical and artistic foundations.

Grant Wood's American Gothic is one of the most iconic and memorable paintings in American history. Yet for all its popularity, it is usually misinterpreted as a simple satire, and the pioneering and radical work of its extraordinary artist is virtually unknown to the wider public. This lecture tells the story of the American regionalist movement through its three prophets – Grant Wood, John Stuart Curry and Thomas Hart Benton. It seeks to look beyond the movement's best known work to its deeply felt and widely discussed philosophical and artistic foundations. A movement capturing nostalgia, loss and isolation in a time of enormous social and economic change in the United States; Regionalism is a fascinating window into an attempt to create a truly American art form that consciously rejected European and East Coast fashions, and tried to recreate experiences and places that spoke to the heart of a generation soon to fade from view.



**Matthew Laing** B Arts (Hons), B Dest, PhD is a lecturer and research fellow in politics at Monash University. He graduated with his Doctorate of Philosophy in political history at the Australian National University, and previously held positions with Boston College in the United States and Utrecht University in the Netherlands. A long-time student of United States history, politics and culture since his early years working as an intern in the United States Congress; Dr Laing runs annual tours through Academy Travel to the USA, gives lecture series semi-annually on American culture and history at the East Melbourne Library, and occasional public lectures on American subjects in a sessional capacity for other university faculties. His doctoral thesis was on the work of Stephen Skowronek and recurring cycles of history in the political and social ideas of the United States. His particular specialty is American history and culture from the Gilded Age to the Great Depression.

**Monday 6th April, 2020 at 6:45 pm for 7:00 pm**

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, Cnr. Vincent St and Aberdare Rd, Cessnock.

After the lecture a light supper and Hunter Valley wines will be served during which you will have the opportunity to meet the lecturer.

Visitors are welcome - \$30.00, Students and Visiting ADFAS Members - NO CHARGE

Book ONLINE or email: [members2@adfaspokolbin.org.au](mailto:members2@adfaspokolbin.org.au)

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