

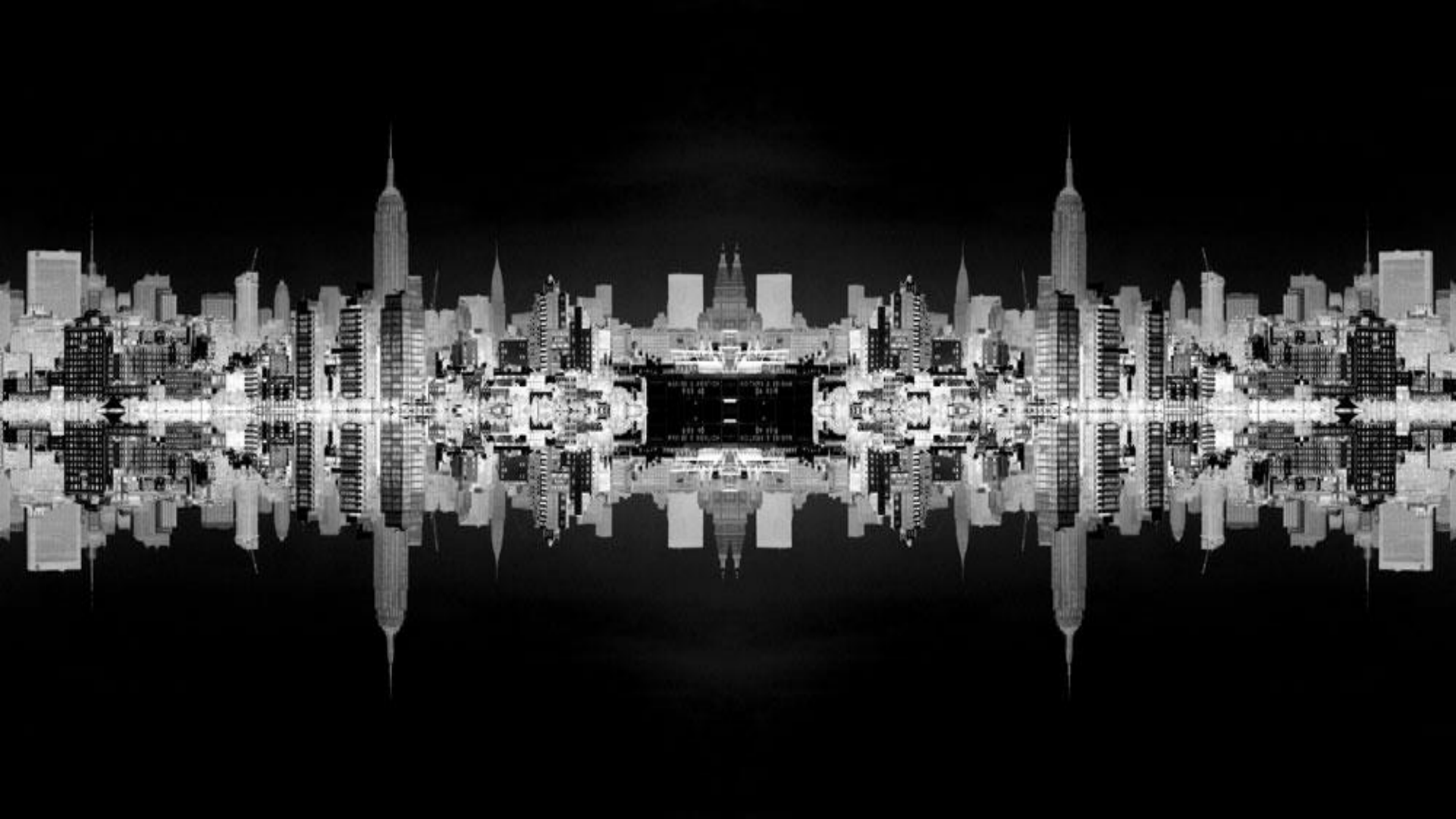
# **Lunch Atop a Skyscraper**

**Controversial and Social Issues Related to Photography**

**Lindroth Photo ESLR**

**by**

**Lisa Vaiman, Joe Pangrazio, and Olivia Gerald**



# Lunch atop a Skyscraper



Charles C. Ebbets

What is significant about this photo's setting and the people in it?

# Background Info

- ❖ September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1932
  - GE Building, Rockefeller Center
  - 850 ft above 41<sup>st</sup> street
- ❖ **Great Depression**
  - Unemployment
- ❖ 11 unidentified men
  - No safety nets/harnesses



# Photographer



## ❖ Charles C. Ebbets

- 27 year old American
- Self-taught freelancer
- Photographic Director for Rockefeller Center

# Significance

- ❖ Exposed the ignorance of big businesses
- ❖ Opened people's eyes to hardships
- ❖ Inspired development of Unions
  - Care for laborers
  - Ensured safety



# Legacy

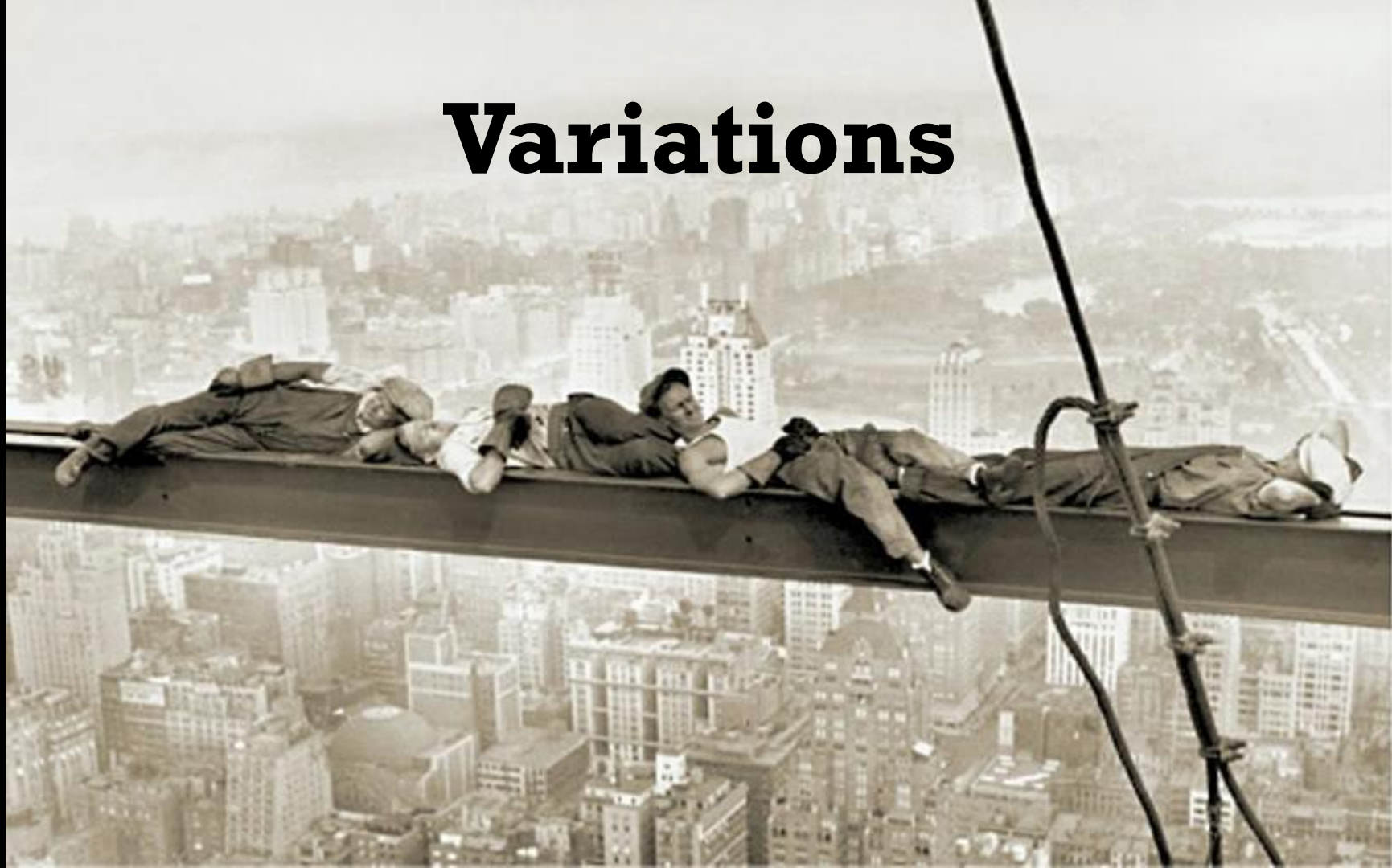
“We mostly hear about the famous architects and financiers, but this one iconic photograph **shows the spirit of how Rockefeller Center was built** — the fulfillment of the promise of Manhattan,” she said. “**Beauty, service, dignity and humor dangling 56 stories above the midstream rush of the metropolis, all summarized in this moment.**”



- ❖ Ebbets aimed to shift focus to the laborers
  - Important
  - Beautiful
  - Optimistic



# Variations

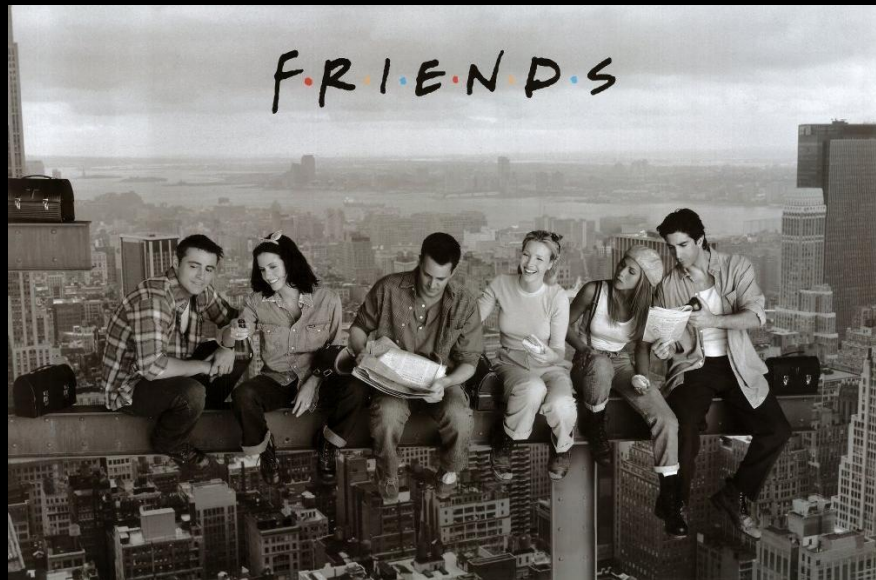




Crash test dummies:  
future advancements in  
safety

Simpsons: benefit of  
the common people





*Friends TV Show*

*Star Wars Stormtroopers*



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6G9CNjH9-0>