

# VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR



### PAUL ROTH

Director, Ryerson Image  
Center, Toronto

**THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 21**

**12:30-2:00pm  
SOS 250**

PHOTO: Cover of *Gordon Parks:  
The Flávio Story*, published by Steidl

#### *Gordon Parks, Life Magazine and Flávio: 1961 and Today*

In June of 1961, *Life* Magazine published the photo essay "Poverty: Freedom's Fearful Foe," by photojournalist Gordon Parks. The essay focused on the da Silva family, who lived in poverty in a favela in Rio de Janeiro, and particularly on the family's resourceful, asthmatic 12-year-old son, Flávio. Paul Roth, the Director of the Ryerson Image Centre and co-curator of *The Flávio Story*, an exhibition to open at the Getty in July, discusses the extraordinary impact of Parks's essay in the context of Cold War politics, the cultural currency of *Life*, and the history of photojournalism.

