

# Call for Papers

# BODY ELECTRIC

american studies 1850-present

Due January 15<sup>th</sup> 2015

2013 saw a big budget Hollywood adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel *The Great Gatsby* – the newest in a long line of adaptations over nearly a century. Since its publication, the novel's themes of decadence, wealth, and excess have inspired artists, fashion designers, and even economists. For instance, the "Great Gatsby Curve" plots the relationship between economic inequality and social mobility in the United States. Indeed, the economic divide in the US gives the lie to the first "truth" in The Declaration of Independence – that "all men are created equal." Who can dream the American Dream and succeed? What does Gatsby's ascension and then fall say about the American Dream? Why is the story still so popular? And if it is a cautionary tale, who is being cautioned?

For the second edition of *Body Electric*, we are seeking papers that examine the themes of lack and excess, abundance and scarcity, want and deprivation. This can mean wealth, social status and mobility, power, ethics, and more. Possible topics include:

- race and social mobility
- wealth, work, and gender
- gentrification, foreclosures, and money in public and private spaces
- unions and labour law
- representations of money in the media and art
- the Occupy Movement
- significant economic events in the US since 1850
- wealth and ethics
- the economics and politics of high and low art
- class expendability
- romanticizing, commercializing, or appropriating poverty
- commercial art
- "first world problems"
- currency and trade in the digital age

Word Documents emailed as attachments to [BodyElectricEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BodyElectricEditor@gmail.com)

20 page limit, double-spaced; MLA, APA, or Chicago format accepted

Papers accepted from graduate students from any Canadian university

Papers will be selected by a committee of peer reviewers made up of graduate students from various related disciplines at Western.

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