The Literary, Visual, and Material Culture Initiative presents a cross-disciplinary, team-taught graduate seminar:

**VISUALIZING COLONIALISM**

MDA 599, Special Topics, 52990D  
VKC 203  
Fall 2005, Tuesdays, 2-5 pm

LVMC is an interdisciplinary initiative to promote intellectual exchange among faculty and graduate students engaged in the study of literary, visual, and material culture. Housed in the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences but reaching across the schools and resources of the University, LVMC sponsors team-taught graduate seminars, a faculty works-in-progress series, panel discussions, and visiting lectures. Rather than focusing on traditional forms of art or literature, the initiative considers the overlap between them as well as the alternative modes of interpretation such overlaps demand.

Janet Hoskins, Professor, Anthropology  
and  
Philippa Levine, Professor, History

This seminar addresses the relationships between images, texts and material objects which serve to represent the colonial world to the metropole, and to link the metropole to its colonial possessions. It is argued that colonial conquest was, in part, conceived and justified as part of a vast visual spectacle, which would bring distant corners of the world into view, and would spread both knowledge and appreciation of exotic places, at the same time that these places were subject to clearly defined forms of surveillance and control. This spectacle was presented to the public at a series of colonial expositions, beginning with the Crystal Palace in London in 1851, and continuing through the 1931 Exposition Coloniale in Vincennes.

Colonial peoples were visualized in photography, film, postcards, commercial advertisements and posters as well as travel literature. The Cultural Exchanges collections of the Getty Research Institute specifically focus on the colonial encounter, especially in the period 1860-1940, and include a wide range of these materials, with a special emphasis on French colonialism in North and West Africa, Indochina, Madagascar and Polynesia. It is anticipated that some sessions of the seminar will meet at the Getty to look at these collections.