This team-taught research seminar will explore the role of visual and material culture in creating and circulating science and technology, particularly in trans-regional and global contexts, from ca. 1500 to the present. During the first half of the course, we will discuss shared readings relating to visuality, science and technology, and mobility. We will also address research methods and questions. In the second half of the semester, students will conduct original research using the world-class collection in the history of science and technology at the Huntington Library as well as other relevant local archival collections such as those at the Getty or the Herrick Library, under the guidance of both professors. Topics such as the fabrication of portable objects; visual, scientific, and technical knowledge transfer across space; transportation; technologies of communication; and motion studies are all possible avenues of inquiry. Two workshops with outside visitors will be organized as part of the seminar. Students will be expected to produce a seminar paper of article length based in original research and are encouraged to contact the professors before the summer to discuss possible projects. The seminar is interdisciplinary and comparative, and welcomes doctoral students in the humanities and interpretive social sciences working in any period. The seminar is approved for credit for students in art history and the Visual Studies Graduate Certificate, and will also count toward a new graduate certificate in Science, Technology, and Society.

Questions? Email vschwart@usc.edu and bleichma@usc.edu.