The Summer School, “Crossing the past,” aims for a discussion about different (national) art historical narratives of a specific late medieval corpus in Moravia. It provides the opportunity for young international scholars to meet the material reality of one of the most important medieval centers of the transalpine Europe, often marginalized in the research, not only due to the linguistic barrier. Encounter of local participants with those from abroad will lead to discussion of a topic closely related to Central-European territory. The goal of the school is, first, a close and direct examination of the on-site monuments and art objects, and secondly a critical reflection about the diverse narratives and meta-narratives existing about these monuments. Originating from different conditions those narratives are the result of regional or national ideologies and accordingly prevailing political, social and cultural paradigms on the one side and the respective art historical studies on the other. A major focus is to be especially on the period from World War I until our present days. We would like to explore how the birth of a modern state of Czechoslovakia, the successive Nazi occupation, the years of communism and the period following the fall of the Wall had determined the development of very different studies dedicated to the same objects and monuments. The cases chosen for this encounter are the medieval and early modern cities of Brno and Olomouc, both in Moravia, which represent truly remarkable centers of the Mitteleuropa at that time. These case studies are particularly important to follow the progressive development of the different historiographies above all within the German and Czech context.

The Summer School will be composed of two main parts. During the first one, held in situ, groups of two scholars with various linguistic competences will be invited to present some of the key monuments and objects of the two cities. In a second part, the same groups will present the analyzed monuments once again, focusing on the purely historiographical dimension. On a background of the historical events, different “mono-cultural” positions will be probably outlined. Finally, various “lives” of the studied monuments and objects will ideally be exposed and interpreted.

Practically speaking, every candidate will be invited to present a monument or certain urban, architectural or art historical aspect of one of the two chosen cities, from the list below. For the application it will be necessary to prove a primary knowledge and understanding of the subject, as well as a particular attention to its historiographical dimension.

In essence, we aim to create a space of exchange and of a new dialogue, based precisely on the different positions. In an ideal way, we would like to sketch an outline of historiographical synthesis that would no longer be determined by the Iron Curtain which continues to play, 25 years after the fall of the Wall, an important role.

Accommodation and travel expenses will be covered by the organizers for all the European participants. As for the participants from other continents, conditions of the coverage of the travel expenses will be discussed individually.

Applications accompanied by a short CV, can be submitted until 12 March 2016 to: palladino.adrien@gmail.com.