Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic, would like to invite you to its international summer school, titled:

**Contested geographies: old and new connections between the Middle Kingdom and its neighbours**

**Date:** June 6 – 11, 2016

**Venue:** Department of Asian Studies, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic

**Tuition fee:** free of charge

**Registration deadline:** May 22, 2016 ([Please register here](https://goo.gl/gV9M7u))

**Language:** English

The aim of this one-week summer school is to introduce students into the complex web of relations that China has had with its neighbours throughout the history. It introduces students into the complex relationships that China has with its neighbours, its difficulties and intricacies. Also, a goal of this summer school is to show that, beyond the contemporary international relations of China, there is a cultural and social component in the interactions between China and its neighbours that should not be neglected. Changes of perspectives between China and its neighbours give place to reflections on “contested geographies”: how space and place are constructed and elaborated by contemporary and historical actors. How “Chinese” is a Uighur laghman? Does China share political philosophies with its neighbours and, if not, how China´s approach differs from the ones of its neighbours’? Is the presence of Chinese people in the neighbouring states intensifying or testing the relationship between China and its neighbours? In a way, the continuities and discontinuities of contested geographies give clues in the reflections of what “China” and “the neighbours” are supposed to be.

**Lectures by:**

**Prof. Victor H. Mair** (University of Pennsylvania)

**Dr. Olaf Günther** (Palacký University Olomouc)

**Dr. Mária Strašáková** (MUP, Palacký University Olomouc)

**Dr. Soledad Jiménez Tovar**(Palacký University Olomouc)

**Fan Zhang**(Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany)

**Tuition fee**

Tuition for the whole week is free of charge. Participants will however need to cover all their personal costs, including transportation, accommodation, visa, trips etc.

**Evaluation methods:**

Student will be asked to write 5-10 pages “take-home” essay on one of the given topics and submit it by July 6, 2016. Essays will be evaluated and marked and successful participants will obtain certificate of participation and transcript of record.

**Credits**

This summer school is accredited by the Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc, and students can receive four credits for successful participation. However, these credits are not ECTS Credits. Students are usually able to obtain credits from their home institution and we will be happy to assist you in any way we can, however please be aware that the decision to award credits rests with your home institution.

**About Palacký University and Olomouc**

[Palacký University Olomouc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1nHw2xhw3M) is the second oldest university in the Czech Republic and one of the oldest in Central Europe. Drawing on more than 400-year tradition of higher education it is nowadays a renowned centre for teaching and research.

[Olomouc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMc-Yr2VotA&list=PL694471E8D518FB8D) is the capital of the region of Central Moravia and belongs to the oldest cities in the Czech Republic. The city dates back to the ninth century, when it was a power centre of the Great Moravian Kingdom, the oldest Slavonic state. The Holy Trinity Column on the town square is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today Olomouc has above 100,000 inhabitants and the second largest urban historic preservation area after Prague. Its long history makes it one of the most beautiful cities in the Czech Republic.

For more information about the summer school and for other inquiries, please contact Mr. Martin Lavička, e-mail: [martin.lavicka@upol.cz](http://chinet.cz/summer-schools/china-and-its-neighbours-threats-and-opportunities-july-2014/martin.lavicka@upol.cz), or visit our website: [http:/chinet.cz/summer-schools/2016/](http://chinet.cz/summer-schools/2016/)

**We look forward to seeing you in Olomouc soon!**