In the last decades, modern scholarship has devoted much attention to the Comnenian dynasty. Surprisingly, no comprehensive study has yet been devoted to Isaac Comnenus Porphyrogenitus, son of emperor Alexius I and brother of both John II and Anna Comnena. Isaac is an intriguing figure, at the crossroads between different worlds: classical scholarship, artistic patronage, courtly intrigues and international political alliances. Traditional divisions between scholarly fields have prevented a comprehensive exploration of Isaac's many facets.

Challenging this very compartmentalization, this workshop aims to bring together Isaac's different worlds, contributing to a better understanding of 12th-century Byzantium.
THURSDAY 5 MARCH

9.30 – 10.00: MORNING COFFEE

10.00 – 10.30: Valeria F. Lovato and Lars Boje Mortensen (SDU): welcome and introduction

10.30 – 12.30: PANEL 1: Isaac and 12th-century literature


Respondent: Divna Manolova (University of York)
Marina Loukaki (University of Athens), “Notes on the construction of Isaakios Komnenos’ profile by Theodoros Prodromos”

Respondent: Nikolaos Zagklas (University of Vienna)
Aglae Pizzone (SDU), “Isaac against Proclus? A problem of authorship”

Respondent: Christian Høgel (SDU)

12.30 – 13.30: LUNCH BREAK

14.00 – 15.15: PANEL 2: Homeric philology

André-Louis Rey (University of Geneva), “Isaac Comnenus and the scholarship of a learned prince”

Respondent: Silvio F. Bär (University of Oslo)

15.15 – 15.30: COFFEE BREAK

15.30 – 17.30: PANEL 3: Isaac as patron, literatus and founder

Kallirroi Linardou (Athens School of Fine Arts), “Komnenian Book-Culture: Tracing Tastes, Mapping Networks”

Respondent: Rosa Rodríguez Porto (SDU)
Margaret Mullett (University of Belfast), “A ‘barren and senseless shoot’, a ‘flawless ally’, and ‘an enkolpion of pearls’: Isaac’s Kosmosoleira”

Respondent: Aglae Pizzone (SDU)
Valeria F. Lovato (SDU), “What kind of exile? Isaac’s poem to the Virgin and the final days of a repented (?) usurper”

Respondent: Margaret Mullett (University of Belfast)

19.00: SPEAKERS’ DINNER

FRIDAY 6 MARCH

9.30 – 10.50: PANEL 4: Innovation, change and conflict in the Comnenian era (Part One)

Vlada Stanković (University of Belgrade), “Dynastic conflict in the Comnenian era”

Respondent: Nikolaos Chrissis (Democritus University of Thrace)
Angeliki Papageorgiou (University of Athens), “Ties of blood, bids for power: Usurpation attempts during the reign of John II Komnenos”

Respondent: Nikolaos Chrissis (Democritus University of Thrace)

10.50 – 11.10: COFFEE BREAK

11.10 – 12.30: PANEL 4: Innovation, change and conflict in the Comnenian era (Part Two)

Maximilian Lau (Hokkaido University), “‘Ten Tongues’ on the Transformations of Isaakios”

Respondent: Julian Yolles (SDU)
Alex Rodriguez Suárez (Orient-Institut Beirut), “Change and innovation in twelfth-century Byzantium: The case of hair and hairstyles”

Respondent: Valeria F. Lovato (SDU)

12.30 – 13.00: FINAL REMARKS

13.00: GOODBYE LUNCH