**Identifying people in official reports in Roman Egypt (I-III cent. AD)**

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A key issue within the very complex bureaucratic network weaved by the Roman rule over Egypt was reporting relevant data about population collected locally by lower offices to higher and higher authorities, for the final purpose of tax collection. According to a practice already established under the Pharaohs, and later under the Ptolemies, information was regularly and intensively gathered all over the country and then processed to be both stored in the local archives and sent to whoever had the power to supervise the administrative procedures involved, to manage the data, and to check the results.

The paper aims at presenting a general reconstruction and analysis of the administrative processing of data related to the identification and categorization of individuals in the first three centuries of Roman Egypt. It will take into consideration the various types of documents involved in such a process (personal declarations, daily and general registers, special reports, summaries) and the different ways in which a person could have been identified and categorized (genealogy, provenance, social and tax status, profession…), the meaning of the administrative choices performed through the offices, and the connections of population reports with the other main public sectors which the State dealt with (namely, above all, land administration and tax management).