



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# The Clepsydra of the Giovanni Barracco Museum of Ancient Sculpture in Rome. Measurement of Time, Scientific Knowledge, and Ritual in Antiquity: The SYN\_NAT Project

*PAOLUCCI D. <sup>1</sup>\*, NIGRO L. <sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Sapienza University of Rome , Rome, Italy

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

The two-year SYN\_NAT Project (2024-2025) aims to study the conception and computation of time in the Ancient Near East. The key points of the research include the reconstruction of ancient calendars, the examination of the relationship between official calendars, festivities, and power dynamics, and the connection of these ancient peoples with nature, seasons, and celestial movements. This paper will present the investigation of the black granite Clepsydra/Water Clock preserved at the Barracco Museum in Rome, found in Campo Marzio, and originating from Alexandria, Egypt. This object dates to the Ptolemaic Era. It is pivotal for reconstructing the techniques of measuring time in this period, its connection with the divine and natural sphere, and the pharaonic symbols of power. The morphology of the instrument, its raw material and production technique, and its iconography will be analyzed. In this way, a cross-section of the technology, scientific knowledge, and beliefs of Ancient Egypt is provided. Moreover, the materiality of the find, its use, and its appearance will be made tangible through 3D printing.

## Keywords

Egypt, Time, Clepsydra, Scientific Knowledge, Iconography

## Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

## Type of paper

Oral presentation