
This article investigates the psychoanalytic approach to history writing by Michel de Certeau. In particular, the notion of «trace» is pivotal to de Certeau’s inversion of perspective, according to which the historiographical process doesn’t move from the residues of the past to their present narrative comprehension, but from the writing labour of the present to the production of the past, of its absence and of its traces. Around the uncanny character of the trace, de Certeau organizes a multi-layered reading of the emergence of the scientific writing of the otherness. The article comments upon two essays on pictorial, visual or acoustic images, which de Certeau reads as traces performing the uncanny power of writing.