How does the Freudian question of the return of the repressed appear when applied to contemporary historiographical methodology of writing history? Essentially quoting from de Certeau’s *L’Écriture de l’histoire*, this essay tries to show how the scientific criterion for religious historiography, based on a clear-cut separation between the past and the present, conceals a repressed temporal dimension. Even if this criterion yields its own cognitive reality through a principle of repression and a distanciation from the speech acts and common beliefs of the past, this dimension would cause a splitting up of the scientific identity as a result. According to de Certeau, this constitutes the temporal deception of history. This study aims to describe temporal archaeology – the inversion of the thinkable – as a method to expose the return of the repressed, as practiced by de Certeau in the historical and scriptural thought of the historiographical sociology of religious behaviours. The comparison between this archaeology and the historical functionalism of Hans Blumenberg reveals some significant structural analogies.