

5. Christina Antenhofer, *Emozionalità nella storia. Riflessioni sullo sfondo di Storia e Psicoanalisi e La scrittura della storia di Michel de Certeau*

Starting from the present interest for emotionality in history, this contribution analyses the process of historical research and writing before the background of de Certeau's texts. The essay is organized in five chapters: *The other in history, A dialogue with the dead, Rationalities beyond our rationality, The subject and the place of production, Telling stories – fictions*. Historians search for the other, the strange in the past. Similar to psychoanalysts they try to get the «truth» out of their sources as if they were looking for some sort of confession (of the dead and the sources). This obsession with the «truth» results from the desire to enable the present by reconstructing the past, to make it understandable and to create projects for the future. Historians build in their works epistemological laboratories. The process of historical work has fictional aspects from the very beginning on: This starts with the choice, construction and production of «events» (worth telling) and corresponding sources and culminates in the method of writing: Historians always tell stories by organizing events in a series and formulating causalities. Certeau expresses this aspect as possible criticism yet seeing in it the power of history as well: The potential to function as a corrective for the present and sketch models for the future. What remains to be questioned is the clear distinction between history and the «stories», namely literature and legends. Certeau states that this distinction is a result of the historical process which made history a science – yet literature thus excluded comes back as a suppression in the products of historical writing. Taking in consideration the subject and the conditions of production as well, historical texts moreover get the character of psychographs of their authors: The present interest for emotions in history thus reveals the emotionality of the writing subjects and of the conditions of production in the scientific community itself.