

6. Massimiliano Mazzini, *Blumenberg e/o de Certeau. Stabilità e/o frattura? Il ritorno del rimosso e l'inversione del pensabile all'interno della storiografia sociologica dei comportamenti religiosi*

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 distancing 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.