

The work of Michel de Certeau, French Jesuit and student of Cardinal Henri de Lubac, has often been characterized as the work of a traveller. He is renowned in the historical as well as in the cultural sciences. His studies on Modern mysticism are exemplary in the section of spiritual theology, while his books and articles on anthropology and psychoanalysis tend to challenge and subvert the discussions of the experts. Likewise, Certeau profoundly interrogates the common ways of doing theology, both in a direct way that characterizes the Christian tradition – when he speaks of the absence of God –, and with his style of writing, which does not allow a disciplinary classification. The explicit theological reception of his works has so far remained on a moderate level, although they offer a variety of challenges for theological reflection not fully taken on board. His provocative interpretation of the relationship between the believer and tradition especially stimulates a series of theological re-readings. A constitutive rupture regarding the accessibility of the origins characterizes this fundamental relation, which is of high relevance in the face of today's pastoral situation. Thus, Certeau's works not only provide perspectives to rethink singular theological topoi, but also stimulate a meta-discussion on the options of theological reasoning in general as comprehension of Christian everyday life. This meta-discussion is crucial for thinking about the truth of Christianity in the current contexts of the Western Church marked by profound processes of "exculturation" of Christianity, pushing us to reweave the relation of Theology and Human Sciences as well as the one between theory and practice, i. e. between Theology and lived spirituality, including the dimension of spiritual experience (mysticism). In the horizon of Certeau's diverse fields of research, the colloquium analyzes and displays the potential of Certeau's perspectives for a contemporary theology.

**Organized as an inter-university  
collaboration by**

**Dr. Carlos Alvarez, S.J.**

*ITER-Universidad Alberto Hurtado  
Santiago de Chile*

**Prof. Dr. Isabella Bruckner**

*Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo, Rome*

**Prof. Dr. Stella Morra**

*Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Rome*

**Monastic Institute of Sant'Anselmo**

**Translation**

Simultaneous translation into English  
French and Italian will be provided.

**Registration**

Regular fee: 20,00 €

Student fee: 5,00 €

Registration deadline 3 October 2023.

Please complete the registration form on  
[www.anselmianum.com](http://www.anselmianum.com).

**For more information**

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Theological Colloquium

# DANCING WITH THE ABSENCE

Rethinking Theology  
with **Michel de Certeau**

in presence and online

Rome, 12-14 October 2023



**uah** / Instituto de Teología  
y Estudios Religiosos (ITER)  
Universidad Alberto Hurtado

FIDES QUÆERENS INTELLECTUM

## THURSDAY 12: AULA XI (SANT'ANSELMO)

### Welcoming

- 03.00 p.m.: **Greetings**  
03.10 p.m.: **Introduction**

### I. The boundaries of absence

- 03.30 p.m.: **Les langages chrétiens et la communication culturelle. Les problèmes, questions et défis que Michel de Certeau pose au langage théologique**  
Carlos Alvarez, S.J.  
*ITER-Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago de Chile*
- 04.00 p.m.: **Une épistémologie cachée. La déterritorialisation de la théologie de *L'écriture de l'histoire* (1970-1975)**  
Andrés Freijomil  
*Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Buenos Aires*
- 04.30 p.m.: **Michel de Certeau et l'épistémologie de la "science des choses divines" : de l'école française de spiritualité à la tradition de 'l'étude du mystère' (xuanxue) en Chine**  
Benoît Vermander, S.J.  
*Fudan University, Shanghai*
- 05.00 p.m.: **Discussion**
- 05.30 p.m.: *Coffee break*
- 06.00 p.m.: **Certeau le lecteur-auditeur des mystiques. A la recherche d'un murmure de l'Absent**  
Yu Watanabe  
*The University of Tokyo, Tokyo*
- 06.30 p.m.: **The Oral Other: A Psychoanalytical Attempt with Michel de Certeau**  
Martin Eleven  
*Universität Wien, Vienna*
- 07.00 p.m.: **Discussion**

## FRIDAY 13: AULA MAGNA (PUG)

### Welcoming

- 09.00 a.m.: **Greetings**  
09.10 a.m.: **Introduction**

### II. Experience and practice of the absent real

- 09.30 a.m.: **L'événement du quotidien**  
Claire-Anne Baudin  
*Centre Sèvres, Paris*
- 10.00 a.m.: **Théologie et pastoral à partir de la perspective de la théorie du quotidien chez Michel de Certeau**  
Geraldo De Mori, S.J.  
*Faculdade Jesuíta de Filosofia e Teologia, Belo Horizonte*
- 10.30 a.m.: **Discussion**
- 11.00 a.m.: *Coffee break*
- 11.30 a.m.: **Practices of Mystical Theology according to Michel de Certeau**  
Inigo Bocken  
*Titus Brandsma Instituut, Nijmegen*
- 12.00 p.m.: **Comment penser (théologiquement) notre pratique? Michel de Certeau and practical theology**  
Christian Bauer  
*Universität Münster, Münster*
- 12.30 p.m.: **Discussion**

### III. Picking up the absence

- 03.00 p.m.: **In search of the rules of dance: de Certeau and the monks**  
Bernard Sawicki, O.S.B.  
*Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo, Rome*
- 03.30 p.m.: **La blessure de l'autre: la vulnérabilité comme clé anthropologique et théologique dans la pensée de Michel de Certeau**  
Tiziano Ferraroni, S.J.  
*Pontificia Facoltà Teologica dell'Italia Meridionale, Naples*

- 04.00 p.m.: **Pratiques spirituelles et prière incarnée chez Michel de Certeau.**  
Margit Eckholt  
*Universität Osnabrück, Osnabrück*
- 04.30 p.m.: **Discussion**

05.00 p.m.: *Coffee break*

- 05.30 p.m.: **Les ressources théologiques de la pensée de Michel de Certeau pour imaginer une Église synodale**  
Christoph Theobald, S.J.  
*Centre Sèvres, Paris*
- 06.15 p.m.: **Discussion with doctoral students**

## SATURDAY 14: AULA XI (SANT'ANSELMO)

### Welcoming

- 09.00 a.m.: **Greetings**  
09.10 a.m.: **Introduction**

### IV. Living the absent body in the future

- 09.30 a.m.: **Tra un cadavere assente e un corpus vivente: la questione dei corpi istituzionali**  
Stella Morra  
*Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Rome*
- 10.00 a.m.: **Il corpo del mondo. Ripensare la sacramentalità con Michel de Certeau**  
Isabella Bruckner  
*Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo, Rome*
- 10.30 a.m.: **Discussion**
- 11.00 a.m.: *Coffee break*
- 11.30 a.m.: **La Cristologie implicite de Michel de Certeau**  
Pierre Gisel  
*Université de Lausanne, Lausanne*
- 12.00 p.m.: **Michel de Certeau: Secularism and Christian Apologetics**  
Graham Ward  
*Christ Church, Oxford*
- 12.30 p.m.: **Discussion**
- 01.00 p.m.: **Conclusions**