Les aveux de La chair, the last volume of the Histoire de la sexualité, the fruit of nearly eight years of work on ancient Christianity, is the book to which Foucault devoted the most time, without managing to finish completely. The diversions through the Fathers of the Church (Tertullian, Augustine, Cassian, etc.) was to contribute to shedding light on the relationship that the West has with the body and its pleasures, at the intersection of subjectivity and truth. Published posthumously in 2018 and already translated into several languages, Les aveux de la chair reveals the extent of Foucault's research on the early Christian centuries, which the texts and courses previously known barely hinted at.

The present book organises a new encounter: Foucault's «Christian» readings are here questioned by sixteen international historians, philosophers and theologians, specialists of this period as well as of Foucault’s thought. How does Foucault’s approach renew the way of reading the Fathers? Does it allow for a different approach to the question of the novelty brought by Christianity to ancient culture? And how can this novelty make sense in philosophy today? These are crucial questions, not only for the history of ideas, but first and foremost for the understanding of our current situation.