

**Anne O'Byrne, *Natality and Finitude* (2010)**

*Natality and Finitude* is a stirring work by Anne O'Byrne that juxtaposes entrenched philosophical projects on finitude and death against the human struggle to make sense of life. O'Byrne challenges the philosophical tradition to set its work on death, dying, and finitude against the context of the lived experience of meaning across generations. In her estimation, thinkers such as Dilthey and Heidegger have set the stage for a sophisticated engagement with our situatedness within time is marked by our comportment towards death. However, apart from Hannah Arendt, the tradition has yet to account for the role that natality plays as a signifying factor in understanding the meaning and impact our actions will make during life. Natality, she argues, has been disastrously under-theorized in the history of Western philosophy.

Throughout *Natality and Finitudem*, O'Byrne takes a fresh, feminist approach to classic and contemporary topics such as such as creation, time, inheritance, birth and action, embodiment, biological determinism, and even cloning. She engages deftly with canonical thinkers ranging from Heidegger and Dilthey to Arendt and Nancy to show how the world becomes ours and how meaning emerges from our orientation to both past and future generations.