

Hans Ruin, *Being with the Dead: Burial, Ancestral Politics, and the Roots of Historical Consciousness* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2018).

With the numbers of people dying and the legacies left behind, one wonders what is our future in relation to our past. How we move forward with the past is not abandoned but reconciled and understood. Our recent experience with the separation from those who are dying due to Covid restrictions shines a peculiar light on the notion of death and dying. Hans Ruin examines and compares the traditions of the notion of death in his book *Being with the dead*. Our coexistence with the dead is the main aspect of the present and the future. The intertwined relationship also influences our social and political lives of communities.

Ruin's book is wrapped around Sophocles' stories that serve as a mean to show our relationship to the dead in the light of the future of our communities. It is in our relationship to the dead, Ruin claims that our understanding of the past stands out. One can also see the connectedness between our present state to the past traditions and cultures.

Ruin's cross-discipline approach allows him to enter a dialogue with Heidegger's notion of "being with the dead." Ruin goes beyond Heidegger's understanding of the notion of having limitations to the realization that we live in togetherness with the dead which serves him as an avenue to make a claim about living historically along with the dead. The present does not allow us to live fully without our memories of the dead.

Ruin's concept of "necropolitics" leads him to the claim that the political sphere is not the dominion of the living but rather both, living and the dead. Ruin draws from Alfred Schütz the importance of what communities share with those who died. Those who had gone before us belong along with the living to the sociopolitical world that continues to be part of the living activity. Ruin is preoccupied with the notion of carrying on the legacy from the past into the future for the benefit of communities.

Ruin's book is engaging and insightful and opens up the notion of the dead to a further dialogue. It also allows interdisciplinary conversation that would be beneficial to different disciplines and most of all to the future of communities and cultures. It touches a lot of long-studied notions like historical consciousness, tradition, the pastness, and engages us in a new way of conversation about them.

Engaging with Heidegger in the dialogue about the dead, Ruin also moves to Derrida's notion of the awareness of the past as the living guidance for our future. His significant contribution to the historical consciousness is the idea of contemporary people caring for and remembering the dead and the places of their burial. Our responsibility towards the past helps us connect in a more

meaningful way with the present and future and allows a better understanding of what we have inherited.