

## **Mill and The Moral Economy of Ideas**

The metaphor of the marketplace of ideas has more than once been associated with Mill's position on freedom of thought and discussion in *On Liberty*. Some (Jill Gordon) have argued that the figure of speech is inappropriate and others (Willmoore Kendall, Alvin Goldman) that, in a sense, it is fitting. Much depends, of course, on how the metaphor is taken but it repays us to consider the consistency of some of the remarks in the *Principles of Political Economy* with Mill's "epistemology of norms" (Skorupski's phrase) in *On Liberty*. The focus of my inquiry in this essay is, accordingly, to consider whether any kind of economic model is useful for illustrating Mill's moral epistemology.

This essay is part of a larger project which seeks to separate a Millian theory of argumentation from Mill's epistemology and philosophy of science. Although these areas are not separable in practice or in text, they are quite distinct conceptually. It will emerge, I expect, that it can be shown that Mill, in addition to his many other achievements, made significant contributions to the theory of argumentation as well.

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