

Panel Discussion

John Stuart Mill and Henry Sidgwick

Chair, John **Skorupski**

Paper One—Anthony **Skelton**

Mill, Sidgwick, and the Problem of Free Will

Paper Two—Bart **Schultz**

Mill versus Sidgwick on Imperialism

Comment: David **Weinstein**

The three greatest “Classical Utilitarians” are undoubtedly Jeremy Bentham, J. S. Mill, and Henry Sidgwick. Although recent decades have witnessed a revival of interest in Sidgwick, such that it would no longer be fair to say that his work has been neglected, it nonetheless is true that many aspects of Sidgwick’s relationship to his great predecessors remain comparatively unexamined. Sidgwick himself was very emphatic on his debt to Bentham and Mill. Indeed, Mill’s influence on Sidgwick’s life and work—particularly on *The Methods of Ethics*—was clearly enormous. In the late 1860s, when he was agonizing over resigning his position at Cambridge University because of the religious demands involved, Sidgwick corresponded with Mill, seeking his advice about his approach to the relevant ethical questions, and it was this very context that led Sidgwick to write the *Methods*.

The papers featured in this panel will review Sidgwick’s debt to Mill and highlight a number of key differences—differences that bear especially on how Mill and Sidgwick should be seen, both metaphysically and politically, in comparison with each other and with the British Idealists, particularly with respect to the issue of “autonomy.”