

MILL ON LIBERTY

This colloquium will study John Stuart Mill's foundational essay on political liberalism. *On Liberty* is the classical defense of personal liberty, and remains as fresh and relevant as it was in 1859.

On Mill's "harm-to-others" principle, the state is not entitled to interfere with personal preferences except to prevent harm to others. The colloquium will examine the breadth and limits of this doctrine, and the many questions to which it gives rise. What counts as a harm? What is the role of social sanctions? Should people be asked to remove temptations from their path through self-control? Might this take the form of voting for laws that remove temptations from their path? Is there a "Mill Problem"? That is, is *On Liberty* inconsistent with Mill's claim in *Utilitarianism* that some self-regarding pleasures are superior to others?

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