

Cambridge Elements

Elements on Women in the History of Philosophy

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Harriet Taylor Mill

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Abstract: Harriet Taylor Mill is an overlooked figure in the history of political philosophy, ethics, economics and politics, overshadowed by the fame of her writing partner, and eventual husband, John Stuart Mill.

Given that they met at a very early age (when Taylor Mill was twenty-two), and wrote together for over a quarter of a century, it can be hard to distinguish what is 'hers' and what is 'his'. Indeed, maybe we should consider much of Mill's canon as being 'theirs'. Taylor Mill inputted into some extremely famous works, including *On Liberty*, and her thought, impact and legacy are well worth charting. This Element explores her contribution to political theory, ethics, political economy and political reform. It draws on close textual analysis of 'her' works and those of Mill (including manuscripts unpublished in her lifetime, and correspondence), as well as interrogating his description of their co-authoring relationship.

Keywords: feminism, Harriet Taylor Mill, John Stuart Mill, liberalism, utilitarianism

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