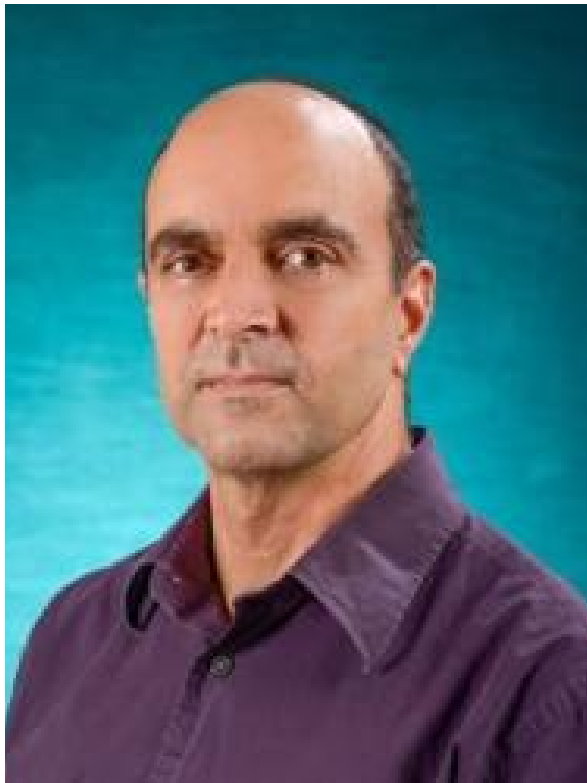


Don Habibi (North
Carolina-Wilmington)

“Marx and Mill on Revolutions Fast and Slow”



— This essay examines John Stuart Mill’s remarkably prescient insights on political revolution. A ‘slow revolutionary,’ he advocated incremental change, emphasizing deliberation and order. In theory and practice, Mill’s gradualism avoided intimidation and force. Mill’s ‘negative utilitarianism’ sensitized him to the costs of rebellion. Minimizing certain pain counted more than utopian predictions. Mill understood the severe costs of violent ‘fast revolution,’ especially for the downtrodden. He steadfastly supported oppressed people and social reforms. I defend Mill against August Nimtz’s recent critique praising socialism and the militant, crisis-driven model of Marx and Lenin. Mill believed civil liberties stimulate intellectual and moral progress, by guiding people to greater consensus in responsible democratic decision-making. This makes peaceful change likelier, resulting in greater utility.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem Philosophy Department Seminar

15/11/2022

12:30-14:00 IST

Location - TBA