

Kristen Dukeman

It is human nature to conform to societal standards. One aspect of conforming to societal norms is the lack of awareness of white privilege. The absence of being taught about the components to white privilege is discussed in *White Privilege* by Peggy MacIntosh, allows people to understand the conception of white privilege as an invisible package of advantages. She goes on to describe the unawareness of society in recognizing that this system exists in our society. The lack of evaluation in an individual's ideals in relation to societal standards is continually prevalent. This explanation is connected to the argument presented in Durkheim's *The Cultural Logic of Collective Representations*, who concours that communities have an organized system of concepts that characterizes the behaviors and ideals of individuals. The application of the collective consciousness into the invisible package of assets one is not aware of drives the historic oppression on minorities that still exist today.

The idea of white supremacy is a package of assets that support one's abilities, though one is not aware it exists. Peggy MacIntosh describes this societal advantage as an important factor in the foundation of hierarchies throughout time. In addition, many individuals are unaware of the daily assistance in everyday life that stems from this idea that is implicated on them even before they are born. The system discussed by Durkheim supports this conclusion that individuals are passed on a pattern of assumptions since birth that were dictated by the color of their skin. The origins of the misconceptions of those not like our own was founded in the slave trade and the oppression of African Americans. This system created a dialogue and process of thinking that most no longer acknowledge but continues to exist. MacIntosh concludes by discussing how individuals can work to change the narrative and to become more aware of the interlocking oppressions that one was taught not to observe. The shift in societal thought processes through individuals and connects to the acknowledgement of advantages presented through white privilege.

In conclusion, both essays establish the idea that a collective consciousness of beliefs is still prevalent and connects to the idea of white privilege. As a society, changing the narrative in

their lives.