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Sociology 105

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Many are forced to deal with oppression due to their race, class, gender, and sexual identity. This sociological paradigm is known as the Matrix of Domination. One concept proposed by Patricia Collins is that Eurocentric gender ideology is one of the contributors to the oppression of African-American women and other subordinated groups. This concept is also expressed in Charlotte Gilman's, The Yellow Wallpaper and Women and Economics.

Patricia Collins states that domination operates by seducing, pressuring, or forcing African American women and members of subordinated groups to replace individual and cultural ways of knowing with the dominant group's specialized thought. The author relays that dominant groups aim to do this because they realize that gaining control over this dimension of subordinate group's lives simplifies control. This correlates with Eurocentric gender ideology which determines your social standing, the roles that are open to you, what is expected of you, and the attributes, interests, behaviors, and expressions that are allowed to you.

When relating back to the concept of Eurocentric gender ideology, I am automatically reminded of Charlotte Gilman's, The Yellow Wallpaper and Women and Economics. In her writing, she gives examples of how wife's ideas and opinions were automatically shut down if the husband didn't agree. Also, the labor which the wife performs in the household is given as a part of her functional duty and that the idea of economic independence was practically a pipe dream. Women were like employees to their husbands and were "allowed" the wages of cook's, housemaids, nursemaids, seamstresses, or housekeepers, and to no more.

In The Matrix of Domination, Patricia Collins gives the example that the internalization of Eurocentric gender ideology has even lead some Black men to abuse Black women and how those are cases of the successful infusion of the dominant group's specialized thought into the everyday cultural context of African Americans. These examples thus conclude why Eurocentric gender ideology has and continues to oppress women among other things.