

**Patricia Hill Collins.** 2000. "Black Feminist Epistemology." Pp. 251-271 (Chapter 11) in *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*, 2nd ed. New York, NY: Routledge.

As caretakers of social-scientific knowledge, white elite males not only control the limits of meaningful interpretation, but also restrict scientists' means of knowledge validation to ones that are adversarial, unemotional, and value-free. Collins argues here that although this knowledge and methodology may correspond to these elites' lived experience, it has little relevance from the standpoint of oppressed peoples (i.e., those who need wisdom to survive, not knowledge divorced from their everyday concerns). Instead, from a Black feminist standpoint social knowledge should be assessed through honest dialogue, empathetic concern, and sufficient indication of its proponent's honorable motives. According to standpoint theory, access to a group's wisdom is gained only after its members' lived experience has been validated on their own terms.