



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt. 35
Ida Noddack





Ida Noddack (1896-1978)

Chemist

She was one of the first women in Germany to study chemistry. She did so at the *University of Berlin*, where she earned her doctorate in 1919 with a dissertation on anhydrides of higher aliphatic fatty acids.

In 1925, she was part of the group that discovered the element rhenium (atomic number 75).





In 1934, she was the first scientist to suggest the possibility of nuclear fission. Based on Fermi's experiment, she hypothesized that when heavy atomic nuclei are bombarded with neutrons, they could break apart into smaller nuclei that would no longer be neighboring elements.

This idea was ignored and rejected as 'unscientific.'

In general, the scientific community believed that such a groundbreaking idea could not have come from a woman.





It was not until 1938 that the first experimental proof of uranium nuclear fission was achieved.

Noddack's earlier idea was later recognized as visionary.

Today, she is considered one of the pioneers of nuclear fission and nuclear research.

The Matilda Effect illustrates how, due to patriarchal biases, a groundbreaking idea was ignored.





„Es ist schön zu forschen und man kommt gar nicht davon los und ich möchte auch nicht aufhören zu forschen.“

"It is a joy to do research, and one simply can't stop — and I don't want to stop doing research."

