



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt.36
Hedwig Kohn



BESSEr@KIT





Hedwig Kohn (1887-1964) Physicist

Since official enrollment for women was not permitted, she began her studies in 1906 as a guest auditor at the *University of Breslau*.

In 1913, she earned her doctorate with a dissertation on *The Nature of Metal Vapors Emitting Light in Flames*.

Her contributions to a physics textbook were recognized in 1930 as equivalent to a habilitation.



In 1933, she was dismissed by the Nazis due to her Jewish heritage and emigrated via Switzerland to the United States, where she accepted several teaching positions at colleges.

In 1948, she was appointed full professor at *Wellesley College*.

In 1952, she moved to *Duke University*, where she taught and conducted research well into old age.





She focused her research on the quantitative measurement of light. The flame spectrometry technique, which she played a key role in developing, is still in use today.

It is based on the principle that excited atoms emit electromagnetic radiation characteristic of the chemical element, thereby providing information about the composition of a sample during combustion.





"Die Frau verschwindet aus der Geschichte, obwohl ihre Arbeit weiterlebt."

"The woman disappears from history, even though her work lives on."

