

Mrs. Korsch -

Dr. Park says we aren't in a position yet to know if there will be a need for a third person in the Department, but it is quite unlikely that if there is to be another it would be a Jew. There are two already on the faculty with the possibility of a third coming into the Department of Psychology as a refugee scholar, which number at the present time Dr. Park thinks is about all that a college of our size should have. So he advises you to reply to Professor Weigand's letter in a discouraging vein. Unfortunately -

M.C.R.

4-7-39

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

IOWA CITY

IOWA CHILD WELFARE RESEARCH STATION

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY
OF NORMAL CHILDREN

March 24, 1936

Dr. John E. Park, President
Wheaton College
Norton, Massachusetts

My dear President Park:

I have just heard through Dr. M. Rickers that there may be an opening at Wheaton College in the German department. May I take the liberty to call your attention to Dr. Hedda Korsch?

Dr. Korsch is, in my mind, one of the most brilliant and successful teachers Germany has had. Born as a granddaughter of Hedwig Dohm, the famous leader in the early women's movement, and cousin of Thomas Mann, she was brought up in a very cultured background.

As a student, she was a leader in her group professionally and socially. She made English and German her major subjects and received her Ph.D. in Berlin (thesis on Chaucer) with the highest distinction. Since, Dr. Korsch has been in close active contact with the German progressive school movement. She worked in Wickersdorf with Wyneken and Luserke and later with Professor Karsen in the most progressive high school and junior college in Germany. There she was in charge of training the prospective high school teachers.

Besides German, Dr. Korsch speaks and writes English (she has been several times in England for a considerable period), French, Italian, Russian and Swedish fluently. She also knows Latin. She is well acquainted with "alt-deutsch" and "mittel-hoch-deutsch" and has a full scientific background concerning the phonetics, etymology, literature and history of the German language. Her knowledge of pedagogy, philosophy and psychology, of general social and cultural history is most unusual considering both its thoroughness and scope. Her scientific standard is, without doubt, that of a university professor.

Dr. Korsch has a charming personality, and is very coöperative. She is most successful in guiding young people. She has proved herself to be very productive in planning progressive pedagogical programs and ~~every~~ effective in carrying them through.

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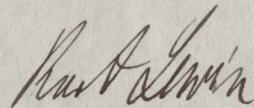
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In spite of the fact that Mrs. Korsch and her husband, a professor law, are not of Jewish descent, they had to leave Germany after Hitler's rise to power because of the democratic views of the latter, who was about fifteen years ago a member of the Parliament. Mrs. Korsch is now in Sweden. Her daughter is studying psychology in Iowa, and therefore Mrs. Korsch desires to come to this country.

I would not have taken the liberty to bring this matter to your attention if I had not felt sure that Dr. Korsch would prove to be as outstanding in this country as she has been previously. So far as immigration is concerned there would not be difficulties because of her professional status. Please find enclosed the records of her pedagogical work and a "curriculum vitae" written by herself which she sent to me a few months ago.

Very sincerely yours,



Kurt Lewin
Visiting Professor
of Child Psychology

KL:CB
Enc.

Hedda Korsch

Born August 20th in 1890, Berlin. Studied German and English languages and literature in Berlin, Jena, London. Journeys to Italy, Sweden, England, France. Teaching in adult schools and worker's colleges. Took my degree in Berlin 1913. Research work in London until June 1914. 1915 till 1920 teacher at "Freie Schulgemeinde Wickersdorf" near Saalfeld, Thuringia. 1921-22 teacher in "Freie Schul- und Werkgemeinschaft Sinntalhof", Bavaria. 1923-24 teacher at a municipal elementary school at Jena, taking part in the reform work of the then social democrat government of Thuringia. 1924-25 I took part in the training courses for Montessori teachers in Berlin under the direction of Dr. Maria Montessori, acting as her interpreter in her lectures and lecturing myself on the subject of German language and literature in schools. We visited many kindergartens and schools together, discussing their methods and results. 1927-33 teacher at the Kaiser Friedrich Realgymnasium (headmaster Dr. Fritz Karsen), a combined secondary school and teacher's training college. Form-master of one form for six years, school-journeys to different parts of Germany, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, England. Appointed "Studienrätin" in 1929. Took part in the teacher's training, head of the German language and literature section for two years. Experimental work in didactics and youth psychology.

Married to Dr. jur. Karl Korsch in 1913. Two daughters, born in 1915 and 1921. Karl Korsch, Professor of

Law at the University of Jena, dismissed for political reasons April 1933. I myself in May 1933, likewise for political reasons. We are both Aryans. No pensions of any kind.

After my victimisation I found a place as teacher at "Viggbyholmsskolan" a private boarding school near Stockholm, where I have been working these last two years. During three summers I worked in private teacher's training courses in the country and in Stockholm, acting as an interpreter to different foreign lecturers and leading seminaries. In connection with a course of lectures by Prof. Alfred Adler from Vienna (Now Medical College, Long Island, New York) I wrote a report on the lectures and seminary, published in book form under the title of "Kurs i Individualpsykologi" Stockholm 1935.

I know German (with philology and literature); English (with philology and literature); French; Italian; Russian; Swedish; Latin. I have taught all of these. I know shorthand and typewriting, and am well acquainted with editorial work.

My chief interest, however, lies in pedagogics and psychology. I have always collaborated in "free" or "experimental" schools, studied most of the school reform work in the different countries, and made myself acquainted with many new schools by prolonged visits. In my own work, I was chiefly interested in the years of adolescence; in girl psychology and education; in the problems of coeducation; in adult training. I studied the problems of the so-called "Arbeitsunterricht", and helped to work out

different methods of it, especially for German, other languages, history, and "Gesamtunterricht." I contributed to educational magazines and other periodicals and have given a great number of lectures in clubs, people's high schools, and worker's educational societies.

Politically I am not tied to any party or organization.

Dr. phil. Hedda Korsch
Signature

Viggbyholm Sweden, Oktober 1935