

March 29, 1973

Dear Dr. Ferrater-Mora,

It has been two years since I took your phenomenology course at Temple, but the concepts I was introduced to there have guided my thinking ever since. I have enclosed a copy of the paper I wrote for you in that course. I went as far as the MA in philosophy at Temple and then transferred to law school.

It was soon rather clear to me that the orientation of the department at Temple was not compatible with my interests, which had developed significantly along the lines of Marx's philosophy of praxis. I had been accepted to the Phd program at the University of Toronto, and the University of Chicago, but decided that the time for completion of my doctorate was not yet right. The reasons for my decision were two-fold: 1) teaching jobs were appearing more and more scarce; and 2) the direction my philosophical thinking was taking me had not yet come into focus.

My "solution", however awkward, was to get a law degree in the interim. I am now completing my first year of law school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Significantly, my selection of law school as the "solution" originated on a distinctly Marxist basis. In the Theses On Feurbach Marx points out that the point of philosophy is to change the world, not just to interpret it. Before one can

understand the social and political developments within society, and their significance for a fully articulated philosophy of praxis, one must have a glimmer of how this society functions. Law school is helping me to orient my philosophical thinking within a concrete political and economic context.

The first year of law school do^enot leave much time for philosophical musings, but I have managed to make time. My reading of Gajo Petrovic's Marx in the Mid-twentieth Century has greatly sharpened the focus of my philosophical investigations. My goal is to develop a rigorous and tightly thought out philosophy of praxis. My philosophical research has not been without difficulties: 1) what professors and/or graduate schools could provide the rigorous academic training necessary for my philosophical goals and interests; 2) what journals, books, authors are also engaged in interests similar to my own? I am determined to continue my philosophical studies on a more advanced level, and I hoped that you could aid me in pursuing that goal.

I realize, of course, that you know nothing about me so that a few details could be illuminating. I am now 25 and my family is presently living in Orlando, Florida. I received a BA from Emory University in 1969, graduating magna cum laude, with a major in philosophy and a minor in history. I ended up at Temple through a rather unfortunate set of circumstances. When I graduated college I was 1-A and had very little time to explore my options. I managed to gain entrance into a

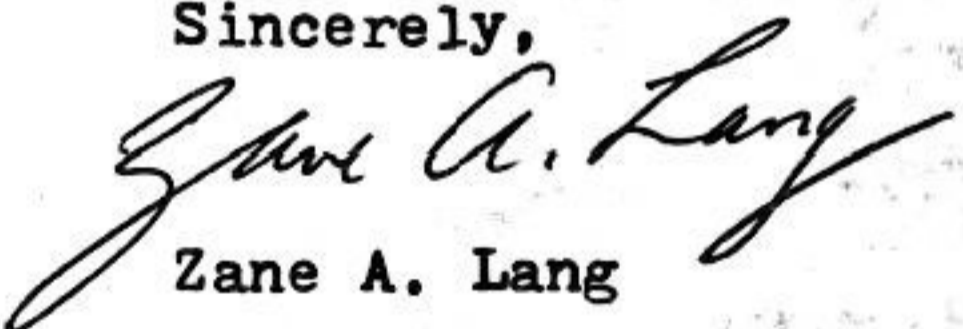
seminary in Philadelphia that allowed me to pursue graduate work at Temple. Given my circumstances at that time I counted myself lucky and snatched up the opportunity. Such conditions do not provide for the happiest of circumstances: 1) I had to take four graduate courses in the seminary; 2) I had to take a full load of courses in the philosophy department; and 3) I had six classes of religious school to teach a week. Needless to say I found my life and work extremely unsatisfying under those conditions.

Now that the draft is off my back, I am exploring the opportunities for graduate work on a full-time basis without a host of impossible distractions. Though my economic situation has become rather tight, and my family seeks a more "conventional" occupational alternative, I am determined to pursue an academic career in philosophy.

My Address:

Z.A. Lang
2212 I Street
Washington, D.C. 20037

Sincerely,


Zane A. Lang

4. 8. 73.