

## What I Was Doing in November 1989, i.e. During the Velvet Revolution and After

Šarlota Pufflerová

The whole year was marked by an intense expectation of changes. Their harbinger were not just people fleeing Eastern Germany who were not prevented from crossing the western border or reverberations of the critique of the regime initiated by environmentalists in 1987 (*Bratislava Nahlas*). I was steaming with frustration and I felt that the end of the hated regime was near. I just couldn't imagine how it would happen. When I saw on the Austrian TV<sup>1</sup> shots from the police action against students in Prague it became clear to me that it was here. While my grandparents were babysitting my four-year-old daughter I and my husband would go out looking for people who saw it in the same way. Suddenly there was more and more of them. I would go to the square each day. It was like a beginning of a new life. Gradually, I started to launch my civic activities wherever I could and ultimately I turned from a scientist into an activist...full time, until the present.

Translated by **Eva Riečanská**

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<sup>1</sup> In Bratislava and western Slovakia, people could get the Austrian (ORF) TV signal; this TV broadcast was one of the few channels of information free of communist propaganda and one of the few “windows” to the world of Western democracies (Translator's note).