

NEW FEMALE PERSPECTIVES ON EVERYDAY LIFE AND
RESISTANCE IN LATE SOCIALIST SLOVAKIA*Agáta Šústová Drelová*

A recent addition to the growing literature on women in East-Central European dissent, the volume *Ako sme žili v rokoch normalizácie* (How we lived in the years of normalisation) edited by Oľga Gyarfášová captures the worlds of ten women who braved and shaped the independent communities in late socialist Bratislava. Shedding light on hitherto overlooked sources of meaning and resilience, the volume provides detailed directions to a little-explored lane of female memory of dissent. Through their individual stories of working in socially underappreciated yet personally fulfilling professions and sustaining personal relationships strained by constant surveillance, these women found purpose not only in dissident activity but in their work as therapists, writers and caretakers, often creating meaningful communities around them. Highlighting the centrality of professional and personal relationships, the volume reveals the distinctiveness of female experiences of dissent in Slovakia while also providing important hints for broadening research perspectives on (and beyond) late socialism and East-Central Europe.