

1990s

**PEACE, PROSPERITY
AND THE INTERNET**

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1990s - Peace, Prosperity, and the Internet

Das **Oral History-Projekt** ist um einen weiteren Band gewachsen und bildet nun eine faszinierende **Trilogie der Zeitgeschichte**. Nach den Erzählungen über die bewegten 1960er Jahre – „*Wie wild waren die wilden 60er?*“ – und den folgenden Jahrzehnten der politischen Umbrüche, des gesellschaftlichen Wandels und der kulturellen Vielfalt – „*Kreisky, Disco und der Fall der Mauer*“ – freue ich mich sehr, nun den dritten Teil präsentieren zu dürfen: *1990s – Peace, Prosperity, and the Internet*.

Die Methode der **Oral History** – wörtlich übersetzt *mündliche Geschichtserzählung* – ist zugleich eine der ältesten und lebendigsten Formen der Geschichtsüberlieferung. Auch im digitalen Zeitalter, in dem Informationen scheinbar grenzenlos verfügbar sind, behält sie ihre besondere Relevanz. Denn sie schenkt jenen Stimmen Gehör, die

in offiziellen Geschichtsbüchern oft ungehört bleiben. Heute wird die Oral History zu Recht als unverzichtbares Instrument betrachtet, um die Krise der kulturellen und kollektiven Erinnerung in einer postmodernen Medienwelt zu überwinden (vgl. Annette Kuhn, *Oral History und Erinnerungsarbeit*, 2008).

Im Rahmen dieses Projekts wurden unsere Schüler:innen – die Töchter, Söhne und Enkel:innen der Zeitzeug:innen – ermutigt, in den **Familienalben zu blättern**, Gespräche mit Eltern und Großeltern zu führen und so den Geist der 1990er Jahre neu zu entdecken. Dabei zeigte sich einmal mehr, wie unterschiedlich dieses Jahrzehnt in verschiedenen Ländern erlebt und erinnert wird. Die Themen reichen vom **Tod Lady Dianas** über die **Jazzszene in New York**, das **Leben auf einem Kreuzfahrtschiff**,

den **Fall des Eisernen Vorhangs in Bulgarien**, den **Zerfall der Sowjetunion in der Ukraine** bis hin zum **Alltag eines Bankers in Hongkong**.

Da unsere internationale Schule von Schüler:innen aus mehr als **vierzig Nationen** besucht wird – unter anderem aus den **USA, Serbien, Kroatien, Slowenien, Porto Rico, Deutschland, Griechenland, Bulgarien, Ukraine, China oder Österreich** – entstand ein einzigartiges, buntes Kaleidoskop persönlicher Erinnerungen. Die 1990er Jahre erscheinen hier nicht nur als ein Jahrzehnt der Umbrüche, sondern auch als Zeit der Begegnungen, Hoffnungen und neuen Perspektiven.

Die gesammelten Interviews und Fotografien aus privaten Archiven wurden von **Frau Mag.^a Ulrike Saringer-Maier** sorgfältig redakti-

onell aufbereitet und durch ergänzende Bildquellen aus dem **World Wide Web** bereichert. So entstand ein vielschichtiges Zeitdokument, das Vergangenheit erfahrbar macht und den Dialog zwischen den Generationen lebendig hält.

Ich wünsche allen Leserinnen und Lesern viel Freude, Neugier und vielleicht auch ein wenig Nostalgie beim Eintauchen in die Geschichten dieses Bandes. Möge er dazu anregen, eigene Erinnerungen zu teilen und das Gespräch über unsere gemeinsame Geschichte fortzusetzen.

Martina Pfistermüller-Czar

William Bauer

Interview with Karl Bauer

WILLIAM: How did you experience the fall of the iron curtain?

KARL: I was doing my mandatory service in the Austrian army. It started in August 1989 when Hungary opened the border and thousands of DDR citizens poured into Austria. The happiness and disbelief on their faces will be always in my memory. The Pan-European Picnic in August 1989 and the events which unfolded in the early 1990 were truly remarkable. The Fall of the Berlin Wall and then the fall of the Iron Curtain was an amazing event when I was in my 20s.

WILLIAM: How did the 90s shape your career?

KARL: I just graduated from HTL Pinkafeld and was eager to make money to become independent.

Nevertheless after 3 years working as a technician, I felt I had to try something new. With the rise of semi-conductors and computers, I decided to start studying electronic engineering, first in Graz and then later I finished in Vienna. After graduation I started as development engineer at Philips in Vienna. This was a totally new experience, working in an international company. Colleagues from different cultures, business trips to Asia. The job at Philips gave me a big opportunity to live abroad.

WILLIAM: How were the computers and the internet in the 90s?

KARL: My 1st computer was called 386, it was one of the first PCs and cost me a fortune. In comparison to now it had a fraction of the performance of your mobile.

William Bauer's
father Karl Bauer

I WAS DOING MY
MANDATORY SERVICE IN
THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.
[...] WHEN HUNGARY
OPENED THE BORDER
AND THOUSANDS OF
DDR CITIZENS POURED
INTO AUSTRIA.

Foto: leonovana



But I was very much hooked since I had programming lessons in high school and in the 90s I could effort my on PC. The Windows 3.11 operating systems was just released and was a totally new experience with the graphical user interface and you had a mouse to control. Later also Word and Excel were released.

Around 1995 when I started university the internet was coming, and the 1st browsers came up and it was not Google. It was called AltaVista.

WILLIAM: How did you listen to music in the 90s?

KARL: We were far away from streaming content. The most popular music media was the CD. I had quite a nice collection of rock music CD eg. U2, Guns N'Roses, and a very good sound machine from Philips.

WILLIAM: How did you experience the war in Yugoslavia?

KARL: I was 21 years old and were working in Tillmitsch near Leibnitz. Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence. There was 10 days fighting in Slovenia. In the beginning the Austrian army was very passive. Then MiG aircrafts entered Austrian airspace and people complaint that the army doesn't do anything. After that the force was mobilized to protect our border. I was in Leibnitz many times and saw often the Bundesheer patrolling. The war in Slovenia was quickly over but it lasted so long in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. It left quite a mark in my memory. Especially as I had some classmates from Croatia at University which had to flee to Austria and lost some family members.

WILLIAM: Which were your favourite TV series?

KARL: I loved Beverly Hills 90210, those high school guys very so cool. Another favourite was Starship Voyager, the journey through space and their adventures were fantastic. I didn't like Friends so much.

WILLIAM: Did you have a car?

KARL: Yes, I had a car. But because

of my budget was low I always had second hand cars.

One of my first cars was Citroen 2CV. In Austria we also called that car “Ente” (Duck).

WILLIAM: Did you have a mobile phone in the 90s?

KARL: No, I didn't have one. But in my 1st company we had one, it was quite bulky. Sure, I could brag that I have one even it was not mine.

WILLIAM: Were there any threats in the 90s?

KARL: There were a lot of conflicts, Iraq war, Yugoslavia war, but towards the end of the 90s the change from



Foto: Privat

1999 to 2000, Y2K was hyped up. People were predicting the computer apocalypse.

Due that the computer data formats were only 2 digits, e.g. 99 for 1999, experts were predicting the change from 99 (1999) to 00 (2000) will make the computers crash. Companies were checking their computers if they were Y2K safe.

WILLIAM: What was your best party in the 90s?

KARL: New Year's party, 1999. The Millenium party. I had been living in the student dormitory. I remember there were few thousand students there that day.



Foto: Volker Artmann

Elís Bonilla-Claudio

Interview with my Dad

For my interview I chose my dad, who lived in New York City.

E: What was life like living in New York in the 90's?

L: I moved to New York in January of 1991 at 25 years old. It was a very exciting place. Everything moved quickly and every country of the world was represented in that one city. I was pretty frightened for the first couple months, it was my first time living alone.

E: What was the music scene like in New York City?

L: At the time there was a pretty healthy jazz scene so I'd go out as often as possible to see as many musicians as I could. When I started playing with Lester Bowie it really opened up the music world in NYC for me and

allowed me to make money and go out to see more of the avant garde and adventurous jazz musicians on the scene. It also gave me the opportunity to travel all over the world. New York was really the capital of the world for expressing yourself, whether you were a painter or a musician or a sculptor or a designer, the best of the best went there.

E: Which places did you travel to?

L: Travelling really opened my eyes to the many possibilities of my career. The three most spectacular places I've visited are Brazil, Japan and Puerto Rico. My first introduction to Puerto Rico was June 1994 when I played the Heineken jazz festival with William Cepeda.

Elís Bonilla Claudio's
Dad Luis Bonilla



Foto: Privat

BECOMING PART OF THE
JAZZ COMMUNITY LET ME
BROADEN MY HORIZONS
AND MEET PEOPLE FROM
ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

E: What kind of people did you meet as a musician?

L: Becoming part of the jazz community let me broaden my horizons and meet people from all walks of life. When I first moved to NYC i didn't know anybody, I only had 2 friends. As time went on I started networking and it gave me the opportunity to play within a lot of different genres, like swing, bossa nova, and a whole lot of Latin music.

E: What was the political situation like in America?

L: Well, I myself was never so into politics, but it really wasn't that bad. In the 90's it was George Bush (republican) and then Bill Clinton (democrat). It wasn't such a change for the music community but a lot of musicians were thinking 'oh man things are finally gonna get really cool around here because he (Bill Clinton) plays tenor saxophone.' But at the end of the day the political machine is just a machine. The feeling that I've always had with the politics in America was one of semi distrust.

E: Which mafias were active in New York during the 90's?

L: Mainly it was Italian/Sicilian mafias that were active. Especially during the 90's there was a massive power struggle within the 5 crime families in NYC where they began killing each other off while gunning for top dog. In NYC the mafia was in control of the construction, the union, the meatpacking district, the garment district and even the fish market. If



Foto: Privat

The fact that I could branch out into so many different genres put me into high demand and gave me the chance to meet and play with people like Willie Colton, Mark Anthony, Oscar de Leon and La India (all Latin artists).

you wanted to buy fish at the South Street Sea Port you had to pay the mafia an extra tax, that was just the rule. When Rudy Guliani became mayor in '93 he became quite popular because he started breaking up the mafia. From then on New York really started becoming a much stricter place with more rules, and everything started to become extremely expensive.

E: Did you ever convey a political message in your music?

L: Personally no, it's not really my style. What I've always tried to convey in my music is love, kindness and inspiration. However, I spent nearly 30 years playing with the Mingus Big-band, and Charles Mingus' music definitely had a political agenda of civil rights and oppression. So no, I haven't tried to convey a political message in my own music, but I've for sure been a part of someone else's political implications.

E: Did you follow any technological or fashion trends of the 90's?

L: I was never very tech savvy or fashionable but



Foto: Privat

there was definitely a tech boom especially with the beginning of Silicon Valley. At the time some tech giants were really gaining traction, like Yahoo, Microsoft and Apple. Companies and people were making loads of money and this led to an increase in the stock market, even the neighbourhood I lived in in Brooklyn became quite elite. The economy was booming. In NYC during the 90's very few people were carrying cellphones yet but everyone was starting to carry laptops because most other electronic devices weren't portable yet. As for fashion, out with the acid washed jeans and padded jackets of the 80's and in with sleek and edgy clothes. Most people wore black, leather

I REMEMBER BEING AT A BAR WHEN AN EPISODE OF SOUTH PARK CAME ON AND EVERYONE STOPPED WHAT THEY WERE DOING JUST TO CROWD AROUND THE TV AND WATCH. THE 90'S FOR SURE GAVE WAY FOR SOME HIT SHOWS.

and lots of denim. Especially with gentrification and the opening of chain stores, fashion became more easily accessible for everyone.

E: What are some shows you remember watching in the 90's?

L: During the 90's a lot of big shows emerged, like *Seinfeld*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *the Simpsons* and of course,



Foto: Privat

Friends. I remember being at a bar when an episode of *Southpark* came on and everyone stopped what they were doing just to crowd around the TV and watch. The 90's for sure gave way for some hit shows.

E: What were sports like during the 90's ?

L: Baseball was always really big in America. In '95 Derek Jeter was fresh into the Yankees (baseball) and they won 4 World Series championships in the late 90's between '96 and 2000. I used to play at a bunch of these games because my musician friend Ray Sepulveda knew all the baseball players. The Knicks (basketball) were always so close to winning but Michael Jordan and the Bulls would kill the Knicks every single time. A lot of stuff was happening for the sports world in the 90's and NYC was a total sports hub.

E: Is there any small thing you want to say to wrap this up?

L: Well, I met my wife in the 90's. That was one of the best things to ever happen to me that gave me the opportunity to bring you into this world, which undoubtedly is the best thing I've ever done. :-)

Tim Brandt

My Dad Michael Zechner

TIM: What were most important events in the 1990s for you?

DAD: I met Silke who would later become my wife and that I have two children with.

TIM: What was it like at school and were there differences to modern world schools?

DAD: When I was in school the teachers were far stricter than now, there were punishments for talking in class and so on, there were certain dress codes in school, and they only had a very small computer lab.

Fun fact: Most of the students in my dad's class failed Latin.

TIM: What was the political situation in Austria (1990s)?

DAD: Viktor Klima who was from the SPÖ (Social De-

mocratic Party of Austria) was the chancellor in 1990.

TIM: What clothes did people wear in the 1990s?

DAD: Most of the people wore Jeans, T-shirts, and Hoodies.

TIM: What did people do in their free time?

DAD: I and my friends liked to play tennis in summer as well as many other sports like football, swimming, and volleyball. In winter we went skiing with our families and ice skating. On afternoons we liked to meet up and play boardgames together or watch TV.

TIM: What music did you listen to?

DAD: I mostly listened to the "Beatles" or "Deep Pur-

Tim Brandt's Dad Michael Zechner

... THE TEACHERS WERE FAR STRICTER THAN NOW, THERE WERE PUNISHMENTS FOR TALKING IN CLASS AND SO ON, THERE WERE CERTAIN DRESS CODES IN SCHOOL, ...

ple”. I also like to listen to “Hold on”.

Which movies were you watching?

DAD: There were many great movies but the ones that I especially liked to watch were: “Pretty Woman” and “Jagd auf Roter Oktober”.

Tim: What differences were there concerning the technology?

DAD: In 1990 there was no Internet and cell phones, although they had TVs and computers to work on, but they were really slow and big.

Tim: What was a historical event in the 1990s?

DAD: In 1990 Germany reunited after the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the Hubble Space Telescope was placed in the orbit and 1997 the death of Princess Diana.

Tim: Did the cold war effect Austria?

DAD: In 1955 the USSR, together with the three Western powers occupying Austria (USA, Great Britain, and France), signed a treaty which officially put an end to the war in Austria and they became neutral.



Miriam Friedrich

Interview with my Mom

Miriam: What are the first things that come to mind when you hear „the 90s“?

Au pair in the US. I just loved it there. I still have a bit of contact with my „kids.“

Miriam: What were you doing in the 90s?

At the beginning of the 90s, I finished school and then went to the US to be an au pair. That was interesting and fun! After that, I started my studies. So, for me, the 90s were just great: lots of freedom.

Miriam: Why was there so much freedom?

That’s actually a good question. I basically finished my exams and thought, “Okay, now it’s time to take a break.” So I had a few weeks of just enjoying life, which was a lot of fun.

Miriam: So what did you do to enjoy your life? Were you ever in another country?

Yes, I always loved traveling. I often went on trips—either with some friends or a boyfriend, whoever was around at the time. To afford that, I worked quite a lot as a waitress. Then I went to Portugal for half a year through the Erasmus program. That was really nice too, although it was actually quite cold. I was there for the winter semester, and there was no heating in the flat. But still, it was a great experience—just very cold.

Miriam: Do you remember anything about the political situation?

At that time, I wasn’t really interested in politics. I just remember there were two candidates running

Miriam Friedrich’s
Mom

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AND I LOVED THAT.

for president—one was Kurt Waldheim, and I can't remember the other guy. There were a lot of stories about Waldheim's Nazi past, and Austria still voted for him. I found that really interesting—it was kind of the “jetzt erst recht” mentality in Austria.

Miriam: Do you remember anything about the Berlin Wall?

Yes, of course. I was in Berlin in '88 or '89, and it was really creepy and scary—it was terrible, actually. We crossed the border from West to East Berlin when I was 17. The guard looked at me, then at my passport, then back at me—again and again. I couldn't help it and started to laugh because it

was so ridiculous. The guard got angry and made me go back and stand in line again behind everyone. My mom or dad—I don't remember who—was with me and said, “You can't laugh; you're not allowed to laugh.” But it was really hard because I was already in a laughing mood. When I finally got back to the front, he looked at my face and passport again and again—maybe on purpose—but I didn't laugh that time, and I crossed the border. East Berlin was just terrible. I think we had to change money, but there was nothing to spend it on. We didn't know what to do with it. Maybe the memory feels worse than it really was, but it felt like a completely diffe-



MY MOM LIVE ON AIR



MY MOM NEXT TO THE US-CAPITOL IN WASHINGTON D.C.

rent world—next to another world. It was really crazy.

Miriam: What do you remember about the death of Lady Diana?

I think it was shocking. Probably every teenager, young adult, or adult remembers what they were doing when the news came out. Same for me. I was driving to Vienna airport to pick up a friend, and I heard the news on the radio in the car—that Lady Diana had died. It felt surreal. She was a young woman—it was just shocking. Diana felt like a friend of mine because I knew everything about her. There was an article about her in the newspaper every day.

Miriam: Who were your role models in the 90s?

My role models were Nena and Madonna. Madonna just didn't care what other people thought—and I loved that. Nena was surrounded by these four men, and I just loved her music.

Miriam: What was your favourite TV show?

It was Beverly Hills 90210—I really liked it. Every Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m., a lot of students would gather to watch the show together. It was al-

ways a blast. Back then, we didn't have Netflix, so we had to watch it live every Saturday at 4 p.m.

Miriam: Was it strange when the currency changed from Schilling to Euros?

I'd say it was unusual. Even today, I sometimes still calculate prices in Schilling. When the Euro was introduced, the exchange rate was 14:1.

Miriam: They say the 90s were a time when fashion was very colorful. What did you wear?

Well, I loved the colors too. I always wore colorful clothes. I wore a lot of hippie-style stuff—I just loved it.

Miriam: What do you miss from the 90s?

Life without responsibility.

Miriam: Thank you, mom I appreciate your time



Emilie Hohensinner

Interview with her Mum Genevieve Hohensinner

Emilie Hohensinner's
Mum Genevieve
Hohensinner



Foto: Privat

IT WAS A SCARY TIME,
THERE WERE MANY
IRA BOMB THREATS
WHILE I WAS LIVING
IN LONDON IN THE
90'S OFTEN IN OR
AROUND TRAIN STATIONS.

*This is an interview with my
Mother, Genevieve Hohensinner.*

*E: How old were you in the
90's?*

G: I was 20 - 30 years old.

*E: Which country were you
living in for most of the 90's?*

G: I was living in New Zealand from 1990 – 1994.
And then I was living in
London from 1994 - 2000.

*E: Did you travel around much
in the 90's?*

G: Yes, living and working
in London allowed me to
travel a lot to many places as
it was so easy to get to and
not too expensive. I went to
Europe, South America, Africa,
Middle East, and lots of
other places.

*E: Were there any significant
events that happen in London in
the 90's that had a direct impact
on you?*

G: Yes, The London dock-
lands bombing in February
1996 was when the IRA (Irish
Republican Army) set off a
massive truck bomb. I was
living 10 miles away in
Walthamstow, London and
literally felt my house shake
and a huge explosion go off,
it felt like it had happened
right above me. Everyone in
the street came out of their
houses as no one knew what
had happened.

The bomb killed 2 people
and destroyed a wide area
causing £150 million pounds
of damage. More than one
hundred people were injured.

E: How did you feel when the IRA was bombing London?

It was a scary time, there were many IRA bomb threats while I was living in London in the 90's often in or around train stations. We often had to be evacuated from train stations and that would cause big problems trying to get home etc. The thing is the IRA would always give warning that they had planted a bomb so the authorities had time usually to clear the area.

E: Did you know anyone that had been killed in the IRA bombings?

G: No, thank goodness.

E: How did Mad Cows Disease affect you?

G: It was tricky as we were quite scared to eat beef. I lived with a vegetarian chef so we mainly ate vegetarian at home but if we went to McDonalds for instance we always got a chicken burger.

E: Because you lived in England in the 90's, are you not allowed to donate blood for the rest of

your life because of Mad Cows disease, is that right and does that affect you?

G: Yes, that is correct, I am not allowed to donate blood, even to you. Apparently the disease can lay dormant in you for years or you can be a carrier of the disease so it's not safe to use blood that could be effected, It's a terrible disease.

E: Do you eat beef now?

G: Yes, I sure do.

E: When you were travelling the world in the 90's, did anything happen to you?

G: Yes, In Bolivia, South America, my travel companion and I got kidnapped in a taxi. We had just come

IN BOLIVIA, SOUTH AMERICA, MY TRAVEL COMPANION AND I GOT KIDNAPPED IN A TAXI. WE HAD JUST COME FROM A HUGE EXPIATION FROM THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST WHERE WE HAD BEEN ON A BUS FOR 30 HOURS ON DEATH ROAD, THE MOST DANGEROUS ROAD IN THE WORLD.



WITH LLAMAS IN BOLIVIA

from a huge expiation from the Amazon rain forest where we had been on a bus for 30 hours on Death Road, the most dangerous road in the world. We went to hop into a taxi to take us to our hotel in La Paz and that was all fine, then the taxi driver stopped, and a man hopped into the front, they locked the door and the man showed us a police badge and asked to see all our documents.

We later found out he wasn't a Policeman and was trying to steal all our money, they drove down a dark alley and wouldn't let us out. But my friend who was a tall man got really angry with them and finally they let us go but they stole all my Travellers cheques. Apparently, it's quite a common scam in La Paz.

E: Who were you travelling with?

G: My best friend Justine and I always travelled together, sometimes other friends would join us, like our friend Brendon in South America and Petrina, Glen, and Lisa in the Middle East.

E: What were you doing in the 90's?

G: In the first part I was in Auckland, New Zealand working as a Restaurant Manager at a huge restaurant at a big 4 star hotel. It was the newest hotel and we had lots of rock bands and famous people stay there. I got to meet Guns and Roses, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Meatloaf, lots of International Sports teams stayed there all the time. I also trained to be a sound desk Operator for live bands.

Then in London I was doing PA work for some big companies like Lloyds of London, British Telecom and BP, head office where I learnt to make websites.

E: Where did you live in the 90's?

G: I lived in Auckland with my dad until he died in 1994 than in London, Walthamstow from 94-2000. We had a great house in London that was owned by a friend who let us live there for years only paying £60 pounds per week so that's why I was able to travel so much.



Foto: Privat

MUM TRAINING AS A SOUND ENGINEER AGED 19



Foto: Privat

MUM IN AMSTERDAM AGED 24

E: You also went to New York right, here is a picture of you in front of the twin towers, how does it feel to know they later destroyed by a terrorist attack?

G: Very humbling actually. I still can't believe it happened. I went to the very top of the twin towers in 1997 and did a tour of the observation deck, flew in a flight simulator over New York up there. It was amazing. I'll never forget the guy whose job it was to take you up in the lift. He had a speech to say about the towers and had something like 30 seconds to say it all before we got to the top. I hope he got out or wasn't at work that day.

E: How did you feel when Princess Diana died, did it affect you in any way?

G: Yes, I was coming home from town in a taxi when we heard the news on the radio that Dodi her partner had died, and she had broken her leg and was being rushed to hospital in Paris.

It was August 1997, we rushed home and put the TV on and just sat up all night watching the brea-

king news until they finally said that she had died, we were all so shocked and sad.

I went and laid flowers outside Kensington Palace where she had lived and had never seen so many flowers in all my life.

E: How was it different travelling in the 90's compared to now?

G: Well, firstly we had no cell phones. We had an email address but not until around 1994-1995 did it become more common and we had to go and use internet cafes to check our emails where you would pay 30 mins at a time to use their computers with really slow dial up modems.

Our parents didn't know where we were most of the time as they couldn't contact us so, I would send them postcards from everywhere we went and sometimes ring them up from a pay phone where they could pay for the call.



MUM WITH BEST FRIEND IN NEW YORK 1998

Foto: Privat



KENSINGTON PALACE, LONDON, FLOWERS FOR PRINCESS DIANA

Foto: Mike Gattorna / Pixabay

Alexander Ip

Interview with my Father

Alexander Ip's
Father



Foto: Privat

I GOT MY FIRST MOBILE IN THE MID 90s. IT WAS PROVIDED BY MY EMPLOYER. BECAUSE MOBILES WERE SO EXPENSIVE BACK THEN, NOT MANY COULD AFFORD IT.

A: What were your favorite music bands or genres during the 90s?

F: Jazz and Reggae were my favorite genres, Bob Marley and Kenny G were my favorite artists and my favorite band was Simply Red.

A: What were some of the biggest news events that you remember from the 90s?

F: The biggest news was the starting of the Yugoslavian War, and in 1997 Hong Kong was returned to China.

A: What was your favorite TV show or movie that came out during the 90s?

F: I didn't watch TV shows, but my favorite movie at the time was "Ghost" which was released in 1990. Ghost was a very romantic and emotional film that talks about life after death, which gave people hope.

A: How did technology change during the 90s, and which ones were your favorite?

F: I got my first mobile in the mid 90s. It was provided by my employer. Because mobiles were so expensive back then, not many could afford it. Mobiles back then were very big, and the main companies were Nokia, Ericson and Motorola. But my favorite technologies were portable CD players, which were called "Discmans", which were similar to the cassette player called "Walkmans"

A: What were some of the popular fashion trends during the 90s?

F: We wore suits and ties very often, as well as shirts. And we never wore sneakers like nowadays, we always wore leather shoes.

A: What was your favorite sport and who was your favorite athlete?

F: Football was my favorite sport, and Diego Maradona was my favorite athlete. Although, I also really like tennis, and my favorite tennis player was Boris Becker.

A: What was the most memorable vacation or trip that you took during the 90s?

F: My trip to Indonesia, where I went to meet a friend who showed me his country. I was surprised that there were so many Muslims there.

A: How did your personal and professional life change during the 90s?

F: I was a banker working in Hong Kong, but I was transferred to China in 1998 which changed my family life as a banker.

A: Were there any significant historical events that occurred during the 90s that impacted your life or the world around you?

F: Hong Kong being returned to China. Hong Kong

went from being a British Colony for 150 years to being part of a communist country. It changed my life politically speaking because it changed from being democratic to communist.

A: Last Question, looking back, is there anything you would have done differently during the 90s?

F: I might have given up my job earlier as a banker and would have instead built up my own company which I run today. I think I would have been happier that way.



Foto: Privat

WE WORE SUITS AND TIES VERY OFTEN, AS WELL AS SHIRTS. AND WE NEVER WORE SNEAKERS LIKE NOWADAYS, WE ALWAYS WORE LEATHER SHOES.



Foto: Privat

Edi Kofrc

Der Jugoslawienkrieg

Edi Kofrc über
seine Großeltern.

SOFORT VERLOREN
MEINE GROSSELTERN
IHRE ARBEIT, WEIL
MEIN GROSSVATER
MUSLIM WAR UND
MEINE GROSSMUTTER
UNTER SEINEM NAMEN
ARBEITETE. DAMALS
VERLOREN ALLE MUSLIME
IN SERBIEN IHRE ARBEIT.

DER KRIEG DAUERTE
VIER JAHRE. MEINE
GROSSELTERN
HATTEN ES SEHR SCHWER.
DRAUSSEN WURDE
GESCHOSSEN, MENSCHEN
STARBEN. DAS ESSEN GING
LANGSAM AUS UND ES GAB
KEINE MEDIKAMENTE ZU
KAUFEN, AUCH DAS GELD
WURDE IMMER KNAPPER.

Da keine meiner Großeltern aus Österreich stammt, habe ich meine Großmutter aus Serbien angerufen und sie nach einem großen historischen Ereignis gefragt, das sie erlebt hat.

Meine Oma hatte ein schönes Leben. Sie lebte mit ihrem Mann in einem kleinen Dorf in Serbien. Sie hatten Arbeit und eine Tochter, die mit meinem Vater in Belgrad studierte. 1992 haben meine Eltern geheiratet und ein Kind bekommen, meinen Bruder Denis. Aber im selben Jahr begann der Jugoslawienkrieg. Sofort verloren meine Großeltern ihre Arbeit, weil mein Großvater Muslim war und meine Großmutter unter seinem Namen arbeitete. Damals verloren alle Muslime in Serbien ihre Arbeit. Meine Mutter stammt aus Serbien und mein Vater aus Bosnien.

Als der Krieg begann, waren meine Mutter und mein Vater mit meinem neugeborenen Bruder in Belgrad und sie durften nicht zu meinen Großeltern nach Mali Zvornik. Meine Eltern und mein Bruder hatten zunächst keine Unterkunft. Für 10 Tage kamen sie bei Freunden unter. Als meine Großeltern beschlossen, nach Belgrad zu fahren, um sie nach Hause zu holen, fanden sie sie in einer fremden Wohnung. Der Weg dorthin war nicht einfach. Sie wurden mehrmals von der Polizei angehalten. Meine Großmutter sagte mir, dass sie den Moment nie vergessen würde, als sie meinen Bruder zum ersten Mal kalt und erschüttert in dieser Wohnung sah. Meine Großmutter erinnert sich noch gut daran, wie sie meinen Bruder auf der Rückbank des Autos hielt und er sich langsam auf-

wärmte, als sie nach Hause fuhren. In Mali Zvornik angekommen, durften sie das Haus nicht verlassen, aber meine Großmutter konnte eine Frau aus dem Krankenhaus, die jeden Tag kam, um meinen Bruder zu waschen und nach ihm zu sehen. Nach kurzer Zeit mussten meine Eltern nach Österreich fliehen. Meine Oma und mein Opa konnten leider nicht mitkommen, weil sie dachten, dass alles besser wird.

Briefe hunderte Male gelesen und meine Großmutter bewahrt sie heute noch auf. Nach 4 Jahren wurde die Situation etwas besser und meine Familie wollte sich in Ungarn treffen. Sie haben es geschafft und meine Oma hat mir erzählt, dass mein Bruder plötzlich 4 Jahre alt war und so gewachsen ist. Sie blieben ein paar Tage in Ungarn und dann fuhren meine Großeltern zurück nach Serbien und meine Eltern mit meinem Bruder zurück nach Österreich. Ein Jahr später

sind meine Mutter und mein Bruder nach Serbien gekommen. Mein Vater durfte nicht über die Grenze.

Der Krieg war endlich

vorbei. Leider ist mein Großvater gleich danach nach langer Krankheit gestorben. Jetzt leben ihre liebsten Menschen in Österreich und sie ist ganz allein in Serbien, hat sie mir erzählt. Wir versuchen sie so oft wie möglich zu besuchen, fahren mit ihr ans Meer und sie kommt auch oft zu uns nach Österreich. Zum Schluss sagte sie, dass sie keine Ahnung hat, wie sie das alles überlebt hat, aber sie hat es geschafft.

Foto: Ванглица, CC BY-SA 4.0



MALI ZVORNIK

Der Krieg dauerte vier Jahre. Meine Großeltern hatten es sehr schwer. Draußen wurde geschossen, Menschen starben. Das Essen ging langsam aus und es gab keine Medikamente zu kaufen, auch das Geld wurde immer knapper. Nach langer Zeit gelang es meiner Mutter, Kontakt aufzunehmen. Sie konnte telefonieren und Briefe schreiben. Meine Großeltern haben diese

Raphael Kozak

Interview mit meiner Mutter Jutta Kozak

Wie hast du den Fall der Berliner Mauer 1989 erlebt?

Ich habe diesen Abend mit Freunden auf einer Party verbracht, im Wohnzimmer lief der Fernseher mit den Nachrichten. Die Bilder waren unvorstellbar. Menschenmassen, die sich über eine Grenze schoben, dieser Anblick war unglaublich. Für uns, die in Freiheit lebten, war das gar nicht vorstellbar.

Wenn wir schon dabei sind, war es für dich, normal fernzusehen?

Der Fernseher war für uns eine der wenigen Informationsquellen, was eben so passierte in anderen Ländern. Es war nicht nur Entertainment, sondern eine wahrliche Wissensquelle über das Geschehen auf der ganzen Welt. Dokumentationen über Tiere oder andere Kulturen waren eine großartige Möglichkeit, sich weiterzubilden, ohne ein Buch zu lesen. Obwohl es nur zwei österreichische Programme gab, die Vorläufer von „ORF1“ und

Raphael Kozaks
Mutter Jutta Kozak

DER FERNSEHER WAR FÜR
UNS EINE DER WENIGEN
INFORMATIONSQUELLEN,
WAS EBEN SO PASSIERTE
IN ANDEREN LÄNDERN.



Foto: sileze / Pixabay



Foto: Bomas13 - Eigenes Werk/ Wikipedia

„ORF2“. Sonst hat es nicht viele weitere Quellen gegeben. Eine weitere interessante Möglichkeit, mehr über andere Kulturen zu erfahren, waren sogenannte „Diavorträge“. Das waren wirkliche Events, um Eindrücke in Form von Fotos von Reisenden zu sehen. Diese Leute teilten ihre Fotos mithilfe eines Art Beamers, einem sogenannten Diaprojektor.

Hat dich der Fall des eisernen Vorhangs und der Sowjetunion auch persönlich betroffen?

Nicht persönlich, aber viele Jahre später lernte ich jemanden kennen, der in der DDR aufgewachsen ist und mir dazu aus erster Hand etwas erzählen konnte. Sie hat ihre Kindheit dort verbracht und ist in einem typischen Plattenbau aufgewachsen. Insgesamt hat sie diese Zeit sehr positiv in Erinnerung, trotz der vielen Beschränkungen bei den Lebensmitteln und der Mode. Hervorgehoben hat sie, dass alle Kinder in ihrer Freizeit beschäftigt worden sind, sie persönlich hat Handball gespielt. Ebenfalls positiv hat sie hervorgehoben, dass alle einen Arbeitsplatz hatten, was nach dem Mauerfall bei ihrer Mutter nicht mehr der Fall war.

Jetzt ein kleiner Themenwechsel, wie habt ihr damals ohne Smartphone kommuniziert?

Wir hatten daheim, wie die meisten Haushalte, ein Festnetztelefon. Im Gegensatz zu den meisten anderen Haushalten hatten wir einen ganzen Anschluss, somit mussten wir ihn nicht teilen. In Teenagerzeiten habe ich mit meiner besten Freundin ein bis zwei Stunden telefoniert. Meiner Mutter war das nicht so recht, weil es viel kostete und sie es auch benutzen wollte.

Hast du bei zu dieser Zeit schon Berührungspunkte mit Computern und dem Internet gehabt?

Erst so richtig im Studium, bis auf ein paar Spiele auf dem Familiencomputer. Im ersten Studienabschnitt hatte ich dann eine kleine Übung zum Programmieren, aber so richtig im Internet war ich erst später. Bei der Diplomarbeit habe ich den Computern einer Freundin benutzt, weil der zuhause kein Schreibprogramm besaß. Beim Schreiben der Arbeit habe ich aber nur auf Basis von analogen Medien geschrieben.

WIR HATTEN DAHEIM, WIE DIE MEISTEN HAUSHALTE, EIN FESTNETZTELEFON. IM GEGENSATZ ZU DEN MEISTEN ANDEREN HAUSHALTEN HATTEN WIR EINEN GANZEN ANSCHLUSS, SOMIT MUSSTEN WIR IHN NICHT TEILEN. IN TEENAGERZEITEN HABE ICH MIT MEINER BESTEN FREUNDIN EIN BIS ZWEI STUNDEN TELEFONIERT.

Foto: Bran / Wikipedia



Erst in den späten 90ern bei der ersten Arbeit hatte ich wirklich Zugang zum Internet, aber es war nicht wirklich ein Surfen, sondern mehr ein gezieltes Suchen mit bestimmten Internetadressen.

Wie schauten die Urlaube so aus?

In meinen Teenie-Jahren war ich mehr auf Sportcamps im Inland, das höchste der Gefühle war Grado, ein Jugendlager ohne Eltern. Nichts Besonderes. Mein erster Flug war dann mit Anfang 20 nach Kreta. Aber meine erste so richtige Fernreise war nach dem Studium nach Mexiko, wo ich erstmals eine andere

Kultur kennenlernen konnte. Also alles in allem sehr bescheiden in den 90ern.

Abschließend noch... Waren die 90er für dich, wie für viele, eine Zeit des Aufbruchs und des Friedens oder hast du das anders empfunden?

Damals haben wir speziell in Österreich gesehen, dass der Frieden doch nicht ganz so stark war, wie die meisten dachten, als die Kriege in Jugoslawien begannen. Es war spürbar nahe. Bei Besuchen in der Südsteiermark, in Grenznähe, hörte man die Gefechte.

Danke, dass du dir für das Interview Zeit genommen hast. Immer gerne.

Julia de Marbaix

Interview mit meinem Großvater Robert Walter

Julia: OK, zuerst einmal, wer bist du und wie alt bist du?

Robert: Ich bin Robert Walter, ich bin 68 Jahre und ich wohne im Südburgenland und ich bin der Großvater von Julia.

Julia: Du hast erwähnt, dass du die Berliner Mauer öfters überquert hast, wie war das? Erzähl mir davon!

Robert: Das war, glaube ich, das war im Jahre 1973/1972.

Da war ich mit einem Freund in Berlin, habe dort gearbeitet in Westberlin. Wir sind öfters nach Ostberlin gefahren. Die Stelle hat „Checkpoint Charlie“ geheißen und dort mussten wir fünf deutsche Mark, also Westmark, in Ostmark tauschen. Mit diesen Ostmark sind wir sehr gut essen gegangen. In Ostdeutschland haben wir Freunde gehabt von der Humboldt Univer-

Julia de Marbaix: Großvater Robert Walter

...DIE HABEN UNS SEHR VIEL ÜBER IHR LEBEN IN OSTDEUTSCHLAND ERZÄHLT. [...] ES WAR EIN SEHR SCHWIERIGES LEBEN, UND SIE MUSSTEN AUFPASSEN, WAS SIE ERZÄHLTEN, WEIL SIE STÄNDIG ANGST VOR BESPITZELUNG GEHABT HABEN



CHECKPOINT CHARLIE, BERLIN 1982

sität, mit denen wir uns öfters getroffen haben, und die haben uns sehr viel über ihr Leben in Ostdeutschland erzählt. Ich muss auch sagen, es war ein sehr schwieriges Leben, und sie mussten aufpassen, was sie erzählten, weil sie ständig Angst vor Bespitzelung gehabt haben und überhaupt das Misstrauen war sehr groß in Ostdeutschland. Insgesamt das Leben, das war für uns sehr günstig und mit ein bisschen Neid haben sie schon nach Westdeutschland geblickt. Sie haben auch relativ viele Kontakte in Westdeutschland gehabt, also es hat sie schon sehr interessiert. Aber grundsätzlich war die Stimmung ziemlich grau und trist.

Julia: Und dann, wie war dein Leben in den 90er Jahren?

Robert: In den 90er Jahren habe ich hier am Land gelebt. Anfang der 90er Jahre sind sehr viele rumänische Flüchtlinge zu uns gekommen, die haben teilweise auch für uns gearbeitet. Wir haben ja auch eine Landwirtschaft gehabt und da haben sie noch bei uns mitgearbeitet und haben auch sehr viel erzählt von Rumänien, vom Regime und auch von Folter und Grausamkeiten, die es dort gegeben hat. Ich habe auch meine Firma gegründet.

Julia: Welche Firma nochmal?

Robert: Ein Keramikbetrieb, also ich habe als Künstler gearbeitet und arbeitet nach wie vor als Künstler. Aber damals habe ich meine Firma gegründet.

Die Geschichte hat angefangen mit dem Waldheim, das ist vielleicht eine wichtige Geschichte, finde ich, in den 90er Jahren. Das war das erste Mal, dass sich die Öffentlichkeit mit dem Nationalsozialismus beschäftigt hat in den 90er Jahren.

Ja, zuhause haben wir kleine Kinder gehabt. Nicht nur deine Mutter. Wir hatten insgesamt vier kleine Kinder zum Aufpassen. Wir haben auch eine Landwirtschaft gehabt mit Kühen und Hühnern, also wir waren sehr eingedeckt mit Arbeit. Wir hatten natürlich sehr wenig Geld. Das Leben war sehr improvisiert. Und wir mussten schauen, dass wir einigermaßen über die Runden kommen. Ansonsten waren



Foto: Privat

wir eigentlich viel unterwegs. Wir sind ans Meer gefahren mit den Kindern. Es waren bei uns eher „italienische“ Verhältnisse, bei uns war es immer sehr laut. Aber recht lustig.

Julia: Was sind ein paar Erinnerungen aus dieser Zeit?

Robert: Ja, also wir haben einen Hund gehabt und mit dem Hund und den Kindern sind wir oft mit dem Traktor in den Wald gefahren und haben Schwammerl gesucht. Das war lustig. Oder sonst waren wir einmal bei der Europäischen Eiche, bei der ältesten Eiche Europas, und haben dort ein Picknick im Grünen gemacht. Einmal waren wir mit deiner Mutter sogar in Streng im Tierpark Wildpark, meistens auch in Verbindung mit einem Picknick. Eines der Kinder hat immer geflennet und geweint. Gestritten haben sie auch sehr viel.

Einmal habe ich in einem Atomkraftwerk gearbeitet in Deutschland. Ich wollte das gar nicht, aber ich habe dringend Geld gebraucht für die Familie auch. Und dann war ich dort, ich habe die Alarmsysteme installiert dort als Elektriker. Hatte allerdings keine Ahnung von dieser Tätigkeit. Ich hoffe, die Alarmsysteme sind nachträglich noch einmal kontrolliert worden.

Julia: Und was hat sich seit dieser Zeit verändert?

Robert: Was hat sich seit der Zeit verändert? Ja, schließlich die Kinder sind erwachsen geworden, ich bin in Pension gegangen, ja, die Arbeit war teilweise sehr stressig. Seit der Zeit hat sich das neoliberale System eingebürgert. Und das war dann so zum Geschäftemachen ziemlich schwierig. Das hat auch sehr viel Nervensubstanz gekostet. Jetzt bin ich wirklich froh, dass ich endlich auch ein beschaulicheres Leben führen kann und wenn ich Urlaub fahre, dann brauche ich nicht viel über Bild nachdenken. Ich fahre auf Urlaub und freue mich, weil die Welt so schön ist.

Julia: Zu guter Letzt, gibt es irgendetwas über die 90er Jahre, das du noch erwähnen willst?

Robert: Irgendwas über die 90er Jahre. Naja, ich finde, das war irgendwie eine Zeit, wo sehr viele Freundschaften verlorengegangen sind. Das war, weil wir so ins Leben und Berufsleben eingebunden waren. Also sind viele Dinge auf der Strecke geblieben. Aber es hat neben den dunklen Zeiten auch die lustigen Zeiten gegeben, also es war nicht durchgehend eine Panne geschichtlich. Ja, eh jedes Jahrzehnt ist ein interessantes Jahrzehnt.

Yivheniia Strikova

Interview with my Mother

**Olena Pavlova, 1977,
Dnipro, Ukraine**

*What do you remember about
the fall of the USSR?*

I remember clearly that I was at my grandmother's, it was the summer of August 19 in my memory I was 14 years old, I remember that there were no programs on TV, no news for three days, only a black screen or opera performances, and we were sitting in the village for several days, my parents didn't come and there was a strange feeling, we knew that something was happening, like children, we knew that grandma didn't know anything, we had no phones, and then my parents came and told us there had been a coup d'état. People who

were planning the revolution, they closed Gorbachev in his dacha and did not allow him to leave, they cut off his phone, and at that time they took power for themselves, they got drunk, so nobody went to work the next day after the revolution. The whole country was at a loss what was going on and what to do. And then the tough times started.

How did your everyday life change after the fall of the USSR?

When I was 14 - 15 years old, there was a shortage of products in stores, there were very few clothes, it was impossible to buy something.

Instead of rubles there appeared another currency, the currency was called coupons

**OLENA PAVLOVA, 1977,
DNIPIRO, UKRAINE**

...THEY GOT DRUNK, SO NOBODY WENT TO WORK THE NEXT DAY AFTER THE REVOLUTION. THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS AT A LOSS WHAT WAS GOING ON AND WHAT TO DO. AND THEN THE TOUGH TIMES STARTED.

and there was a huge inflation. In a few years people became millionaires, because they started to issue these papers, and they were worthless. People made millions, even though they were really poor. In addition to what you bought with those coupons you needed coupons for products such as sugar, butter, sunflower oil, sour cream, soap. When I was a teenager, I had no time for my parents. I had to go shopping, stood in line for two hours. In a month you could buy up to three or five kilos of sugar, and no more.

There were huge lines for bread; they brought it once a day and there were huge lines lined up. Once I went to buy bread and I was gone for two hours, and the store was located 5 minutes from home, and when I came home after two hours my younger sister, 5 years younger than me, was standing at the house gate crying because she thought I had disappeared or that thieves had stolen me.

What problems did you face after the USSR collapsed?

I remember when Privatisation started, people who had access to

business stole and sold materials and machinery outside the country.

The new factory owners dismissed employees because of new taxes after the introduction of capitalism. Unemployment was booming and many people got involved in crime, I remember that many dismissed athletes organized criminal gangs.

Fortunately, both of my parents were at their work positions, but still, they as everybody else didn't receive salary. Nobody had any money, people worked mostly with barter, and factories paid with what those factories produced.

Changes in society were also huge: the theaters were no longer functioning; actors had to do soap operas or give up theater.

People had their own gardens so they could have vegetables to eat.

I remember when I went to the 10th grade we didn't have teachers for almost 3 months, because they didn't receive salary, and many of them simply resigned.

Lilly Petrovits

Interview mit Vater



Foto: Privat

LILLY PETROVITS VATER
MARKUS JÄGER

ICH WAR VIEL DRAUSSEN
UND HABE MICH MIT
FREUNDEN GETROFFEN

Ich habe meinen Papa bezüglich der 90er Jahre interviewt. Er heißt Markus Jäger, ist 49 Jahre alt und wohnt jetzt in Graz, Österreich. Früher hat er im Haus seiner Eltern in Feldkirchen bei Graz gewohnt. Da er in den 90er Jahren zwischen 16 und 26 Jahre alt war, ist er ein gutes Beispiel.

Lilly: Was war besser in den 90er Jahren als jetzt?

Die Musik. Ich habe früher gerne R.E.M., Depeche Mode, U2, Nirvana und Guns N' Roses gehört.

Lilly: Was war schlechter?

Das Umweltbewusstsein. Für mich persönlich waren aber auch die Fernseher, das Fernsehen, die Technik und die Kommunikation schlechter.



Foto: Privat

Lily: Wie war der Lehrstoff im Vergleich zu heute?

Ich denke, er war leichter, da immer neue Sachen und Aspekte dazukommen und man immer mehr wissen muss.

Lily: Was hast du in den 90ern gerne angezogen?

Jeans, Rollkragenpullover und Turnschuhe. Marken, die ich gerne mochte, waren Levi's, Benetton und Champion.

Lily: Würdest du das heute auch noch anziehen?

Nein, eher nicht.

Lily: Was hat man als Jugendlicher in seiner Freizeit gemacht?

Ich war viel draußen und habe mich mit Freunden getroffen, zum Beispiel zum Fußball- oder Tennis-spielen.

Was war damals der aufregendste Kauf?

Mein erstes Auto – ein R4 in beige.



Foto: Privat

Nathan Pichamuthu & grandfather, India

A: What kind of clothes did people wear during the nineties?

B: We wore traditional Kurthas and pajamas in our family while many families wore other clothes because of the variety of clothes in India.

A: What happened in India during the nineties?

B: There was an IT revolution in India. It caused many new jobs to appear and helped with unemployment.

A: What was popular in India during the nineties?

B: Bollywood films were

popular in India. They were popular all over the world and were even considered its own genre. Hindi music was also popular because of how popular it was.

A: What was good about the nineties?

B: There was peace in the Indian border between Pakistan. They were having political fights instead of war.

A: What was bad about the nineties?

B: The Prime Minister of India was assassinated leading to a bit of panic and fear in the country.



Fridolin Pircher

Interview with his mother

Foto: Privat



What was your favorite TV show in the 90s?

It was “Wetten Dass”

Was the fall of the Berlin wall a big topic?

Yes, you heard it everywhere. On the radio, the television. The week we heard the news we actually visited Berlin.

What was your favorite musician / band back then?

I listened to Bob Dylan a lot.

Where did you go on holidays?

I often went to France and Italy.

How did you travel around the city?

Pretty much the same as today. Buses, trams and by bicycle.

Were there any fashion trends?

Way more people began to get tattoos and piercings than before.

How was telephoning without the internet?

It was kind of a struggle because when you were expecting a call you had to stay at home.

What did you like to do in your free time?

I went a lot of rock climbing.

Did you play any video games?

Sometimes I played Super Mario.

What were you doing in the 90s?

I studied medicine.



Foto: Privat

Julia Sauerwald

Interview Linda McAllister



Photo: Privat

JULIA SAUERWALD'S GRANDMA, LINDA McALLISTER

WE HAD COMPUTERS
MEANING WE HAD COMPUTER
GAMES AND WE HAD ATARI
AND ALL THAT STUFF TO
PLAY ON TV FOR KIDS.
WE ALSO HAD ARCADES.

USA-with Linda
McAllister (Grandma)

J: Julia Sauerwald

L: Linda McAllister

*J: Hello! What's your name?
And how old are you?*

L: Hey, sweet pea! I'm Linda McAllister. I'm over 70 years old.

*J: What were the 90s like
for you? Can you remember
anything?*

L: I remember 1989 to 1993 George Bush was the President of the United States of America. After him, 1993 to 2001, Bill Clinton was the President. During Bill Clinton's tenure, the politics in America went nuts because Bill Clinton was impeached for having an affair with Monica Lewinsky, who was one of his young assistants. He lied to the country and got caught, however he

wasn't removed from office. It was a very uncomfortable situation for the Nation. The 90's were hot because they were full of all kinds of scandalous stuff.

J: Was your lifestyle very different back then compared to now?

L: Yes, we were a lot more active back then. I think we bought our second home during this time. We went to a lot of Penn State football games, NASCAR races and we were country Western dancers, so we were very busy. Plus, we both had our careers.

J: Where did you work at the time?

L: I worked full-time at a hospital. I was a speech pathologist in the Department of Ear, Nose and Throat surgery. I assisted the doctors to help people

with throat cancer including opera singers, actors and some television anchors. And my husband was an architect.

J: Was it hard to get that job in the 90s?

L: Yes, I think it was. For me it took specialized training to do that particular job. I have a college degree and a Masters degree in my field.

J: Where did you live? What did your home look like? Did it look very different compared to today?

L: I lived in Maumee, Ohio. We refurbished our home in the 90s and we made it exclusively ours. We had a purple house with mauve colored bathrooms as that color was very popular in the 90's. I had purple marble floors in my kitchen and there were a lot of brass accessories because that was the big thing in

the 90s as well as in the early 2000s. Then Chrome became a big thing and now believe it or not, now brass is back again in 2020!

J: Did they have cell phones back then?

L: We had landlines but not smart phones like we have nowadays.

J: What did you do for pleasure since you guys didn't have cell phones like we do nowadays?

L: We had computers meaning we had computer games and we had Atari and all that stuff to play on TV for kids. We also had Arcades. And then, you know, like I said, Pap (her husband) and I went dancing three nights a week because we were country Western dancers. We also liked sporting events like: Football and NASCAR races.

J: Can you describe what a daily routine looked like?

L: My husband and I would get up at 6:00 a.m. We would exercise until 6:30 a.m. We would both have breakfast by 7:00 a.m. And then we would go upstairs and get dressed for



Foto: Privat

MY LOVLEY FAMILY

Foto: Privat



BIG, SCARY HAIR

WE HAD A PURPLE HOUSE WITH MAUVE COLORED BATHROOMS AS THAT COLOR WAS VERY POPULAR IN THE 90'S. I HAD PURPLE MARBLE FLOORS IN MY KITCHEN AND THERE WERE A LOT OF BRASS ACCESSORIES BECAUSE THAT WAS THE BIG THING IN THE 90S AS WELL AS IN THE EARLY 2000S.

w o r k and we were out the door by 7:30 a.m. Later we'd get home around 6:00 p.m. in the evening.

Then we would watch the Evening News or like I said before we would go dancing. After that we would go to bed at 11:00 p.m.

J: Do you remember any special events?

L: On some weekends Pap (her husband) would take off at noon and get all the shopping done and then pack the Penn State van. I would come home around 5:00 p.m., get straight into the van and we would drive 5 1/2 hours to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. We'd drive to Grandma McAllister's house (Pap's Mom) and stay the night. We would get up the

next morning at 6:00 a.m. to pack the van and pick some friends up around 7:00 a.m. We would then drive another 2 hours to Penn State University and begin tailgating for the big football game at 1:00 o'clock. Afterwards, we would drive back to Maumee, Ohio to sleep and begin the next work week.

J: Finally, could you please tell us who is in the pictures?

L: In the first picture is my lovely family. My husband Mac, my son Richard and my daughter Krista. I believe we are standing in our purple kitchen. I remember everyone to be in such happy spirits.

And in the second picture is my crazy daughter and her best friend. I have chosen to share this second picture so you can see that it was popular to have big and crazy hair. Of course, at the time we thought it was cool and stylish.

Gabriel Schaffer

Interview mit Mama

Gabriel: Hallo, Mama, ich würde dir gerne ein paar Fragen über die 90er stellen, ist das ok?

Mama: Ja, na klar, schieß los.

Gabriel: Die erste Frage lautet, wie alt warst du in den 90ern?

Mama: Also 1990 war ich 17 Jahre alt, also im besten Alter.

Gabriel: Wie hast du ausgesehen und wie hast du dich gekleidet?

Mama: Es war so cool, wir haben Latzhosen getragen

und dazu irgendwelche bunten Shirts und eine Papilloten-Dauerwelle mit roten Haaren.

Gabriel: Welche Musik hast du damals gehört und warum?

Mama: Ähm, damals habe ich immer „Roxette“ gehört, es war so eine coole Musik und sie hat mich damals wirklich inspiriert, es war einfach eine flotte Musik, die mir sehr gefallen hat.



GABRIELS MUTTER,

ES WAR SO COOL,
WIR HABEN LATZHOSEN
GETRAGEN UND
DAZU IRGENDWELCHE
BUNTEN SHIRTS UND EINE
PAPILLOTEN-DAUERWELLE
MIT ROTEN HAAREN.

Gabriel: Hattest du einen Lieblingsfilm oder eine Lieblingsserie?

Mama: Oh mein Gott, sicher, „DIRTY DANCING“, hahaha, ich habe es sicher 17-mal gesehen und konnte den Text auswendig.



Fan Van Den Oever Architecten / Wikipedia

Gabriel: Welche Zeit ist dir lieber, die jetzige oder die 90er und warum?

Mama: Ich würde auf jeden Fall sagen, die jetzige, die Gesellschaft hat sich einfach weiterentwickelt, das ist nicht immer zum Besten, doch ich finde es viel besser, wenn sich etwas bewegt. Das vielleicht Dinge, die in den 90ern schwieriger waren, jetzt einfacher sind und es uns erlaubt, freier zu leben.

Gabriel: Wie war es für dich, als bekanntgegeben wurde, dass die sowjetische Union gefallen war?

Mama: Puh, darüber kann ich mich jetzt nicht wirklich äußern, weil ich damals nicht wirklich daran interessiert war. Eher die ganze Thematik mit Jugoslawien, weil es einfach näher war.

Gabriel: Und jetzt die wichtigste Frage, was hattest du an Silvester 1999 vor?

Mama: Ahh, das weiß ich noch ganz genau, da hatte ich Nachtdienst bei den barmherzigen Brüdern und habe ganz oben am Dach mit meinen

Freunden gefeiert und hatte eine megacoole Zeit.

Viktor Scharbanov

Interview with my Parents

I interviewed my mother and for some questions also my father

How was life in the 90's?

Life was maybe chaos from a political and economic perspective, but it was fun otherwise for me. I was in my teenage years. I was a lot outdoors and at parties with friends. For my parents, things were a little different - there were problems with supplies, inflation was very high, there were no secure jobs.

What impact did the Cold War and the Iron Curtain have on Bulgaria?

The worst thing for the population was probably the fact that freedom of expression was almost non-existent, people had to conform to the policy and obey

the government, otherwise you could easily end up in a labour camp for a long period of time. Individual initiative had to take a back seat to collective thinking. Very often, the simple worker earned much better than the engineer. In the 90's we had access to western music and gradually also other western products like clothes, and tv shows, but the most came from Turkey.



Foto: Privat

THIS WAS AN OLD CHEWING GUM FROM THE CHILD OF MY PARENTS, AND IT HAD SMALL STICKERS AND QUESTIONS ON THE COLOURFUL PACKAGING.

By whom was Bulgaria influenced?

Till the 90's Russia and eastern Europe was the biggest influencer, but in the 90's it became the US. Everything American was cool and modern.

What was the government like in those days?

Those were the years of Change. The first democratic elections have been held. The Democratic Party came to power. There were a lot of protests on the streets in the early 90's. My friends and I were sometimes helping with the organization of those protests. We were distributing posters in our neighbourhood.

Was Bulgaria consuming more Eastern or Western culture?

In the 90s, the population mainly wanted to consume western music, western films and generally western goods - from chewing gum to cars - as these used to be considered the better ones. In the late 90s, people slowly started to realise that not everything was so bad in the past and that not all that glitters is gold.

What was a thing that changed a lot of things in Bulgaria?

The fact that people could run a business of their own. But because of lack of legislation and corrup-

tion, it was also not easy. A lot of mafia-like groups appeared. Many motivated people have failed miserably with their try to gain success due to lack of support from politics, authorities and government. At the same time, many other people have succeeded because they had the "right" connections to the people in power or made dubious payments to them.

Which kind of regime was the country controlled by in the 90's?

The old rulers still ruled, only now in the background. The resources and state money were distributed among the authorities and their relatives during and even before the turnaround for the next years.

What was modern in those days?

Football was at its best. 1994 Bulgaria won 4th place at the WM. Rave and electronic music was very popular.

What position did Bulgaria have in the political perspective of Europe?

Bulgaria was a poor country, but its geographical position was interesting and important to the Western – outer border to Turkey and the Black Sea area. And the western powers have not waited long

Was it a good place to live in the 90's?

Yes, it was!

Jakob Schrettle

Interview mit seinem Vater

Wie hast du es mitbekommen, als die Sowjetunion gefallen ist?

Dass der eiserne Vorhang weg war, hat man sehr stark bemerkt, weil Österreich ja auf drei Seiten vom eisernen Vorhang bedeckt war. Man merkte stark, dass man plötzlich fast von einem Tag auf den anderen vergleichsweise leicht nach Berlin, Budapest, Prag usw. reisen konnte, was davor ja sehr schwierig gewesen war.

Wann hattest du deinen ersten Computer, wie war der Computer und was konnte man darauf machen?

1989. Es war ein sogenannter 286er, also ein richtiger PC. Der PC lief mit DOS, dem einzigen Betriebssystem zu der Zeit und man konnte darauf nicht besonders viel machen, aber ich fand ihn richtig cool.



MIC Torino (RüsselZ) / Wikipedia

Der PC war vor allem für Textverarbeitung gedacht, also Word gab es, aber man konnte auch Spiele kaufen und sie dann darauf spielen. Zwei sehr bekannte Spiele, die wir hatten, waren „Tetris“ und „Pacman“. Der PC brauchte Disketten.

Ab wann gab es in Österreich Handys und wann hattest du dein erstes?

In der zweiten Hälfte der 1990er Jahre verbreiteten sich Handys immer schneller, davor sah ich sie ziem-

Jakobs Vater

IN DER ZWEITEN HÄLFTE DER 1990ER JAHRE VERBREITETEN SICH HANDYS IMMER SCHNELLER, DAVOR SAH ICH SIE ZIEMLICH SELTEN. ICH HATTE MEIN ERSTES HANDY 1998 ODER 1999.

lich selten. Ich hatte mein erstes Handy 1998 oder 1999.

Den ersten Computer hatten wir (mein Vater, aber zuhause, also konnten wir ihn benutzen) schon 1989: Das war auch ein richtiger PC (286er). In der Unterstufe waren Computer vollkommen unbekannt, niemand wusste irgendetwas über sie, in der Oberstufe gab es dann Informatik als Wahlfach und es gab sogar einen Informatikraum in der Schule.

Wo warst du und was hast du gemacht, als die Terrorattacke gegen das World Trade Center passiert ist?

Das ist so ein Ereignis, bei dem jeder noch weiß, wo er/sie war: Ich war gerade in Griechenland auf der Peloponnes bei einer Ausgrabung und es war natürlich extrem schockierend, dass so etwas einfach passieren konnte.

An welche Sachen des Bosnischen Genozid erinnerst du dich?

Es war ziemlich unheimlich, zu wissen, dass so nahe an Österreich so schlimme Dinge passieren. Ich weiß noch, dass einmal sogar ein paar jugoslawische Kampfflug-

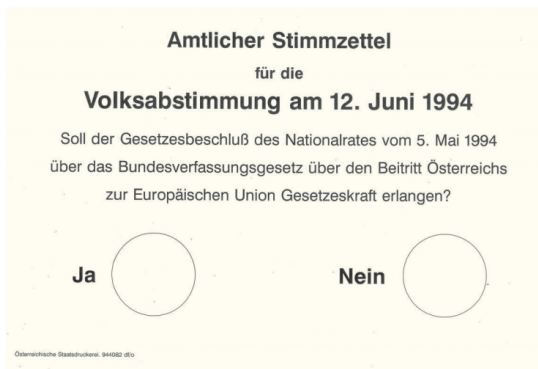
zeuge aus Slowenien über der Steiermark hinweggeflogen sind. Ein ganz schlimmes Massaker gab es in Srebrenica, in Bosnien, wo es 9000 Tote gab. Aber viel mehr als diese paar Dinge habe ich davon eigentlich nicht mitbekommen, weil ich noch in die Schule ging.

Hast du als Kind irgendetwas vom Hubble-Teleskop mitbekommen?

Ich kann mich eigentlich nicht daran erinnern, weil ich damals eher noch zu jung war, um mich für Ereignisse von so weit weg zu interessieren.

An welche Dinge über Österreichs Beitritt zur Europäischen Union erinnerst du dich?

Ich weiß noch, dass es sehr intensive Diskussionen gab, ob der Beitritt zur EU eine gute Sache sei. Die zwei Blickpunkte waren: Österreich bekommt durch die EU viel mehr Möglichkeiten, Handel zu betreiben und man kann dann viel einfacher in alle anderen EU-Mitgliedsstaaten reisen. Die andere Seite war, dass dann Bauern kein Geld mehr machen würden, da es mehr Konkurrenz wegen des ganzen Handels in der EU gäbe,



und die FPÖ behauptete auch, dass es dann Schokolade mit Blut und Joghurt mit Blattläusen gäbe in Österreich (gibt es irgendwo und irgendein Farbstoff mit Blattläusen als Bestandteil anscheinend).

An welche politischen Ereignisse erinnerst du dich?

Ich erinnere mich noch an die Bundespräsidentenwahl, an der Kurt Waldheim teilgenommen hat, wo es große Diskussionen gab, ob er dieses Amt übernehmen dürfte, da rausgekommen ist, dass er ein Nazi-Soldat im Zweiten Weltkrieg gewesen war und dies verheimlicht hat.

Es war auch das Zeitalter der „großen Koalition“: Die ÖVP und

die SPÖ, die zwei größten Parteien damals hatten eine gemeinsame Koalition. Ich glaube auch, dass die FPÖ ungefähr zu der gleichen Zeit auch angefangen hat, sehr populistische Politik zu betreiben, und deshalb auch mehr Stimmen bekam. Die FPÖ wurde stark von

Jörg Haider beeinflusst, der, vor allem in Kärnten, extrem populistische und ausländerfeindliche Politik betrieb.

Wie hast du das Internet damals empfunden, wie erinnerst du dich daran?

Vor 1995 wurde das Internet eigentlich, wenn überhaupt, nur für E-Mails verwendet, ich erinnere mich, dass ich meine erste E-Mail-Adresse erst im Jahr 1996 erstellt habe, da war ich 19 Jahre alt. Vor 1995, glaube ich, wussten die meisten Menschen auch nicht wirklich, was das Internet eigentlich ist. Nach 1995 fand man langsam heraus, dass man im Internet auch andere Dinge machen kann, die meisten großen Unternehmen hatten dann schon eine simple Webseite.

Julia Solhdju

Interview mit ihrer Mutter

In diesem Interview werde ich mit meiner Mutter Verena über die 90er reden.

Wie alt warst du in den 90ern und wo hast du gewohnt?

Ich war in meinen 20ern und habe mit meinem Bruder in einer Wohnung gewohnt.

Was ist das Erste, an das du dich erinnerst, wenn du an die 90er denkst?

Ich habe eine Famulatur in Berlin gemacht, kurz nach dem Mauerfall. Für mich war das sehr interessant, weil ich Leute aus dem ehemaligen Osten kennengelernt habe, die ein Haus im Westen besetzt haben.

An welches Politische Ereignis denkst du, wenn du an die 90er denkst?

Wie schon oben erwähnt an den Mauerfall, unter anderem, weil ich kurz nach dem

Mauerfall für längere Zeit in Berlin war. Andererseits kann ich mich noch gut erinnern, dass Österreich noch nicht in der EU war, Österreich ist mitten der 90er dem EWR (Europäischen Wirtschaftsraum) beigetreten. Daher war es nicht so leicht für eine Österreicherin, in Deutschland zu arbeiten, doch andersrum war es genauso. Julias Papa konnte nicht so leicht in Österreich arbeiten.

Was war deine Lieblingsfernsehsendung und warum?

Ich habe nicht viel Fernsehen geschaut, aber wenn, dann Kommissar REX mit meinen Freunden.

Der Sprung von Schilling auf Euro, wie war der?

Es hat sich alles so billig angefühlt. Damals habe ich alles umgerechnet, was ich

Foto: Privat



heute bei größeren Beträgen auch noch mache.

An was denkst du am liebsten, wenn du an die 90er denkst?

An meine Studienzeit, als ich auch meinen Abschluss feiern konnte. Als ich als Turnusärztin gearbeitet habe und das erste Mal gut verdient habe. An meine Hochzeit und die Geburt meines ersten Kindes.

Worüber bist du froh, dass es so ist, wie es heute ist?

Dass es die EU gibt und dass in diesen Ländern Reisefreiheit herrscht.

Zu wem hast du hinaufgeschaut?

Ich selbst habe nicht zu vielen Leuten hinaufgeschaut, aber Tomba fand ich immer beeindruckend.

Was vermisst du aus „den guten alten Zeiten“?

Die handyfreie Zeit, und dass nicht immer alle gestresst wa-

ren, alles auf den sozialen Medien mitzubekommen.

Man sagt ja die 90er waren sehr modisch, was hast du getragen?

Ja, das stimmt, in den 90er Jahren hat man gerne Karottenhosen, Latzhosen und Schlabberlook getragen.

Was wolltest du früher werden, stimmt es mit dem, was du jetzt machst, überein?

Mein Traum war es, Kinderärztin zu werden und Leuten zu helfen, doch als Augenärztin bin ich auch sehr zufrieden.

Was haben du und deine Freunde in der Freizeit gemacht?

Wir haben viele Partys gefeiert, aber auch sportliche Sachen wie Skifahren, aber ich bin auch gerne gereist, um viele neue Kulturen kennenzulernen.

Hiermit bedanke ich mich bei meiner Mutter für dieses Interview.



Foto: Privat

Theresa Wölfler

Interview mit ihrem Vater

Theresa Wölf-
ler Vaters

THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE
... THERE WERE PICTURES
OF NEW GALAXIES THAT
WE HAVE NEVER SEEN,
AND IT WAS SPECIAL.

THE WAR STARTED IN
1991 WHICH WAS
EXACTLY ONE YEAR AFTER
I HAVE BEEN TO THE
"BUNDESHEER" ... AND
SINCE IT WAS NOT FAR
AWAY, I PERSONALLY WAS
A BIT SCARED BECAUSE I
NEVER EXPERIENCED WAR
AND IT WAS SO CLOSE.

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear "the 1990s"?

What first comes to my mind is the economic boom, you know it was after the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was an optimistic and positive time with great chances and new opportunities.

But also, the civil war in Yugoslavia was a big topic.

Can you tell me more about the fall of the Berliner wall?

I remember that everyone saw it beneficial and as I already said it provided us with new opportunities. It also showed the assertiveness of the western economic system. Additionally, traveling became easier and for young people like us it opened new doors.

You mentioned the civil war in Yugoslavia how did it effect you in Austria?

The war started in 1991 which was exactly one year after I have been to the "Bundesheer" so the whole war topic was really close and familiar. And since it was not far away, I personally was a bit scared because I never experienced war and it was so close.

I think Diana's death was one of the biggest events in 1997 and it felt like the whole world was affected of it and mourned. How hard did the death of Princess Diana hit you and your friends/family?

Of course, it was a big topic and everybody heard of it and it was a conversational topic but in person it didn't affect you that hard. But I still remember the place

where I was when I heard the news, so it wasn't insignificant.

Did you ever hear of Dolly the sheep?

Yes, Dolly was the first cloned mammal. It was produced by a cell of the mother sheep that was changed into a new lifeform. So, it was the first genetically identical animal. I think it was special and important for experimental research.

How did you experience the change of currency from "Schilling" to today's Euro in 1999?

The change in Austria took place in 2002 and I think it was a big but important and positive change in Austria.

late always at a 14:1 ratio but after some time you got the gut feeling for it. For example, an Ice cream cost about 12 schilling and after the change it cost 1 euro. I remember once shortly after the change when I was sitting in a restaurant, and I was paying for my coffee and I gave the waiter a 10-euro tip because I calculated in schilling and when I was home, I remembered how much 10 euros were.

In 1994 Nelson Mandela was elected president, can you tell me something about him?

Nelson Mandela was the first ever black president in South Africa. South Africa was a country where black

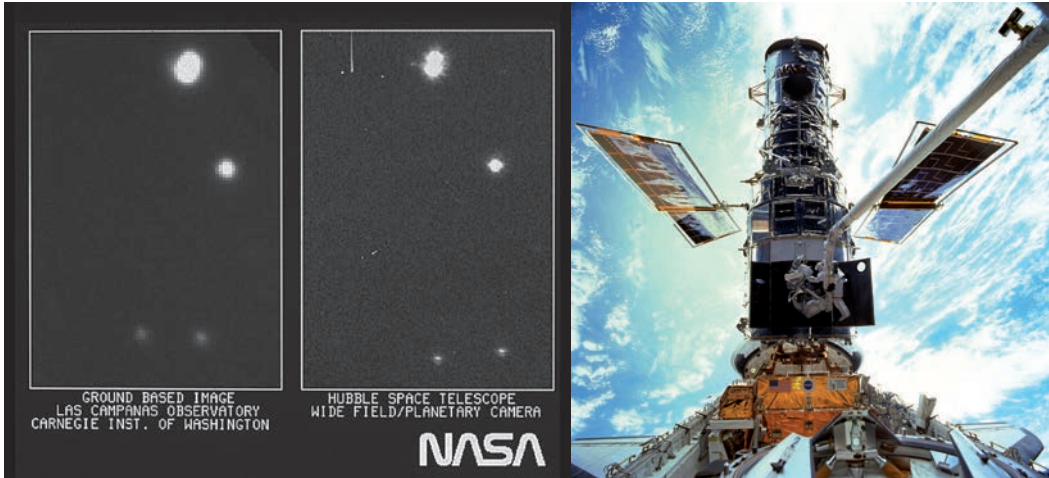


Foto: Christoph Meinersmann / Pixabay

Was it weird that suddenly everything was so "cheap"?

Of course, you needed to calcu-

people weren't allowed to vote. The country had the "Arpartheit" system. And with the new president a



lot of justice came for black people in that country. It was an important step for South Africa. What's also interesting is that before becoming a President Nelson Mandela was in prison for a long time.

I heard that people in the 90s dressed very colorfully, what did you wear at that time?

Yes, that's true. The 90s were a happy and positive time and we all dressed silly and funny. Sometimes the motto was "as colorful as possible".

Can you tell me something about the Hubble telescope?

The Hubble telescope was the first telescope that sent pictures from the universe with a better quality. There were pictures of new galaxies that we have never seen, and it was special.

