

## **ABSTRACT**

Child sleep is subject to research of many nature and social sciences. Efforts to limit it into statistical charts and generalise its nature for entire population of children, while labelling it as normal, is mostly seen in medical discourse. Normal child sleep, as a healthy and reasonable feature, has occurred in my research work, as well. What is normal in child's sleep then? Where ends the normal sleep and starts the child sleep deprivation? Why should anthropology deal with child sleep at all? These are the questions I have been asking for quite some time in my research work.

My research started in Great Britain and has slowly grown into an ethnographic study of hundreds of households in Czech Republic. I observed how the sleep is being formed in families, in our values, reflecting approach to a child, as well as in the medical and sociological discourse and vice versa, how the sleep changes those discourses and how it forms the biology itself, (regular/pathological sleep patterns) and society (good/bad child, bad/good parent). In my thesis I describe, how the sleep modifies and constructs in context of local biology. I claim that because of the different influences across the world it is important to open a discussion in medical and sociological discourse about fluid sleep schedules of the normal child sleep. Both public and interdisciplinary discussion about child sleep variability may lead to deeper understanding of this phenomena and its impact. As shown in my thesis, getting sleep back to normal level can lead to various problems. On the contrary, moving this normal level further away can lead to solving the sleep problems.

Theoretical basis for my theses was the medical anthropology and concept of local biology and normality. I also worked with theory of biosocial differentiation, sensuality and biopower.

Keywords: child sleep, medical anthropology, normality, local biology, biosocial differentiation

