

## The Nutritional Labyrinth - Institutional, Expert and Lay Paths

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### Abstract:

The diploma thesis offers ethnographic insights into the black box of school canteens. It follows heterogeneous actor-networks that emerge in the processes of planning, preparation, serving, consumption and disposal of food. It shows that the current (problematic) quality of school dining is not the fault of either unwilling cooks or picky diners, but is the result of negotiations between different norms of what “good food” actually is. Using the concept of ontonorms the thesis asks what values and beliefs uphold specific eating practices and how these norms establish different categories of foods and bodies. It also asks who or what, for whom and in which contexts mobilizes different registers of valuing. The thesis draws upon data from research in six school canteens, and the „Vaření“ (Cooking) project in a Montessori school, training for cooks as part of the „Máme to na talíři“ (We have it on our plate) project and the online environment of websites representing these projects and canteens. The research was conducted as diplomatic ethnography with an effort to give voice to those who are often considered incompetent to decide what “good food” is and thus creates a space for mutual understanding of the different realities of diners, cooks, technologies, or the legislative norm.

Key words: school canteens, normativity, ontonorms, food, materiality, eating, valuing