

## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis focuses on the birth of a child in the Czech family and society in the nineties of the twentieth century and at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The chapters and the subchapters are concerned with the periods connected with the birth of a child and are aimed at rituals, customs and activities connected with coming of a new life to the world. The thesis is divided into three main parts, pregnancy, childbirth and post-natal period. In the part Pregnancy we will look at how awaiting of a new life is reflected in the language, superstitions and various practices and what is necessary to do before the birth of a child, we will especially focus on the choice of a name and surname. In this part we can find the chapter on the preference for the sex of a child and on the values which the Czech society connects with a child. In the second part Childbirth we will look at the perception of childbirth as pain, at the course of childbirth and at the first things which are necessary to do after the birth of a child. The chapters on maternity, fatherhood and family were also put to this part since the birth of a child creates a new, lifelong relationship between a child and his/her parents. In the last part Post-natal period we will focus on creating of a social identity of a child, on the perception of a newborn child as the subject of the law and on the rituals which accept a child to the community of a town and of the Church, it means on welcoming of new citizens of a town and on baptism.

Key words: pregnancy, superstitions, name, surname, childbirth, birth certificate, personal number, nationality, maternity, fatherhood, family, gender, post-natal period, welcoming of new citizens, baptism