

The thesis deals with the concept of justice in Cambodia, a culture significantly shaped by Buddhist ethical values. The concept of justice is studied in various contexts: cultural, social, historical, and primarily religious. Therefore the work is titled Contextual interpretation of the concept of justice in Cambodian Buddhism and is based on four major research areas, which visibly reflect the prevalent understanding of the ethical teachings of Buddha today. The main sources are folk literature, audio-visual art, Buddhist teachings and interviews with native Cambodians. In the area of traditional Cambodian literature, the research was focused on fairy tales and proverbs. Concerning creative artists, it focused on the current work of some Cambodian film makers. Written and visual sources are supplemented by several interviews with Cambodians recorded between 2011 and 2012 in Phnom Penh, and also by the teachings of the Cambodian Buddhist monk Maha Ghosananda, who significantly contributed to the reconciliation of Cambodians after the traumatic events of the late seventies, which at the time were under the rule of the Khmer Rouge regime. The work shows clearly the coherence of the religious practice and the everyday life of ordinary Cambodians. Although Cambodia is a Buddhist country, it exhibits a strongly syncretic way of religious expression because their Buddhism blends in with shamanism, the worshiping of ancestors, animism and Hinduism. Thus, the main core of the topic isn't the concept of justice in Buddhism as a whole, but rather its conception in a specific form of Buddhism which can be only found in Cambodia.