Abstract
Standards, certification and accreditation are tools which are used globally to regulate and control organizations. In this thesis the system comprised of standards, certification and accreditation is referred to as a global control regime and the construction of the control regime is the principal focus of this thesis. Studying and analysing the construction of the control regime allows discussing questions of responsibility, control and the role of the state in a global world. The thesis shows a complex system which has developed steadily over the last 40 years, from a national level to a global level, from testing of products to the control of organizations. The control regime is constructed according to four principles: (1) the control regime’s organizations are controlled according to a division of labour (2) the control regime’s organizations are linked together like a chain (3) accreditation creates a coordinating hub in the control regime and (4) the construction of the control regime is the result of descriptions of the control regime as a cohesive, uniform entity with its own vocabulary and its own logotype. The construction of the global control regime reveals four aspects of the role of the state in a global world and how organization between organizations can be understood: (1) the control regime has no centre and therefore no periphery. In the control regime everyone is controlled but no-one controls everyone. Consequently (2) there is no authoritative or hierarchical centre in the control regime to which responsibility can be attached. (3) The construction of the global control regime embeds the state into a well-organized, global but faceless system, with the result that the state’s responsibility and scope for control is both limited and unclear. (4) Last, the control regime should be understood as an organized state. As an organized state the control regime follows all the principles on which a formal organization is built, but differs on two important points: the control regime cannot act as an entity and it cannot be held accountable.

Keywords
Standards, standardization, certification, accreditation, state involvement, control at a distance, organizing outside of organizations, bureaucracy, global organization.
ORGANISERING AV STANDARDER, CERTIFIERING OCH ACKREDITERING SOM EN GLOBAL STYRREGIM

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AKADEMISK AVHANDLING

För avläggande av filosofie doktorsexamen i offentlig förvaltning vid Göteborgs universitet

Doctoral dissertation to be presented at the School of Public Administration, University of Gothenburg

Avhandlingen kommer att försvaras offentligt torsdagen den 27 oktober 2016
Klockan 10.15 i hörsal Dragonen, Campus Haga
Göteborgs universitet

GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET