

**Ingrid Gustafsson. 2016. Organisering av standarder, certifiering och ackreditering som en global styrregim. Swedish text. English summary. Swedish titel: Organisering av standarder, certifiering och ackreditering som en global styrregim. Doctoral Dissertation, School of Public Administration, University of Gothenburg, Box 712, S-40530 Göteborg, Sweden. Printed by Ineko AB, Gothenburg 2016. 190 pages. ISBN 978-91-628-9876-2 (Print), 978-91-628-9877-9 (PDF). Digitalt i Gupea: <http://hdl.handle.net/2077/47395>.**

### **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