Abstract (English)

Starting from Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, the popularity of blockchain technology has increased in the last decade. Later, blockchains have proven that the technology itself is beyond cryptocurrencies and can innovate some other sectors as well such as education, healthcare, energy, etc. The potential of blockchains has attracted the attention of governing bodies all over the world. Accordingly, the uncertainties that blockchains might bring along led the states and other bigger organizations to take a governing action. Since the blockchains are recently emerging, the topic of the governance of blockchains is just beginning to be studied in STS. To fill this gap, this thesis investigates the governance of blockchains in the “EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum” which is an intermediary organization that was launched by the EU Commission. The main argument of this thesis is based on the conflict that emerges from a governing attempt of an anarchical technology by a central authority. It is aimed here to elaborate on the techno-social dynamics of the governance process and find out what is there to be governed and who is involved? How is blockchain innovation problematized and how are potential blockchain future(s) imagined? When are blockchains perceived as a threat, risk, or opportunity? In addition to these, this thesis discusses that “governance” is an ambiguous concept in the blockchain context and it refers to the governance of blockchains through policymaking, governing the public services by using blockchains, and governing society through blockchains.