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This thesis explores different empirical aspects of institutional and organizational designs, especially concerning the efficiency of regulatory mechanisms in merger controls and in broadband markets, and governance dimensions of independent regulatory authorities (IRAs). Two papers investigate the main factors driving the European Commission's decisions on horizontal mergers, and one of these then compares with the US policy by taking the 2004 merger policy reform into account. Two jointly-written papers with her supervisor, Mats Bergman, identify different constraints preventing full independence of IRAs regulating six policy sectors and study a correlation between independence and corruption. The last paper examines whether the regulation affects the fixed and mobile broadband diffusion speed in European member states.

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