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This publication is part of the *International Max Planck Information System for Comparative Criminal Law*, a project at the heart of the Institute's comparative legal research. One of its primary objectives is to develop a universal *meta-structure of criminal law* that can serve as the basis for the organization of material, enable systematic comparisons, and further the development of an international criminal law doctrine. This meta-structure is also a prerequisite for analyzing the various approaches taken around the world to shared criminal law-related problems, identifying general legal principles, and drafting international model codes. A second goal of the project is to provide access to data from the participating legal systems in the form of country reports organized on the basis of the aforementioned universal meta-structure.

Towards these ends, a pilot project was carried out to analyze, structure, and present the general part of the criminal law in twelve legal systems. The results were published in five volumes from 2008 to 2010 (in German). In the meantime, the number of legal systems included in the study has grown considerably – with contributions from researchers at the Max Planck Institute as well as from external research partners. This volume in English contains fruits of this expansion (Switzerland) as well as translated, revised reports from the pilot project (England and Wales, Scotland, Sweden).

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National Criminal Law in a Comparative Legal Context

Vol. 1.1:
Introduction to National Systems

England and Wales, Scotland, Sweden,
Switzerland

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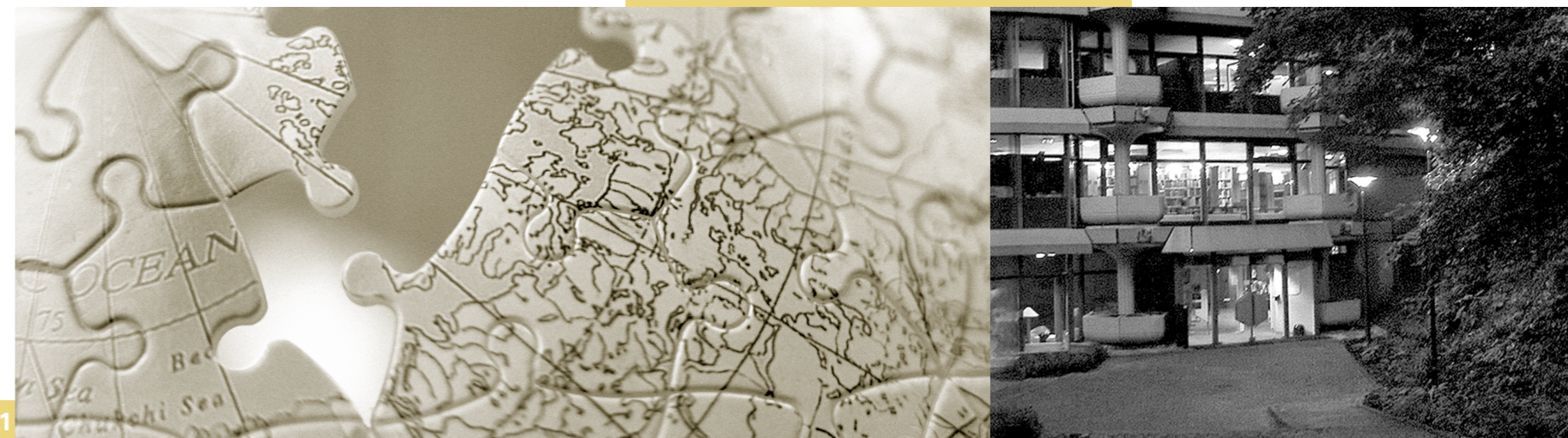
The Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg is part of the Max Planck Society, an organization dedicated to the advancement of basic research. The Institute is composed of a Department of Criminal Law, led by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Ulrich Sieber, and a Department of Criminology, headed by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Jörg Albrecht.

In addition to the study of basic questions of criminal law, comparative law, and criminology, the Institute's research agenda focuses primarily on three central challenges epitomized by the terms "global society," "information society," and "new risk society": crime is becoming more global; in so doing, it makes increasing use of international data networks; through the employment of technology and organization, its consequences for society as a whole – even in seemingly isolated cases – can be significant.

Thus, the Institute's current research program encompasses the goals and methods of comparative law and legal harmonization, model criminal laws, European criminal law, international law, Internet and information law, money laundering, organized crime, terrorism, crime in post-conflict societies, as well as empirical studies of criminal procedure, alternative methods of crime prevention, reactions to dangerous offenders, and victimology.

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