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The idea for this book originated from a workshop on “Desistance Processes among Young Offenders following Judicial Interventions” held at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law (MPICC) in 2016. Over the past three decades, there has been growing scientific interest in the discussion of why and how offenders desist from crime. Despite various approaches regarding the understanding of what is important for cessation of criminal careers, there is little consensus among professionals working in this area. Consensus is primarily based on the theoretical assumption that external and internal factors are equally important for rehabilitation. Hence, interdisciplinary empirical approaches to desistance stress the importance of an integrated analytical framework.

This book elucidates possible pathways to desistance and provides an insight into how young offenders experience judicial interventions. It contains ten papers written by twelve authors (including several European experts). Each paper applies different methodological and theoretical approaches to examine youth crime desistance and, accordingly, both empirical research findings and practical fieldwork experiences are presented. Given the importance of international exchange, the contributions reflect the views of researchers and academics from various European countries.

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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”. As crime becomes more global 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 legal research and legal harmonization, model criminal laws, European criminal law, international criminal law, Internet and information law, money laundering, organized crime, terrorism, crime in post-conflict societies, as well as empirical studies on criminal procedure, alternative methods of crime prevention, reactions to dangerous offenders, and victimology.

