Preface

The concept of global governance, which first emerged in the social sciences, has triggered different responses in the discipline of law. This volume contains our proposal. It approaches global governance from a public law perspective which is centered around the concept of international public authority and relies on international institutional law for the legal conceptualization of global governance phenomena.

This proposal results from a larger project which started in 2007. The project is a collaborative effort of the directors of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, research fellows and friends of the Institute, as well as eminent members of the Law Faculty of the University of Heidelberg. Most of the materials contained in this volume were first published in the November 2008 issue of the German Law Journal (http://www.germanlawjournal.com). We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the journal’s editors in chief, Professors Russell Miller (Washington and Lee University School of Law) and Peer Zumbansen (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto), for the opportunity to publish our papers as a special issue of their journal. The 2008-2009 University of Idaho College of Law German Law Journal student editors deserve special recognition for their hard and diligent work during the publication process. At the Institute, Eva Richter, Michael Riegner and the editorial staff of this publication series were instrumental in bringing this publication to fruition.

The comments on some of the contributions in this volume reflect the discussions at an international workshop held at the Max Planck Institute in April 2008. We are grateful to all discussants for their valuable input. Two articles at the end of the book develop contrasting conceptualizations of the same phenomena.

This volume mirrors the authors’ current views within a longer process of reflection on contemporary governance at the international level. As
a matter of course, those views are not entirely homogeneous, but com-prise diverging and critical voices. The discussion continues.

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Armin von Bogdandy
Rüdiger Wolfrum
Jochen von Bernstorff
Philipp Dann
Matthias Goldmann
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