CISG Methodology
The 1980 United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) is now being applied both by international arbitral tribunals and the domestic courts of its more than 70 Member States. However, the success of the instrument is not to be simply judged by its application, but rather also by the uniform interpretation in all of the Member States. Although Art. 7 of the CISG underscores this “need to promote uniformity in its application”, the CISG itself gives very little guidance as to how to reach this goal. Without such guidance, however, each lawyer might be guided by the methodological rules that he is familiar with from his home jurisdiction. Therefore it is somewhat of a paradox of uniform law that whilst the number of Member States to the Convention is constantly increasing so too is the threat of variation in the application.

The range of the methodological problems arising under the CISG can be seen by looking at the table of contents of this volume. Not all of them have been the subject of legal research so far. Thus, while some authors provide a thorough analysis of central topics of interpretation, others enter almost uncharted territories. We hope that it is this variation of the chosen methodological topics that makes this book worthwhile to read.

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