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From Ollamalitzli to Pelota mixteca and beyond : the role of globalization in the historical development of an indigenous Mexican ballgame

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Citation

Berger, M. E. (2016, May 26). *From Ollamalitzli to Pelota mixteca and beyond : the role of globalization in the historical development of an indigenous Mexican ballgame*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/39643>

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Issue Date: 2016-05-26

Curriculum Vitae Candidate

Martin E. Berger (1985) was born and raised in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. While visiting the Yucatan peninsula with his parents at age eight, he fell in love with Mesoamerican archaeology. After finishing secondary education and spending a few months in the Ecuadorian rain forest as a volunteer on a conservation project, he enrolled at the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University to study Ancient American archaeology. During his studies he followed courses on Mesoamerican and Andean archaeology and took classes in Quechua, Nahuatl, Ch'orti', Sahìn Sàu (Chalcatongo Mixtec) and Classic Maya writing. He also participated in several archaeological excavations in the Netherlands and in the *Proyecto Arqueológico Huari-Ancash* at Marcajirca, Peru. The research for his MPhil dissertation included two months of ethnographic fieldwork in Oaxaca and Mexico-City. He received his BA in 2007 and MPhil (*cum laude*) in 2009.

Since 2010 he has been active as Assistant Curator for the Middle- and South-American collection of the National Museum of Ethnology (part of the National Museum of World Cultures since 2014). His work at the museum included the creation of the new permanent exhibition on Middle- and South-America (2011-2021, with Dr. L.N.K. Van Broekhoven), as well as a temporary exhibition on 'the 2012 phenomenon', entitled '21-12-2012: the end of the world?!'. In addition, he co-edited (with Erik Boot and Laura Van Broekhoven) *Maya 2012: Mysterie, Geloof en Wetenschap*, a popular-scientific publication which functions as a catalogue of the museum's archaeological Maya collection, and contributed entries for the Middle- and South-American pieces in the National Museum's *Masterpieces of Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde*.

At the museum he initiated an ongoing research project on Mesoamerican turquoise mosaic-decorated skulls. This project was supported by a European Committee FP7 CHARISMA grant (in cooperation with the *Centre de Recherche et Restauration des Musées de France*, Paris) and by Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection through a Summer Fellowship in 2014. Since 2011 he has functioned as the Secretary of the Ethical Committee of the *Stichting Volkenkundige Collecties Nederland* (Dutch Foundation of Ethnographic Collections). In this capacity he organized several (national and international) workshops and symposia on ethical questions regarding ethnographic collections and collecting practices. He presented parts of his research at several international conferences, and his work has been published in journals such as *Mexicon*, *Itinerarios* and *Streetnotes*.