# Brian A'Hearn

Pembroke College Oxford OX1 1DW United Kingdom phone: +44 01865 276 435 e-mail: brian.ahearn@pmb.ox.ac.uk

# Education

Ph.D., Economics; University of California, Berkeley CA, Dec. 1994.
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Economics and International Relations; The American University, Washington DC, Aug. 1986. Minors in Russian language and Soviet Studies.

#### Academic Employment

2008 – present:	Fellow and Tutor in Economics, Pembroke College, University of
	Oxford.
1999 – 2008:	Associate Professor (Asst. Prof. to 2005); Dept. of Economics,
	Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. (Department chairman 2007-08)
1996 – 1999:	Lecturer; Departments of Economics and Economic & Social
	History, University of Glasgow.
1994 – 1996:	Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter; Seminar für
	Wirtschaftsgeschichte, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Munich,
	Germany. (Equivalent to a post-doc.)
1989 – 1994:	Graduate Student Instructor, Graduate Student Researcher;
	Dept. of Economics, Dept. of Public Policy, University of California -
	Berkeley.

Visiting Positions

2006: Visiting professor; Dept. of Economics and Institutions, University of Rome "Tor Vergata" (Jan-July).

#### Publications and papers

# Working Papers

"Border Effects in Italian Unification," manuscript, May 2019, with V. Rueda. "Rethinking Age-heaping: a Cautionary Tale from Nineteenth-Century Italy," *U. of Oxford Discussion Paper in Economic and Social History* no. 148 (Sept. 2016). With A. Nuvolari and A. Delfino.

"The Decline in the Nutritional Status of the U.S. Antebellum Population at the Onset of Modern Economic Growth," *NBER Working Paper* no. 21845 (January 2016). With J. Komlos.

# Journal Articles

- "Clarifications of a Puzzle: The Decline in Nutritional Status at the Onset of Modern Economic Growth in the U.S.A.," *Journal of Economic History*, forthcoming. With J. Komlos.
- "The Hidden Negative Aspects of Industrialization at the Onset of Modern Economic Growth in the U.S.," *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, vol. 41 (June 2017), pp. 43-52. With J. Komlos.
- "On Historical Household Budgets," *Rivista di storia economica*, vol. 32 no. 2 (August 2016), pp. 137-76. With N. Amendola and G. Vecchi.
- "Quantifying Quantitative Literacy: Age Heaping and the History of Human Capital," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 69, no. 4 (2009). With Jörg Baten and Dorothee Crayen.
- "Height and the Normal Distribution: Evidence from Italian Military Data," *Demography*, vol. 46, no. 1 (2009). With Franco Peracchi and Giovanni Vecchi.
- "Russian Living Standards Under the Tsars: Anthropometric Evidence from the Volga," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 68, no. 3 (2008), pp. 900-929. With Boris Mironov.
- "Remapping Italy's Path to the 19th Century: Anthropometric Signposts", *Journal of European Economic History*, vol. 35, no. 2 (2006), pp. 349-392.
- "Finance-led Divergence in the Regions of Italy," *Financial History Review*, vol. 12, no. 1 (2005), pp. 7-41.
- "A Restricted Maximum Likelihood Estimator for Historical Height Samples," *Economics and Human Biology*, vol. 2, no. 1 (March 2004), pp. 5-19.
- "Il benessere dell'Italia settentrionale nel secolo e mezzo precedente l'unità," *Rivista di Storia Economica*, vol. 19, no. 3 (December 2003), pp. 297-314.
- "Anthropometric Evidence on Living Standards in Northern Italy, 1730-1860," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 63, no. 2 (June 2003), pp. 351-381.
- "More International Evidence on the Historical Properties of Business Cycles," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, vol. 47 (2001), pp 321-346, with U. Woitek.
- "Could Southern Italians Cooperate? *Banche Popolari* in the *Mezzogiorno*," *Journal* of *Economic History*, vol. 60, no. 1 (March 2000). pp 67-93.
- "Institutions, Externalities, and Economic Growth in Southern Italy: Evidence from the Cotton Textile Industry, 1861-1914," *Economic History Review*, vol. 51, no. 4 (November 1998). pp 734-762.

# Chapters in Edited Volumes

- "The Anthropometric History of the Mediterranean World," in *The Oxford Handbook* of *Economics and Human Biology*, J. Komlos and I. Kelly, eds. (Oxford: OUP, 2016).
- "Education," Ch. 5; "Height," Ch. 2, in *Measuring Wellbeing. A History of Italian Living Standards*, G. Vecchi, ed. (New York: OUP, 2017). Written with G. Vecchi; these are substantially expanded and revised versions, not simple translations, of the Italian language chapters cited below.
- "The British industrial revolution in a European mirror," Ch. 1 in *The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Britain*, R. Floud, J. Humphries and P. Johnson, eds. (Cambridge: CUP, 2014), vol. 1 pp. 1-52.

- "Regional Disparities: Internal Geography and External Trade," Ch. 21 in *Oxford Handbook of the Italian Economy, 1861-2011*, G. Toniolo, ed. (Oxford: OUP, 2012). With A. Venables.
- "Statura," Ch. 2; "Istruzione," Ch. 5 in *In Ricchezza e povertà. Il benessere degli italiani dall'Unità a oggi*, G. Vecchi, ed. (Bologna: Il Mulino, 2011). With G. Vecchi.
- "The Antebellum Puzzle Revisited: A New Look at the Physical Stature of Union Army Recruits during the Civil War," in *Studies on the Biological Standard of Living in Comparative Perspective*, J. Komlos and J. Baten, eds. (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1998) pp. 250-267.

Journal issue edited, book reviews, comments, translations, etc.

- *Rivista di storia economica*, vol. 32 no. 2 (August 2016), special issue devoted to research on historical household budgets, co-edited with N. Amendola and G. Vecchi.
- "Comments on Accominotti, Koudjis, and Zeitz," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 72, no. 2 (2012), pp. 493-97. (Report on the finalists for EHA Gerschenkron Prize.)
- "The Reinterpretation of Italian Economic History, by Stefano Fenoaltea," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 72 no. 4 (Dec. 2012), pp. 1104-6; online with EH.net, 12 July 2012.
- "Historical anthropometrics: goals, biological foundations, methodology," Ch. 2 in *The Standard of Living and Revolutions in Russia, 1700-1917*, by Boris Mironov (London: Routledge, 2012), pp. 17-45. Translated from the Russian.
- "Von der Autarkie zum Wirtschaftswunder: Wirtschaftspolitik und industrieller Wandel in Italien 1935-1963, by Rolf Petri," Journal of Economic History, v. 63, no. 1 (March 2003), pp. 261-62.
- "The Growth of the Italian Economy 1820-1960, by Jon Cohen and Giovanni Federico," EH.net, Sept. 2002.
- "Italian Industrialists from Liberalism to Fascism, by Franklin Adler," Journal of Economic History, v. 57 n. 4 (Dec. 1997), pp. 736-38.

# Awards and External Grants

- 2015 "Living Standards, Inequality, and Poverty around the World, 1815-2015: A New Household Budget Approach," Institute for New Economic Thinking grant INO15-00026: \$130,000, co-investigators G. Vecchi (PI) and N. Amendola.
- 2015 British Academy Serena Medal for contributions to the study of the Italian economy
- 2005 Italian Fulbright Commission senior researcher grant no. 5318, awarded to support visiting the University of Rome "Tor Vergata," Department of Economics and Institutions, during the 2005-06 academic year.
- 2005 University of Rome "Tor Vergata" visiting scholar grant.

- 2003 National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar fellowship, American Academy of Rome.
- 1999 T.S. Ashton Prize for the best article submitted to the *Economic History Review* by a scholar under 35 during the biennium 1998-99.

# **Research Interests**

Causes and distributional consequences of long run economic growth in Europe, particularly Italy: institutions and political economy, human capital and education, technological change, banking, the economy of cities and economic geography, anthropometrics, living standards and inequality.

# Current projects:

"The Local Political Economy of Primary Education in Liberal Italy" "Living Standards in Interwar Rural Italy" "Household Budgets of the Very Wealthy"

# **Recent Teaching Experience**

*Undergraduate tutorials and examining*: Introductory Micro- and Macroeconomics; Core Macroeconomics; British Economic History since 1870; Development of the World Economy since 19870; Economics of Developing Countries; Labour Economics; Industrialization in Britain and France 1750-1870; Approaches to History; undergraduate dissertations.

*Undergraduate lecturing*: Approaches to History; Industrialization in Britain and France 1750-1870 (OS21).

*Undergraduate administration*: chairman, Standing Committee for the Joint School of History & Economics, 2012-15; organising tutor for economics at Pembroke 2011-present.

*Graduate lecturing*: Economic History 1 (joint Economics and ESH MPhil option); Italy since 1800: Development in a Peripheral Economy (ESH option).

*Graduate supervision and examining*: Economic and Social History (ESH) programme board of examiners, 2013-15; numerous MSc and MPhil dissertations in ESH and economics supervised and examined; transfer of status interviews; three doctoral theses examined (Oxford, LSE, Carlos III Madrid); supervised 2011 economics DPhil dissertation of F. Giugliano "Industrial Policy and Productivity Growth in Fascist Italy"; currently supervising two ESH DPhil dissertations.

# **Other Professional Activities**

Editorial board, Rivista di storia economica, 2015-present

Regular or recent referee for Journal of Economic History, Economic History Review, Explorations in Economic History, European Review of Economic History, Cliometrica, Financial History Review, Economics and Human Biology, Oxford Economic Papers, Revista de Historia Economica.

Occasional referee for *Historical Methods*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, *Labour*, *Bulletin of Economic Research*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Bioeconomics*.

# College duties, non-teaching

- Member of Governing Body, 2008-present
- Finance and Planning Committee, 2018-present
- Dean (student discipline), 2014-15
- Domestic and Buildings Committee, 2009-2015
- Tutors Committee (academic sanctions), 2009-15
- Appointment committees for economics posts joint with Blavatnik School and Department of International development.
- Admissions organising tutor on a rotating basis for PPE, E&M, and Heco

# Working languages

Italian and German (good), French and Russian (weaker).