

Brian A'Hearn

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Education

PhD, Economics; University of California, Berkeley CA, Dec. 1994.
BA, *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 (from '05); 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.
- 1989 – 1994: Graduate Student Instructor, Graduate Student Researcher; Dept. of Economics, Dept. of Public Policy, University of California - Berkeley.

Visiting Positions

- 2022: Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa (March-May)
- 2006: Dept. of Economics and Institutions, University of Rome Tor Vergata (January-July)

Publications

Journal Articles

- “Internal Borders and Population Geography in the Unification of Italy,” *Journal of Economic History*, forthcoming 2023. With Valeria Rueda.
- “Age Heaping and its Discontents: A Response to Baten, Benati, and Ferber,” *Economic History Review*, vol. 75, no. 3 (2022), pp. 972-980. With Alessandro Nuvolari and Alexia Delfino.

- “Rethinking Age Heaping: A Cautionary Tale from XIX Century Italy,” *Economic History Review*, vol. 75, no. 1 (February 2022), pp. 111-137. With Alessandro Nuvolari and Alexia Delfino.
- “Literacy in the Italian Census of 1911: Disaggregating the Data,” *Rivista di storia economica*, vol. 37, no. 1 (April 2021), pp. 63-90. With Carlo Ciccarelli.
- “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*, vol. 79, no. 4 (Dec. 2019), pp. 1129-53. With John 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 John Komlos.
- “On Historical Household Budgets,” *Rivista di storia economica*, vol. 32 no. 2 (August 2016), pp. 137-76. With Nicola Amendola and Giovanni 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 Economy in Leonardo da Vinci’s Time,” in *Leonardo. Il corpo dell’uomo*, Maurizio Brunori, ed. (Rome: Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, 2019). With Stefano Chianese and Giovanni Vecchi.
- “The Anthropometric History of the Mediterranean World,” Ch. 38 in *The Oxford Handbook of Economics and Human Biology*, J. Komlos and I. Kelly, eds. (Oxford: OUP, 2016), pp. 765-96.
- “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 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 issues edited, book reviews, comments, translations, etc.

- “The Italian Economy under Fascism,” *Rivista di storia economica*, vol. 36 no. 3 (December 2020), pp. 247-52. With Giacomo Gabbuti; introduction to a co-edited special issue.
- “Looking Backward, Moving Forward,” *Rivista di storia economica*, vol. 32 no. 1 (April 2016), pp. 3-16. With Giovanni Federico, Alessandro Nuvolari, and Giovanni Vecchi; editorial relaunching the journal.
- “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. My translation 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

- 2023 “Economic growth, inequality and poverty in the long run: Italy, 1861-2021”, Italian Ministry of Universities and Research grant MUR PE00000018,

- €620,000. Associate co-principal-investigator with G. Vecchi (PI), N. Amendola, G. Mancini, and F. Belotti, all University of Rome Tor Vergata.
- 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.
 - 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

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:

“Economic growth, inequality and poverty in the long run: Italy, 1861-2021”
 “Mobility of the Innocents: the social mobility of Italian foundlings and their descendants”, with Giacomo Gabbuti and Giuliana Freschi
 “Aristocracy and Inequality in Italy, 1861-1931” (2020 *Oxford Economic and Social History Working Paper*) with Stefano Chianese and Giovanni Vecchi.

Oxford Teaching Experience

Undergraduate tutorials and examining:

Prelims Micro- and Macroeconomics; Core Micro- and Macroeconomics; British Economic History since 1870; Development of the World Economy since 1800; Economics of Developing Countries; Labour Economics; Industrialization in Britain and France 1750-1870; Approaches to History; supervision of 14 undergraduate dissertations; prelims examiner for economics 2008-11.

Undergraduate lecturing:

Approaches to History – Economics; Industrialization in Britain and France 1750-1870 (History optional subject 21).

Undergraduate administration:

Chairman, Standing Committee for the Joint School of History & Economics, 2012-15; organising tutor for economics at Pembroke 2011-19; Pembroke admissions for PPE, E&M, and History & Economics, 2008-present.

Undergraduate access

Lectures on inequality, UNIQ summer schools, 2013-15.

Graduate lecturing:

Economic History 1 (joint Economics / ESH option); Italy since 1800 - Development in a Peripheral Economy (ESH option); occasional contributions to What Happened and Why (ESH master's core course).

Graduate supervision and examining:

Economic and social history (ESH) programme board of examiners, 2013-15; 19 MSc and MPhil dissertation supervisions in ESH; 4 economics MPhil dissertations supervised; 6 transfer of status interviews; 4 doctoral theses examined (Oxford, LSE, Carlos III Madrid, Tor Vergata Rome); 1 economics and 3 economic history DPhil dissertations supervised.

Other Professional Activities

External examiner, LSE economic history programme, 2020- present

Editorial board, *Rivista di storia economica*, 2015-present

Regular referee for *Journal of Economic History*, *Economic History Review*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *European Review of Economic History*.

Occasional referee for *Annals of the Fondazione Luigi Einaudi*, *Bulletin of Economic Research*, *Cliometrica*, *Financial History Review*, *Historical Methods*, *History of Education*, *Journal of Bioeconomics*, *Journal of Historical Geography*, *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Labour*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, *Population Studies*, *Revista de Historia Economica*, *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, *Vierteljahresheft für Wirtschaftsgeschichte*.

Referee for the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research Projects of National Importance (PRIN) grant proposals, 2022.

Judge for the Economic History Association Gerschenkron Prize for the best dissertation, 2011.

College duties, non-teaching

- Governing Body, 2008-present
- Finance and Planning Committee, 2018-present
- Geoffrey Arthur Building redevelopment steering committee, 2021-present
- Tutors Committee (academic discipline), 2009-present
- Dean (student discipline), 2014-15
- Domestic and Buildings Committee, 2009-2015

- Appointment committees for economics posts joint with Blavatnik School and Department of International Development.
- Admissions organising tutor for PPE, E&M, and Heco

Working languages

Italian and German (both reasonably fluent), French and Russian (weaker).