

# Brian A'Hearn

---

Pembroke College  
Oxford

United Kingdom

## 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,” 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, 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, Koudjjs, 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:*

- “Border Effects in Italian Unification”
- “Time of Death, Work Rhythms, and Family Residence Patterns”
- “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 1800; 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).