

Brian Beach

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Pittsburgh; 2015
M.A. Economics, University of Pittsburgh; 2012
B.A. Business Finance, University of Washington (Tacoma); 2010
A.A. Green River Community College; 2008

Professional Appointments

Vanderbilt University

- Associate Professor (with Tenure), Dept. of Economics 2023 -
- Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics 2019 - 2023
- Faculty Affiliate, Center for Research on Inequality and Health 2023 -

National Bureau of Economic Research

- Faculty Research Fellow 2017 -

Northwestern University

- Visiting Scholar, Center for Economic History 2022 - 2023

The College of William & Mary

- Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics 2015 - 2019
- Faculty Affiliate, Public Policy 2015 - 2019

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

College of William & Mary Summer Research Grant, 2017
Arthur H. Cole Prize for best article in the Journal of Economic History, 2016
Suzann Wilson Matthews Summer Research Grant, 2016
Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, 2014-2015
Social Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2013-2014
Arts and Sciences Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, 2013
Jerome C. Wells Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistance, 2012

Articles in Refereed Journals

[Racial and Ethnic Representation in Local Government](#)

(with Daniel Jones, Tate Twinam, and Randall Walsh)

Conditionally Accepted: **American Economic Journal: Economic Policy**.

[Culture and the Historical Fertility Transition](#)

(with Walker Hanlon)

The Review of Economic Studies, Accepted

Re-Evaluating the Long-Term Impact of In Utero Exposure to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic
(with Ryan Brown, Joseph Ferrie, Martin Saavedra and Duncan Thomas).
The Journal of Political Economy, 2022. 130(7) 1963-90.

Water Infrastructure and Health in U.S. Cities
Regional Science and Urban Economics, 2022. 94(103674).

Recessions, Mortality, and Migration Bias: Evidence from the Lancashire Cotton Famine
(with Vellore Arthi and Walker Hanlon)
American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 2022. 14(2): 228-55.

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic and its Lessons for COVID-19
(with Karen Clay and Martin Saavedra)
Journal of Economic Literature, 2022. 60(1): 41-84.

Losing by Less? Import Competition, Unemployment Insurance Generosity, and Crime
(with John Lopresti)
Economic Inquiry, 2019. 57(2): 1163-81.

Coal Smoke and Mortality in an Early Industrial Economy
(with Walker Hanlon)
The Economic Journal, 2018. 128(615): 2652-75.

Gridlock: Ethnic Diversity in Government and the Provision of Public Goods
(with Daniel Jones)
American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 2017. 9(1):112-36.

Business as Usual: Politicians with Business Experience, Government Finances,
and Policy Outcomes
(with Daniel Jones)
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, 2016 131: 292-307

Typhoid Fever, Water Quality, and Human Capital Formation
(with Joseph Ferrie, Martin Saavedra, and Werner Troesken)
The Journal of Economic History, 2016. 76(1) 41-75.
Awarded Arthur H. Cole prize for best article 2015-2016.

Mitigating the Effects of Low Birth Weight: Evidence from Quasi-randomly Assigned Adoptees
(with Martin Saavedra)
American Journal of Health Economics, 2015.1(3): 275-96.

Time or Spot? A Reevaluation of Amsterdam Market Data Prior to 1747
(with Stephen Norman and Douglas Wills)
Cliometrica, 2013. 7 (1): 61-85.

Other Writing

Segregation and the Initial Provision of Water in the United States

(with John Parman and Martin Saavedra)

AEA Papers & Proceedings, 2022. 112: 193-8.

Censorship, Family Planning, and the Historical Fertility Transition

(with Walker Hanlon)

VoxEU, 2019.

Lessons from our Polluted Past

(with Walker Hanlon)

VoxDev, 2019.

Work in Progress

Historical Newspaper Data: A Researcher's Guide and Toolkit

(with Walker Hanlon)

Revisions Requested: **Explorations in Economic History**.

Water and Waste: A History of Reluctant Policymaking in U.S. Cities

Invited contribution to proposed volume: *Managing Water: Lessons from History* for University of Pittsburgh Press' **History of the Urban Environment Series** (Edited by: Joel Tarr and Martin Melosi), submitted.

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic and the Fetal Origins Hypothesis

(with Douglas Almond and Martin Saavedra)

This paper will use not-yet-released 1950 census data. Pre-analysis plan registered with Open Science Framework: March 31, 2022.

Disease and the Municipalization of Private Waterworks in England and Wales

(with Werner Troesken and Nicola Tynan)

Land Use Regulation and Individual Welfare

(with Tate Twinam)

Do Markets Reward Constitutional Reform? Lessons from America's State Debt Crisis

Invited Seminars

- Emory University** (Apr. 2023)
- Marquette University** (Jan. 2023) “Contagious Ideas: Universities and the Spread of Germ Theory in American Newspapers”
- Montana State University** (Dec. 2022) “Contagious Ideas: Universities and the Spread of Germ Theory in American Newspapers”
- UC Davis** (Dec. 2023) “Contagious Ideas: Universities and the Spread of Germ Theory in American Newspapers”
- Yale University** (Nov. 2022) “Contagious Ideas: Universities and the Spread of Germ Theory in American Newspapers”
- Northwestern University** (Nov. 2022) “Contagious Ideas: Universities and the Spread of Germ Theory in American Newspapers”
- Middle Tennessee State University** (Sep. 2021) “Culture and the Historical Fertility Transition”
- Colby College** (Nov. 2019) “Culture and the Historical Fertility Transition”
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville** (Apr. 2019) “Segregation and the Initial Provision of Water in the United States”
- George Washington University** (Jan. 2019) “Racial and Ethnic Representation in Local Government”
- Vanderbilt University** (Jan. 2019) “Culture and the Historical Fertility Transition”
- Chapman University** (Jan. 2019) “Culture and the Historical Fertility Transition”
- University of Pittsburgh** (Dec. 2018) “Culture and the Historical Fertility Transition”
- Florida State University** (Oct. 2018) “Racial and Ethnic Representation in Local Government”
- Oberlin College** (Oct. 2018) “Racial and Ethnic Representation in Local Government”
- George Mason University** (Sep. 2018) “Segregation and the Initial Provision of Water in the United States”
- Princeton University** (May 2018) “Recessions, Mortality, and Migration Bias: Evidence from the Lancashire Cotton Famine”
- Utah State University** (Dec. 2017) “Land Use Regulation and Individual Welfare”
- Auburn University** (Dec. 2017) “Land Use Regulation and Individual Welfare”
- Northwestern University** (May 2015) “Disease and the Municipalization of Private Waterworks in Nineteenth Century England and Wales”
- College of William & Mary** (Jan. 2015) “Gridlock: Ethnic Diversity and Public Good Provision”
- Dickinson College** (Jan. 2015) “Do Markets Reward Constitutional Reform? Lesson’s from America’s State Debt Crisis”
- University of Kentucky, Martin School of Public Policy** (Jan. 2015) “Do Markets Reward Constitutional Reform? Lesson’s from America’s State Debt Crisis”
- University of California Davis, Agricultural and Resource Economics** (Jan. 2015) “Gridlock: Ethnic Diversity and Public Good Provision”
- University of New Mexico** (Jan. 2015) “Gridlock: Ethnic Diversity and Public Good Provision”
- University of South Carolina** (Oct. 2014). “Do Markets Reward Constitutional Reform? Lesson’s from America’s State Debt Crisis”

Conference Presentations

- Economic History Society Annual Meeting (Apr. 2021)
- NYU Stern Health and History Workshop (2020, cancelled due to COVID)
- Economic Demography Workshop (2020, cancelled due to COVID)
- UC Irvine Demography & Development (2020, cancelled due to COVID)
- Urban Economic Association Annual Meeting (Oct. 2019)
- Economic History Association Annual Meeting (Sep. 2019)
- Cliometrics Society Annual Meeting (May 2019)
- Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting (Apr. 2019)
- University of Michigan's H2D2 Workshop (Mar. 2019)
- ASSA/AEA Annual Meeting (Jan. 2019)
- World Economic History Congress (Jul. 2018)
- NBER DAE Spring Meeting (Mar. 2018)
- Social Science History Annual Meeting (Nov. 2017)
- Population Association of America Annual Meeting (Nov. 2017).
- Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Nov. 2016)
- Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Nov. 2015)
- Economic History Association Annual Meeting (Sep. 2014)
- Cliometrics Society Annual Meeting (May 2014)

Teaching Experience

Vanderbilt University

- Public Economics: Fall 2019, Spring 2020 (x2); Spring 2021 (x2)
- Seminar in Microeconomic Policy: Fall 2020, Fall 2021 (x2)
- Economic History (PhD): Fall 2019

- Doctoral Thesis Committees: Nicholas Holtkamp (2021; Health and Human Services); Craig Sylvera (Co-Chair, 2022; Cleveland Federal Reserve), Kayleigh McCrary (expected 2023), Colin Sharpe (expected 2023), Tucker Smith (expected 2024), Rowan Isaaks (expected 2024).

- Undergraduate Thesis Committees: Shane Ausmus (Chair 2020-2021); James Tang (Chair 2020-2022), Cameron Deal (Chair 2022-2024)

Northwestern University

- U.S. Economic History Before 1865

The College of William & Mary

- Public Economics: Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2019 (x2)
- Microeconomics for Public Policy (MPP): Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
- Economics of State and Local Policymaking (MPP): Spring 2016, Spring 2017
- Economics of Regulation: Spring 2018
- Introduction to Microeconomic Theory: Fall 2015

- Undergraduate Thesis Committees: Jaeson Bae (Chair 2016-2018); Michael Testa (2016-2017)

University of Pittsburgh

- Introduction to Microeconomic Theory: Summer 2012, Summer 2013, Summer 2014

Departmental Service

Vanderbilt University

- Recruiting committee, full professor and departmental chair (2022-2023)
- Seminar coordinator, Economic History (2019-2022)
- Undergraduate studies committee (2019-2022)
- Arrangements committee/host 2022 Cliometric Society meeting (2021-2022)
- Research presentation for honors thesis seminar (2020)

The College of William & Mary

- Recruiting committee (2018-2019)
- Economics curriculum committee (2017-2018)
- Faculty advisor for policy research seminar (2015, 2016, 2017)
- Robert A. Barry (Outstanding senior in economics) selection committee (2017)
- Committee to evaluate the Whole of Government program (2017)
- Committee to evaluate capstone requirement for public policy (2016)
- Selby-Corey (Outstanding junior in economics) selection committee (2016)

Service to the College and University

Vanderbilt University

- Major Advising (Average load of 20 students)
- Immersion Advising (1 student)

The College of William & Mary

- Freshmen Advising (Average load of 6 students, 2015-2019)
- Major Advising (Average load of 6 students, 2015-2019)
- University teaching project on the state of undergraduate research in the social sciences (2018-2019)
- Charles Center Summer Research Scholarship Committee (2017, 2018)
- Summer Monroe Scholarship Advisor (2017)

Service to the Profession

- Economic History Association/Cliometric Society Liaison (2021-)
- Guest lecture on 1918 Influenza Pandemic (Apr. 2020, Boston University)
- Paper selection committee: Cliometric Society annual meeting (2020, 2022)
- Paper selection committee: Troesken Memorial Conference (2020, 2022).
- Paper selection committee: EHA/Clio sponsored sessions for ASSA/AEA annual meeting (2019, 2020)

Referee Service (86 papers)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (x3) ■ American Economic Journal: Economic Policy (x2) ■ American Economic Review ■ American Journal of Health Economics (x2) ■ Applied Economics ■ British Journal of Political Science ■ Demography (x2) ■ Economic History Review ■ Economic Inquiry (x6) ■ Economic Journal (x2) ■ Economica ■ Economics and Human Biology ■ Economics of Education Review (x2) ■ Empirical Economics ■ European Review of Economic History ■ Explorations in Economic History (x10) ■ Journal of Comparative Economics ■ Journal of Development Economics (x3) ■ Journal of Economic History (x16) ■ Journal of Health Economics (x4) ■ Journal of Institutional Economics (x2) ■ Journal of Political Economy (x2) ■ Journal of Urban Economics (x2) ■ National Tax Journal ■ Public Choice (x3) ■ Quarterly Journal of Economics (x6) ■ Research in Economic History ■ Review of Economics and Statistics (x4) ■ Southern Economic Journal (x2) ■ The World Economy

National Science Foundation Grant Reviewer

Conference Discussant

- Population Association of America Annual Meeting (Apr. 2023) (x2)
- Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Nov. 2022)
- Economic History Association (Sep. 2022)
- ASSA/AEA Annual Meeting (Jan. 2020) (x2)
- Urban Economic Association Annual Meeting (Oct. 2019)
- Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Nov. 2018)
- World Economic History Congress (Jul. 2018)
- Social Science History Annual Meeting (Nov. 2017)
- Population Association of America Annual Meeting (Nov. 2017)
- Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Nov. 2016)
- ASSA/AEA Annual Meeting (Jan. 2016)
- Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Nov. 2015)

Service to the Community

- Keynote speaker for National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine
“Optimizing investments for Enhancing Urban Sustainability Infrastructure” (Jul. 2022)
- Guest for Densely Speaking Podcast (May. 2022)