

Brian Marein

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023- Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University, Department of Economics
2021-23 Assistant Professor (CLTA), University of Toronto, Department of Economics

EDUCATION

2021 PhD, Economics, University of Colorado Boulder
2017 MA, Economics, University of Colorado Boulder
2013 BS, Economics and Spanish with Honors, Ohio State University, *summa cum laude*

WORKING PAPERS

“Do past wealth gaps explain modern inequality? Evidence from immigration to the United States”
“Drug trafficking and the homicide epidemic in the Caribbean Basin: Evidence from Puerto Rico”
“Puerto Rico before the American century: Trade and development under late Spanish rule” (with John Devereux). Book chapter prepared for *Roots of Underdevelopment: A New Economic (and Political) History of Latin America and the Caribbean (Volume 2)*, edited by Felipe Valencia Caicedo.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Migration in the early 20th century Caribbean: Evidence from Dominican residency permits” (with Craig Palsson)
“Homeownership in the Age of Mass Migration”
“Wealth in Puerto Rico, 1902-40”

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“The decline of child stunting in 122 countries: A systematic review of child growth studies since the nineteenth century” (with Eric Schneider et al.), *BMJ Global Health*, 2026
“Narrow paths out of poverty and educational demand: Evidence from Dominican baseball” (with Craig Palsson), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2026
“A comment on ‘Height and the standard of living in Puerto Rico from the Spanish Enlightenment to annexation by the United States, 1770-1924’” (with John Devereux), *Economics and Human Biology*, 2024
“Public health departments and the mortality transition in Latin America: Evidence from Puerto Rico,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 2023
“Colonial roads and regional inequality,” *Journal of Urban Economics*, 2022
“Spatial population trends and economic development in Puerto Rico, 1765-2010,” *European Review of Economic History*, 2021
“Economic development in Puerto Rico after US annexation: Anthropometric evidence,” *Economics and Human Biology*, 2020

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Review of Avner Greif, Joel Mokyr, and Guido Tabellini’s “Two Paths to Prosperity: Culture and Institutions in Europe and China, 1000-2000”, *The Independent Review*, 2026
“Foreign (aid) in a domestic sense: Public health in an unincorporated territory.” In Rosolino Candela, Kristen Collins, and Christopher Coyne (Eds.), *Market Process and Market Order: From Human*

Action, but Not of Human Design. Rowman and Littlefield, 2022

“The economic development of Puerto Rico after United States annexation” (dissertation summary),
Journal of Economic History, 2022

Review of César Ayala and Laird Bergad’s “Agrarian Puerto Rico: Reconsidering Rural Economy and Society, 1899-1940”, *Journal of Economic History*, 2021

SELECTED AWARDS & FUNDING

2021	<i>Nevins Prize</i> , Economic History Association
2020	<i>Sokoloff Dissertation Fellowship</i> , Economic History Association
2018	<i>Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant</i> (#1824349), National Science Foundation
2018	<i>Exploratory Data and Travel Grant</i> , Economic History Association
2013	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>
2009-13	<i>Presidential Scholarship</i> , Ohio State University

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026	ASSA, Cliometrics Conference, Interdisciplinary Conversations on Global Migration (Wake Forest), Penn Initiative for the Study of Markets*, UNC-Wilmington, Workshop on Growth, History, and Development (University of Southern Denmark)
2025	ASSA, Economic History Association, Queens College, SEA
2024	Carolina Region Empirical Economics Day, CU-Boulder, Reading Online Sport Economics Seminar, SEA, Triangle Economics of Education Workshop, WEAI
2023	Buffalo, NEUDC, Northwestern, South Florida, Wake Forest
2022	Columbia, Florida International, “The Columbian Shock: Explaining Long-Term Development of the Americas” (Yale Economic Growth Center)
2021	Analysis Group, Economic History Association (dissertation session), Food and Drug Administration, Metropolitan State University of Denver
2020	Cal State–Long Beach, Economic History Association, Florida State, Institute for Humane Studies Summer Research Fellowship Conference, Institute of Behavioral Science (CU-Boulder), Mountain West Economic History Conference, NBER Summer Institute (poster)
2019	Economic History Association (poster)
2018	Center for Western Civilization (CU-Boulder), Tinker Latin American Research Forum
2017	Assoc. for Private Enterprise Education, Rocky Mtn. Interdisciplinary History Conference

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Wake Forest University
History of Economic Development
Intermediate Microeconomics

University of Toronto
Economic Development
Microeconomic Theory

University of Colorado Boulder
Introduction to Statistics with Computer Applications
Principles of Microeconomics

Certificate in College Teaching, Graduate Teacher Program, CU-Boulder

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2026	<i>Economist (seasonal)</i> , ProVets Consulting Group
2013-15	<i>Research Assistant</i> , American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

REFEREEING

Biodemography and Social Biology, BMJ Open, Economics and Human Biology, Economics Bulletin, Eu-

ropean Review of Economic History, Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies, Journal of Human Capital, Social Sciences & Humanities Open, The Independent Review

MEMBERSHIPS

American Economic Association, Economic History Association

LANGUAGES

English (native), Spanish (advanced)

Updated: August 25, 2026