

Gabriele Cappelli Short Curriculum – September 2024

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Research interests

Economic history, economic development, spatial development, education and human capital, gender inequality, historical demography, living standards, innovation.

Current position

Associate Professor of Economic History, Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Siena. Qualified as Full Professor in Economic History (SECS-P/12) by the National Scientific Qualification committee (ASN 2023).

Previous appointments

Dec. 2018 – Dec. 2021 Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Siena.

Sept. 2018 – Dec. 2018 Post-Doc Researcher at the Department of Economic History, Institutions, Policy and the World Economy, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain.

Febr. 2016 – Aug. 2018 Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics and Economic History, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.

June 2014 – Jan. 2016 Post-Doc Researcher and Visiting Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Tuebingen, Germany.

Education

2010 – 2014 PhD in Economic History, European University Institute, Italy

2008 – 2010 M.Sc. in Economics, University of Siena, Italy, summa cum laude

2005 – 2008 B.Sc. Economics, University of Siena, Italy, summa cum laude

Publications in peer-reviewed journals

1. G. Cappelli, J. Westberg (2025). "Gender inequality and occupational segregation in white collar-jobs in the early "quiet revolution": new evidence from the wages of Swedish teachers (c. 1890)." **European Review of Economic History** (early view).
2. G. Cappelli, L. Ridolfi, and M. Vasta (2024). "Human capital in Europe, 1830s–1930s: A general survey." **Journal of Economic Surveys** (early view).
3. M. Bozzano, G. Cappelli and M. Vasta (2024). "Whither education? The long shadow of pre-unification school systems into Italy's Liberal Age (1861 – 1911)." **The Journal of Economic History** 84 (1): 149-190.
4. F. J. Beltrán Tapia, G. Cappelli (2023). "Missing girls in Liberal Italy, 1861 – 1921." **Economic History Review** 77 (1): 185-211.

5. G. Cappelli, L. Ridolfi, and M. Vasta (2023). "Human Capital in a Historical Perspective" (forthcoming), **Oxford Encyclopaedia of Economics and Finance**. Oxford University Press (online): <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.520>
6. G. Cappelli and J. Baten (2021). "Numeracy development in Africa: new evidence from a long-term perspective (1730-1970)." **Journal of Development Economics**, 150 (C).
7. G. Cappelli and G. Quiroga (2021). "Female teachers and the rise of primary education in Italy and Spain, 1861 – 1921: evidence from a new dataset." **The Economic History Review** 74 (3), 754-783.
8. G. Cappelli (2021). "The Primary Education System in Imperial Austria: Vice or Virtue? A Review of Schooling under Control by Tomáš Cvrček." **Central Europe** 18 (2), 122-130.
9. G. Cappelli and C. Ciccarelli (2020). "Italy's History of Education: Towards an Interdisciplinary Approach." **Rivista di storia economica** 36 (2), 127-137.
10. G. Cappelli and M. Vasta (2020). "A "Silent Revolution": school reforms and Italy's educational gender gap in the Liberal Age (1861-1921)." **Cliometrica** 15 (1), 203-229.
11. G. Cappelli and G. Quiroga (2020). "Literacy and schooling in Italy and Spain (1860-1921): a comparative analysis." **Rivista di storia economica** 36 (1), 87-123.
12. G. Cappelli (2020). "Quite a visible hand? State funding and primary education in 19th-century France and Italy." **Revue d'economie politique** 130 (1), 77-105.
13. G. Cappelli and M. Vasta (2020). "Can school centralization foster human capital accumulation? A quasi-experiment from early twentieth-century Italy." **The Economic History Review** 73 (1), 159-184.
14. G. Cappelli, E. Felice, D. Tirado, J. Martínez-Galarraga (2019). "Still a long way to go: decomposing GDP inequality across Italy's regions, 1871-2011." **Rivista di storia economica** 35 (1), 3-35.
15. J. Westberg and G. Cappelli (2019). "Divergent paths to mass schooling at Europe's poles? Regional differences in Italy and Sweden, 1840-1900." **Bildungsgeschichte** 9 (1), 11-28.
16. G. Cappelli (2018). "Was Putnam Wrong? The Determinants of Social Capital in Italy Around 1900." **Rivista di storia economica**, a. XXXIII, n. 3, dicembre 2017: 277-313.
17. G. Cappelli (2018). "When theory met data: economic history and the 'truth(s)' of quantitative research". **Bildungsgeschichte** 8 (2), 214-217.
18. G. Cappelli and J. Baten (2017). "European Trade, Colonialism and Human Capital Accumulation in Senegal, Gambia and Western Mali, 1770 – 1900." **The Journal of Economic History** 77 (3): 920-951.
19. G. Cappelli (2017). "The Missing Link? Trust, Cooperative Norms, and Industrial Growth in Italy." **The Journal of Interdisciplinary History**, Winter 2017, 47 (3): 333-358.
20. G. Cappelli (2016). "One size that didn't fit all? Electoral franchise, fiscal capacity and the rise of mass schooling across Italy's provinces, 1870–1911." **Cliometrica** 10 (3): 311-343.
21. G. Cappelli (2016). "Escaping from a human capital trap? Italy's regions and the move to centralized primary schooling, 1861 – 1936." **European Review of Economic History** 20 (1): 46-65.

Books

1. D. Mitch and G. Cappelli (eds.) (2019). *Globalization and the Rise of Mass Education*. London, Palgrave Macmillan.
2. G. Cappelli (2018). *La formazione del capitale umano e del capitale sociale nello sviluppo economico italiano (1861-1913)*. Pisa: Pisa University Press.

Book chapters

1. G. Cappelli and M. Vasta (2021). "Il capitale umano: il fattore mancante dello sviluppo economico italiano." in F. Amatori and M. D'Alberti (eds.), *L'impresa italiana*, vol. II (Temi e problemi), Rome, Istituto dell'enciclopedia italiana, 673-690.
2. G. Cappelli and D. Mitch (2019). "Introduction", in D. Mitch and G. Cappelli (eds), *Globalization and the Rise of Mass Education*. London, Palgrave Macmillan, 1-21.
3. G. Cappelli (2019). "A Struggling Nation Since Its Founding? Liberal Italy and the Cost of Neglecting Primary Education," in J. Westberg, L. Boser, I. Brühwiler (eds.), *School Acts and the Rise of Mass Schooling: Education Policy in the Long Nineteenth Century*. London, Palgrave Macmillan, 223-251.
4. G. Cappelli (2017). "Capitale umano e crescita economica: l'evoluzione del sistema educativo italiano," in Paolo Di Martino and Michelangelo Vasta (eds.), *Ricchi per caso. La parabola dello sviluppo economico italiano*. Bologna, il Mulino, 75-128.
5. G. Cappelli, A. Colli, P. Di Martino, E. Felice, A. Nuvolari, A. Rinaldi, and M. Vasta (2017). "Conclusioni. Il futuro economico dell'Italia in prospettiva storica: le policy oggi," in Paolo Di Martino and Michelangelo Vasta (eds.), *Ricchi per caso. La parabola dello sviluppo economico italiano*. Bologna, il Mulino, 265-281.

Other professional experience

Co-editor in chief of the *Revista de Historia Industrial – Industrial History Review*

Observatori Centre d'Estudis "Antoni de Capmany", Universitat de Barcelona (since July 2021)

Memberships and affiliations

Research Affiliate at the Centre for Economic Policy Research CEPR (Economic History)

Economic History Society

European Historical Economics Society

Economic History Association

Associazione per la Storia Economica

Società Italiana degli Storici Economici

Courses currently taught

Storia economica (BSc), in Italian (60 hours)

Storia dei problemi ambientali (MSc), in Italian (40 hours)

Economic History Advanced (MSc), in English (20 hours)

Economic History (PhD), in English (10 hours)

Teaching (selected)

Globalization and inequality, *University of Siena* | Economia dell'innovazione, *University of Siena* | El análisis estadístico de datos históricos: oportunidades para las ciencias sociales, *University of Salamanca* (invited lecturer) | Economic History, *Erasmus University College* (invited lecturer) | Historia económica universal: la Gran divergencia, *Universidad de la Republica* (invited lecturer) | Divario regionale e intervento pubblico in Italia, *LUISS School of Government* (invited lecturer) | Economic History of Latin America, *Universitat de Barcelona* | World Economic History, *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* | Financial and Monetary History, *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* | Education and Development, *Master in Development Economics and International Cooperation, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata"* (invited lecturer) | Economic History of the World: New Research, *University of Tuebingen* | Lecture on Empirical Studies on Migration, Trade and Growth in the Long Run, *University of Tuebingen* | Research Internship in Economic History, *University of Tuebingen* | Teaching Assistant for The Internationalisation of Economic Growth, 1870 to the present day, *London School of Economics and Political Science*.

Grant and funding

1. PI for the PRIN-2022 project *Tracing the roots of human capital inequality in early-modern Italy, 17th-19th centuries* (210,000 euros).
 2. PI for the F-CUR fund for *HornAfrica* to research long-term development in the Horn of Africa (13,000 euros).
 3. PI for a *Contributi liberali* grant received from the Bank of Italy to research the long-term development of Ethiopia (12,000 euros).
 4. Co-investigator for the project *How did education policy shape the race towards mass education? A comparative perspective based on France, Italy, Spain and Sweden, c. 1840–1940*, funded by the Swedish Research Council for the period 2017 – 2020 (c. 550,000 euros). PI: Johannes Westberg (Groningen and ORU). Cappelli was director of the project (220,000 euros) at the University of Siena.
 5. Co-investigator for the project *Pasado y presente en España de los niveles de vida: salud, alimentación y sostenibilidad, siglos XIX-XX*, funded by the Spanish Ministry of the Economy and Competitiveness for the period 2017 – 2020 (45,000 euros). PI: Josep Pujol (UAB).
- Second stage (interview) for the ERC Starting Grant 2021 round (funding not granted).

Selected International Conferences and Seminars (last 3 years)

Alcalá Economic History Seminar, Madrid, February 2024 | UB Economic History Seminar, Barcelona, January 2024 | AEHN Conference, Pretoria, October 2023 | ASE meeting, Naples, September 2023 | ERSA Conference, Alicante, August 2023 | "Lost Highway" PRIN (2017) meeting, Pisa, July 2023 | "Education and development in history: new data and methods," Valencia, July 2023 | IBEO workshop (economic history), Alghero, July 2023 | Baltic Connections Conference, Helsinki, June 2023 | EHS Annual Conference 2023, Warwick, March 2023 | Economic History Seminar, Wageningen, February 2023 | World Economic History Congress, Paris, July 2022 | Economic History Seminar, Gothenburg, June 2022 (online) | Sex Ratios and Missing Girls in History, Trondheim, May 2022 | EHS Annual Conference, Cambridge, April 2022 | Economic History Seminar at Bocconi University, Milan, February 2022

Languages

Italian (Mother Tongue). English (Proficiency, CEFR: C2). Spanish (Proficiency, CEFR: C2). Intermediate understanding of written and spoken French (CEFR: B2).