

MICHELANGELO VASTA

Department of Economics and Statistics

University of Siena

Piazza S. Francesco 7

53100 Siena, Italy

Telephone (office): + 39 0577 – 232219

E-mail: michelangelo.vasta@unisi.it

Web: <http://docenti-deps.unisi.it/michelangelovasta/>



CURRENT APPOINTMENT

- 2016- Professor in Economic History, Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Siena, Italy

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Economic growth in history
- Patents and inventive activities
- International trade
- Technical change in historical perspective
- Ownership structure and corporate network
- Business history

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

- 2005-2016: Associate Professor of Economic History, Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Siena, Italy
- 2000-2004: Assistant Professor in Economic History, University of Siena, Department of Economics
- 1995-1999: Research director for applied economics and economic history research, Ciriect, Centro italiano di ricerche e d'informazione sull'economia pubblica, sociale e cooperative, Milan

FELLOWSHIPS

- 1999-2000 Postdoctoral Research Fellow (assegnista di ricerca) (University of Florence – Economic History Institute)
- 1996 Accademia dei Lincei and British Academy Research Fellow (University of Oxford – Wolfson College)
- 1995 CNR NATO Senior Fellowships (University of Oxford – Modern History Faculty)
- 1995 Accademia dei Lincei and British Academy Research Fellow (University of Oxford – Wolfson College)

EDUCATION

- 1991-1996 D.Phil in Economic History, University of Oxford (supervisors: Charles Feinstein and Robert Fox)
- 1988 Degree (Laurea) in Economic History - First Class Honours with distinction (110 cum laude), University of Florence (supervisor: Renato Giannetti)

RECENT ACCADEMIC APPOINTMENT

- 2019- Member of the Committee for the National Scientific Qualification (ASN) for Economic History (13/C1)
- 2014-2017 Member of the Auditing team in Economics for journals and books – Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca (ANVUR)
- 2014- Member of the board of the School of Economics and Management, University of Siena
- 2012-2018 Member of Academic Senate, University of Siena
- 2012-2018 Head of Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Siena
- 2007-2012 Head of Department of Economics, University of Siena

RECENT SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Articles:

- “Can school centralisation foster human capital accumulation? A quasi-experiment from early XX century Italy”, [with G. Cappelli] *The Economic History Review*, (forthcoming).
- “The origins of the Italian regional divide: evidence from real wages, 1861-1913” [with G. Federico, A. Nuvolari], *The Journal of Economic History*, 79 (1), 2019, pp. 63-98.
- “What makes a successful (and famous) entrepreneur? Historical evidence from Italy (XIX-XX centuries)” [with A. Nuvolari, P.A. Toninelli], *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 27 (3) 2018, pp. 425-447.
- “Reassessing the Italian ‘economic miracle’: law, firms’ governance and management (1950-1973)” [with P. Di Martino], *Business History Review*, 92 (2), 2018, pp. 281-306.
- “The Geography of Innovation in Italy, 1861-1913: Evidence from Patent Data” [with A. Nuvolari], 2016, *European Review of Economic History*, 21 (3), 2017, pp. 326-356.
- “Reassessing the bank industry relationship in Italy, 1913-1936: a counterfactual analysis” [with C. Drago, R. Ricciuti, A. Rinaldi], *Cliometrica*, 11 (2), 2017, pp. 183-216.
- “Directors and syndics in corporate networks: Argentina and Italy compared (1913-1990) [with A. Lluch, A. Rinaldi, E. Salvaj], *Business History*, 2017, *forthcoming*, doi: 10.1080/00076791.2017.1382474.
- “The only way to grow? Italian Business groups in historical perspective” [with A. Colli, A. Rinaldi], *Business History*, 58 (1), 2016, pp. 30-48.
- “Independent invention in Italy during the Liberal age, 1861-1913” [with A. Nuvolari], *The Economic History Review*, 68 (3), 2015, pp. 858-886.
- “What do we really know about protection before the Great Depression: evidence from Italy, [with G. Federico], *The Journal of Economic History*, 75 (4), 2015, pp. 993-1029.
- “Passive Modernization? The new Human Development Index and its components in Italy’s regions (1871-2007)” [with E. Felice], *European Review of Economic History*, 19 (1), 2015, pp. 44-66.
- “Large and entangled: Italian business groups in the long run” [with A. Colli], *Business History*, 57 (1), 2015, pp. 64-95.
- “Wealthy by accident? Firm structure, institutions and economic performance in 150 (+3) years of Italian history: Introduction to the special forum” [with P. Di Martino], *Enterprise & Society*, 16 (2), 2015, pp. 215-224.
- “The Ghost in the Attic? The Italian National Innovation System in Historical Perspective, 1861-2011” [with A. Nuvolari], *Enterprise & Society*, 16 (2), 2015, pp. 270-290.
- “Happy 150th birthday Italy? Institutions and economic performance since 1861” [with P. Di Martino], *Enterprise & Society*, 16 (2), 2015, pp. 291-312.
- “Opening the black box of Entrepreneurship: the Italian case in a historical perspective” [with P.A. Toninelli], *Business History*, 56 (2), 2014, pp. 161-186.
- “The Italian corporate network after the ‘Golden Age’ (1972-1983): from centrality to marginalization of State-owned enterprises” [with A. Rinaldi], *Enterprise & Society*, 13 (2), 2012, pp. 378-413.
- “Was industrialization an escape for the commodity lottery? Evidence from Italy 1861-1939” [with G. Federico], *Explorations in Economic History*, 47 (2), 2010, pp. 228-243.
- “Companies’ insolvency and ‘the nature of the firm’ in Italy, 1920s-1970s” [with P. Di Martino], *The Economic History Review*, 63 (1), 2010, pp. 137-164.
- “Italian export capacity in a long run perspective (1861-2009): a tortuous path to stay in place”, *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, 15 (1), 2010, pp. 133-156.

Book chapters:

- “Financial Elites and the Italian Corporate Network, 1913-2001” [with A. Rinaldi], in Y. Cassis and G. Telesca (eds), *Financial Elites and European Banking. Historical perspective*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2018, pp. 92-113.

- “Business group in Italy” [with A. Colli], in A. Colpan and T. Hikino (eds), *Business Groups in the West*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2018, pp. 278-307.
- “Persistent and Stubborn. The State in Italian Capitalism: 1913-2001” [with A. Rinaldi], in T. David and G. Westerhuis (eds), *The power of corporate networks: a comparative and historical perspective*, Routledge, New York, 2014, pp. 169-188.
- “Size, boundaries, and distribution of Italian State-Owned Enterprise (1939-1983)” [with P.A. Toninelli], in F. Amatori, R. Milward and P.A. Toninelli (eds), *Reappraising State-Owned Enterprise. A comparison of the UK and Italy*, Routledge, New York, 2011, pp. 68-99.
- “Introduction: forms of enterprise in 20th century Italy” [with A. Colli], in A. Colli and M. Vasta (eds), *Forms of Enterprise in Twentieth century Italy. Boundaries, Structures and Strategies*, Elgar, Cheltenham, 2010, pp. 1-21.
- “Big Business” [with R. Giannetti], in A. Collin and M. Vasta (eds), *Forms of Enterprise in Twentieth century Italy. Boundaries, Structures and Strategies*, Elgar, Cheltenham, 2010, pp. 25-51.
- “Italian Entrepreneurship: Conjectures and Evidence from a Historical Perspective” [with P.A. Toninelli], in J.L. Garcia-Ruiz and P.A. Toninelli (eds), *The determinants of entrepreneurship: leadership, culture, institutions*, Pickering & Chatto, London, 2010, pp. 49-79.

Books:

- *Ricchi per caso. La parabola dello sviluppo italiano* [with P. Di Martino] (eds), Bologna, il Mulino, 2017.
- *Forms of Enterprise in Twentieth century Italy. Boundaries, Structures and Strategies* [with A. Colli] (eds), Cheltenham, Elgar, 2010.
- *Evolution of Italian Enterprises in the 20th Century* [with R. Giannetti] (eds), Heidelberg-New York, Physica-Verlag (Springer), 2006.

Paper under revision or submitted:

- “A tale of two Italies: “access-orders” and the Italian regional divide” [with P. Di Martino and E. Felice].
- “The value of patents in Italy, 1861-1913 [with L. Magazzini and A. Nuvolari].
- “The Italian patent system(s) during the long nineteenth century (from the Congress of Vienna to World War I)” [with A. Nuvolari], in G. Gooday and S. Wilf (eds), *Fashioning Global Patent Cultures: Diversity and Harmonization in Historical Perspective*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- “The long-term evolution of Economic History: evidence from the top five field journals (1927-2017)”, [with M. Cioni and G. Federico].
- “The road to success in Economic History” [with M. Cioni and G. Federico].

Work in progress:

- Real wages and economic growth: a very long perspective (1300-1913).
- Italian patent system since the pre-unitary states to the early period after unification (1815-1870).
- Ninety years of publication in economic history: evidence from the top five field journals.
- Gender gap in education in Italy (1861-1921)
- Skill premium in Italy during the Liberal age

MAIN GRANTS

- 2019- PRIN 2017, *Lost highway: skills, technology and trade in Italian economic growth, 1815-2018* (with G. Federico, A. Nuvolari and M.E. Virgillito): 602.000 Euro
- 2014-: e-doing business, *Insolvency and bankruptcy legislation, models of business, and firms governance in historical and comparative perspective (1900-2010)*, funded by The Leverhume Trust, International Network Grant
- 2011-2013: European Project e-Frame, *European Framework for Measuring Progress*, FP7-ICT-2011-3, Theme SSH.2011.6.2-1, funded by European Commission DG for Research and Innovation and Istat
- 2011: *L'industria italiana nel contesto internazionale: 150 anni di storia*, funded by Istituto Commercio Estero (ICE) and Comitato Leonardo
- 2010-2011: *Mapping Italian entrepreneurs: a quantitative approach*, funded by CISEPS (Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Economics, Psychology and Social Science)

- 2008-2010: *I grandi gruppi nel capitalismo italiano del Novecento*, funded by Assonime
- 2007-2010: FIRB Project, *Creation of a Centre for Advanced Studies and Research in Cooperation and Development at Bethlehem University*
- 2008-2009: *Social and economic determinants of entrepreneurship, a long-term perspective*, funded by Madrid Community
- 2006-2009: *Dimensione e performance dell'impresa pubblica italiana (1933-1991): il gruppo IRI*, funded by Fondazione IRI
- 2005-2007: PRIN Project, *Models of enterprise in the Italian 20th century industrial capitalism*

TEACHING

- Economic history (BA), Business history (MA), Economic history (MA), Economic history (PhD)

EDITORSHIP

- Senior Editor of *Management and Organizational History* and of *Investigaciones de Historia Economica*

REFEREEING

- Asian Business and Management, Business History, Cliometrica, Economic History Review, Enterprise & Society, European Journal of Political Economy, European Review of Economic History, Financial History Review, Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History, History of Technology (HofT), il Mulino, Imprese e Storia, Industrial and Corporate Change, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Evolutionary Economics, Journal of Institutional Economics, Journal of Management and Governance, Management and Organizational History, Nature Energy, Ricerche di Storia Economica e Sociale (RISES), Rivista di Storia Economica, Scandinavian Economic History Review, Structural Change and Economic Dynamics, Sociologica, Technology and Culture (T&C), VQR 2004-2010, VQR 2011-2014.

MEMBERSHIP

- Società Italiana degli Storici dell'Economia (SISE)
- Associazione per la Storia Economica (ASE)
- American Economic Association (AEA)
- European Historical Economics Society (EHES)
- European Business History Association (EBHA)
- Economic History Society (EHS)

MAIN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH I GAVE SEMINARS OR PRESENTED PAPERS AT CONFERENCE

Boston University (USA), Copenhagen Business School (Denmark); École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris (France); European University Institute (EUI), Fiesole (Italy); Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main (Germany); Hellenic Open University, Athens (Greece); Kyoto University (Japan); Instituto Rocasolano CSIC, Madrid (Spain); Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (Portugal); London School of Economics (UK); Lund University (Sweden); Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston (USA) Uppsala University (Sweden); Miami University (Florida - US); Stellenbosch University (South Africa); Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain); University of Birmingham (UK); Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina); Universidad de Cantabria (Spain); Universidad de Granada (Spain); Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain); Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcellona (Spain); Université Montesquieu Bordeaux IV (France); Université Paris IV-Sorbonne (France); University of Bonn; University of Cambridge (UK); University of Eindhoven (Netherlands); University of Geneva (Switzerland); University of Hawai'i-Mānoa (US); University of Helsinki (Finland); University of Lausanne (Switzerland); University of Manchester (UK); University of Massachusetts Lowell (US); University of Oslo (Norway); University of Oxford (UK); University of Reading (UK); University of Valencia (Spain), University of Wolverhampton (UK); University of Warwick (UK); University of York (UK); Utrecht University (Netherlands), Peking University (China), Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich (Germany), University of Berlin (Germany), Queen University Belfast; Royal Holloway University of London (UK), The University of Strasbourg (France), University of Tübingen (Germany).