June 2019 Newsletter

This is a monthly newsletter of updates from OpenRG Experts.
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Don Boyd
Don is Co-Director of the State and Local Government Finance Project at Rockefeller College, SUNY Albany, and a consultant, Open Source Policy Center.

- Boyd and colleagues Max Ghenis and Dan Feenberg met with staff of the IRS Statistics of Income program to discuss the work OSPC has been doing to develop synthetic tax data. They obtained clear guidance on procedures for reviewing synthetic data files for public release. Their next step is to develop a releasable beta file that can be used as input to the open source model, [Tax-Calculator](#).
- Boyd has been developing a "horserace" to compare methods that can be used to create state-specific tax microdata files from the national Public Use File.

Jason DeBacker
Jason is an Assistant Professor of economics at the University of South Carolina and a core maintainer of the open source models [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) and [OG–USA](#), which model business taxes and macroeconomic effects of tax policy, respectively.

- Led a week-long workshop for economists modeling pension reform at the Eurpean Commission's Joint Research Center in Seville, Spain.
- With Richard Evans, presented on open source models for fiscal policy analysis at the World Bank in Washington, DC.
- Released [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) version 1.0.2.
- Published a [web application for Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) on [the COMP platform](#).

Richard Evans
Richard is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Chicago, Director, of the Open Source Economics Laboratory, a Fellow with the Becker Friedman Institute, and President of OpenRG. He is also a core maintainer of [OG-USA](), a macroeconomic model for fiscal policy analysis in the U.S.

- With Jason DeBacker, presented on open source models for fiscal policy analysis at the World Bank in Washington, DC.

Anderson Frailey
Anderson is a Research Associate with the Open Source Policy Center at the American Enterprise Institute and a core maintainer of the open source [TaxData]() project, which cleans and prepares tax data for use in microsimulation tax models.

- Continued work on [Tax-Brain]().

Weifeng Zhong
Weifeng is a Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Weifeng is a core maintainer of the open-source [PCI models]().

- Published "Political Institutions and the Governmental Burden on Businesses," with Ruiqing Zhong, in the *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*. ([link]())
- Briefed staff of several members of the U.S. House of Representatives on the US-China trade fight and the PCI project.