April 2021 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.

- With colleagues Gang Chen and Yimeng Yin, conducted analysis of potential pension reforms in San Jose.
- Conducted analysis of state tax revenue volatility for the Pew Charitable Trusts.
- With colleagues Gang Chen and Yimeng Yin, conducted analysis of public pension risk-sharing policies adopted in South Dakota, Wisconsin and selected other states.
- Developed improved methods for estimating weights for tax microdata files that allow customizing these files for individual states and Congressional Districts.

Jason DeBacker
Jason is an Associate 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.*

- Illustrated how to use the Tax-Calculator model to produce stacked revenue estimates in a PSL Demo Day presentation (blog post with link to video here).

Max Ghenis
Max is President of the UBI Center and a core maintainer of the open source `microdf` project.

- Conducted an [analysis](#) of California AB65, which would provide $1,000 per month to some low- and middle-income adults.
- Quoted in stories from [Reason](#) and [SF Weekly](#) on Bay Area guaranteed income experiments.
- Participated in a [panel discussion](#) on UBI with Now! and Humanity Forward.

Jonathan Pycroft
Jon is an economic modeler and public finance economist based in Seville, Spain. He has experience building and working with computable general equilibrium models, overlapping generations models, and microsimulation models of tax and pension policies in Europe and Africa.

- Prepared the distribution of bequest estimates for Germany and incorporated them into the overlapping generations model EDGE-M3(DE).
- Worked on incorporating demographic data into the OG-UK model.
- Delivered simulations for EU corporate tax reform using the CORTAX computable general equilibrium model as part of a joint study with European Commission staff.

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-China](#), [PCI-Crackdown](#), and [PCI-Outbreak](#) models.

- The PCI-China's [2021 Q1 update](#) was released, shedding light on China's post-COVID policy priorities and its military aggressions.
- Discussed the Strategy Competition Act of 2021 and the PCI projects on the [American Radio Journal](#).
- Presented the PCI-Crackdown at the International Studies Association's annual convention.
- Presented the PCI-Outbreak at the Western Political Science Association's annual conference.