



August 2020 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.

- Continued work on producing synthetic state tax data based of the IRS public use file.
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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.

- Contributions to [Tax-Calculator 3.0.0](#), [Behavioral-Responses](#), and [OG-USA](#).
 - Served as a mentor to Max Ghenis for his capstone project in MIT's Data, Economics, and Development Policy Master's program.
 - *The Wall Street Journal* Editorial Board, Opinion article, "[Read Joe Biden's Lips: New Taxes](#)," (July 31, 2020) cites analysis by Pomerleau, DeBacker, and Evans ([link here](#)) evaluating Biden's tax proposals using the PSL Models open source [Tax-Calculator](#) and [OG-USA](#) models.
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Richard Evans

Richard is Advisory Board Visiting Fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, Director of the Open Source Economics Laboratory, and President of OpenRG. He

is also a core maintainer of [OG-USA](#), a macroeconomic model for fiscal policy analysis in the U.S.

- Rick is co-organizing the “Second AAI Workshop on Privacy-Preserving Artificial Intelligence,” with Ferdinando Fioretto and Pascal Van Hentenryck at the [35th AAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence](#), February 2-9, 2021.
 - *The Wall Street Journal* Editorial Board, Opinion article, "[Read Joe Biden's Lips: New Taxes](#)," (July 31, 2020) cites analysis by Pomerleau, DeBacker, and Evans ([link here](#)) evaluating Biden’s tax proposals using the PSL Models open source [Tax-Calculator](#) and [OG-USA](#) models.
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Anderson Frailey

Anderson is an economics PhD student at the University of Virginia and a core maintainer of the open source [TaxData](#) and [Tax-Brain](#) projects.

- TaxData release 0.1.0
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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.

- Improved the calibration and testing of the fiscal closure in the EDGE-M3 overlapping generations model.
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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.

- Continue to brief US lawmakers and policymakers on the PCI projects.
- Discussed PCI’s capabilities of predicting China’s next moves in the [Building the Future podcast](#) with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- Discussed PCI-China’s 2020 Q2 updates and China’s post-COVID policy agenda in the [Tribune News Service](#).

- PCI-Outbreak was demonstrated at the Data Science Conference on COVID-19 this month.
- PCI-Crackdown will be presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association next month.
- Published a paper, "On the Observational Implications of Knightian Uncertainty," joint with Kevin A. Hassett, in the *B. E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*.