OpenRG
Open Research Group, Inc.

August 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.

- Prepared draft report, with Matt Jensen, on the 50-state impact of a policy to repeal the cap on the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction.
- Began a compensation study of selected state government occupations in California.
- Developed preliminary estimates of a potential tax on polluters for a foundation in New York City.

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](#), [Tax-Calculator](#), and [OG–USA](#), which model business taxes and macroeconomic effects of tax policy, respectively.

- Released Tax-Calculator 3.2.1
- Released OG-USA 0.7.0
- Released OG-Core 0.7.0
- Presented in a PSL Demo Day on unit testing open source software (blog post [here](#))
- Submitted proposals to the World Bank and the Smith Richardson Foundation to support open source policy modeling

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

- Presented research on universal basic income in the UK at the Basic Income Earth Network Congress: [Blank Slate UBI](#) and [Funding UBI with a land value tax](#).
- [Estimated](#) the poverty impacts of US carbon dividends at various prices.
- [Analyzed](#) the Guaranteed Income Tax Credit in Rep Ilhan Omar's SUPPORT Act (with Nate Golden).

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.

- Wrote about the Phillips Machine, MONIAC, contributing to a University of Málaga project to recreate a hydraulic economic model
- Developed the distributional impact indicators for the EDGE-M3 overlapping generations model results

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 Q2 update](#) was released, shedding light on China's post-COVID policy priorities and its military aggressions.
- Published essay "The China Challenge: The West Struggles To Respond To Beijing's Forced-Labor Camps" in *[Discourse](#)*.
- Published op-ed "Why the U.S. Should Relax about the China-Taliban Romance" in *[The Hill](#)*.
- Published op-ed "Only U.S. Clarity Can Prevent a Chinese Invasion of Taiwan" in *[Washington Examiner](#)*.
- Discussed U.S.-China relations in Fox Business, Cheddar News, John Batchelor Show, David Webb Show, Federal News Radio, Freedom Works Radio, and Steel on Steel.