



February 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.

- Don and colleagues at Rockefeller College have been extending their stochastic pension simulation model, which models the finances of public pension funds, to incorporate policies that share risks between plan beneficiaries and contributing governments. The goal is to develop a guidebook for policymakers on the potential impacts of different risk-sharing policies on workers, retirees, governments, and pension plans.
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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.

- Jason's paper, "Tax Noncompliance and Measures of Income Inequality", was published in the February 17th issue of *Tax Notes*.
 - Jason and Rick's work on modeling European pension systems with economists at the European Commission's Joint Research Center in Seville was presented at a JRC workshop on February 14.
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Richard Evans

Richard is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Chicago, 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.

- Jason and Rick's work on modeling European pension systems with economists at the European Commission's Joint Research Center in Seville was presented at a JRC workshop on February 14.
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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](#) and [PCI-Crackdown](#) models.

- Continue to brief US lawmakers and policymakers on the PCI projects.
- The research paper behind the [PCI-Crackdown](#) "Predicting Authoritarian Crackdowns: A Machine Learning Approach," was [released](#) as part of the Mercatus Working Paper series.