



February 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.

- Boyd and colleagues released a [report](#) on public pension risk-sharing policies, funded by Arnold Ventures, discussed [here](#).
 - Prepared final report for Society of Actuaries examining research on the impact of sustained low interest rates on retirement security.
 - Consulted with the Pew Charitable Trusts on methods for forecasting state revenue.
 - Consulted with the Pew Charitable Trusts on modeling public pension risk-sharing policies.
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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.

- Presented to the Gamecock Economic Society: “How economics and data science can solve public policy issues”.
- Gave [a talk in the PSL Demo Day series](#) on how to contribute to open source projects.
- Upgraded the [Tax-Brain documentation](#) to Jupyter Book.

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.

- Evans published a policy brief for the new Biden Administration entitled, "[U.S. Deficits, Debt, and Dimensions of Analysis](#)," with Jorge Barro and Joyce Beebe, Policy Brief: Recommendations for the New Administration, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy (January 27, 2021).

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.

- Produced macroeconomic and revenue estimates for EU-wide corporate tax reforms for a European Commission study.
- Produced an early draft of recommendations for increasing the production of good quality distributional impact assessment in budget processes across Europe as part of an EU study.
- Online publication finalised for article in [Economic Systems Research](#): "How large is the corporate tax base erosion and profit shifting? A general equilibrium approach" co-authored with María T. Álvarez-Martínez, Salvador Barrios, Diego d'Andria, Maria Gesualdo & Gaëtan Nicodème.

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 [2020 Q4 update](#) was released, shedding light on China's post-COVID policy priorities.

- Published commentary “The Capitol Insurrection Through the Lens of Chinese Propaganda” in the [*Discourse Magazine*](#).
- Published commentary “Biden Is Now the President, But Does That Matter For America's China Policy?” in [*The National Interest*](#).