



## January 2020 Newsletter

*This is a monthly newsletter of updates from OpenRG Experts.  
For more updates on OpenRG, follow us on Twitter [@OpenRG](#)*

---

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.*

- Led a training session on the public pension crisis for fiscal journalists from around the country, hosted at the [Ravitch Fiscal Reporting Program](#) at the City University of New York.
  - Delivered web [presentation](#) on *Population Aging and State Taxes* to the Financial Modernization and Risk Analysis Study Committee of the Montana State Legislature.
  - Prepared draft paper on fiscal issues and risks facing the New York City Teachers' Retirement System, based on a stochastic simulation model, with colleagues Gang Chen and Yimeng Yin.
  - Prepared draft chapter with Yimeng Yin on public pension reforms for *Gathering Storm: The Risks of State Pension Underfunding*, a book to be published by Cambridge University Press based on an October 2017 [conference](#) at the Harvard Kennedy School.
  - The Pew Charitable Trusts released a [technical report](#) by Boyd on *Demographics, Aging, and State Taxes*.
- 

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 has a paper, "Tax Noncompliance and Measures of Income Inequality", accepted to *Tax Notes*.

---

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.*

- Rick presented his work "[Public Debt, Interest Rates, and Negative Shocks](#)" at the American Economic Association 2020 Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 4, 2020, San Diego, California, in the session entitled, "[Is United States Deficit Policy Playing with Fire?](#)".

---

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.*

- Presented the PCI projects at the [Tech Demo](#) held by the Global Engagement Center at the US Department of State and at the M.A. Workshop held by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.
- Continue to brief US lawmakers and policymakers on the PCI projects.
- Updated the PCI-China with the [2019 Q4 data](#).
- Continue to provide [updates](#) on the PCI-Crackdown and shed light on the ongoing Hong Kong protests.