



January 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.

- With colleagues at Rockefeller College, completed [Public Pension Risk-Sharing Policies: A Policymaker's Guidebook](#), supported by [Arnold Ventures](#).
 - Consulted on an evaluation of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, a Medicaid waiver in New York.
 - Provided training to journalists around the country on public pension fiscal and policy issues, through the [Ravitch Fiscal Reporting Program](#) at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York.
 - With a colleague at Rockefeller College, prepared a draft review of research on the impact of a persistent low-interest rate environment on retirement security, in response to a [research request from the Society of Actuaries](#).
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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.

- Updates to the Cost-of-Capital Calculator and OG-USA
- Work with TPC on analysis of President Biden's tax proposals
- Paper with Wes Routon, "A Culture of Despair? Inequality and Expectations of Educational Success", accepted to *Contemporary Economic Policy*.

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.

- Work with TPC on analysis of President Biden's tax proposals
- Presented on using OG-USA through the Compute Studio web application in the PSL Demo days ([video](#), [blog post](#))

Max Ghenis

Max is President of the UBI Center and a core maintainer of the open source [microdf](#) project.

- [Reviewed](#) news and economic research on universal basic income from 2020.
- [Published](#) blog post showing how UBI would reduce racial poverty disparities.
- [Showed](#) how to use `microdf` and `scf` packages to track wealth inequality over time at Policy Simulation Library Demo Day.

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.

- Contributed to the Draft Interim Report for an EU study on distribution impact assessment within the budgetary process across the 27 Member States.
- Joined a project simulating changes to corporate tax in the EU.
- Joined a project working on the calibration of an overlapping generations model for Germany, EDGE-M3(DE).
- Began work on a calibration file for OG-MOD, which is intended to become a country-agnostic overlapping generations model.

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.

- Presented the PCI project at the Allied Social Science Associations' annual conference and the Southern Political Science Association's annual conference.