



July 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.

- Presented research on the potential consequences of public pension risk-sharing policies at the Brookings Institution's *9th Annual Municipal Finance Conference*, via webinar, with colleagues Gang Chen and Yimeng Yin.
 - Continued work on weighting state microdata tax files, in preparation for consulting projects.
 - Presented in a session on the *The Role of Federal Dollars to Address Unprecedented State and Local Needs* in the Covid-19 recession, at a webinar held jointly by the Volcker Alliance and the Penn Institute for Urban Research.
 - Began a consulting project on the potential for New York City tax base erosion in the wake of the Covid-19 recession.
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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.

- Added additional parameters and updated tax logic in [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) for more flexible modeling of the taxation of capital gains at death.
- Continued modeling work with Tax Policy Center

Richard Evans

Richard is Advisory Board Visiting Fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, Associate Director and Senior Lecturer at the University of Chicago M.A. Program in Computational Social Science, 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.

- Continued modeling work with Tax Policy Center

Anderson Frailey

Anderson is an economics PhD student at the University of Virginia and a core maintainer of the open source [TaxData](#) and [Tax-Brain](#) projects.

- Continued work to refactor [TaxData](#) and update for new CBO forecasts

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.

- Presented at the JRC Working Group [Understanding and Managing Industrial Transitions](#) as part of the support coalition for measuring and modelling transitions.
- Continued work on a tax policy study of Italy using the EDGE-M3 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.

- The [PCI-Outbreak](#) project, which estimates the true scale of COVID-19 in China based on its state-controlled media, went live. The project launch was featured in Politico's [China Watcher](#) newsletter.
- The PCI-China's [2020 Q2 update](#) was released, shedding light on China's post-COVID policy priorities.
- [PCI-Crackdown](#) continues to monitor the possibility of a violent crackdown on Hong Kong protesters by Chinese military.
- The PCI project is "up in the air," making several radio appearances, including the Lars Larson Show and the David Webb Show, among others.