



## March 2019 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.*

- Continued to work with colleagues at OSPC on a pilot project to develop a synthetic version of the IRS Public Use File of income tax returns that serve as an input into [Tax-Calculator](#).
  - Developed a preliminary proposal to build an income tax model for the New York State personal income tax and an associated microdata file of state income tax records, to be funded by a consortium of funders.
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Jason DeBacker

*Jason is an assistant 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.*

- Published "[Revenue and Macroeconomic Effects of a 70% Marginal Tax Rate](#)", with Anderson Frailey in *Quantitative Notes*.
- "[The Impact of State Taxes on Pass-Through Businesses: Evidence from the 2012 Kansas Income Tax Reform](#)", with Brad Heim, Shanthi Ramnath, and Justin Ross was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Public Economics*.
- Updated the [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) to allow users to easily modify all parameters of the model when running simulations.

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Richard Evans

*Richard is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Chicago, Director, of the Open Source Economics Laboratory, a Fellow with the Becker Friedman Institute, and President of OpenRG. He is also a core maintainer of [OG-USA](#), a macroeconomic model for fiscal policy analysis in the U.S.*

- Travelled to Seville, Spain, March 18-22, to work with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. Rick spent the week working through economic theory and writing code with economists at the JRC as part of an OpenRG project supporting the development of a public pension module for the JRC's large-scale overlapping generations model of tax policy.
- The Open Source Economics Laboratory boot camp has formed a three-year partnership with the Econometric Society's Dynamic Structural Economics Workshop and Conference to hold their meetings together.

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Anderson Frailey

*Anderson is a Research Associate with the Open Source Policy Center at the American Enterprise Institute and a core maintainer of the open source [TaxData](#) project, which cleans and prepares tax data for use in microsimulation tax models.*

- Published "[Revenue and Macroeconomic Effects of a 70% Marginal Tax Rate](#)", with Jason DeBacker in *Quantitative Notes*.
- Updated [TaxData](#) to use the new January 2019 CBO economic projects. This allows Tax-Calculator to make projections out to 2029.
- Released Tax-Brain 2.0. [Tax-Brain](#) is a new project that serves as a wrapper for other tax models, making it easier to deploy and maintain web applications for these models.

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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 models](#).*

- Published "[Will China fold on structural issues? An algorithm says not anytime soon](#)", with Julian TszKin Chan in the *China Business Review*.
- Presented on the PCI project at the [Analytics Frontiers](#) conference in Charlotte, NC.
- Updated the PCI-China index with the 2018 Q4 data.