



March 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, prepared preliminary analysis of public pension risk-sharing policies in Maine, South Dakota, and Tennessee.
 - Prepared [article](#) for Society of Actuaries newsletter regarding release of a policymakers' [guidebook](#) to public pension risk-sharing policies. The guidebook and article were prepared with Rockefeller College colleagues Gang Chen and Yimeng Yin.
 - Submitted final report to Society of Actuaries analyzing academic and industry research on implications of a persistent low-interest-rate environment for retirement security in the United States.
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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 research on corporate income tax compliance to the Economics Department at the University of South Carolina.
- Quoted in a [Wall Street Journal article](#) on new research on tax avoidance.
- Coauthored a *Quantitative Note* with Richard Evans and Cody Kallen on using PSL models to analyze the ARPA.
- Coauthored a *Quantitative Note* with Richard Evans, Max Ghenis, and Cody Kallen on the distributional impacts of the ARPA.
- Released [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) version 1.2.6 on Conda-Forge

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.

- Coauthored a *Quantitative Note* with Jason DeBacker and Cody Kallen on using PSL models to analyze the ARPA.
- Coauthored a *Quantitative Note* with Jason DeBacker, Max Ghenis, and Cody Kallen on the distributional impacts of the ARPA.

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.

- Released Tax-Brain 2.5.0 on Conda-Forge

Max Ghenis

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

- Co-authored an [analysis](#) of US poverty by gender, and how different universal basic income policies would affect these disparities.
 - Coauthored a *Quantitative Note* with Jason DeBacker, Richard Evans, and Cody Kallen on the distributional impacts of the ARPA.
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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.

- Began work on bequest estimates for the EDGE-M3-DE overlapping generations model.
 - Co-authored the Interim Report for an EU study on distribution impact assessment within the budgetary process across the 27 Member States.
 - Continued work on simulating changes to corporate tax in the EU for a European Commission study.
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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-China](#), [PCI-Crackdown](#), and [PCI-Outbreak](#) models.

- Discussed the PCI projects and U.S.-China relations on [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#) and [Fox 5's Final 5](#), and The John Batchelor Show.
 - Published commentary "Hong Kong Isn't an Endgame for China. It's a Starting Point." in [The Dispatch](#).
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