



## November 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.*

- Developed microsimulation income tax data for 10 states, with Matt Jensen, in preparation for an analysis of the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on New York and other states.
  - Panelist in the webinar, *Assuring Public Worker Retirement Security Amid COVID-19 Fiscal Stress*, convened by The Volcker Alliance and Penn Institute for Urban Research.
  - Discussant on papers on value-added taxation and on household response to fiscal stimulus in session, *Laboratories of Democracy? Examining Differences in Results in a Federalist System* at the National Tax Association Annual Meetings.
  - Completed report on potential New York City tax base erosion for the Manhattan Institute.
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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.*

- Interview on Virtual Global Village Podcast released. [Link](#).
- PSL Model Demo Day presentation on [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator web application](#).
- Presented research, "Tax Incentives and Patent Creation: Evidence from China" at the National Tax Association Annual Meetings
- Presented research on corporate responses to audit to economists in the IRS' Large Business and International group.

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Max Ghenis

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

- Gave a [talk](#) on building an open source think tank at the PyData Global conference.
- Published a [simulation](#) of child allowance policies across US states (with UBI Center colleagues).
- Published a [blog post](#) quantifying the effect of universal basic income policies on veterans.

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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.*

- Participated in the official Kick-Off Meeting for the EU study on distributional impact assessment of budget reforms across Member States.
- Worked on tax reform simulations for Italy, where income tax changes are matched by adjustments in consumption tax, using the partially open economy version of the EDGE-M3 overlapping generations model.
- Joined a group led by José Luis Torres from the University of Málaga seeking to build a [hydraulic macroeconomic model](#).

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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.*

- The PCI-China's [2020 Q3 update](#) was released, shedding light on China's post-COVID policy priorities.
- The PCI project was presented at the [Data Natives](#) conference.
- Published op-ed "China's Big Brother Is Watching Your Democratic Process" in [The Diplomat](#).

