OpenRG
Open Research Group, Inc.

November 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 Matt Jensen, prepared [blog posts at *AEIdeas*](#) on state-by-state impacts of raising the cap on the state and local tax (SALT) deduction to $80,000, as proposed in the *Build Back Better* package. This analysis was [covered by the *Bond Buyer*](#).
- With Gang Chen and Yimeng Yin, conducted analysis of policy options related to retiree health care benefits of former employees of the San Francisco Unified School District, for an organization in California.
- Prepared final draft of report on options for deeply distressed pension plans, and policies to help avoid deep distress

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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](#), [Tax-Calculator](#), and [OG–USA](#), which model business taxes and macroeconomic effects of tax policy, respectively.

- [Quoted in MarketWatch](#) about the effectiveness of additional IRS enforcement efforts
- Presented research on corporate tax avoidance at the National Tax Association Annual Meetings
- Served as a discussant in a session on accrual taxes at the National Tax Association Annual Meetings
- [Presented on the OG-Core platform](#) in the PSL Demo Days series.

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

- [Co-authored a report](#) on the UBI Lab Network's proposal for a comprehensive "Resilience UBI" policy in the UK.
- [Presented](#) on PolicyEngine and the UBI Center to the UK Cross Party Parliamentary and Local Government Group on Universal Basic Income.
- Presented the synthimpute Python package for data fusion, synthesis, and imputation at the PSL 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.

- Presented to the EU Conference on modelling for policy support on methodologies for linking models.
- Began an agreement with the European Commission to upgrade their corporate tax policy modelling capacity.
- Visited the University of Málaga as part of a project to build a hydraulic macroeconomic model.