September 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.

- IRS Statistics of Income branch approved the synthetic tax data file prepared by Boyd and his OSPC colleagues for release.
- Boyd will present their work on synthetic data at a Policy Simulation Library event on November 26.

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.

- Updated [OG-USA](#) to work with [ParamTools](#) ([PR #494](#))
- Had paper, "Macroeconomic Effects of Reducing OASI to Payable Benefits: A Comparison of Seven Overlapping Generations Models", joint with Jaeger Nelson, Kerk Phillips, Seth Benzell, Efraim Berkovich, Robert Carroll, Guillermo Cuevas, John Diamond, Richard W. Evans, Jagadeesh Gokhale, Laurence Kotlikoff, James Mackie, Rachel Moore, Brandon Pecoraro, Brandon Pizzola, Victor Ye, and George Zodrow, accepted to the *National Tax Journal,* to appear in the December 2019 issue.

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.

- Had paper, "Macroeconomic Effects of Reducing OASI to Payable Benefits: A Comparison of Seven Overlapping Generations Models", joint with Jaeger Nelson, Kerk Phillips, Seth Benzell, Efraim Berkovich, Robert Carroll, Guillermo Cuevas, Jason DeBacker, John Diamond, Jagadeesh Gokhale, Laurence Kotlikoff, James Mackie, Rachel Moore, Brandon Pecoraro, Brandon Pizzola, Victor Ye, and George Zodrow, accepted to the *National Tax Journal,* to appear in the December 2019 issue.

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.

- Tax-Brain was cited in the paper "Taxing the Rich: Issues and Options" by Lily L. Batchelder and David Kamin, professors at the NYU School of Law

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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 and PCI-Crackdown models.

- A new project in the Policy Change Index (PCI) series, the PCI-Crackdown, was launched. The project uses machine learning to predict if and when the 2019 Hong Kong protests will be met with a Tiananmen-like crackdown. Daily updates on the PCI-Crackdown are available here.
- The PCI projects were presented at the Federal Reserve Board and the NBER Economics of Artificial Intelligence Conference in Toronto.
- Continued to brief US lawmakers and policymakers on the PCI projects.