



A weekly intelligence brief on tools, data, and systems for applied social science.

Week of 2026-05-12

Executive Summary

5 new repositories selected. 3 categories represented. largest sections: Datasets, data pipelines, wrappers and dashboards (2), Research code and methods (2), Agentic tools (1). top item: Difference-in-differences toolkit for policy evaluation. 26 new working papers selected across Development, Economic Theory, Finance.

How scoring works: Score ranges from 0 to 1 and is built from relevance (25%), practical usefulness (20%), documentation quality (15%), recency (15%), popularity proxy based on stars (10%), novelty versus the existing archive (10%), and category fit (5%). Relevance (25%) asks whether the item is really about reusable tools, data, or workflows for applied social science. Practical usefulness (20%) favors things that researchers can actually run, reuse, or plug into a workflow, especially if they produce concrete outputs or improve agent-supported work. Documentation quality (15%) rewards clear README files with setup, usage, or examples. Recency (15%) rewards tools that were updated recently. Popularity (10%) uses a simple stars-based proxy, so it is only a rough signal of external traction. Novelty (10%) rewards items that are new relative to the existing local archive. Category fit (5%) checks whether the item lands cleanly in one of the newsletter's core sections rather than a weak fallback bucket.

Clickable Summary

Datasets, data pipelines, wrappers and dashboards

2 repositories for finding, collecting, structuring, accessing, and monitoring reusable applied social science data across labor economics, regional economics.

Tool	Description
WARN notice scraper for US mass layoff data	CLI scraper for WARN Act notices from state websites, useful for labor-market event tracking.
Python connector for FRED macro data	Lightweight Python package for pulling FRED series into reproducible macro workflows.

Research code and methods

2 repositories with reusable empirical methods and research code relevant to applied microeconomics, political economy.

Tool	Description
Difference-in-differences toolkit for policy evaluation	Python DiD package with Callaway-Sant'Anna, Synthetic DiD, Honest DiD, and event-study support.
Distribution treatment effects package in Python	Python package for distribution treatment effects and regression adjustment beyond mean effects.

Agentic tools

1 tools focused on research automation, agent setup, memory, review, and workflow support for general applied social science, evidence synthesis.

Tool	Description
Research assistant stack for OpenAlex, PubMed, and Zotero	Agentic research assistant for literature search, systematic reviews, and project workflows via MCP connectors.

Highlights of the Week

Difference-in-differences toolkit for policy evaluation

Score 0.83

Python DiD package with Callaway-Sant'Anna, Synthetic DiD, Honest DiD, and event-study support.

Source: GitHub

[Open original source](#)

Distribution treatment effects package in Python

Score 0.79

Python package for distribution treatment effects and regression adjustment beyond mean effects.

Source: GitHub

[Open original source](#)

Research assistant stack for OpenAlex, PubMed, and Zotero

Score 0.76

Agentic research assistant for literature search, systematic reviews, and project workflows via MCP connectors.

Source: GitHub

[Open original source](#)

WARN notice scraper for US mass layoff data

Score 0.74

CLI scraper for WARN Act notices from state websites, useful for labor-market event tracking.

Source: GitHub

[Open original source](#)

Python connector for FRED macro data

Score 0.72

Lightweight Python package for pulling FRED series into reproducible macro workflows.

Source: GitHub

[Open original source](#)

DATASETS, DATA PIPELINES, WRAPPERS AND DASHBOARDS

WARN notice scraper for US mass layoff data

Source: [GitHub](#)

[Open original source](#)

Best for	Domain	Score
event studies, data engineering, local labor market monitoring	labor economics, regional economics, public policy	0.74

Description: Command-line interface for downloading WARN Act notices of qualified plant closings and mass layoffs from state government websites.

How researchers could use it: Useful for labor economics, regional adjustment, and event-study work that needs dated layoff and plant-closing events.

Back to summary: Return to Datasets, data pipelines, wrappers and dashboards overview

Python connector for FRED macro data

Source: [GitHub](#)

[Open original source](#)

Best for	Domain	Score
macro monitoring, reproducible data pulls, dashboard inputs	macroeconomics, monetary economics, applied forecasting	0.72

Description: Python connector for the Federal Reserve Economic Data API, aimed at recurring series pulls and reusable indicator workflows.

How researchers could use it: Useful for macro tracking, central-bank watching, and building small reproducible data pulls around FRED series.

Back to summary: Return to Datasets, data pipelines, wrappers and dashboards overview

RESEARCH CODE AND METHODS

Difference-in-differences toolkit for policy evaluation

Source: *GitHub*

[Open original source](#)

Best for	Domain	Score
policy evaluation, event studies, research workflows	applied microeconomics, political economy, sociology and demography	0.83

Description: Difference-in-differences toolkit with modern staggered-adoption estimators, event studies, and sensitivity-analysis options.

How researchers could use it: Useful for policy evaluation, event studies, and replicated DiD pipelines in economics and political science.

Back to summary: Return to Research code and methods overview

Distribution treatment effects package in Python

Source: *GitHub*

[Open original source](#)

Best for	Domain	Score
distributional analysis, heterogeneity, causal inference	public economics, labor economics, development	0.79

Description: Package for estimating distribution treatment effects with regression adjustment, aimed at studying how interventions shift full outcome distributions.

How researchers could use it: Useful for heterogeneity, inequality, and policy analysis when you care about quantiles or distribution shifts, not only the mean.

Back to summary: Return to Research code and methods overview

AGENTIC TOOLS

Research assistant stack for OpenAlex, PubMed, and Zotero

Source: *GitHub*

[Open original source](#)

Best for	Domain	Score
literature reviews, research workflows, agent workflows	general applied social science, evidence synthesis	0.76

Description: Research assistant stack for VS Code and Copilot that connects literature databases, citation tools, and project workflows through MCP servers.

How researchers could use it: Useful for literature reviews, evidence mapping, and repeatable desk research in applied social science.

Back to summary: Return to Agentic tools overview

Working Papers This Week

Development

- [Prenatal Conditions and Midlife Mental Health: Evidence from an Alcohol Policy Experiment](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [Health Inequalities Among Danish Retirees 2004-2022](#)
Paul Bingley, Nabanita Datta Gupta, Malene Kallestrup-Lamb, Alexander O.K. Marin | NBER | NBER Working Papers

Economic Theory

- [Distribution-Free Equilibrium in Search Contests](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [Adam Smith and the Role of the Towns in Feudal Europe](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [Intertemporal Pass-Through](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers

Finance

- [The Trafalgar Squeeze of Global Liquidity](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [Land Reforms in Developing Financial Markets: Lessons from England's Land Enclosures 1750-1830](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers

General Economics

- [Building Opportunity: The Intergenerational Effects of Chilean School Construction](#)
Adrienne Lucas, Patrick McEwan | NBER | NBER Working Papers
- [What Does A Grade Mean? Informativeness and Strategic Manipulation of Grading Systems](#)
Joshua S. Gans, Scott Duke Kominers | NBER | NBER Working Papers
- [Revealing Life Preferences Through LLMs](#)
Omar Abdel Haq, Amitabh Chandra, TomAA Jagelka, Erzo F.P. Luttmer, Joshua Schwartzstein | NBER | NBER Working Papers
- [Extreme Equilibria: The Benefits of Correlation](#)
Kirill Rudov, Fedor Sandomirskiy, Leeat Yariv | NBER | NBER Working Papers

Industrial Organization

- [Organisational Values, Self-Image and Inclusion: Evidence from a Field Experiment](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [AI Safety and Competition](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers

Labor Economics

- [The Social Multiplier of Pension Reform](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [A Randomized Experiment on Improving Job Search Skills of Older Unemployed Workers](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers

Macroeconomics

- [The Taylor Rule: did the Fed use discretion instead?](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [Intertemporal Universalism](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [Exchange Rate Insulation Revisited](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [The Success of the Embedded State in England](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [How Should Central Banks Respond to Commodity Price Shocks? Optimal Monetary and Exchange Rate Frameworks for Commodity-Exposed Economies](#)
Thomas Drechsel, Michael McLeay, Silvana Tenreyro, Enrico D. Turri | NBER | NBER Working Papers

Political Economy

- [Midterm Reviews and Democratic Resilience](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [The Seniority Ceiling: Why Some Immigrants Struggle to Rise in Political Office](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers

Public Economics

- [Paying More and Buying Less: 2025 Tariffs and U.S. Household Spending](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [Externalities and Distrust](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers
- [Cooperate More, Connect Less: The Network Consequences of Zero-Sum Environments](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers

Trade and International

- [Estimating Tax-Dependent Compliance: Theory and Evidence from Trade Wars](#)
CEPR | CEPR Discussion Papers