

Free Public Lecture on the role of mathematics in the U.S. financial crisis

The public is invited to attend this timely talk that takes a deeper look into the underlying causes of financial crises and suggests proposals for regulatory reform.

“Kill All The Quants”?

Models vs. Mania In The Current Financial Crisis

Andrew W. Lo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Harris & Harris Group Professor of Finance

Director, MIT Laboratory for Financial Engineering



As the shockwaves of the financial crisis of 2008 propagate throughout the global economy, the “blame game” has begun in earnest, with some fingers pointing to the complexity of certain financial securities and the mathematical models used to manage them. In his talk, Lo will review the evidence for and against this view and argue that a broader perspective will show a much different picture.

Blaming quantitative analysis for the financial crisis is akin to blaming $E = MC^2$ for nuclear meltdowns.

A deeper look into the underlying causes of financial crises will ultimately lead to the conclusion that bubbles, crashes, and market dislocation are unavoidable consequences of hardwired human behavior coupled with free enterprise and modern capitalism. However, even though crises cannot be legislated away, there are many ways to reduce their disruptive effects. Lo will conclude the lecture with a set of proposals for regulatory reform.

Wednesday, July 8, 2009, 6:15–7:15 PM

Colorado Convention Center / Four Seasons Room 4

A reception will follow the lecture in the Four Seasons foyer from 7:15–8:15 PM.

FREE ADMISSION and open to the public!

Check back to www.siam.org/meetings/an09 for updates.



This lecture is part of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics' Annual Meeting. For more info: 215-382-9800 x329.

