

You are cordially invited to the

## **Seminar on** **COUNTERFACTUAL DISASTER ANALYSIS**

**Abstract:**

The word 'disaster' originally signifies an unfavourable aspect of a star. Only astrologers would believe that disasters are pre-determined, yet historical disaster events are universally taken as fixed data points, whereas there is a large degree of randomness associated with the time, place and size of any disaster. The insights gained from counterfactual disaster analysis are highlighted, with specific examples drawn from a variety of natural and man-made hazards. Implications for disaster preparedness and risk mitigation are identified.

**Speaker: Dr Gordon Woo**

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Dr. Gordon Woo is an adjunct professor at ICRM, and a catastrophist with Risk Management Solutions, London. His experience of working in all areas of catastrophe science is reflected in his book, 'Calculating Catastrophe', published in 2011, and printed in Singapore by World Scientific Press. For his work on catastrophe insurance, he was named by Treasury & Risk magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in finance. Top mathematics graduate of Cambridge University, he completed his PhD at MIT as a Kennedy Scholar, and was a member of the Harvard Society of Fellows.