

QUESTION	Number of answers	No opinion	E (3)	G (2)	F (1)	P (0)	Rating
Registration Process	31	1	25	5			2.83
Audio	31		7	17	5	2	1.94
Visuals	29		8	15	5	1	2.03
Watts	28		20	8			2.71
Jones	25	1	18	6			2.75
Klare	20		15	5			2.75
Gill	25		20	5			2.80
Mednicoff	26		1	5	10	10	0.88
Q and A sessions	28		9	15	4		2.18
Food	6				4	2	0.67
Seating Arrangement	Answers		This year format	Last year format	Indifferent		
	18		9	7	2		

Note: The rating is obtained by ignoring the "no opinion", counting Excellent as 3, Good as 2, Fair as 1 and Poor as 0.

Comments(unedited):

I think Mr. Meyer did a great job lining up the speakers! Many thanks to him and to those who carried the program. A very stimulating and enjoyable experience. Philippe you have done an amazing job. 5CLIR should be very grateful. Still an excellent program. Congratulations and many thanks. Visually - as far as the speaker is concerned, the last year's arrangement was better. For the audience - I think that this year's arrangement worked pretty well. The sound system is just loud enough - BUT it is a lot harder to see the speaker if you are anywhere past the first six or seven rows.

Thank YOU Philippe!!! This was the BEST Great Decisions I have attended in the 10 years I have been an LIR member. Everything was well organized, ran smoothly - you have the logistics down just right - and the speakers (except for today's) were simply fantastic!!!! I hope you plan to do this for at least another 10 years. (This year was SO GOOD that it will be very hard to do an equally great ENCORE!)

Up until today(4/25), the sessions have been great and everyone involved is to be greatly commended. Thank you all for your work in preparing this. You did a great job, Philippe, and your committee too. I preferred Professor Gill's interaction with the audience and her clear presentation.

Why don't we get speakers from Smith College?

Superb! Except for today, the best yet!

With MANY thanks to you, Philippe, and to your committee

Four of the speakers were top-notch. Each in his (and her) own individual style was informative, clear, provocative and absorbing. What more could you ask? By contrast, the last speaker gave lip service to the fact that the LIR audience is intelligent and informed, and he contrasted us to his typical student audience - YET his approach seemed appropriate only to an uninterested and unknowing group; he repeated himself endlessly and never got around to making whatever point it was that he was aiming for. His verbal tics were irritating and would have been more easily overlooked if the substance had been more focussed. In the discussion period, he failed to respond to questions or comments and continued his own stuff. In the end, he succeeded in making the previous excellent speakers look positively heaven-sent. Overall: You did a great job. The pre-registration process, along with the pre-printed ID, was inspired. Surely, check-in was easier than it was in other years. The topics, if grim, were timely and signally important, and with the single exception, your speakers were stronger than ever. Carry on. Perhaps last year's format was better because there was a feeling this year of half of the audience was far removed from the action. Technical issues with the equipment was annoying at the start of nearly all DVD presentations. The scurrying around and talking by assistants during the speakers presentation was very distracting and made it difficult to hear that segment of the talk. I did not feel that the same

courtesy was extended to all who asked questions with one "microphone man" even making obvious faces or body gestures when a questioner would take a little longer than others to ask a question or when they phrased their question in a different manner than others.

This did improve at the last presentation with a new "microphone man" who I felt operated in an egalitarian manner.

Thanks again! The committee did a superb job of organizing and presenting a relevant and often exciting program. Participation by committee members in introducing speakers, regulating discussion when necessary and facilitating discussion was first rate. I was impressed by your ability to switch to Plan B when you ran into technological glitches.

The best presentations were those eliciting differences of opinion and point of view.

In general, the series was very good, with several of the presentations exceptionally interesting. Over time, the failures of the A-V equipment became really annoying, though it was clear people were trying very hard to make it work better. The Foreign Policy Association needs to do a better job of diversifying its "experts" -- too many old white guys. The final program was particularly disappointing, with a pseudo-topic and an inarticulate guest speaker. I found it frustrating that I was told by a representative of the restaurant at the first session that I could not bring my travel mug of coffee in with me, but I noted a number of other attendees with beverages at that and at later sessions -- the rules should be consistent for everyone.

A COUPLE OF THE SPEAKERS DID NOT ADDRESS THE SPECIFIED TOPICS TO THE DEGREE I WOULD HAVE LIKED.

ALSO, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD STICK TO THE FORMAT OF HAVING THE SPEAKER RESPOND TO THE VIDEO, ENLARGE HIS/HER OWN THOUGHTS ABOUT THE TOPIC, THEN TAKE QUESTIONS AFTER THE BREAK.

Lunch on the 18th was disaster. Tepid soup made with asparagus bottoms: the stuff we throw away. Two servers who were totally inept, tepid coffee, no sugar or cream, lousy buffet we should get a refund. This program is well done. I preferred this year's seating. I really learned a lot from all the seminars, and look forward to next year 1st time I attended--very good overall--better prep. for showing of
> film and use of audio system. I had a very good experience and look
> further to a more "hands on participation" Hope to join the group in
> June

This year's room arrangement probably preferable.

Philippe -- congratulations on a very well run and highly successful Great Decisions series!

I ended up being able to attend only a few sessions and thought they were terrific. I hope different arrangements can be made in the future as the lunch, which it is necessary for some to attend, is abysmal. And because it was so bad, I was left in a very discontented mood.