

Comments Summaries

Dr. Yuksel Sezgin Turkey and its Neighbors Venice 1/07/20

Attendance: 316
76 evaluations received
31 included comments

Positive Statements

- Dr. Sezgin had a worthwhile presentation
- Excellent presentation
- He must come back
- He was a qualified speaker. He knew his subject. Had a good presenting style
- Good Information
- The prof. explained a very complicated recent history in an efficient and understandable way
- Interesting speaker
- Great speaker
- Very knowledgeable speaker. Good perspective
- While I may have opposing opinions on a couple of the speaker's statements, his presentation overall was fair and balanced, informative and provocative.

Improvement of Slides Statements

- Fewer bullets per slide so they can be read in back of rm.
- Too much information per slide-very bad visual
- Needed to have handouts

Sound system/Acoustic/Articulation/Accent Statements

17 people (55%) mentioned they had difficulty in understanding the speaker due to his accent, sound system and or acoustics (building materials)

General Improvement Statements

- A complicated confused mess in Turkey. It was hard to follow
- So much information" (Shared by 3 people)
- Spoke rapidly-Slowdown" (Shared by 6 people)
- Speaker simplified answers and overlooked relevant history that would have added understanding and depth of lecture

Miscellaneous Statements

- Another point of view
- A different expert
- Hesitated to give personal opinion

Admiral Gary Roughead
The National Security Challenge of China: Game on
Sarasota 1/09/20

Attendance: 409
140 evaluations received
17 included comments

Positive Statements:

- Brilliant-best I've attended in 3 years
- Excellent and timely topic (2)
- Brilliant presentation of China's growing presence in today's world
- Knowledgeable and articulate (2)
- Nice calm speaker (3)
- Good volume
- Enjoyed the speaker
- Maps were very effective
- Speaker brought a wonderful perspective on the world in general and in-depth knowledge and details of the subject
- Good overview but would have enjoyed more in-depth discussion/lecture part

Constructive suggestions re: presenter/presentation

- It would be helpful if font was darker (4)
- Maps and power point slides not readable
- Refers to data on overheads that you can't see and doesn't verbally tell us what this data is. Very frustrating
- Is it possible for the laser pointer to have a larger "point". Enlarge it.
- Please briefly restate the question from the audience before answering

Neutral Comments:

- Better maps rather than 1 or 2 could use overview maps.
- There were issues on slides i.e. The "social credits" program that were not addressed
- Discussion on the reaction of other countries surrounding the S. China Sea would have been helpful

Miscellaneous Comments:

- The China problem has been going on for years. Is the world going to be China someday?

Daniel Vera
Mass Migration and National Security
Sarasota 1/21/20

Attendance: 429
147 evaluations received
45 included comments

Positive Comments

- He was absolutely wonderful..SILL needs more speakers that are willing to draw back the curtains needed
- Informative but not analytic
- Terrific -- Please bring more ex-government executives to speak of their experience
- Very knowledgeable. Great "hands on" experiences
- I would like to hear him again but would like to hear others on immigration policy
- Excellent
- Good use of individual pictures to make topic closer to real people and events that actually took place in Florida's backyard
- Video-----good example of reality. Would have liked reference to climate change to enhance threat to national security
- Vera was excellent. He is a very good educator; objective and avoided personal comments

Other diverse reflections/comments on presentation and /or speaker

- Subject matter was negative—not what I thought it would be
- Dan used the words "I" and "me" like he knew all the answers. He spoke about terrorists etc.but does not reference those who deserve our help
- The lecture was a tad ego-centric
- This speaker was more focused on the history of his career. The Q and A was slightly more timely but did not make up for the poor presentation and narrow point of view that excluded the complexities of this issue

Dr. Terry Root
Changing Climate
Lakewood Ranch 1/23/20

Positive comments

-Of the many SILL lectures I have attended, this was the best!

Constructive suggestions re: presenter/presentation

-Coal mines in China – What do we do?

-What about benefits of climate change? e.g. Canada would lose its horrible winters!

-Chasing ice. Chasing coral

-Too political

-She needs to use a pointer and not pace so much as the mic goes in and out!

-Maybe by the time she returns she will have developed a specific program for Sarasota.

Neutral Comments:

-Would it be possible to relay to speakers with graphs to relay to speakers with graphs to announce specific numbers that they point to, so the audience isn't left out?

Peter Georgescu
Business and Society: A Broken System
Sarasota 01/29/20

Attendance: 262
147 evaluations received
45 included comments

Positive Comments

- I agree that we should all help each other to lift up our society. Truth matters. I am very inspired by Peter's values and agree with them. Thank you! You were a pleasure to listen to
- Mr. Georgescu is an outstanding speaker on an outstanding subject. He is also a very wise man
- An important topic cogently raised and discussed
- Teach ethics to everyone
- Peter was great
- Speaker excellent" (+7) "High moral values
- Business is forgetting the importance of the Long Term shareholder value
- Outstanding" (+1)
- So very relevant---- Bring him back
- Best speaker we've had in a while . He spoke on what's happening now, not a history
- I wish I could rank last week's presenter at this high level, but unfortunately, I can't.
- Last 15 minutes was valuable in reviewing Boeing, Wells, J & J, and Costco
- Would be good to invite him back next year for update of what businesses have done

Neutral Comments:

- Impossible, but I only wanted more time for Q's
- Don't understand how presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday were significantly different from one another" (+ 2)
- Intro was too long" (+1)
- Distributing book for no charge, great gift! Thank you

Kathleen Stephens
American Alliances in Asia
Venice 2/25/20

Attendance: 263
72 evaluations received
12 included comments

Positive Comments:

- We were pleasantly surprised at how much we learned from the speaker. Very timely presentation
- Good not great presentation. Very relevant topic
- Very knowledgeable speaker
- Nice to have a younger speaker
- Extremely clear direct, articulate, "alive"
- Excellent, clear, knowledgeable
- Outstanding; clear, passionate, knowledgeable-great insight about Korea
- Good speaker; timely topic

Suggestions for Improvement

- Slides need to be reviewed to increase font size of labels-not properly designed for a crowd of this size, so hard to follow
- Too general, short on specifics didn't learn anything new
- The discussion could have gone into more depth about countries other than just Korea
- More time was needed

Dr. Celeste Wallander
Russian Foreign Policy in an Era of Global Change
Sarasota 3/03/20

Attendance: 358
141 evaluations received
13 included comments

Positive Comments:

- The best of the Tuesday series so far!
- She was wonderful. Very clear
- Excellent, well spoken. Articulate and highly understandable
- Outstanding. Should be invited to return every year
- Superb! Excellent, well organized presentation". Please bring Ms. Wallander back to SILL
- Tremendous delivery. Great content. Outstanding lecture....one of the best so far this year

Negative Comments:

- Speaker spoke too fast, not well organized. Sound system made her delivery unintelligible, graphics not very distinguishable
- This woman is an apologist for American war-mongering. A perfect illustration of the lean-handed way America has handled international relations with Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Union. Russia has a population less than one-half of the US and less than one third of Europe and an economy the size of Italy. How stupid do you have to be not to be able to manage that!

Suggestions for Improvement

- All speakers who are using slides should ensure they can be read by the audience. Few words, large print, black letters on a white background. Limit colors on slides
- Her powerpoint was hard to read because the print was too small
- Slides too "busy", hard to read even from front row. Use better color to improve contrast and larger font
- Slides need to be in large print so we can read better (split them into 2 screens) maybe. Keep pictures small. Gives more space for text. Suggest the text size used in the Russia 2030 slide.

Suggestion of a miscellaneous nature:

- I suggest you place a sign or make an announcement that gentlemen should remove their hats while inside the building, including baseball caps

Neutral but significant comment:

- I was a college ADJ faculty member for 42 years. My wife and I appreciate your hard work and effort that is needed to make SILL successful

Comment recorder Louise Grottoli personal comments:

So many people attending the lecture made very positive and off the cuff remarks as they were leaving....such as "terrific", "she was wonderful", "excellent presentation", "Sill must have her back", "outstanding". One gentleman even said "If you don't bring her back next year, I will be very upset

Ambassador Thomas Shannon
Why the Americas Matter
Sarasota 3/11/20

Attendance: 168
76 evaluations received
9 included comments

Positive Comments:

- Attended his Tues. Discussion as well which was excellent. 5*'s. Provides a true systems view globally. Knowledge, facts, perceptions well linked
- Very articulate and informative lecture/speaker
- Very balanced presentation, knowledgeable, succinct, relevant in today's turmoil Do invite again
- And yesterday was terrific too

Negative Comments:

- I would have liked more discussion on democracy, country by country at present, e.g. Bolivia, Nicaragua, Columbia etc. The history could have been covered in less depth and quicker.
- An analysis of the past was interesting but a view of the future would be helpful. Bluntness about the sanctions in Venezuela and an opinion about their utility would have been interesting

General Comments:

- Why does the Wed. Talk have to differ from Tuesday? Seems like many of the Tuesday talks are more timely and interesting.
- I've attended Tuesday and Wednesday lectures. Tuesdays growing better. Can we get some good both days?
- I suggest the use of slides/pictures would be helpful

Comment recorder Louise Grottoli personal comment:

I suspect the Corona virus had a lot to do with the small attendance today