Climate and Health explains the negative relationship between extreme weather events such as long periods of drought and unusually heavy rainfall and acute impact on public health, particularly in developing countries. Further, Epstein adds that during periods of accelerated social transition infectious diseases often reemerge, and currently such trend is observed at social, ecological, global levels. There are several solutions to combating the increased burden of emerging infectious diseases; however, wiping out inherited economic burdens and adopting new financial mechanisms must be implemented first in order to reverse current environmental assaults on public health.

Is Global Warming Harmful to Health? addresses shocking findings that global warming will expand the incidence and distribution of many serious medical disorders. Heating of the atmosphere can cause worrisome health effects through several routes: encouraging a rise in mosquito-borne diseases, increasing climate variability and ecosystem disturbance, and elevating the incidence of waterborne-diseases. The ideal defensive strategy should include improving surveillance systems, predicting disease outbreaks and attacking the root cause: global warming itself.

Focusing on the dynamics and impacts of ongoing climate change, in Assessing Climate Stability, Epstein provides his own assessment with a group of parameters to evaluate systematic stability and propensity for climate change. The principal actors such as corporate leaders, UN agencies, governments and scientists need to be aware of risks brought by climate changes, and should explore every means to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases and create the framework and incentives for stabilizing the climate and stimulating sustainable economic growth.

Epstein shocked me. His articles pose many grave findings and illustrative instances as well as some quantitative analysis to show the magnitude of the climate instability’s negative impact on public health. One important finding for me is that extreme weather instability hurts vulnerable people more severely. Epstein mentions some examples of how these extreme climate events damage trade, travel and tourisms. I imagine that these disasters often cut a sole source of poor people’s income. Due to a lack of alternatives, the poor fall into the negative circulation of selling their assets for this survival, damaging their resilience afterwards. My primary concern on the issue of climate change is who can be possible candidates to coordinate stakeholders with different stages of development and how these coordinators can create incentives for various actors. Epstein says that global leaders will find a way to pay for these solutions; however, considering the confusion in the process of ratifying Kyoto Protocol, this seems much unlikely to happen. The other thing that I like to hear more about is what ‘new financial mechanisms’ are in his vision because I believe that establishing those mechanisms might be also very challenging.