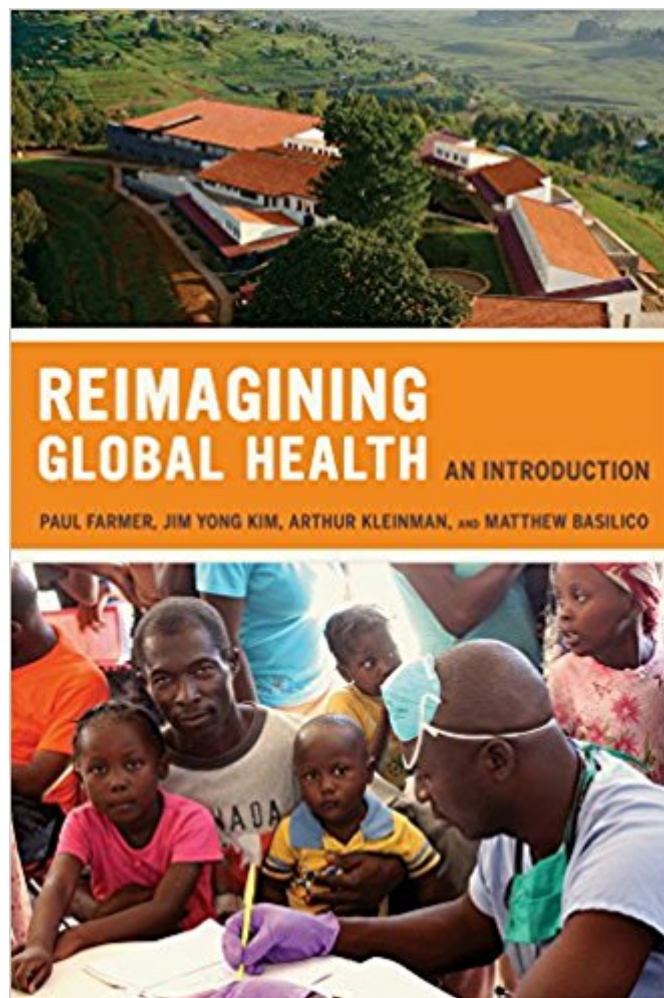




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# Reimagining Global Health: An Introduction (California Series In Public Anthropology)



## Synopsis

Bringing together the experience, perspective and expertise of Paul Farmer, Jim Yong Kim, and Arthur Kleinman, *Reimagining Global Health* provides an original, compelling introduction to the field of global health. Drawn from a Harvard course developed by their student Matthew Basilico, this work provides an accessible and engaging framework for the study of global health. Insisting on an approach that is historically deep and geographically broad, the authors underline the importance of a transdisciplinary approach, and offer a highly readable distillation of several historical and ethnographic perspectives of contemporary global health problems. The case studies presented throughout *Reimagining Global Health* bring together ethnographic, theoretical, and historical perspectives into a wholly new and exciting investigation of global health. The interdisciplinary approach outlined in this text should prove useful not only in schools of public health, nursing, and medicine, but also in undergraduate and graduate classes in anthropology, sociology, political economy, and history, among others.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Reimagining Global Health will surely prove useful as an introductory textbook for undergraduate and graduate students in public health, human biology and anthropology, and various other disciplines." (American Journal of Human Biology 2014-04-01)"This well-written and accessible introduction to problems of global health will shape the developing discipline's future and bring

attention to the pressing need for global health equity." (Medical Humanities 2014-04-22)"A must read for students and faculty in public health, medicine, and anthropology." (CHOICE 2014-08-01)"Valuable." (Raymond Downing Society of Teachers of Family Medicine 2015-01-01)"An excellent, well-structured introduction to thoughtful global health practices . . . Reimagining Global Health provides a wealth of insights that would benefit seasoned professionals, scholars, and activists." (Daniel Takarabe Kim Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics 2015-09-02)

"It is a challenging task to provide a novel and comprehensive view of global health -a dynamic arena for action and an increasingly attractive academic field. Reimagining Global Health does this with scholarly rigor and political courage. This book will become essential reading for all those working in clinical, public health, and policy roles to address the daunting health disparities of our times."#151;Julio Frenk, Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, T & G Angelopoulos Professor of Public Health and International Development, Former Minister of Health of Mexico (2000-2006) "The past decade has seen an unprecedented explosion of interest in the health and welfare of marginalized communities around the world. Reimagining Global Health offers a critical approach to the contemporary global health landscape, while also tracing its historical antecedents and suggesting a way forward. This seminal work by leading figures in the field is a crucial next step for those interested in grappling with the modern reality of global health inequity. Without question, Reimagining Global Health is a salient volume that will shape global health research, practice, and knowledge for many years to come."#151;Ambassador Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS &#147;Inspired by practicing physicians like two of the authors of this book, Paul Farmer and Jim Kim, who won't take no for an answer when it comes to the universal right to health, many undergraduates, medical students and professionals have turned to global health as their specialty and their calling. Until now, this nascent field did not have a unifying conceptual approach, let alone a text. This book, based on decades of practice and years of successfully teaching global health at Harvard, masterfully fills this gap. It presents a strong vision of health as a biological and social phenomenon, and illustrates how academics from different disciplines, and practitioners, must work together to understand not only what works, but how it can be sustainably delivered. Avoiding both cynicism or blind optimism, this book, like the authors in their work, is hopeful, practical, and demanding. It will become an unavoidable reference in the field."#150;Esther Duflo, Department of Economics, MIT and author of Poor Economics "With its unwavering commitment to social justice and refreshingly lucid sense of possibility, Reimagining Global Health is an essential antidote to the deadly and inexcusable health disparities of our times.

Combining deep social analysis and visceral human and institutional engagements, the authors of this momentous book re-socialize and politicize disease and health and, in the process, create a distinct and innovative grammar that will surely inspire and shape the work of generations of global health scholars and practitioners."#151;João Biehl, Princeton University "From the interstices of medical knowledge and practices and the social sciences a new academic field of "global health" is emerging. While economists worship their methodology, and political scientists their great thinkers, global health has outflanked them all in the quest for real explanations and real solutions to the most pressing problem of the world's poor people. With this book, written by some of the field's pioneers, you can take the first step in orienting yourself in this fluid and inter-disciplinary endeavor.

Iconoclastic and passionate in equal measure."#151;James Robinson, David Florence Professor of Government at Harvard University "Lucky Harvard students! Having these teachers. And lucky students elsewhere when they have the chance to read this important book. I was familiar in one way or another with most of the material covered by this book and I could not put it

down."#151;Michael Marmot, University College, London, Institute of Healthy Equity &#147;When I first invited Paul Farmer and Jim Kim to Rwanda ten years ago, it was not for business as usual. The partnership they committed to was working to break the cycle of poverty and disease in some of Rwanda's poorest districts. Together, through the leadership of the Rwandan public sector and the steadfast accompaniment of global visionaries including many co-authors of chapters in this book, we are redefining what is possible in health care delivery. Reimagining Global Health asks how the hard-won lessons learned along the way might be shared most widely and usefully. In these pages, students and practitioners across disciplines and contexts will find crucial questions for all those who would advance the human right to health. Rich case studies and incisive biosocial analysis throw the central importance of humility, constancy, and imagination into bold relief."#151;Dr. Agnes Binagwaho, Minister of Health of Rwanda; Senior Lecturer, Harvard

Medical School; Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth "This inspiring book transforms the field of global health into a revolutionary global movement for human rights to combat the useless suffering imposed by North/South social inequality.Â The authors' historical, practice-based and theoretical arguments wrench the field out of its colonial-missionary roots and attack the contemporary greedy behemoths of Bio-Tech, Big Pharma, for-profit healthcare, and cost-benefit neoliberal triage logics to make "Health for All" a real possibility--as well as a universal human right to be enforced by political will, funding and democratic access to technology."#151;Philippe Bourgois author of Righteous Dopefiend and of In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio. "Reimagining Global Health is a well written text based on extensive

research, teaching and practical experience. The fact that it is based on three years of teaching a course implies that it has been finely honed by responses from students. It is superbly researched and written and provides many new angles and fresh perspectives."#151;Solly Benatar, Professor, Dalla School of Public Health and Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto

I really appreciated the readability of this book, especially since it goes into a bit of social theory and history that is necessary to understand how the ideas of global health arose. It is most helpful to read this book as the companion to Harvard's online course called "Global Health: A Biosocial Perspective" (found on the EdX website). Among the co-authors of this book are some of the most prominent academic names in social medicine and medical anthropology (Arthur Kleinman, Paul Farmer to name two), so you know you're reading something that is high-quality in terms of its academic rigor. Be prepared to have some of your assumptions picked apart -- read with an open mind. Especially if, like me, you are versed in the biological sciences and haven't delved too much into social theory. I was surprised by many things while reading this book, and am starting to take less for granted as I begin a career in medicine...

This book provides a thorough framework of evaluating the just and equitable distribution of the risk of suffering and the tools to lessen or prevent it. By framework, I mean the following:1. One way to contextualize global health is to use the perspective of social theory and its critique. By providing the reader with how to think about the social construction of knowledge, the reader starts to think about and gather how thoughts and processes are institutionalized. Learning how systems and policies came to be will help the reader learn what they can do to change or improve them.2. A history of colonial medicine and its legacies provides a lens of how ideas and methods were attempted and how they transitioned, had things added to them, or changed over the years. The current state of global health may be extremely complicated, but learning about how each individual and chronologically sequential parts came to be compounded into the modern circumstances will help the reader evaluate what (or more importantly, who) made certain circumstances exist in the first place.3. By using effective responses to global health emergencies as a case-study, this book helps the reader reimagine what was thought to be impossible as a challenging and worthwhile task. This is applied to the global AIDS response, building effective rural healthcare delivery, and scaling up effective delivery models worldwide.4. Critical perspectives are offered on the metrics of disease, specifically the DALY. By providing a clear history about how a widely used metric was developed, learning about its strengths, and then evaluating it for its limitations, this book will help provide a

framework about how to be critical of measurements on difficult quantitative challenges in health, such as mental health and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDRTB).<sup>5</sup> Values are an important part of this book. Why should one care and what rules constrain what you can do in a global health setting? One chapter is dedicated to the bioethics and a variety of values that aligns those who wish to work with underserved and vulnerable populations.<sup>6</sup> The book ends with active steps an individual can take to incorporate global health priorities in their daily life and values. By providing data, case studies, and philosophical discussions on important issues in global health, the authors of this book reflect on a movement for global health equity. I give this book 10/10 in providing a comprehensive introduction to the important concepts in global health.

This is an excellent introductory book that lays out the theoretical framework for practitioners who work in global health setting. It incorporates sociological and anthropological theories that explain the work we do. Thank you for this book.

Bought this as a text book for an EdX Harvard class I am taking on Global Health. The book is a great companion to the class and I am sure I would enjoy it even if I weren't taking the class.

Must read. Great topics, ideas. Enjoyed class, loved book. great experience overall. bought, don't think I will resell anytime soon. keeper!

An essential book for understanding both historical and current global health challenges in our human family. Engages the reader to imagine new approaches to creating health on a human scale at the community level.

Amazing, powerful book with a profoundly simple message... health should not be seen as biology output from an algorithm but instead as a core tenet of the universal human rights we all should aspire to uphold.

The writing is clear and the chapters are well edited. There is an excellent balance between caution and optimism--pitfalls and potential errors are highlighted, but not so much that a person who is interested in Global Health would be dissuaded from pursuing it. The commentary on the role of faith in Global Health is restrained and respectful of various views. I found that this book was useful to myself (a US physician) and to my colleagues (community health workers and nurses in Zambia.)

It did not have a completely American outlook, though it was accessible to Americans.

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