

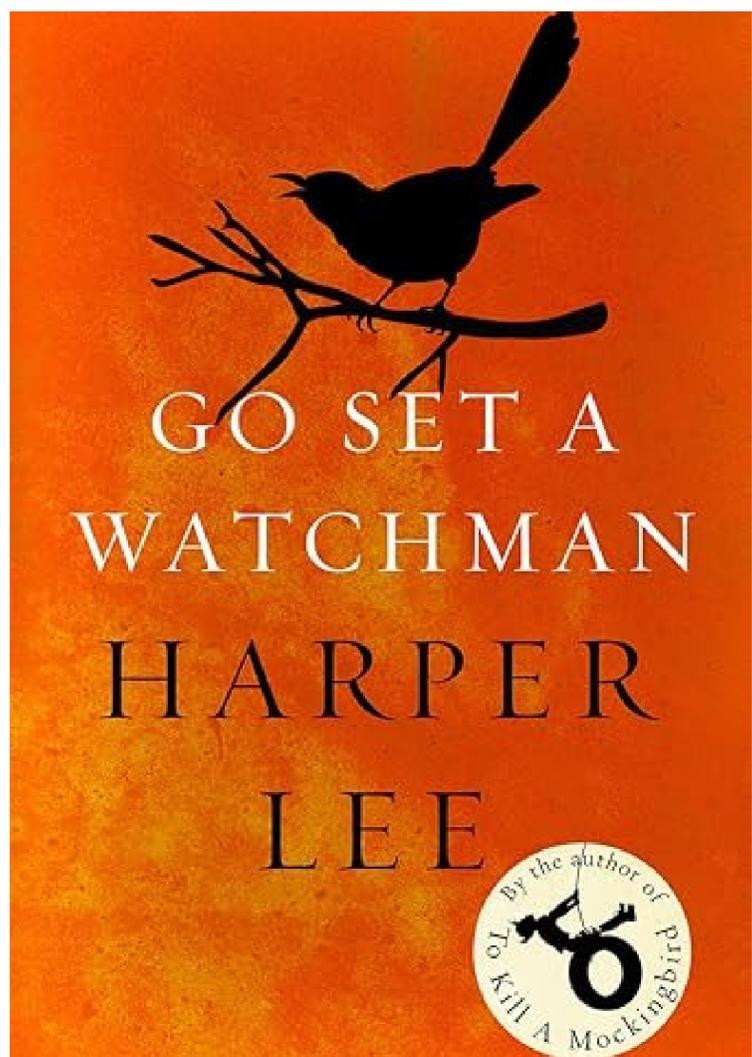
# ETHICS & RESILIENCE GRAND ROUNDS

Organized by PEaCE (Program for Ethics and Care Ecologies)

## Ethical Decision Making and the Allure of Certainty

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**February 4, 2026 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm**



In a tumultuous decade of political unrest, global pandemic, inflationary financial instability and geopolitical conflict all is seen through the rapidly changing information landscape of smartphones and the rise and fall of social and mainstream media respectively. In 2026, there has been a loss of faith in institutions such as academia, the pharma industry, national and global health organizations (NACI, CDC, WHO) and governments. Contemporary healthcare faces a crisis of confidence in its decision-making. This talk will explore the pitfalls of over-reliance on conventional academic methods and suggest alternative approaches to try to reestablish trust in ethical clinical care.

### Objectives:

1. The academic certainty trap of optimization, naïve empiricism, forced consensus (meta-analysis, Grade D guidelines, mandates, nudging) and the reactionary conspiracism that can result from it.
2. Complexity Science: the virtue of redundancy and requisite variety
3. Strategies robust in the real world: convexity and game theory
4. Application to ethical decision making in clinical uncertainty under existential risk: pandemic preparedness, medical assistance in dying (MAiD), transgender care and paraphilia.

"Before I can live with other folks, I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." Atticus Finch, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee.

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**Questions?** Contact Sue Pantitis ext. 73661 or [pantitis@hhsc.ca](mailto:pantitis@hhsc.ca)