**Abstract – The Shyness of Christ and the Dryness of Four.**

This experimental presentation is connected to my PhD research, yet is also looking beyond, in connection with a potential project sketched last year with an Oxford PhD student in Medieval English with whom I share the same interest for neurodiversity.

My PhD thesis, now in its 4th year, aims at providing an edition of *Orysons and Meditacions*, a XVth century devotional text translated from French into Middle English by Eleanor Hull, officially the first woman translator whose name is known to us.

This text belongs to the tradition of affective piety. Affective piety was very popular in the late Middle Ages, in art and literature. Its aim was, in the words of Vincent Gillespie, "to regain the attention of the *affectus*, by winning it away from the proximate things to which it has become attached and focusing it firmly on absolute good, to enable the intellect to penetrate more deeply into its understanding of absolute truth (…)." In order to recapture and convert the affect, the texts focus on episodes of the Gospels that trigger emotions that are familiar to their audiences, most notably those connected with the humanity of Christ, and especially his nativity and Passion.

In this presentation, I will focus on some aspects of Passion narrative in *Orysons and Meditacions* and in Julian of Norwich's *A Revelation of Love* to underline parallels in the techniques they use. Then I will make a foray into XXIth century neuroscience to analyse how these set our affect into motion in the twofold ways described by Gillespie.

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