Abstract
The Museyroom episode of Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake* covers centuries of European military history in just three pages. Ireland is demarcated as the launching pad for great military careers. Wellington and Napoleon lock horns in a contest to prove who rides the biggest horse and who wears the smarter hat. Postcolonial scholars including Vincent Cheng have astutely read this satirical episode as a monument to empire-building. The reader’s tour of the Museyroom circulates around the open-air museum of the Wellington Monument in Phoenix Park. Wellington’s campaigns dominate this stretch of the *Wake*’s prose as visions of Ireland are blurred and obscured through layered language that extracts the reader from geographical Ireland while taking the language and land with it – European and Indian battle-scenes are superimposed over a frieze of Ireland’s embattled past. Napoleon’s form is also plastic in this episode as he is reshaped, squashed and shifted cross Irish scenes, in and out of the bogs and villages, skirmishing with French, English, Belgians and Prussians in fields mysteriously evocative of Ulster. Return to Dublin’s iconic obelisk with your host, Kathe the Janitrix, whose energetic guided tour leads visitors down the galloping path of history. Catch all the action as the explosive Peninsular Wars are witness through Joyce’s mighty telescope from the Hill of Tara. Britain marked a territorial outpost with the “overgrown milestone” of the Wellington Monument as a tribute to one of her boldest soldiers. That version of Ireland as an honorary plinth upholding British visions of history is upended in the Museyroom episode.

This presentation begins with an overview of well-known scholarly visits to the Museyroom with additional insight into the Irish symbolism embedded in Joyce’s version of the Wellington Monument. These are followed by a performed reading of the episode.

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