The Secret of Immortality: 
Alejandro Jodorowsky’s The Holy Mountain

Presentation by Prof. Alessandra Santos
University of British Columbia

Thursday, January 17 at 4 p.m.
Lydeen Library, 4302 Rolfe Hall, UCLA

Reception to Follow

Alessandra Santos is an Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies. Her publications include the books Arnaldo Canibal Antunes (2013), The Holy Mountain (2017), and two volumes on utopia: The Utopian Impulse in Latin America (2011), and Performing Utopias in the Contemporary Americas (2017, co-edited with Kim Beauchesne).

Alejandro Jodorowsky’s El topo (1970) helped inaugurate the midnight movie phenomenon. Its success spawned The Holy Mountain (1973), through interventions by John Lennon and Allen Klein. After a scandalous release and a 16-month midnight career, The Holy Mountain was relegated to the underground world of fan bootlegs for over thirty years until its limited restored release in 2007. This short study reveals how The Holy Mountain, a poetic, hilarious, and anarchist cult film by an international auteur, anchored in post-1968 critiques, is – at the same time – an archaeological capsule of the counterculture movement, a timely subversion of mystical tenets, and one of the most mysterious films in the history of world cinema.