Christine Beaule is an Andean archaeologist who joined the Honors Faculty in the spring of 2013. Her primary research has focused on the impact of trade and communication networks linking small villages in the eastern-central Bolivian altiplano (the high arid plain between the two chains of the Andean mountains) with the ancient Tiwanaku State (ca. AD 400-1000). As a household archaeologist, she has documented dynamic changes in the social organization of households and village communities through the diversification of the domestic economy. This work has most recently appeared in Research in Economic Anthropology and an edited volume entitled Ancient Households of the Americas: Conceptualizing What Households Do (University Press of Colorado).

Dr. Beaule received her B.A. from Northwestern University with dual majors in Anthropology (High Honors) and Philosophy. She earned an M.A., Ph.D., and Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. After graduation, she taught at Bloomsburg University and Duke University, where she joined an interdisciplinary faculty offering writing-intensive courses. She came to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in 2008; Dr. Beaule is now an Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies in the Department of Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas, and Cooperating Graduate Faculty in the Anthropology Department.

Increasingly, Dr. Beaule’s time in Hawaii has affected her research focus. Since being asked to teach a course on “Colonial Latin American History”, she has been drawn deeper into colonial research. She is teaching a lively Honors seminar called “Colonial Worlds” (HON 291/491), has secured a grant to conduct research on Spanish colonialism in the Philippines, and will be participating in an interdisciplinary conference next year on the same topic. She also has an ongoing research project tracing the material indicators of cross-cultural influences in imperial dynamics on the ceremonial drinking vessels known as kerus. These chicha (maize beer) consumption cups date back over 2,000 years in the Andes, and serve as fascinating windows onto processes of cultural assimilation and resistance under such powerful polities as the Inka and Colonial Spain. Finally, Dr. Beaule and her husband, Christian Peterson, spend what little free time they have playing with their two young daughters and chasing the ever-elusive nap.