ABSTRACT: By 1533CE the Inka Empire spanned across what we now call Peru, as well as portions of Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia and Argentina. The Inka Sapa (Emperor) controlled multiple other cultural groups, utilized some of the most labour intensive agriculture on the planet in the form of terraced potato farming, controlled vast territories of land and efficiently transmitted information over great distances without a form of writing. They are also known for using feasting as a form of political leverage between themselves, their subjects and the gods. A main component of this feasting is always chicha, an ancient chewed-corn beer brewed by the Chosen Women of the Inka Sapa. How do we know all of this about an empire that had no form of writing and was effectively obliterated through Spanish conquest of the region in 1572CE? Dr. Hopwood will take us through an archaeological exploration of the methods behind ancient beer recreation, and the ways that archaeology works to combine various lines of evidence into recreating the cultural context of these libations and the people who brewed them.

Bio: Dr. Marie Hopwood is an Archaeologist and Professor in the Department of Anthropology at VIU since 2017. She specializes in the archaeology of Mesopotamia, the ancient land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Western Asia. Dr. Hopwood explores how ancient people used food and alcohol to craft identity and sustain community. She started the Raise Your Glass to the Past project with community partner Dave Paul, Owner/Brewer of Love Shack Libations, Qualicum, in 2018. Since then they have brewed five ancient ales and started countless discussions about the ancient past through an archaeology of beer.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Refreshments: 6:45 pm
Vancouver Island University, Arts and Sciences Building 355, Room 203