

# léah varjacques

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## education

### Northwestern University

MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM  
BSJ'15 in video journalism and international studies. Magna cum laude. Studied public health in Cuba and Brazil.

## skills

### LANGUAGES

french - native  
spanish - fluent  
portuguese - advanced

### CAMERA

Canon DSLR  
Canon C100

### DIGITAL

HTML, CSS  
Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop, InDesign,  
Final Cut Pro X  
Youtube, Vimeo, Wordpress, Twitter,  
Instagram, Facebook Live

## awards

College Photographer of the Year, 2015:  
Award of Excellence in Multimedia division

Hearst Award: Multimedia News, 2015

SPJ Mark of Excellence Award, 2014

Chicago/Midwest Emmy: NATAS College  
Student Production Newscast Award, 2013

## work experience

### VIDEO FELLOW | The Atlantic

Washington, D.C. | JULY 2016- JULY 2017

Produced and assistant-produced original videos and documentaries. Assisted in curating films and posting to website and social media. Researched and developed ideas for production slate.

### PROGRAM ASSISTANT | Free Spirit Media

Chicago, IL | AUGUST 2015- AUGUST 2016

Assistant-taught documentary filmmaking and digital media production at North Lawndale College Prep for youth-focused media education non-profit.

### DIGITAL MEDIA FELLOW | World Learning

India | JUNE - AUGUST 2015

Documented high school study abroad program in India for Communications team. Coordinated program blog and social media. Produced videos for program marketing.

### MULTIMEDIA INTERN | Mail&Guardian Online

Johannesburg, South Africa | APRIL-JUNE 2014

Produced videos and interactives on presidential elections, public housing crisis, strikes for investigative weekly paper, including a short documentary on women miners.

### EDITORIAL INTERN | The Chicago Reporter

Chicago, IL | APRIL- AUGUST 2013

Researched, fact-checked, gathered data for ongoing investigations. Managed social media presence. Wrote for Q&A and blog.

## documentaries

### CO-DIRECTOR | Ilse

Chicago, IL | FEBRUARY 2017

Short film about an undocumented high school student's journey to residency, and the identity questions she grapples with. Published on The Atlantic. Screened at the 2017 Chicago Latino Film Festival and the Washington, D.C. International Film Festival.

### CO-DIRECTOR | Beyond the Seal

Ecuador | DECEMBER 2015

Interactive web documentary on small farmers fighting for fair trade bananas in Ecuador. CPOY-70th Award of Excellence, Best Student Film and Audience Choice Award at Real Food Film Festival. Screened in cities across the country, including as an interactive gallery exhibit in Philadelphia.

### DIRECTOR | Para Ontem (Due Yesterday)

Brazil | JANUARY 2014

Short film on oil extraction impacts on a Brazilian island. Screened in Chicago and the 2014 MOSTRA Film Festival in São Paulo, Brazil.