

BRIAN THORNTON

10 o'clock News

—Beirut, Lebanon

What I remember of you—
the bomb craters and bullet casings,
faces screaming running past a shaky camera,
men on fire as machines in uniforms stood still
is replaced by a picture on my camera
of an old man standing in a fishing boat
waving at us as he draws
his net across still water.

BRIAN THORNTON was born in Lubbock, Texas and graduated with a PhD in English from Texas Tech University in 2010. After graduating, he spent two years travelling through the Middle East with mine clearing units and educational consultancy firm, documenting his travels in a book of poetry titled *Places We Were Never Meant To See*. In April, 2013, this manuscript was selected as runner-up in the Hub City Poetry Prize. Thornton now lives with his wife and two children in Wenzhou, China where he serves as Assistant Professor for the English program at Wenzhou Kean University.