

Contents

List of figures.....	XI
1 Introduction and overview	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Violence and international student safety	2
1.3 Key terms and concepts	5
1.4 Research questions.....	10
1.5 Outline of the thesis	11
2 Background and review of literature	17
2.1 Introduction.....	17
2.2 International education and student vulnerability	17
2.3 International students in Poland.....	21
2.4 Research on international students: Key perspectives	25
2.5 Minorities, societal antagonism and violence: The Polish context	28
2.6 Conclusion	31
3 Theoretical and conceptual framework	33
3.1 Introduction.....	33
3.2 Violence: Theoretical perspectives and definitional complexities	33
3.2.1 Subjective and objective violence.....	36
3.2.2 Violence as a social process: Victims, perpetrators and observers	41
3.3 Coping: Definitions and theoretical perspectives	49
3.3.1 Psychological perspectives on coping.....	49
3.3.2 Sociological perspectives on coping	52
3.3.3 Psychosocial perspectives on coping	53
3.3.4 The personal psychodynamic zone of coping	54
3.3.5 Relational and intermediary zone of coping	56
3.3.6 The socio-structural zone: Life conditions and coping capacities	57
3.4 Liminality	65
3.5 Conclusion	67

4 Research methods and study design.....	69
4.1 Introduction.....	69
4.2 Participants and recruitment	69
4.3 Data generation: The episodic interview	72
4.4 Conducting the interviews: Episodic interview procedure	74
4.5 Analysis procedure: Documentary method.....	81
4.5.1 Formulating interpretation	85
4.5.2 Reflective interpretation	87
4.5.3 Comparative analysis and type formation.....	91
4.6 Methodological limitations.....	93
4.7 Conclusion	94
 5 Study participants: Circumstances and realities	 95
5.1 Introduction.....	95
5.2 Case profiles	96
5.2.1 Lionel Emen.....	97
5.2.2 Darius Adawa	100
5.2.3 Luc Diouf.....	101
5.2.4 Aamira Wani.....	103
5.3 Studying in Poland: Recurring themes and experiences	105
5.3.1 Life in Poland: First experiences, new challenges	105
5.3.2 Distance, isolation and social support.....	107
5.3.3 Liminality and dependency.....	107
5.3.4 Forms of violence	108
5.3.5 Consequences of violence.....	113
5.4 Conclusion	114
 6 Violence: Causal attributions and interpretations.....	 117
6.1 Introduction.....	117
6.2 Experiences of violence: Perceptions and framings.....	118
6.2.1 Narrative framing 1: Violence as a local characteristic	120
6.2.2 Narrative framing 2: Violence as a natural occurrence	127
6.2.3 Narrative framing 3: Violence and self-blame.....	135
6.3 Summary and key points.....	142
 7 Self-perceptions and the 'Other'	 143
7.1 Introduction.....	143
7.2 Narratives on violence and identity	144
7.3 Violence shifting identities and self-forming.....	146
7.3.1 Advancing through violence: The past-self and present-self.....	147

7.3.2 Marking distinctions: Experience, culture and ethnicity.....	153
7.3.3 Counter narratives: In-group and out-group stigma.....	157
7.4 Summary and key points.....	163
8 Responding to violence: Social relationships and social support.....	167
8.1 Introduction.....	167
8.2 Modes and dynamics of social support.....	169
8.3 'Experiential' kinship and peer support.....	169
8.3.1 Social support and perceptions of cultural 'sameness'.....	171
8.3.2 Supportive interactions with experiential peers.....	173
8.4 Distancing from selected social ties.....	177
8.5 Reaching out.....	183
8.6 Summary and key points.....	188
9 Moving on: Understanding dynamics of avoidance.....	191
9.1 Introduction.....	191
9.2 Spatial avoidance.....	191
9.3 Social avoidance and concealment.....	195
9.4 Transcending violent realities.....	197
9.5 Non-avoidance: Suffering and reward.....	203
9.6 Summary and key points.....	206
10 Discussion: Establishing a typology of coping responses.....	209
10.1 Introduction.....	209
10.2 Storying Violence: Appraisal focused coping strategies.....	209
10.2.1 Appraisals and narrative expression.....	211
10.2.2 Contextualising Violence.....	212
10.2.3 Normalising Violence.....	215
10.2.4 Self-blame.....	218
10.2.5 Coping and contextual appraisal.....	221
10.3 Identity commitment and transition.....	224
10.3.1 Narratives of change and personal progression.....	228
10.3.2 Symbolic action: Foreigner identity and antagonistic others.....	229
10.3.3 Stereotypes and overcoming negative group evaluations.....	231
10.3.4 Coping, identity and self-formation.....	233
10.4 Social coping and appropriation efforts.....	235
10.4.1 Overcoming social and spatial restrictions.....	236
10.4.2 Situational change and social ties.....	237

10.5 Avoidance and mobility: Navigating violent realities.....	240
11 Conclusion and key reflections	243
11.1 Introduction.....	243
11.2 Empirical Findings: Understanding responses to violence	244
11.3 Theoretical reflections	251
11.4 Overall conclusions.....	257
11.5 Student welfare practice implications	260
11.6 Limitations of the study	262
11.7 Future research directions.....	263
Bibliography.....	265
Appendices	289