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COUNSELING AND
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PERCEPTIONS OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS FROM KENYA OF THE KENYAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
LIFESTYLE IN THE UNITED STATES (218 pp.)

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The goal of this study was to investigate the perceptions of current and prospective international students of the Kenyan international student lifestyle in the United States. Although most of the literature to date on international students has concentrated on either current or prospective international students exclusively, this study sought to incorporate the views of both. Social Constructionist and Narrative theories were used to frame this study. Q methodology was utilized in this investigation due to the subjective nature of the issues.

The study began with a literature review of perceptions of current and prospective international students of international student lifestyles in the United States. The researcher also utilized Internet-based international students' message boards to augment the literature findings. Four themes emerged from the literature review with regard to challenges of immigration. These were: (a) general living adjustment; (b) academic adjustment; (c) socio-cultural adjustment; and (d) personal-psychological adjustment (Tseng & Newton, 2000). From these sources 47 statements were generated for the Q sample.

A pool of 52 participants sorted the statements in the Q sample. These consisted of 19 current students and 33 prospective students. These students rated the 47 statements on a continuum from "least like my perception" (-4) to "most like my perception" (+4),

with 0 considered as being neutral. The results were correlated, factor analyzed, and their factor scores computed using the PQMethod 2.11 computer program (Schmolck & Atkinson, 2002).

This process resulted in the emergence of four factors. The factors were: (a) the challenges of financial demands and saving face; (b) the challenges of being/feeling different and misunderstood; (c) the challenges of being/feeling isolated; and (d) optimistic and hopeful students. These results may suggest ways to better meet the needs of Kenyan international students and better prepare prospective students for the international student lifestyle in the United States.