Contents

	Acknowledgements	ix
1	Varieties of identity-threatening experiences	1
2	Identity and social structure	9
	The structural components of identity	11
	The identity processes and the principles of their operation	23
	Structures and processes in the social context of identity	27
	A framework for understanding the social	
	context of identity	35
	The effects of social change upon identity	40
	The relation of identity to action	43
	Some concluding remarks about the framework Methods for studying identity, threat and	44
	coping	44
3	The structure of threats	46
	The origin of threat	46
	The experience of threat	50
	Unemployment	52
	The social representation of the unemployed	54
	Threats to identity created by unemployment	61
	Sexually atypical employment	63
	Threats to identity created by sexually atypical	
	employment	71
	Communalities across threats to identity	75

vi	ii Coping with Threatened Identities		
4	4 Self-protection at the intra-psychic level		
	The transience of threatened identities	77	
	What constitutes a coping strategy?	78	
	Intra-psychic coping strategies	80	
	Coping powers	107	
5	Interpersonal coping strategies	109	
	Isolation	109	
	Negativism	113	
	Passing	115	
	Compliance	121	
6	Intergroup coping strategies	128	
	Multiple group memberships	128	
	Group support	130	
	Group action	136	
7	Limits to coping	148	
	Failure of coping strategies	148	
	Determinants of coping-strategy choice	149	
	Phases in coping	158	
	An example of phases in coping:		
	unemployment	158	
	Why persist with suboptimal coping strategies?	166	
	Consistency and coping	167	
	Coping and the processes of social comparison	169	
	Ceasing to cope	176	
	Summary	178	
8	Central tenets of the model of identity, threat and		
	coping	180	
	Elaborating the framework	180	
	Propositions of the model	190	
	References	196	
	Name index	213	
	Subject index	219	