The following review appeared in the April 2011 issue of CHOICE:


Frosh's new book is as searching, brilliant, cogent, accessible, and rewarding as his others, notably For and against Psychoanalysis (1997) and Key Concepts in Psychoanalysis (CHI, Oct'03, 41-1237). Psychoanalysis, he points out, is—and was at its inception—focused on clinical matters, though its ambition was general. "Applied psychoanalysis" has always attempted to take insights on, for example, the unconscious into environments beyond the clinic—to intellectual fields such as social theory. Looking not only at how psychoanalysis has critiqued other fields, Frosh (Univ. of London, UK)—in an effort to retain and sustain psychoanalysis's original destiny of challenge—raises the reciprocal question of how other disciplines (here literature) reflect themselves back to psychoanalysis. Frosh's knowledge of many schools of contemporary psychoanalysis and of current literature is prodigious, and this critique is exciting and cutting-edge. Frosh is a wonderful close reader and an exceptionally interesting thinker. Anyone interested in the history of ideas and psychosocial studies, particularly in literature, should read this study. -- R. H. Balsam, Yale University