

PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CULTURAL THEORY

Psychoanalysis and Cultural Theory: Thresholds

Edited by

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Preface

This volume is the fruit of a series of talks delivered at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London between January and March 1987. It turned out to be an opportune moment to present work from the intersections between psychoanalysis and cultural theory, for positions entrenched in the 1970s were becoming more fluid and self-critical. I would therefore like to thank all the contributors: not only those whose papers are published here (some very much as delivered, some in more revised form) but also the first four speakers in the series – Stephen Frosh, Stuart Hall, Mandy Merck, and Jeffrey Weeks – whose contributions were extremely important to its continuing success.

The original idea for the project came from Lisa Appignanesi of the ICA, Brian Finney from the Department of Extra-mural Studies at the University of London, the co-sponsors of the event, and Steven Kennedy, editor of Macmillan's 'Culture and Communication' series. I am grateful to them all for trusting me to organise and chair the talks.

I would also like to thank Erica Carter and Katy Sender of the ICA's Talks Department not only for their efficiency and intellectual input, but also for making the series so enjoyable and unstressful.

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JAMES DONALD