This 4-part book is better classified as a treatise in the philosophy of social psychology than a book on psychological development. Even Part 2, entitled, The Development of Selfhood, is almost entirely conceptual and metatheoretical. Following in the tradition of Wittgenstein (whom Shotter cites more often than any other writer) and Harré and Secord, the author argues that psychologists should pay close attention to the common, everyday speech and experience of ordinary people, particularly the way in which people account for (explain) their own behavior. In fact, Shotter states that a psychologist's explanation must use some of the same terms used in the lay accounts of ordinary people. Only rarely will a psychologist explain human action by creating a new metaphorical image that transcends everyday reality. Furthermore, such an explanation will be worthwhile only if it is understood by laymen and incorporated into ordinary, everyday social reality. The irony of Shotter's book is that a lay reader would find it totally incomprehensible. Only psychologists who have been initiated into and steeped in the philosophical tradition in which Shotter works will appreciate what he is saying. On every second or third page, the reader will find a sentence that begins, "Clearly . . . ," which of course signifies that what Shotter is about to say is not clear and has to be accepted on faith. In addition to the less-than-lucid writing style, the fact that 8 of the book's 11 chapters derive from previously published articles and book chapters makes the book hard to follow. This concatenation both disrupts the flow of some ideas and also results in the unnecessary repetition of other ideas. Although the book contains some incisive critiques of experimental psychology, particularly attribution theory, this book will not convince psychologists in this tradition to change their ways. Even psychologists studying the development of the self and self-presentation in the Goffman tradition may not appreciate the book, because "accounting" is only 1 of a dozen self-presentational processes, hardly justifying a whole book on the subject. The book is recommended only to devotees of the philosophy of social psychology who regularly read the Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior.—J. A. Johnson.