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The papers that appear in this issue of *Gesture* are contributed by participants in a small conference held on the Island of Procida in the Bay of Naples, "Gesture in the Mediterranean: Developments in Gesture Studies in Southern Europe", October 20–23, 2005. This conference was organized by Daniele Gambarara (University of Calabria), Tommaso Russo Cardona (University of Calabria — see a special note below), Adam Kendon (University of Naples "Orientale" and University of Calabria), Arturo Martone (University of Naples "Orientale"). Manuela Intertaglia (Artefactory 41.14, Procida) assisted in the local organization. The purpose of the conference was to bring together scholars concerned with gesture working in Italy and adjacent countries as a way of providing an opportunity for them to meet, to review their respective contributions to the field and to discuss what appear to be the next issues that need to be tackled. The conference was kept small and held on the Island of Procida which provided an intimate and charming setting for a small-scale meeting. It was especially appropriate that a meeting on the study of gesture should be held on the Island of Procida, since it is the birthplace of Andrea de Jorio whose well-known book on Neapolitan gesture, published in 1832, is one of the historically more important works in the field of gesture studies.

The contributions to the conference, not all of which, for various reasons, has it been possible to include in this issue of *Gesture*, (in order of presentation) were as follows: Adam Kendon (University of Naples "Orientale" and University of Calabria), Fifteen years of research on gesture in Naples and elsewhere: a personal account; Geneviève Calbris (Paris), Geste dans la parole: un système symbolique (Gesture in speech: a symbolic system); Isabella Poggi (Third University of Rome), Gesti ... e oltre (Gestures and beyond); Marino Bonaiuto (University of Rome "La sapienza"), Struttura e funzioni dei gesti delle mani durante la conversazione: nodi concettuali e possibili sviluppi futuri (Structure and function of manual gestures in conversation: Conceptual problems and possible future developments); Silvana Contento (University of Bologna), Uno studio sulla gestualità coverbale tramite analisi dei movimenti oculari (Analyzing eye movements in relation to co-verbal gestures) [Silvana Contento was unable to be present]; Cornelia Müller (Free University of Berlin), Metaphors in speech and gesture: A dynamic view; Maria Graziano (University Suor Orsola Benincasa, Naples), Un'analisi contrastivo-comparativa dei gesti della famiglia "Mani Aperta Supina" (A contrastive...