

# **Do animals from geographically distant areas speak the same language?**

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## ***The Washington Post:***

A friend recently asked me whether black bears in Appalachia have Southern accents and whether they have trouble understanding black bears raised in Canada or Alaska. Taken literally, those are notions more fit for a Disney movie than a scientist. In a more abstract sense, however, it's a profound inquiry that fascinates zoologists and psychologists alike.

Is communication learned or innate in nonhuman animals? Can geographically distant groups of the same species develop local culture: unique ways of eating, playing and talking to each other? I posed those questions to Darcy Kelley, a Columbia University professor who studies animal communications.

Read the whole story: [The Washington Post](#)