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Scientific interest in the diversity of gestural signalling dates back to the figure of Charles Darwin. More than a hundred years later, there is a considerable body of work on human gestural diversity, while the question of communicative ‘culture’ in our closest living relatives, the nonhuman primates, is relatively unexplored.

Here, we will stir new interest into this topic by (i) reviewing the state of the art, and (ii) presenting new data on gestural diversity and usage in three different chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*; *Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*; *Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) subspecies, two long-term study sites (Kanyawara community, Kibale National Park, Uganda, and Taï South community, Taï National Park, Ivory Coast), and one newly habituated community (Rekambo community, Loango National Park, Gabon). We will summarize findings on well-established behaviours differing in their form (GROOMING-HAND-CLASP), and/or meaning across populations (LEAF-CLIPPING; DIRECTED SCRATCHES). In addition, we will report on three dyad-specific gestures (SHAKE BACK, TURN BIPEDAL, REAR UP), one population specific gesture (TEAR LEAF), and the role of interactional experience and social exposure on gestural diversity and acquisition. We suggest that social negotiation plays a crucial role in enabling communicative interactions and transmitting information, and argue that the impact of social learning on communicative patterns—and thereby possibly communicative culture—has strongly been underestimated in great ape communication. We conclude with a brief set of empirical desiderata for instigating more research into this intriguing research domain.