# Science confirms: Politics wrecks your ability to do math

By Chris Mooney on Sep 8, 2013 The Grist

Everybody knows that our political views can sometimes get in the way of thinking clearly. But perhaps we don’t realize how bad the problem actually is. According to a [new psychology paper](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2319992), ( link to the study’s research article)

our political passions can even undermine our very basic reasoning skills. More specifically, the study finds that people who are otherwise very good at math may totally flunk a problem that they would otherwise probably be able to solve, simply because giving the right answer goes against their political beliefs.

[The study](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2319992) (another link to the study's research article), by Yale law professor [Dan Kahan](http://www.law.yale.edu/faculty/DKahan.htm) and his colleagues, has an…

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