

World Series Psychology

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The Red Sox won't be participating in this year's World Series, but it's safe to say that the Red Sox-Yankees rivalry is here to stay. That makes those teams' fans an obvious choice for studying rivalry and aggression. Read Wray Herbert's [summary](#) of what happened when Princeton University social neuroscientists [studied](#) which neurons light up when loyalists and rivals experience moments of victory or defeat.

In other baseball-related psychology, fans aren't the only ones whose aggression at the baseball stadium has become the subject of psychological research. In separate [research](#) published in *Psychological Science*, scientists indicate that pitchers are more likely to hit batters with a pitch not only when temperatures are higher, but also when the pitchers' teammates have been hit by an opposing pitcher. In [an interview with NPR](#), study author Richard Larrick explains that higher temperatures actually lower pitchers' inhibitions against retaliation.