

Prof. Zecharia Dor-Shav (Dershowitz)

## Biography

Professor Zecharia Dor-Shav is an ordained Rabbi (Rabbinical Seminary of America—Mesivta Rabbi Chaim Berlin) and has his Ph.D from New York University (1966). He has been at Bar Ilan School of Education since 1969, from which he partially retired in 1994, and completely retired some decade later. He has served on many committees and in many capacities, both in and out of the university. He also served a term as Chairman of the School of Education.

He was Director of the Eliezer Stern Institute for Research and Advancement in Religious Education at Bar Ilan University from 1986 until 1991. Prior to entering the field of college teaching, he served as Principal of Hebrew Day Schools in America, for 10 years. Some of these schools were for Ashkenazic youngsters, and others were primarily for Sephardic youngsters.

He is a registered psychologist and a member of the Israel Psychological Association as well as the Israel Education Association. His doctoral dissertation was done under the direction of Professors Herman Witkin and Margaret Mead, entitled “Influences of Cultural Patterns on the Thinking of Children in Certain Ethnic groups: A Study of the Effect of Jewish sub-culture on the Field-Dependence-Independence Dimension of Cognition.” A number of his studies have dealt with sex and socio-economic differences as also differences between pupils in government general schools and government religious schools.

His primary research interests are in cognitive processes and cultural differences, Jewish self-identity, and the development of empathy (particularly, empathy with the Jewish People). He has published in all of these fields and has created several original instruments for these studies: Verbal Disembedding Test; Jewishness Rating Test (with Yaakov Rand); The Piagean Scale; and a Test of Jewish Empathy (with Hana Yaoz). He has also published articles of “halakhic” interest and in the area of Torah and Science.