

Prof. Avishalom Westreich – Biographical Note

Prof. Avishalom Westreich is President of **Herzog Academic College** (founded by Lifshitz College and Herzog College). The College operates campuses in Jerusalem and Gush Etzion and is engaged in teacher education, Jewish Studies, and a wide range of academic and educational initiatives in Israel and throughout the Jewish world.

Before assuming his current position in February 2026, Prof. Westreich was an Associate Professor of Jewish Law, Family Law, and Jurisprudence at the College of Law and Business in Ramat Gan, Israel, and a Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. In 2023, he was a Research Fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies and an Israel Institute Visiting Faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania. He previously served as a Visiting Scholar at the Petrie-Flom Center at Harvard Law School, a Research Fellow at the Agunah Research Unit at the University of Manchester, and a visiting scholar at several other academic institutions.

Prof. Westreich's research focuses on two main areas. The first is modern family law, particularly the encounter between Jewish law and civil law in light of the significant changes affecting family life in recent decades. His work in this field addresses, among other topics, marriage and divorce, the agunah problem and get refusal, assisted reproduction, surrogacy, and egg donation. His books in this field include [*The Right to Divorce: No-Fault Divorce in the Jewish Tradition*](#) (2014), [*Talmud-Based Solutions to the Problem of the Agunah*](#) (2012), and [*Assisted Reproduction in Israel: Law, Religion, and Culture*](#) (2018).

A second major area of his research is Talmudic tort law, including its formation, development, and conceptual structure. His book *The Four Archetypes of Damages* ([*Arba'ah Avot Nezikin*](#)): *Law, Tradition, and Interpretation* was published by Carmel Publishing House in 2023, with the support of the Israel Science Foundation.

Prof. Westreich holds B.A. degrees in Talmud (Bar-Ilan University) and Jewish History (The Open University of Israel), as well as an LL.B. in Law, an M.A. in Hermeneutic Studies, and a Ph.D. in Talmudic Laws of Tort from Bar-Ilan University. He studied at the Sha'alvim and Otniel hesder yeshivot and holds rabbinic ordination (*Semicha – Yoreh Yoreh*) from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.