

The Innovative Teaching Mindset in an Era of Digital Evolution

Daisy De Gioannini

University of Turin

ITALY



The Innovative Teaching Mindset in an Era of Digital Evolution



Longitudinal study
(2022–2025) with 494
secondary school
teachers



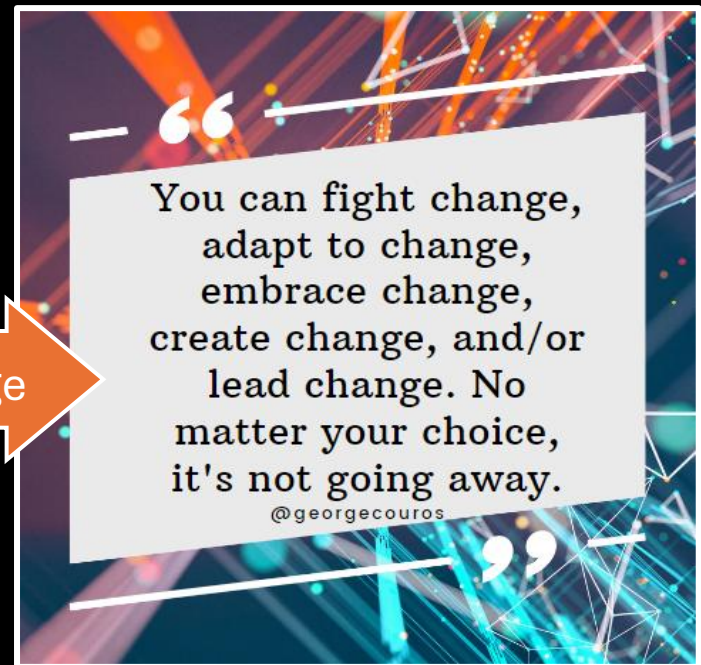
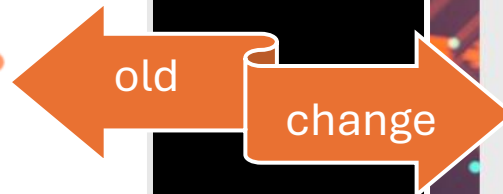
Explores pedagogical
values, innovation,
and early reactions to
AI



Focus: how mindset
shapes technology
use

Why an Innovative Mindset Matters

Education is evolving rapidly due to digital transformation

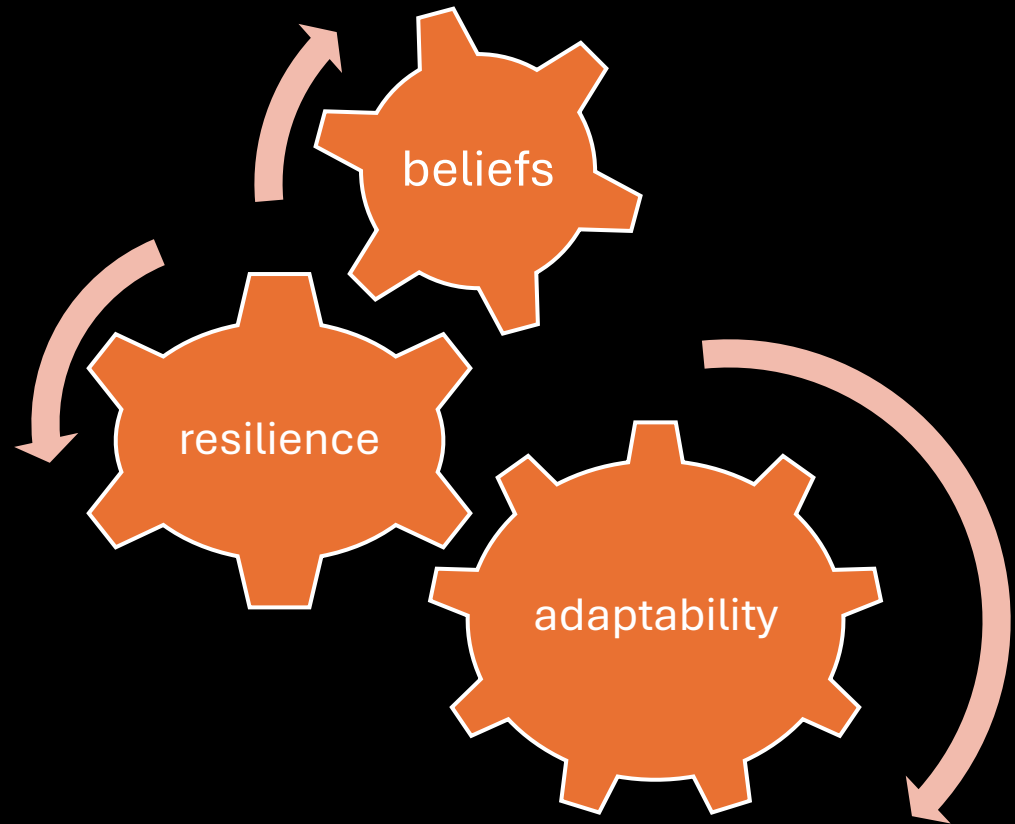


Why an Innovative Mindset Matters

Innovation is more than technical skills

Inspired by

- growth mindset (Dweck)
- innovator's mindset (Couros)



The Innovator's Mindset

G. Couros



EMPATHETIC



**PROBLEM
FINDER / SOLVER**



RISK-TAKER



NETWORKED



OBSERVANT



CREATOR



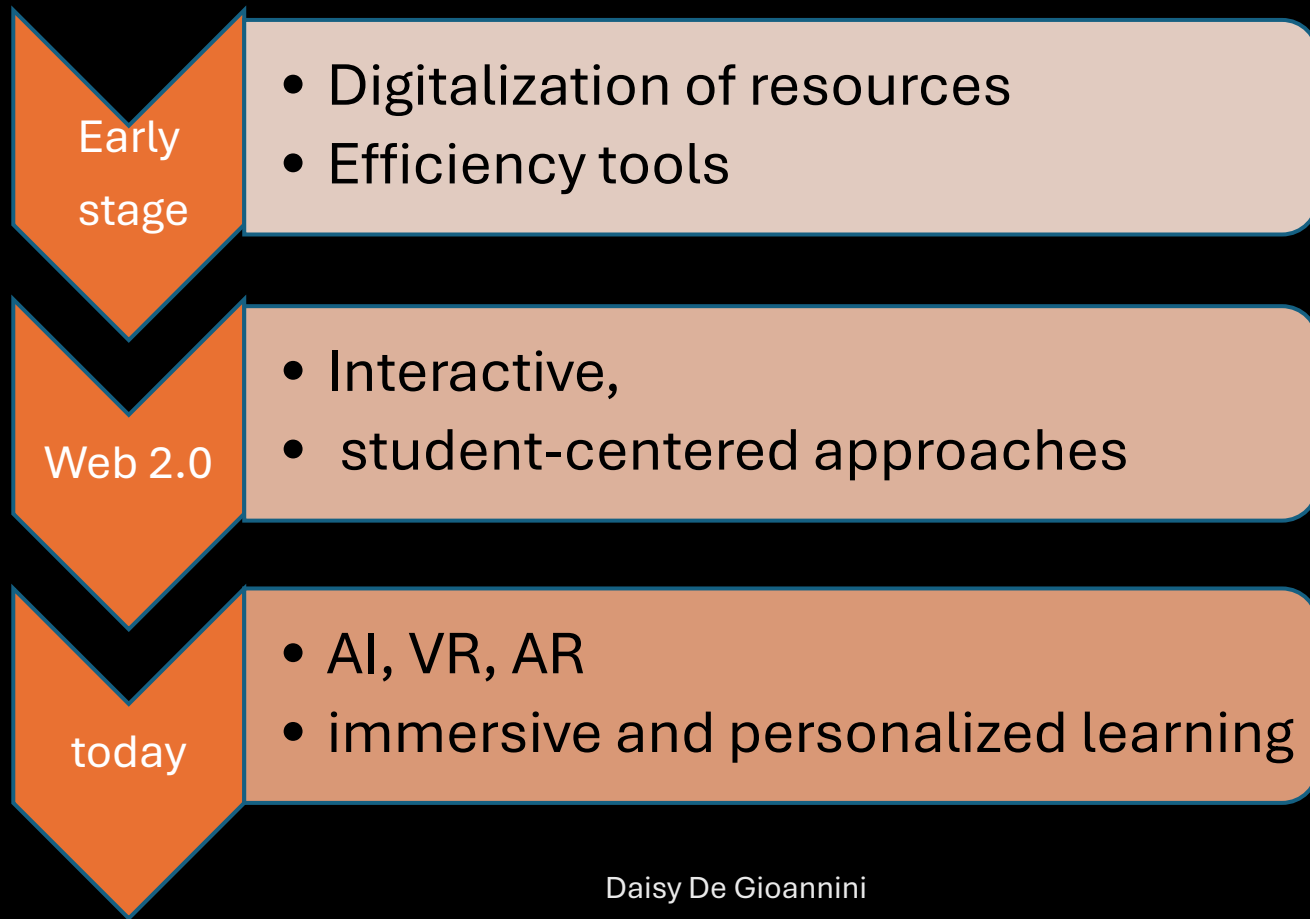
RESILIENT



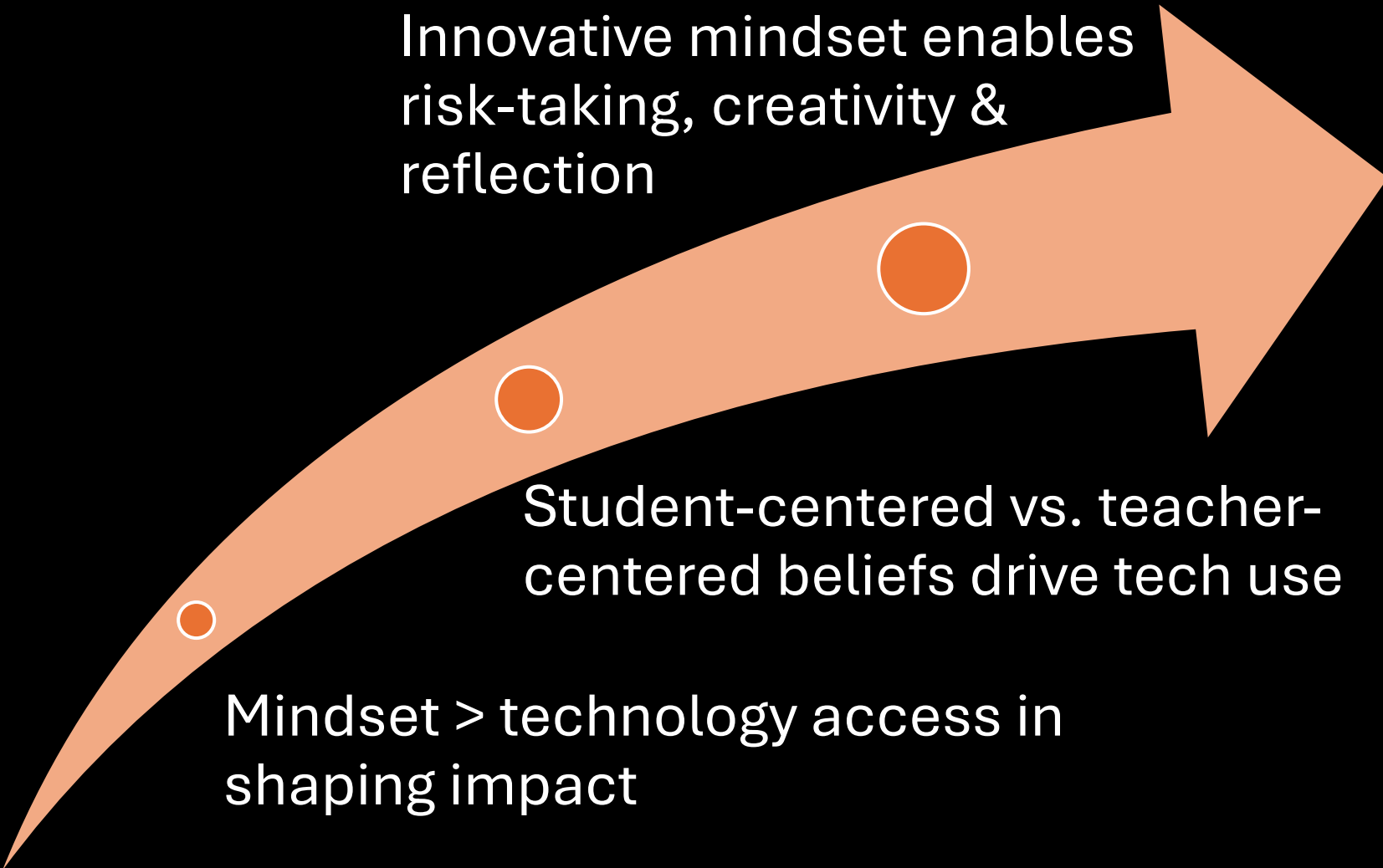
REFLECTIVE

Digital Education's Trajectory

Challenge: redefining teacher roles and ethics



The Teacher's Role in Change



Innovative mindset enables
risk-taking, creativity &
reflection

Student-centered vs. teacher-
centered beliefs drive tech use

Mindset > technology access in
shaping impact

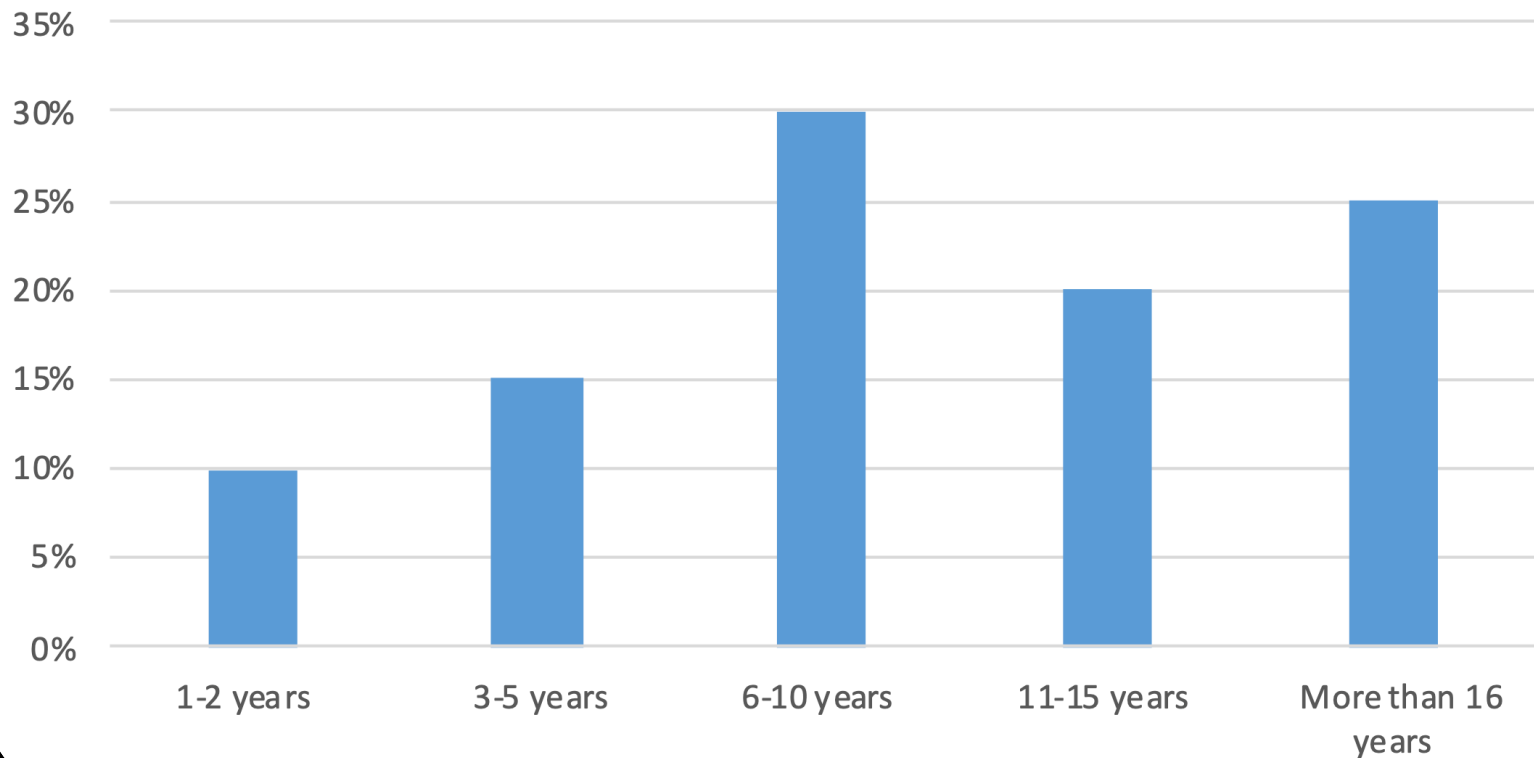
Research Design

- Longitudinal surveys (2022–2025)
- 494 Italian secondary school teachers, diverse subjects
- Data collected during professional development events
- Balanced mix of early-career and veteran educators

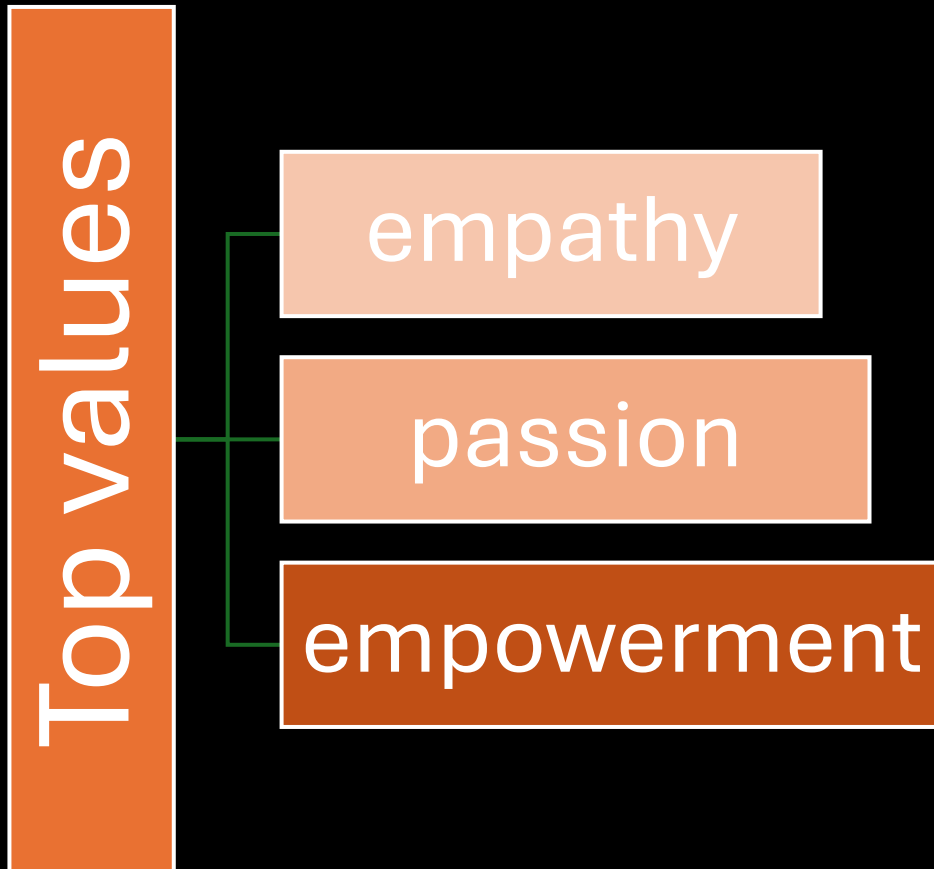


Research design

Teaching Experience Distribution



Student-Centered Pedagogy



Student-Centered Pedagogy



Traditional methods (e.g.,
frontal lessons) rated lowest



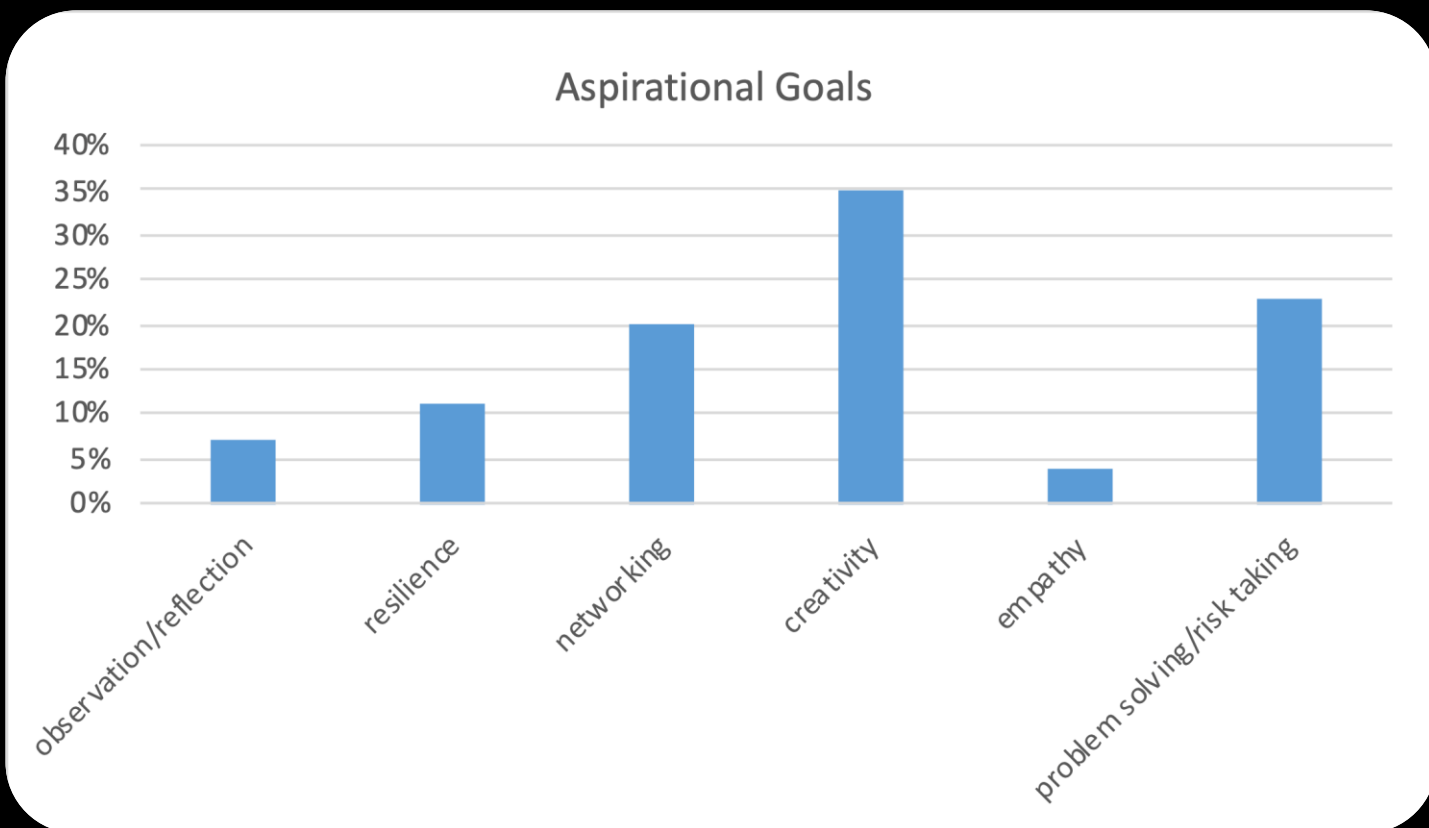
Technology = supportive tool,
not the core of teaching

Traits of an Innovative Educator

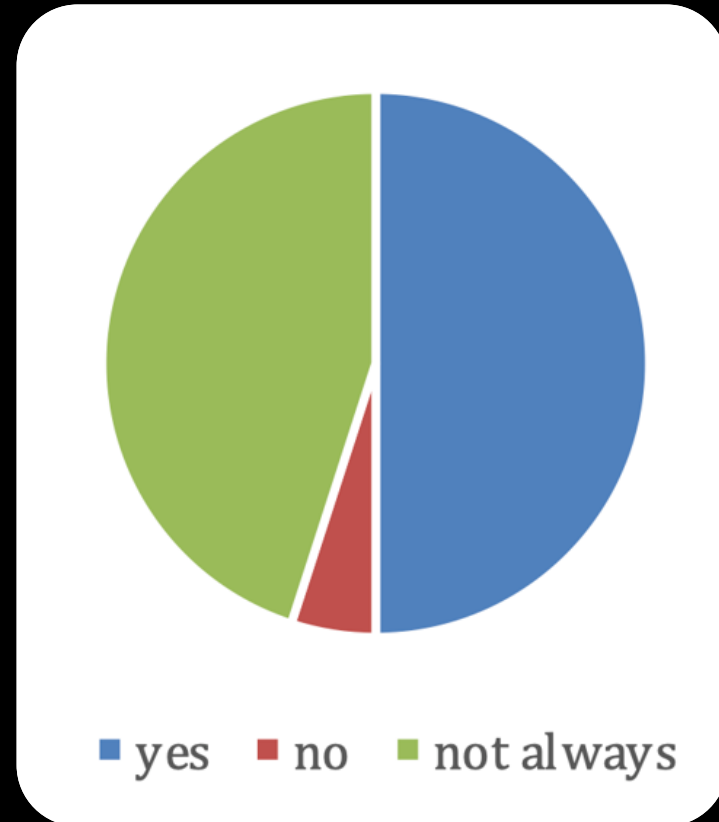
- Creativity, reflection, resilience, problem-finding
- Top aspiration: creativity (chosen by 35%)
- Teachers want to move from ideals → practice
- Shift toward future-focused, collaborative skills



Traits of an Innovative Educator



Teachers' Self-Reflection



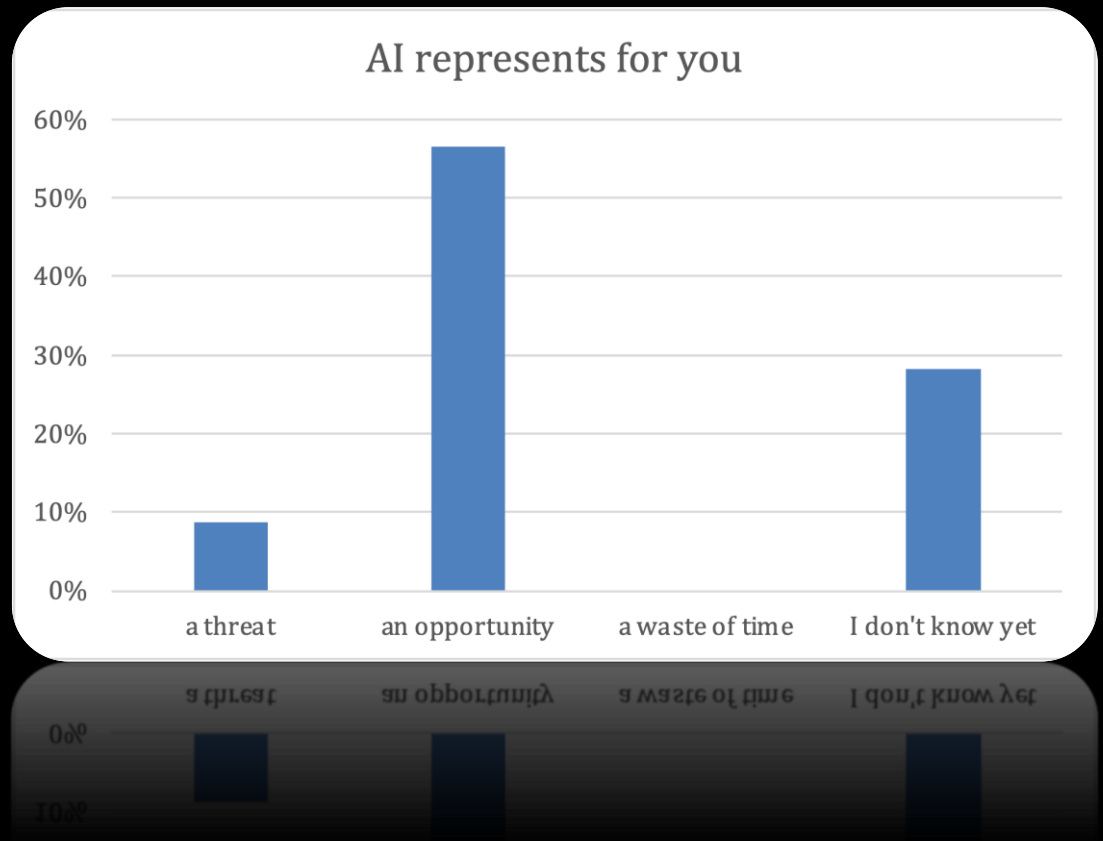
2025: Half felt positive about their classrooms

45% said learning environment is 'not always' ideal

Honest recognition of gap between beliefs and reality

Teachers & AI

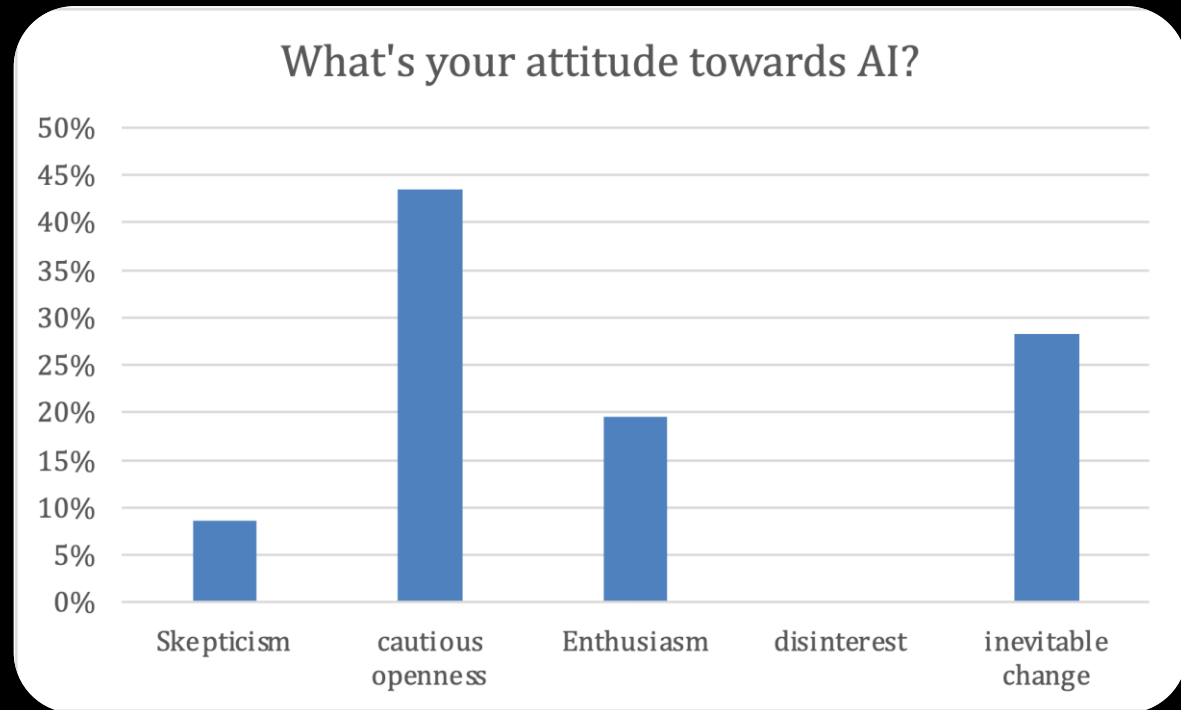
(2025 Findings)



- 50%: AI as an opportunity

Teachers & AI (2025 Findings)

- 44%: cautious openness as main attitude
- Concerns: bias, misinformation, ethics, loss of human contact
- Balance between curiosity and responsibility



Implications & Conclusion



Innovative mindset
predicts readiness for AI



Teachers value reflection,
empathy, problem-solving
over novelty

Implications & Conclusion

PD should focus on
pedagogy, ethics, and
resilience—not just tools

Future: align AI with existing
student-centered values





Thanks!

Daisy De Gioannini

University of Turin
ITALY

The Innovative Teaching Mindset in an Era of Digital Evolution: A Longitudinal Study of Teacher Perceptions and the Rise of AI (July 12, 2025).