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(DE)CARBONIZING DIGITAL CULTURES. TOWARDS A SPECULATIVE CRITIQUE OF CRYPTOCARBON AND ITS POLITICAL MEDIA ECOLOGIES

SUBJECT

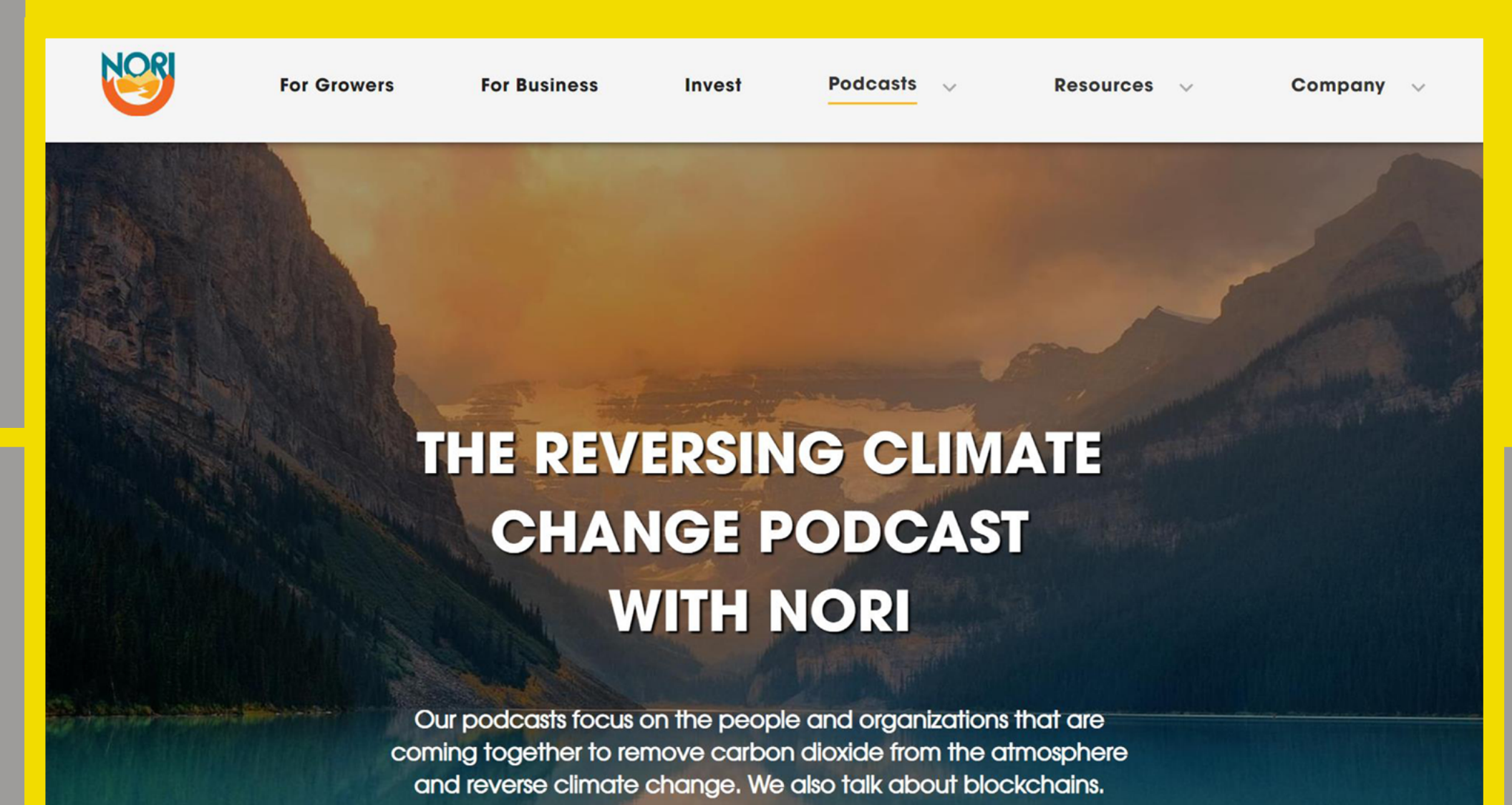
My dissertation project examines the role digital cultures and technologies play in current processes of (de)carbonization. It investigates new online platforms – tentatively referred to as cryptocarbon initiatives – that deploy AI and blockchain for carbon removal practices.

The project develops a critical analysis of cryptocarbon as a speculative proposition and questions its potential for critical practices of digital decarbonization and future techno-ecologies of reparation.

Regen Network –
Change of Ecological
States, Screenshot



Nori – The Reversing
Climate Change Podcast,
Screenshot



RESEARCH INTEREST

Tracing the political media ecologies of cryptocarbon platforms as media assemblages of digital (de)carbonization, the dissertation aims to explore how carbon is increasingly foregrounded as a mediating metric of global warming that not only modulates climates but also informs social and cultural practices and discourses. It proposes to rethink decarbonization beyond techno-utopian solutionism or environmental romanticism as a critical practice of envisioning and constituting a plurality of possible post-carbon futures.

APPROACH

The dissertation combines online ethnography with discourse analysis of cryptocarbon's media ecosystem (project websites, TED talks, podcasts) and grey literature (industry reports, technical white papers) that is 'grounded' in field research of selected case studies. Thus, a media cultural analysis of cryptocarbon is provided on three levels:

- Cryptocarbon partakes in emerging digital cultures of (de)carbonization that redefine the **socio-cultural** dimension of carbon
- Cryptocarbon represents a potential novel regime of **remote algorithmic carbon governance**
- Cryptocarbon as **techno-ecologies in the making** might be appropriated for critical practices of decarbonization