

Contents

Acknowledgements 9

Preface 13

Introduction 17

Questions of Methodology and Theoretical Framework

1. Questions of Methodology 27

1.1 Field Research in the US, Canada, and Spain 31

1.2 Film Analysis of Lesbian Characters 35

2. Lesbian Identities 41

2.1 Construction of Lesbian Identities 42

2.2 Terminology and Models of Identity 45

2.2.1 Lesbiana vs. Lésbico/ a 47

2.2.2 Models of Identity 50

2.2.3 Emotions vs. Sexuality 58

2.3 Socio-Political Aspects of Lesbianism 66

2.3.1 The Dangers of Labeling Identity 69

2.3.2 The Importance of Labeling Identity 74

3. Lesbian Web Series: The Medium 85

3.1 A Subculturally Sensitive Approach towards Definition 86

3.1.1 Performative and Political Audiovisuality 92

3.1.2 Authenticity 93

3.1.3 Fictionality 95

3.1.4 Narrativity 97

3.1.5 Seriality 98

3.1.6	Transnationality and its Bonding Tendencies	100
3.1.7	Transmediality and the Emergence of Social Media	102
3.2	The Lesbian Web Series Corpus and YouTube.....	104
3.3	Hypotheses and Research Questions.....	110
4.	The Lesbian Code	113
4.1	No Lesbian Erasure: Visibility as Identity Stabilization Process.....	118
4.2	Opposing the Lesbian Death Trope	122
4.3	Lesbian Codes of Identification.....	123
4.3.1	Lesbian Legacy Collection	124
4.3.2	Lesbian Bodies in the Mirror	127

Analysis of Empirical Data

5.	Approaching Female Identities in Lesbian Web Series within Anglo-, Hispano-, and Francophone Contexts	147
5.1	Female Identities in Lesbian Web Series	149
5.2	Encoding Lesbianism in Opening Scenes	152
5.2.1	Subcultural Codes and Symbols to Introduce Lesbian Protagonists	154
5.2.2	Intimate (Private & Public) Safe Spaces	160
5.2.3	Public Spaces: In the Streets of Montreal.....	174
5.3	Decoding Lesbian Bodies in Mirror Scenes	177
5.3.1	<i>Féminin/ Féminin</i>	180
5.3.2	<i>Chica Busca Chica</i>	181
5.3.3	<i>De Chica En Chica</i>	183
5.3.4	<i>Venice The Series</i>	184
5.3.5	Excursus: <i>Fringe/ Lip Service/ Last Girl</i>	185
5.3.6	Excursus: <i>GZSZ</i>	186
6.	Effects of Lesbian Web Series on their Audiences	189
6.1	The Lesbian Gaze	192
6.2	Lesbian Spectatorship and a Sense of Community Building	193
6.3	Audience Migration on the Example of <i>Guiding Light</i> and <i>Venice The Series</i> Using <i>Clean Slate</i> as Musical Memory Motif	205
6.3.1	From Soap Opera to Web Series	206
6.3.2	The Musical Memory Motif	206
6.3.3	Otalia Key Scenes in the Soap Opera <i>Guiding Light</i>	209
6.3.4	Giani Key Scenes in the Lesbian Web Series <i>Venice The Series</i>	211
7.	Conclusion	223

Abbreviations 231

Table of Figures 233

References 235

Lesbian Web Series..... 235

TV Series, Films, and Documentaries 236

LGBT Archives and Museums..... 237

Bibliography 239

Webliography..... 247

