

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

