

# Contents

---

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>1. Introduction</b>   | 7   |
| <b>2. Immigration and Sexuality: Policies and Practices in Switzerland</b> | 21  |
| 2.1 Migration to Switzerland   | 22  |
| 2.2 Lesbians in Switzerland  | 37  |
| 2.3 Queer Migration to Switzerland   | 46  |
| <b>3. Sexuality, Migration, Space</b>                                      | 61  |
| 3.1 Embodied Geographies   | 62  |
| 3.2 Traveling Concepts of Sexualities: Queer Migration Studies             | 72  |
| 3.3 What's Space Got to Do with It? Geographies of Sexualities             | 77  |
| 3.4 Thinking Sexuality, Migration, and Space Together                      | 88  |
| 3.5 Who Are 'Queer Migrant Women'? Approaching the Research Subject        | 118 |
| <b>4. Methodology: Doing Research in an Intersectional Field</b>           | 129 |
| 4.1 Applied Methods  | 129 |
| 4.2 The Sampling Process   | 142 |
| 4.3 Data Corpus, Data Analysis, and Writing Process                        | 144 |
| 4.4 Some Thoughts on Positionality   | 149 |
| <b>5. Shifting Positions of the Sexual Self</b>                            | 155 |
| 5.1 "Now I can say I'm a lesbian": Becoming a Lesbian in Switzerland       | 156 |
| 5.2 "I was totally shocked": Differing Sexual (Sub)cultures                | 175 |
| 5.3 "It's like a stamp": Rejecting the Lesbian Label                       | 192 |
| 5.4 Conclusion   | 208 |
| <b>6. Family Matters</b>   | 211 |
| 6.1 Family Relations: The Family of Origin                                 | 213 |
| 6.2 Queer Families   | 252 |
| 6.3 Conclusion   | 275 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>7. Diasporic Spaces, Intersectional Homing Desires</b> .....   | 279 |
| 7.1 Negotiating Racism and Xenophobia as an 'Ausländerin' in Switzerland .....  | 280 |
| 7.2 Ambivalent Diasporic Spaces .....   | 284 |
| 7.3 Queering the Diasporic, Diasporizing the Lesbian .....  | 296 |
| 7.4 Desiring the Queer Compatriot .....   | 297 |
| 7.5 "Des Suisses-Suisses on va laisser tomber": Being 'Other Swiss' Together .....  | 300 |
| 7.6 Imagining and Reclaiming the (Parents') Home Country .....  | 303 |
| 7.7 Conclusion .....  | 306 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>8. Sexual Citizenship</b> .....  | 309 |
| 8.1 Partnership Registration: An Intimate Decision? .....   | 310 |
| 8.2 Producing and Controlling Sexualities at and within the Border .....  | 319 |
| 8.3 Conclusion .....  | 334 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>9. Work</b> .....  | 337 |
| 9.1 Work as a Site of Recognition, Self-Realization, and Integration .....  | 338 |
| 9.2 Failing to Connect at Work .....  | 341 |
| 9.3 "Romeo and Juliet would have killed each other long ago":<br>Being Excluded from Work .....                               | 346 |
| 9.4 'Coming out' at Work .....  | 350 |
| 9.5 "I'll just get the degree and then they'll leave me alone":<br>Work as a 'Trade-off' in Intra-familial Negotiations ..... | 355 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>10. Scales of Identification: The City, the Rural</b> .....  | 359 |
| 10.1 Living in the Swiss Countryside: Ambivalent Rural Closets .....  | 361 |
| 10.2 Grabbing the Bull by its Horns: The Rural as the Epitome of Switzerland .....  | 364 |
| 10.3 Rural Utopias .....  | 369 |
| 10.4 Conclusion .....   | 370 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>11. Conclusion and Outlook</b> .....   | 373 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>Acknowledgments</b> .....  | 393 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>Résumé</b> .....   | 395 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>Bibliography</b> .....   | 401 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>Annex I: List of Research Participants</b> .....   | 437 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>Annex II: Overview of Collected Data</b> .....   | 441 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>Annex III: Technical Notes</b> .....   | 443 |