How to engage with younger users on Instagram: A comparative analysis of HBO and Netflix in the Spanish and U.S. markets

Juan Martín-Quevedo (Universidad Internacional de la Rioja)

Erika Fernández-Gómez (Universidad Internacional de la Rioja)

Francisco Segado-Boj (Universidad Internacional de la Rioja)* Corresponding author

Accepted manuscript

Final version published at:

Martín-Quevedo, J., Fernández-Gómez, E., & Segado-Boj, F. (2019). How to engage with younger users on Instagram: A comparative analysis of HBO and Netflix in the Spanish and US markets. International journal on media management, 21(2), 67-87. https://doi.org/10.1080/14241277.2019.1585355

Abstract:

Social media have become useful tools for audiovisual promotion, especially to reach

niche audiences. Twitter promotional strategies have been widely studied, yet other

growing platforms such as Instagram have been less analyzed. This paper examines the

Instagram promotional strategies of two pay-per-view platforms (HBO and Netflix) in

two markets (the United States and Spain). A total of 731 messages, posted between

May and November 2017, were analyzed to identify their formal features, objectives,

and their content's emotional and cognitive elements posted on HBO and Netflix's

Spanish and U.S. accounts.

The results showed acute differences between how HBO and Netflix use their Instagram

accounts in the two markets (Spain and the United States). The Spanish accounts mostly

provided information, while the American accounts both provided information and

promoted program content. Posts from U.S. accounts more frequently included links to

social media, particularly to celebrity accounts. Spanish accounts relied more on

diegetic images, whereas U.S. accounts emphasized non-diegetic and off-set images.

Netflix used humor more than HBO did, and a stronger focus on celebrities. Humor and

positive tone were found to be linked to higher engagement.

Keywords: Audiences, Television, Networks, Internet, Entertainment Media

2

Introduction

The audiovisual market views social media as relevant tools to increase their box office numbers (Ding, Cheng, Duan, & Jin, 2017) and television audiences (Gong, Zhang, Zhao, & Jiang, 2017). Hence, TV networks increasingly use social media to promote their output and to foster engagement with their audiences (Wang, 2016).

While Twitter continues to be the most popular social media platform for television marketing strategies (Segado-Boj, Grandío, & Fernández-Gómez, 2015), Instagram is becoming a relevant tool to reach new niches, such as younger audiences (Ferguson & Greer, 2016). In 2017, Instagram was the fastest growing social networking site (SNS) in Spain, with a penetration rate rising from 34% to 45% (IAB & Elogia, 2017).

Instagram has a strongly visual-oriented focus; photographs and short videos are the most common content (Lee et al., 2015). Unlike other SNS consumers, Instagram users are mainly driven by social interaction (Blight, Ruppel, & Schoenbauer, 2017; Phua, Jin & Kim, 2017), which explains the higher level of engagement and brand community commitment found among its users (Casaló, Flavián, & Ibáñez-Sánchez, 2017). High levels of interaction are important, because they can encourage a word-of-mouth effect and fan community building which are strong contributors to the success of social media campaigns in the audiovisual sector (Nanda, Pattnaik, & Lu, 2018)

Despite its potential, Instagram is utilized as a campaign tool by only traditional TV media (Ferguson & Greer, 2016). Younger consumers, on the other hand, are drawn to new models of TV broadcasting such as HBO and Netflix, which have only recently entered the Spanish market (Kantar Media, 2017).

Both HBO and Netflix underscore the quality and exclusivity of their program output (McCabe & Akass, 2008; Heredia Ruiz, 2017), but each employs its unique broadcasting strategy. Netflix simultaneously releases full seasons of most of their original programming, whereas HBO follows the linear structure of the traditional TV model (Lotz, 2016).

This research focuses on Instagram strategies of Netflix and HBO, and it compares their strategies in a consolidated market such as the United States with those in a new market such as Spain. The study analyzes which message characteristics achieve better engagement on Instagram.

This study follows Goffman's (1959) theory of presentation of self to analyze how TV networks employ Instagram to project their brand image (Greer & Ferguson, 2017). Special attention is paid to the kind of content posted by the two networks' Instagram profiles as basic resources to manage online self-presentation (Johnson & Ranzini, 2018).

This analysis is also relevant from the practitioner's point of view, given the importance of SNSs as a channel for media distribution and promotion, especially for targeting younger audiences (Wu, 2018). The results of the analysis might help to better understand what kind of content fosters user engagement on Instagram.

Prior research (Greer & Ferguson, 2017) pointed that almost 30% of the content posted on Instagram by local USA TV networks pursues a promotional function, a higher

proportion than the 20% of promotional messages posted by the same networks on Pinterest. This same study concluded that followers engage more with news and community building posts and less with "behind-the-scenes" content. It also pointed that the Instagram approach of those stations depends on the market size where they operate. Given that this previous work has been limited to the use of Instagram by local TV stations, the present study will help practitioners and scholars to understand how bigger Pay On Demand TV platforms are using Instagram.

The presence of Netflix on Twitter has been characterized by promotional content. On this platform, humor and suspense has been found to increase user engagement (Fernández-Gómez & Martín-Quevedo, 2018b).

In line with this finding, the research questions are:

RQ1. What is the general strategy applied in the Spanish and American cultural settings of HBO and Netflix on Instagram?

- RQ1.1. Are their posts promotional, or do they have other aims?
- RQ1.2. Do their posts promote the company in general or their specific program content in particular?
- RQ1.3. Do the posts promote HBO's and Netflix's homegrown production or purchased program content?
- RQ1.4. Are TV series the main content promoted on this social network?

RQ2. What are the characteristics of the messages posted on Instagram in the American and Spanish cultural settings?

- RQ2.1 What kind of elements are used in posts?
- RQ2.2. Are memes used to engage the audience?
- RQ2.3 What kind of videos are posted? Do they differ from promotional ones?
- RQ2.4 What are the characteristics of the images?

Instagram's technological and social features (Phua, Jin & Kim, 2017) are conducive to certain post characteristics. Therefore, special attention is given to social features, such as personalization or emotional expression, as explained in the Method section. In this sense, following Chen et al. (2015), we expect the social aspect of Instagram to be linked to a high occurrence of personalization features (see Table 1).

Special attention is paid to macro memes images—objects "appropriated, re-coded, and slotted back into the internet infrastructures they came from" (Nooney & Portwood-Stacer, 2014: 249) and strongly linked to digital communities. We hypothesized this kind of content to be fairly common in the analyzed platforms. We also took "faces" into account as they have proven to be a popular feature on Instagram, at least in posts related to fashion marketing (Manikonda, Venkatesan, Kambhampati, & Li, 2015).

RQ3. How do the posts foster engagement? What kind of emotional and cognitive elements do they feature?

Previous literature identifies several features related to content virality on social media (see Al-Rawi, 2017). Emotional and cognitive elements appear to relate to user engagement in the scenario and context under study.

RQ4. What resources do the posts that achieve the highest engagement use, and what objectives do they achieve?

Last, we identify the characteristics and goals of the posts that achieved the highest engagement.

Engagement was measured by the number of "likes" for each post, which ranged from 0 to 555,252. "Shares" were not taken into account, as Instagram does not focus on redistributing content (Larsson, 2017). Instead, "likes" were used as the main measure to understand the attitudes of the Instagram audience (Sumner, Ruge-Jones, & Alcorn, 2017). Furthermore, "likes" are a significant performance index; they can be taken as a sign of TV viewer's behaviors, as happens with moviegoers' (Ding et al., 2017). Comments for each post, which ranged from 0 to 35,100, were also considered.

Methods

The messages posted by HBO and Netflix on their Spanish and U.S. Instagram accounts over a six-month period (May 16, 2017 to November 16, 2017, n=731) were manually collected. This sample was coded according to the variables and categories displayed in Table 1.

Table 1

Two of the study's authors coded the sample. Both are Spanish native speakers and fluent in English. This allowed them to address cultural and language differences among

the samples. Inter-coder agreement was calculated through a Cohen's Kappa test applied to each category to a random 10% sample (n=80) of messages. Ratios ranged between "very good" (82.45 in "information" as the objective of the message) and "fair" (26.54 in the "entertainment" category). The only values where no consensus was reached were: trailer (-78), teaser (1.67), usefulness (-4.15), animals (1), social magnitude (1.5), negative tone (1), and positive tone (6.29). Given the absence of consensus, these categories were left out of the results.

Results were subjected to U-Mann Whitney tests to find significant differences (equal to or below 0.05) between the resources used in Instagram posts and the achieved engagement measured by comment and "likes." This test only examined features which appeared in at least 10% of the messages. Results refer to the sum of all messages, regardless of which account posted them (see Tables 15 and 16).

Results

RQ1. What is the general strategy applied in the Spanish and American cultural settings of HBO and Netflix on Instagram?

HBO and Netflix employ distinctive strategies on Instagram. The first level of analysis showed that HBO America and HBO Spain pursued a more active strategy (see Table 2).

Table 2

RQ1.1 and RQ1.2 results revealed similarities. First, HBO America, Netflix America, and Netflix Spain accounts used a significant number of their posts (more than a third) to promote their program content. On the other hand, HBO Spain focused more on information (see Table 3).

Table 3

Other strategies appeared as mostly marginally significant. Thus, the main drive was promotion, followed by information, while encouragement of audience participation seemed less of a concern.

In the case of Netflix, especially Netflix Spain, promotion of homegrown program content (RQ.1.3) made up most of the content, with an average presence of 86.5%.

Table 4

As shown in Table 5, the most promoted program content is TV series (RQ1.4). For both countries, each platform focused most of its efforts on their "flagship" series (*Game of Thrones* for HBO, and *Stranger Things* for Netflix). In contrast, aside from *The Deuce*, no other coincidences were observed between the U.S. accounts and their Spanish counterparts. This may point to a specialized promotion of the catalogue available in each country and the audience tastes, revealing the Spanish accounts' high degree of adaptability and independence.

Table 5

RQ2. What are the characteristics of the messages posted on Instagram in the American and Spanish cultural settings?

Strategies varied among platforms and countries in terms of the elements used in posts (RQ2.1) (see Table 6). Netflix adopted a more coherent strategy between its two Instagram accounts in its use of images and videos: the U.S. account utilized more videos, whereas the Spanish account stressed images—although the difference was minor. However, differences in the use of videos or images were more noticeable between the two HBO platforms, with more than a twenty-point difference in score between the accounts. A reason for this result might be HBO Spain's use of videos in English which require more work and effort for subtitling. Finally, other formal features were virtually absent.

Table 6

Regarding RQ2.3, a common strategy, albeit with minor differences, was noted in all four accounts: each platform focuses its efforts on promotional content (see Table 7).

Table 7

Netflix America tended to announce its program content with little advance notice as they used few or no sneak peeks or trailers, while Netflix Spain aimed for a more balanced strategy. These differences between Netflix America and Netflix Spain were also observed in the case of HBO. Moreover, compared to all four accounts, HBO America made much more use of "making-of" videos—perhaps because it has easier access to behind-the-scenes footage from its original productions.

A diversity of strategies was adopted for images (RQ2.4), with Netflix showing a slightly more consistent approach (see Table 8).

Table 8

On the other hand, HBO Spain and America appears to have adopted different strategies in their use of both videos and images. HBO Spain relied more on diegetic images, which supports the idea that HBO America has better access to non-diegetic material than its Spanish counterpart. Nevertheless, both platforms used a similar technical approach; most of the images tended to feature the characters, especially those on HBO Spain, while less than a quarter featured the actors.

RQ3. How do the posts foster engagement? What kind of emotional and cognitive elements do they feature?

Few differences were observed among HBO America, Netflix America, and Netflix Spain in terms of the tone of the messages. All three leant toward a positive tone with ample humor, especially the Netflix accounts (see Table 9). Positive tone and humor generated significantly more engagement (see Tables 15 and 16).

Table 9

The discordant note was observed yet again in HBO Spain, which used a comparatively less positive tone (8.5% of the posts), employing more entertainment and action content. HBO America used entertainment content in its messages only once, although to a lesser extent. This could be a consequence of the content of the series in its catalogue, especially its flagship, *Game of Thrones*, which is a drama series abounding in action, revelations, and plot twists. Messages with entertainment content demonstrated the worst results in terms of engagement (see Tables 15 and 16).

The Netflix series *Stranger Things* also used entertainment and action content, although the main characters are kids and the series strongly emphasizes humor and '80s nostalgia. Indeed, children appeared much more frequently in Netflix posts, in both Netflix Spain and America. Also, Netflix Spain drew more on action than Netflix America (14.9%) which was on a par with HBO America. This was most evident in Netflix's promotion of *Stranger Things* and its "horror" plots, leading to a dichotomy in the promotional approach of this series, which combined characteristics usually found in youth series with elements typical of horror or drama series.

RQ4. What resources do the posts that achieve the highest engagement use, and what objectives do they achieve?

The most popular messages on each account highlighted the flagship series. In HBO America, the four posts yielding the most "likes" were on *Game of Thrones*, followed by *Gunpowder* (see Table 10). It should be noted that only the most used resources appear in each table for practicality.

Table 10

Table 11

Similar findings were observed for HBO Spain, where three of the most "liked" posts were about *Game of Thrones*. The other two, however, were about HBO's two homegrown series, *Preacher* and *The Secret Life of Couples* (see Table 11). This finding was even more evident for Netflix: Netflix America's five most popular posts were about *Stranger Things*; and on Netflix Spain, these accounted for four of the five most popular posts, with the first exclusively dedicated to brand promotion (see Tables 12 and 13).

Table 12

Table 13

Another key difference was the level of success. Although HBO accounts, especially HBO Spain, were much more active on Instagram than Netflix, they did not achieve the same engagement levels (See Table 14).

Table 14

It is noteworthy that the resources used in the most popular posts differed, even between the accounts of the same platform. HBO America drew quite heavily on social media resources, including links to official profiles of the series and their actors (four of the five posts), as well as hashtags (all posts). All posts featured an image, albeit with a balanced mix of subjects: diegetic (2 images), derivative art (1) and non-diegetic (2). The same occurred when showing actors (2) or actors in character (3) (see Table 8).

Furthermore, HBO Spain focused all its efforts on promoting its program content in all five posts and providing information (four posts) of premieres, new episodes, and events. As in the case of HBO America, all posts included at least one hashtag, but there was a greater balance in the combination of images (three posts) and trailers (two posts). Additionally, most of the posts sought to entertain the users (four posts) (see Table 11).

Netflix America also made extensive use of images (four posts) and focused on promoting its program content (five posts), although its most popular post was the only one to incorporate a video to announce the upcoming second season of *Stranger Things*. The four other most popular posts were humorous (three posts) and positive (four posts). Three of them featured children, while the other two showed Steve, a teenage character who plays a key role in the children-centered plot (see Table 12).

The focus on humor (four posts) and positive tone (three posts) also prevailed on Netflix Spain, although children were mentioned only in one post. However, images and derivative art (3) were featured in all the posts. Finally, it is worth noting that although four of the most popular posts were dedicated to promoting the program content, the most popular post promoted the brand in an amusing way by depicting a divorce proceeding, which read "motive: he/she watched a season without me."

Trying to establish a conversation with other people or mentioning them with social network links was the most successful feature. Showing empathy or solidarity were also effective strategies (see Tables 15 and 16).

Conclusions

HBO and Netflix pursue distinct global approaches on Instagram, adapted to some degree to the country in question. HBO tends to be more active on Instagram than Netflix, but the difference is less evident in their U.S. accounts. By the time HBO stepped into the Spanish market, it had to compete with consolidated operators such as Movistar+ and was 16 months behind Netflix Spain. HBO tried to promote itself in Spain through a high-intensity strategy on Instagram.

This difference is also evident in the objective of the posts. The two Spanish accounts posted a higher number of informational messages than did their U.S. counterparts, not least in the case of HBO Spain, the newest competitor in this market. On the other hand, as most of the program content that HBO and Netflix promoted was self-produced (86.4% on average), they appear to have opted to emphasize available content only, instead of focusing on other platforms features (i.e., price, usability, or compatibility with several devices), with the partial exception of Netflix which focused on the possibility of its downloadable content. Posts about self-produced content generated more engagement (see Tables 15 and 16). This could mean that users value Pay On Demand platforms for their exclusive content more than other features such as the size of their available catalogue.

We identified some differences in how the two platforms used resources. On one hand, the U.S. accounts more often included links to social media, especially to celebrity profiles. As English-speaking platforms in the United States, the U.S. accounts are more likely to receive interactions from international stars which may explain the popularity of social media links as a resource as the U.S. accounts of HBO and Netflix have more followers than their Spanish accounts. Other kinds of resources such as memes were marginally used—perhaps because of their spontaneous nature which makes them difficult to mimic.

The use of images and videos was more coherent between the two Netflix accounts than the two HBO accounts. Yet again, this could either be the result of a deliberate strategy or the fact that HBO Spain prefers images, which require fewer resources to generate, to maintain its post-intensive strategy in promoting itself in a new market, whereas HBO America does not have the same needs. These inferences seem to be backed up by the types of images used. While the two Netflix accounts were homogenous, HBO Spain and HBO America were clearly different. HBO Spain used mainly diegetic images of its output's characters, screenshots taken from the program content itself, which is the most inexpensive way to obtain images. They appear not to be very popular which might be attributed to their unoriginality (see Tables 15 and 16). HBO America, however, takes a more balanced approach, with almost 25% of the images used taken on the set, pointing to more resources and easier access to the footage.

Differences were also observed in how each platform addresses its audiences. All platforms adopted a generally positive tone, yet Netflix did so more often, using humor as a main resource. This is evident in its promotions of series like *Stranger Things* in

which humor, kids, and '80s nostalgia are the main themes. Yet it also employed more dramatic resources for series like *Narcos* or *The Defenders*. Only when a series has strong social implications, such as *13 Reasons Why* or those about Nazism, humor was replaced with awareness-raising messages. These findings suggest a deliberate attempt to create a more light-hearted brand image, linked with intense and feel-good emotions.

HBO, on the other hand, appears to have adopted two different strategies with some points in common. HBO America tended to exploit its access to its stars by publishing more content about them than does any other profile. However, its two main resources are humor and entertainment—the latter considered as the most important by HBO Spain— employed to create surprise or conflict to complement its message strategy. This seems to indicate that HBO's brand image is one of serious program content for less juvenile viewers. Nonetheless, HBO America's more balanced catalogue reflects its strategy, whereas HBO Spain more frequently promotes *Game of Thrones*, its flagship series, emphasizing its "epic" features.

These strategies are particularly apparent in the most popular posts. HBO America adopts a more balanced approach in its content; four of the most popular five posts used celebrity-related social media resources. By contrast, most of HBO Spain's posts were related to *Game of Thrones* and used its images. Netflix adopts a simpler approach requiring fewer resources. For example, the most popular Netflix America post featured only text. Despite this, it achieved more engagement than HBO posts did.

Contrary to our expectations, despite their abundant presence, images and videos were not so popular, as explained above. Also, personalization was counterproductive in most

cases, as the usage of second- and third-person pronouns, and especially imperative verbs, had a negative impact on the number of average likes and comments. On the other hand, expressing emotions in messages, especially positive ones, proves to have a strong impact, as hypothesized, and highlights the fact that less obvious promotional strategies might be more effective: using humor, relating directly with the emotions of the characters, or linking with a social cause.

Limitations and further research

The findings presented can only be extrapolated to the Spanish and U.S. context; thus, general application to other scenarios would be limited. Individual SNS use depends on cultural factors (Jackson & Wang, 2013) which may lead to different engagement responses in other scenarios, such as Latin America or Eastern countries.

The kind of content posted might also vary in other markets, due to business and strategic reasons. For example, the licensing arrangements available in other countries might lead Instagram accounts to promote or emphasize different types of content.

Regardless, this study was not restricted to a single country, which allowed for the identification of some common transnational trends. Further research might delve deeper into other cultural settings.

Similarly, the findings on the specific features that foster user engagement open a line of research into how individuals process promotional media messages. Experimental and qualitative approaches such as focus groups might help to better understand *why* the aforementioned features provoke users to like or comment on the content.

Funding:

This work was supported by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, the Spanish Research Agency and the European Regional Development Fund, under grant CSO2017-86312-R

References

- Al-Rawi, A. (2017). Viral News on Social Media. *Digital Journalism*. doi:10.1080/21670811.2017.1387062
- Auverset, L. A., & Billings, A. C. (2016). Relationships between social TV and enjoyment: A content analysis of The Walking Dead's story sync experience. *Social Media+ Society*, 2(3). doi: 10.1177/2056305116662170.
- Barlovento Comunicación (2017). Las series de EEUU en televisión. [USA Television series] Retrieved from https://www.barloventocomunicacion.es/blog/170-informe-barlovento-las-series-de-eeuu-en-tv.html
- Berger, J. and Milkman, K. L (2012) What Makes Online Content Viral? *Journal of Marketing Research*, 49(2), 192-205. doi: 10.1509/jmr.10.0353
- Blight, M. G., Ruppel, E. K., & Schoenbauer, K. V. (2017). Sense of Community on Twitter and Instagram: Exploring the Roles of Motives and Parasocial Relationships. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 20(5), 314–319. doi:10.1089/cyber.2016.0505
- Casaló, L. V., Flavián, C., & Ibáñez-Sánchez, S. (2017). Understanding Consumer Interaction on Instagram: The Role of Satisfaction, Hedonism, and Content Characteristics. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 20(6), 369-

- 375. doi:10.1089/cyber.2016.0360
- Chen, K.-J., Lin, J.-S., Choi, J. H., and Hahm, J. M. (2015). Would You Be My Friend?

 An Examination of Global Marketers' Brand Personification Strategies in Social

 Media. *Journal of Interactive Advertising*, 15(2), 97–110.

 doi:10.1080/15252019.2015.1079508
- Ding, C., Cheng, H. K., Duan, Y., & Jin, Y. (2017). The power of the "like" button: The impact of social media on box office. *Decision Support Systems*, 94, 77–84. doi:10.1016/j.dss.2016.11.002
- Ferguson, D. A., & Greer, C. F. (2016). Reaching a Moving Target: How Local TV

 Stations are Using Digital Tools to Connect With Generation C. *International Journal on Media Management*, 18(3–4), 141–161.

 http://doi.org/10.1080/14241277.2016.1245191
- Fernández Gómez, E., & Díaz-Campo, J. (2014). Los canales temáticos infantiles y juveniles en Facebook: análisis de los perfiles de Disney Channel, Boing y Neox [The thematic television channels aimed at children and youth. An analysis of the profiles of Disney Channel, Neox and Boing on Facebook]. *Comunicación y Hombre*, 10, 179-194.
- Fernández-Gómez, E. & Martín-Quevedo, J. (2018a). Connecting with audiences in new markets. Netflix's Twitter strategy in Spain. *Journal of Media Business Studies*, 15(2), 127-146. doi: 10.1080/16522354.2018.1481711
- Fernández-Gómez, E. & Martín-Quevedo, J. (2018b). La estrategia de engagement de Netflix España en Twitter [The engagement strategy of Netflix Spain in Twitter]

 . El Profesional de la Información, 27(6), 1292-1302. doi: 10.3145/epi.2018.nov.12
- Goffman, E. (1959). The presentation of self in everyday life. New York, NY: Anchor

Books

- Gong, S., Zhang, J., Zhao, P., & Jiang, X. (2017). Tweeting as a Marketing Tool: A Field Experiment in the TV Industry. *Journal of Marketing Research*, 54(6), 833–850. doi:10.1509/jmr.14.0348
- Greer, C. F., & Ferguson, D. A. (2017). The local TV station as an organizational self:

 Promoting corporate image via Instagram. *International Journal on Media*Management, 19(4), doi:10.1080/14241277.2017.1383255
- Heredia Ruiz, V. (2017). Revolución Netflix: desafíos para la industria audiovisual. [Netflix Revolution: challenges for the audiovisual industry]. *Chasqui. Revista Latinoamericana de Comunicación*, 135, 275-295.
- IAB Spain and Elogia (2017). *Estudio anual de redes sociales 2017*. [Yearly social media report 2017] Retrieved from http://iabspain.es/wp-content/uploads/iab_estudioredessociales_2017_vreducida.pdf
- Kantar Media (2017). La mitad de los internautas españoles ve series de televisión online [Half os Spanish Internet users watch television series online]. Retrieved from https://es.kantar.com/media/tv/2017/julio-2017-datos-sobre-consumo-de-series-ante-el-estreno-de-juego-de-tronos/
- Kilgo, D. K., Lough, K., & Riedl, M. J. (2017). Emotional appeals and news values as factors of shareworthiness in Ice Bucket Challenge coverage. *Digital Journalism*. doi:10.1080/21670811.2017.1387501
- Johnson, B. K- & Ranzini, G. (2018). Click here to look clever: Self-presentation via selective sharing of music and film on social media. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 82, 148-158. doi: 10.1016/j.chb.2018.01.008
- Larsson, A. O. (2017). The News User on Social Media. *Journalism Studies*, 1–18. doi:10.1080/1461670X.2017.1332957

- Lee, E., Lee, J. A., Moon, J. H., & Sung, Y. (2015). Pictures speak louder than words:

 Motivations for using Instagram. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social*Networking, 18(9), 552-556. doi:10.1089/cyber.2015.0157
- Lin, J. S. and Peña, J. (2011). Are you following me? A content analysis of TV networks' brand communication on Twitter. *Journal of Interactive Advertising*, 12(1), 17-29. doi:10.1080/15252019.2011.10722188
- Lotz, A. D. (2016). The paradigmatic evolution of US television and the emergence of internet-distributed television. *Revista ICONO14 Revista científica de Comunicación* y Tecnologías emergentes, 14(2), 122-142. doi:10.7195/ri14.v14i2.993
- Manikonda, L., Venkatesan, R., Kambhampati, S., & Li, B. (2015). Evolution of fashion brands on Twitter and Instagram. Retrieved from https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/9dcb/91c79a70913763091ff1a20c4b7cb46b96f d.pdf
- McCabe, J., & Akass, K. (2008). It's not TV, it's HBO's original programming. In Leverette, M., Ott, B.L. & Buckñey, C. L. (Eds:) *It's not TV: watching HBO in the post-television era* (pp- 83-93). New York: Routledge.
- Nanda, M., Pattnaik, C., & Lu, Q. S.. (2018). Innovation in social media strategy for movie success. *Management Decision*, 56(1), 233–251. doi:10.1108/MD-04-2017-0429
- Nooney, L., & Portwood-Stacer, L. (2014). One Does Not Simply: An Introduction to the Special Issue on Internet Memes. *Journal of Visual Culture*, *13*(3), 248–252. doi:10.1177/1470412914551351
- Percheron, D., & Butzel, M. (1980). Sound in Cinema and its Relationship to Image and Diegesis. *Yale French Studies*, (60), 16-23.

- Phua, J., Jin, S. V., & Kim, J. J. (2017). Gratifications of using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Snapchat to follow brands: The moderating effect of social comparison, trust, tie strength, and network homophily on brand identification, brand engagement, brand commitment, and membership intention. *Telematics and Informatics*, 34(1), 412-424. doi:10.1016/j.tele.2016.06.004
- Segado-Boj, F. & Barquero-Cabrero, M. (2013). Estrategias de promoción on-line de una serie televisiva de éxito. La web de Game of Thrones en HBO, Canal+ y Antena 3 [On-line promotional strategies for a succesful television series. Game of Thrones official website for HBO, Canal + and Antena 3]. In Segado-Boj, F. & Barquero Cabrero, M. (Eds.) (2013). *Persuasión audiovisual. Formas, soportes y nuevas estrategias* [Audiovisual persuasion. Forms, platforms and new strategies]. Barcelona: McGraw Hill Education, Furwangen & ESERP, pp. 459-474.
- Segado-Boj, Grandío, M. and Fernández-Gómez, E. (2015). Social Media and Television: a bibliographic review based on the Web of Science. *El Profesional de la Información*, 24(3), 227-234. doi:10.3145/epi.2015.may.02
- Shoemaker, P. and Cohen, A. (2012). News around the World: Content, Practitioners, and the Public. London: Routledge.
- Sumner, E. M., Ruge-Jones, L., & Alcorn, D. (2018). A functional approach to the Facebook Like button: An exploration of meaning, interpersonal functionality, and potential alternative response buttons, 20(4), 1451-1469. New Media & Society, doi:10.1177/1461444817697917
- Wang, Y. (2016). How Do Television Networks Use Twitter? Exploring the Relationship between Twitter Use and Television Ratings. *Southern Communication Journal*, 81(3), 125–135. doi:10.1080/1041794X.2015.1116593

Wu, Y. (2018). How Age Affects Journalists' Adoption of Social Media as an Innovation. *Journalism Practice*, pp. 1-21. https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2018.1511821

Tables

Table 1. Co	ding variables and	categories	
Research	Category	Variables	Notes
Question			
RQ1	Post objectives	1. Informing; 2. Greeting, 3. Polling; 4.Promoting merchandising; 5.Promoting the platform; 6. Promoting specific content; 7.Encouraging participation: 8.Game, 9.Contest	Adapted from Fernández-Gómez & Martín-Quevedo (2018a)
	Post subject	1.Audiovisual Platform (HBO or Netflix); 2. Specific	Messages were classified according to the product origin (produced by the TV company itself or acquired from third parties).
	Message orientation	1. Instrumental: 1.1. Ask for opinion; 1.2.Ask for suggestion; 1.3 Ask for information; 1.4.Gives opinion, 1.5.Gives suggestion; 1.6.Gives information, 2. Positive socioemotional: 2.1.Shows solidarity; 2.2.Shows tension release; 2.3.Agree; 3.Negative socioemotional: 3.1. Disagree, 3.2.Shows tension; 3.3 Shows antagonism.	Adapted from Lin & Peña (2011)
RQ2	Formal features	1. Links to other social media; 2. Links to the platform's website; 3. Links to other websites; 4. Hashtags; 5. Emoticons.	Adapted from Fernández-Gómez & Díaz-Campo (2014); Auverset & Billings (2016).
	Personalization	1. Use of first, second or third person.; 2. Use of imperative verbs.	Adapted from: Lin & Peña (2011)
	Images	1. Diegetic (such as frames from the content); 2. Realistic (simulate reality); 3. Derivative art; 4. Extradiegetic (actors offset); 4.1. The actor; 4.2. The actor in character; 5. Memes; 6. Face/Forefront	
	Videos	1. Teasers; 2. Trailers; Promotions; 3. Extended content; 4. Making-of. 5.1. Diegetic narrator; 5.2. Non-diegetic narrator.	Adapted from Segado-Boj & Barquero-Cabrero (2013), Percheron & Butzel (1980).
RQ3.	Virality	1. Positive tone; 2. Negative tone; 3. Unexpectedness/odd/surprising; 4. Elite people; 5. Entertainment; 6. Social significance/magnitude; 6. Humor; 7. Human	Adapted from Al-Rawi (2017). As a post could include two or more of

		-	Sexuality; nce. 13. Sadı		-		-	Usefulness;	12.	these features, we did not consider them as exclusive variables.
RQ4.	Engagement	1.	Number o	f like	es; 2. Numb	er of	comments			

Table 2. Number of Instagram posts published by the ar	nalyzed accounts
HBO America	159
HBO Spain	410
Netflix America	68
Netflix Spain	94
Total	731

			Tak	ole 3. Inst	agram p	osts by o	bjective			
		Provide information	Survey	Merchandising	Contest Merchandising		Promote content	Push engagement	Opine	Suggest
НВО	n	58	0	0	0	41	116	3	13	0
America %		36.48%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.79%	72.96%	2.52%	8.18%	0.00%
HBO n		340	2	11	7	24	413	56	64	145
Spain	%	82.93%	0.19%	2.68%	1.71%	5.85%	98.29%	13.66 %	15.61 %	35.37%
Netflix	n	23	0	0	0	7	70	3	3	0
America	%	33.82%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.29%	89.71%	4.41%	4.41%	0.00%
Netflix	n	39	1	0	0	16	77	0	0	1
Spain	%	41.49%	1.06%	0.00%	0.00%	17.02%	81.91%	0.00%	0.00%	1.06%
	n	460	3	11	7	88	676	62	80	146
Total	%	% 62,93% 0,41% 1,50% 0,96%		0,96%	12.03%	92,48%	8,48%	10,94 %	19,97%	
Averag	e	115	0,75	2,75	1,75	22	169	15,5	20	36,5
Standa Deviation		150,68	0,96	5,50	3,50	14,45	163,92	27,04	29,86	72,33

Note: A post may have more than one objective.

Table 4.	Program conte	nts promoted	
		Self- produced content	Purchased
HBO America	n	103	19
HBO America	%	84.4%	15.6%
UPO Spain	n	240	108
HBO Spain	%	69%	31%
Netflix America	n	57	4
Netilix Affierica	%	93.4%	6.6%
Notfliv Spain	n	77	1
Netflix Spain	%	98.7%	1.3%

Total	n	477	132
Total	%	78.3%	11.7%
Average	n	119,25	33
Stand	82,67	56.3	

	Table 5. Most promoted program content													
HBO Amer	ica	HBO Spain	1	Netflix Americ	Netflix Spain									
Game of Thrones		Game of Thrones	102	Stranger Things	22	Stranger Things	16							
Larry David	12	The Deuce	24	Sense8	4	Narcos	8							
Insecure		The Handmaid's Tale	18	Okja	4	Cable Girls	6							
The Deuce	11	The Exorcist	11	Bright	3	The Defenders	5							
Big Little Lies	5	Lucifer	11	Arrested Development	2	13 Reasons Why	5							

	Table 6. Elements used in the posts													
		Link to Social Media	Link to platform's web	Link to other web	Hashtag	Emoticons	Memes	lmage	Video					
LIBO America	n	78	0	1	151	9	0	81	79					
HBO America	%	49.06%	0.00%	0.63%	94.97%	5.66%	0.00%	50.94%	49.69%					
LIBO Smain	n	3	2	2	395	20	6	309	99					
HBO Spain	%	0.73%	0.49%	0.49%	97.07%	4.88%	1.46%	73.17%	24.15%					
Netflix America	n	32	0	1	16	13	3	52	15					
Netilix America	%	47.06%	0.00%	1.47%	23.53%	19.12%	4.41%	76.47%	22.06%					
Notfliv Spain	n	18	0	0	74	7	0	60	33					
Netflix Spain	%	19.15%	0.00%	0.00%	78.72%	7.45%	0.00%	63.83%	35.11%					
Total	n	131	2	4	636	49	9	502	226					
างเลา	Total %	17,92%	0,27%	0,55%	87%	6,70%	1,23%	68,67%	30,92%					
Average		32,75	0,5	1	159	12,25	2,25	125,5	56,5					
Standard Deviat	ion	52,14	1,10	1,52	257,61	17,17	3,91	199,22	83,02					

	Table 7. Characteristics used in the posts													
		Sneak peek	Trailer	Promo	Extra content	Making off	Other	Diegetic narrator	Non- Diegetic narrator					
HBO America	HBO America n 7 7 42 1 14 9 9 15													

	%	8.86%	8.86%	53.16%	1.27%	17.72%	11.39%	7.59%	18.99%
LIDO Smain	n	6	29	56	2	2	7	47	8
HBO Spain	%	6.06%	29.29%	56.57%	2.02%	2.02%	7.07%	47.47%	8.08%
Netflix America	n	1	0	11	0	0	3	0	1
Netilix America	%	6.67%	0.00%	73.33%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	6.67%
Natilia Caria	n	4	6	21	1	0	2	3	14
Netflix Spain	%	12.12%	18.18%	63.64%	3.03%	0.00%	6.06%	9.09%	42.42%
Total	n	18	42	130	4	16	21	59	38
TOTAL	%	7.96%	18.58%	57.52%	1.77%	7.08%	9.29%	24.78%	16.81%
Average		4,5	10,5	32,5	1	4	5,25	14,75	9,5
Standard Deviation		2,65	12,71	20,31	0,82	6,73	3,30	21,82	6,45

		Ta	able 8. Ch	naracteris	stics of the i	mages				
		Diegetic	Realistic	Derivative art	Non-Diegetic	Other	Actor	Character	Face/Forefront	
HBO America	n	34	15	9	19	2	21	40	1	
HBO America	%	41.98%	18.52%	11.11%	23.46%	2.47%	25.93%	49.38%	1.23%	
UPO Spain	n	235	8	24	7	10	8	247	198	
HBO Spain	%	78.33%	2.67%	8.00%	2.33%	3.33%	2.67%	82.33%	66.00%	
Netflix America	n	12	4	13	11	15	13	26	2	
Netilix America	%	23.08%	7.69%	25.00%	21.15%	28.85%	25.00%	50.00%	3.85%	
Notflin Cools	n	26	2	19	9	2	11	39	0	
Netflix Spain	%	43.33%	3.33%	31.67%	15.00%	3.33%	18.33%	65.00%	0.00%	
Total	n	307	29	65	46	29	53	352	201	
Total	%	62.27%	5.88%	13.18%	9.33%	5.88%	10.75%	71.40%	40.77%	
Average		76,75	7,25	16,25	11,5	7,25	13,25	88	50,25	
Standard Deviation	on	105,89	5,74	6,60	5,26	6,40	5,56	106,19	98,50	

	Table 9. Emotional and cognitive elements in the posts														
	HBO America		HBO Spain		Netflix United States		Netflix Spain		Total		Average	Standard Deviation			
			N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%					
Positive	122 76.73%		35	8.54%	50	73.53%	65	69.15%	272	37,21%	68	38,03			
Negative	6	3.77%	8	1.95%	1	1.47%	0	0.00%	15	2,05%	3,75	3,86			

Unexpected or surprising	20	12.58%	87	21.22%	10	14.71%	8	8.51%	125	17,10%	31,25	37,54
Celebrities	30	18.87%	56	13.66%	8	11.76%	9	9.57%	103	14,10%	25,75	22,57
Entertainment	36	22.64%	210	51.22%	4	5.88%	3	3.19%	253	34,61%	63,25	99,03
Social relevance	30	18.87%	15	3.66%	4	5.88%	1	1.06%	50	6,84%	12,5	13,13
Humor	55	22.64%	25	6.10%	36	52.94%	36	38.30%	152	20,79%	38	12,46
Human interest	37	18.87%	1	0.24%	4	5.88%	9	9.57%	51	6,98%	12,75	16,50
Sexuality	7	4.40%	13	3.17%	1	1.47%	1	1.06%	22	3,01%	5,5	5,74
Animals	2	1.26%	1	0.24%	3	4.41%	0	0.00%	6	0,82%	1,5	1,29
Children	3	1.89%	0	0.00%	10	14.71%	9	9.57%	22	3,01%	5,5	4,80
Useful	34	21.38%	8	1.95%	7	10.29%	27	28.72%	76	10,40%	19	13,59
Conflict	11	6.92%	52	12.68%	2	2.94%	14	14.89%	79	10,81	19,75	22,10
Sadness	9	5.66%	1	0.24%	2	2.94%	2	2.13%	14	1,91%	3,5	3,70
Anger	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0,00%	0	0,00
Anxiety	5	3.14%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	11	11.70%	16	2,19%	4	5,23
Fear	0	0.00%	19	4.63%	3	4.41%	3	3.19%	25	3,42%	6,25	8,62

Table 10. Posts with more likes (HBO US)														
Text	Date	Likes	Comments	Link to Social Media	Hashtag	Picture	Diegetic	Derivated art	Non-diegetic	Other	Actor	Character		
When worlds collide.														
Regram @emilia_clarke # HBO	07/08/201	101 025	570	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0		
After #SolarEclipse2017, the night is dark and full of terrors (unless you're with the cast of @gameofthrones). Regram	22/08/201	876												
@leavecaricealone	7	45	314	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0		
Knocking on winter's door. #HBO@gameofthro nes #Tonight	21/08/201	719 56	506	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1		

Starks always stick together. #HBO#National SisterDay @gameofthron												
es@sophiet @maisie_willi	07/08/201	701										
ams	7	69	418	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
#Gunpowder, a three-part												
thriller starring Kit												
Harington, premieres												
December 18 at 10PM	31/10/201	521										
on #HBO.	7	76	677	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1

Table	Table 11. Posts with more likes (HBO Spain)													
Text	Date	Likes	Comments	Provide information	Promote content	Hashtag	Picture	Trailer	Entertainment					
A new episode of														
#GameofThrones: the														
game is up on														
#HBOEspaña	09/28/2017	1,257	8	1	1	1	1	0	1					
Tulip, Cassidy and Jesse continue looking for God. New episodes #Preacher every Tuesday on														
#HBOEspaña	07/11/2017	1,184	0	1	1	1	0	1	0					
Experience the #GameofthronesExpo in Barcelona and come to the Seven Kingdoms. #JuegodeTronos #GameofThrones														
#ValarMorghulis	10/27/2017	1,054	44	1	1	1	1	0	1					
Hiding a secret? Follow #LaVidaSecretadelasParejas on #HBOEspaña	10/11/2017	1,042	0	0	1	1	0	1	1					
Spoiler alert: Phrase from episode 7x01 of Game of Thrones: #Dragonstone The new episodes of #GameofThrones begin every Saturday, in the small hours from Sunday to Monday from 3am. From														
then on, available to watch	07/20/2017	1,034	19	1	1	1	1	0	1					

whenever you want on #HBOEspaña					

Table 12. Posts with more likes (Netflix US)													
Text	Character Derivative art Picture Hashtag Promote content Promote platform Comments Likes Date							Character	Positive	Humor			
"Every single day of my	05/26/2017	40.500	1 1 1 1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	4		
life?"	05/26/2017	40,508	1414	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1		
	11/14/2017	39,637	297	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Maybe he's not good with the girls, but as a babysitter as a babysitter, he's an ace. #StrangerThings2 via													
@uncle_jezzy	11/07/2017	38,765	427	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1		
There's storm coming on Friday. #StrangerThings2	10/23/2017	25,864	744	0	1	0	1	1	1	0			
@bojackhorseman wantedto be in #Strangerthings2.But he stayed backstage.	11/12/2017	25,660	131	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		

Table 13. Posts with more likes (Netflix Spain)													
Text	Date	Likes	Comments			Hashtag	Picture	Derivated art	Character	Positive	Humor		
"¿Todos los días de mi	26/05/201	4050	141										
vida?"	7	8	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1		
Los estilismos de los 80 eran													
otra historia. Hasta para	14/11/201	3963											
Eleven. #StrangerThings2	7	7	297	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Quizá no le vaya muy bien con las chicas, pero como													
canguro como canguro es un crack.													
#StrangerThings2 🛅 vía	07/11/201	3876											
@uncle_jezzy	7	5	427	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1		
Este viernes se avecina tormenta. #StrangerThings2	23/10/201	2586 4	744	0	1	0	1	1	1	0			

@bojackhorseman quería haber aparecido											
en #Strangerthings2. Pero	12/11/201	2566									
se quedó en el backstage.	7	0	131	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
¿Truco o	31/10/201	2434									
trato? #StrangerThings2	7	3	126	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Un mes para el reencuentro.	27/09/201	2326									
#StrangerThings2	7	1	638	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Llegó la hora de volver al											
<u>Upside</u>											
Down. #StrangerThings2 ya	27/10/201	1870									
disponible.	7	0	394	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
	07/09/201	1822									
Tu casa, tus normas.	7	4	423	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Nada volverá a ser											
normal. #StrangerThings2 lleg	11/07/201	1820									
a el 27 de octubre.	7	0	878	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0

	Table	e 14. Average	likes and comments	
	Average likes	Average comments	Average likes (Top 5 posts)	Average comments (Top 5 posts)
HBO America	9,531	102	76,594	497
Netflix America	106,155	2,957	474,754	5,359
HBO Spain	241	9	1,114	71
Netflix Spain	8,963	208	34,087	603

	Table 15. Comparison of number of likes (Mann-Whitney U Test) by mess feature										
			Presen			Absen	ce				
Feature	Sig	n	avg	sd	n	avg	sd				
Positive tone	0	457	5343.47	29510.89	272	26509.41	69408.705				
Unexpected or			12673.19	45508.161		15983.38	65323.875				
surprising	0	604			125						
Celebrities	0.069	626	11889.37	42948.331	103	21454.18	77847.023				
			18913.21	59684.037							
Entertainment	0	476			253	2568.53	13048.729				
Humor	0	577	7932.77	36976.539	152	33390.24	77782.93				
Useful	0	653	13258.76	51912.467	76	13086.29	17126.102				
Conflict	0.011	650	14281.88	51835.677	79	4674.76	19199.901				
Link to social media	0	601	8082.83	36186.55	128	37458.94	84291.105				

Hashtag	0	90	72933.41	119989.472	639	4833.36	14375.495
Image	0	236	26929.65	69440.175	493	4802.84	28252.7
Diegetic image	0	422	19439.73	61249.593	307	4719.74	22950.901
Faces	0	528	17973.26	57263.178	201	809.19	6370.991
Video	0.001	503	15475.23	53488.22	226	8267.63	38572.279
Promo	0.4	599	14627.02	54042.932	130	6853.41	14218.837
Showing empathy or			7636.36	29953.746		35056.64	88929.504
solidarity	0	580			149		
Provide information	0	278	26929.65	69440.175	451	4802.84	28252.7
Promote brand	0	641	13582.37	51984.733	88	10752.61	23711.332
Promote content	0	72	12617.15	24587.871	657	13309.12	51444.415
Opine	0	649	14651.21	52198.614	80	1798.61	4652.298
Suggest	0	583	16495.92	54804.718	146	242.49	1057.36
Self produced content	0	252	4857.88	15479.821	477	17669.48	59618.308
Purchased	0	597	15563.4	54189.449	132	2736.19	9221.275
Personalization	0.142	230	21068.73	74903.772	499	9632.7	30840.497
You	0.007	553	14727	54158.087	176	8571.01	29755.913
He/She	0.008	627	13659.32	52316.401	102	10668	25354.254
Imperative	0	624	15407.85	53128.862	105	362.19	1402.917
They	0.237	664	13488.81	51182.116	65	346.22	1750.132

	Table 16.	Comp		ber of comme	-	/lann-Whitney	U Test) by
			Presen			Absen	ce
Feature	Sig	n	avg	sd	n	avg	sd
Positive tone	0	457	137.99	822.874	272	651.5	2497.027
Unexpected or			330.95	1765.301		323.01	1151.179
surprising	0.041	604			125		
Celebrities	0	626	345.79	1776.952	103	231.12	821.398
Entertainment	0	476	460.38	1978.989	253	83.51	796.082
Humor	0	577	254.07	1771.419	152	616.24	1207.678
Useful	0	653	326.69	1743.598	76	354.49	903.579
Conflict	0.064	650	357	1766.545	79	103.48	417.629
Link to social media	0	601	276.92	1748.474	128	576.88	1253.856
Hashtag	0	90	1944.5	4174.031	639	102.13	593.956
Image	0.035	236	627.07	2440.911	493	146.22	886.077
Diegetic image	0	422	403.46	1301.905	307	228.04	2080.417
Faces	0	528	445.87	1953.307	201	24.13	184.962
Video	0.018	503	384.03	1956.079	226	208.41	723.789
Promo	0.4	599	346.99	1812.643	130	249.38	775.617
Showing empathy or			233.78	1038.111		702.52	3068.403
solidarity	0	580		_	149		
Provide information	0	278	627.07	2440.911	451	146.22	886.077
Promote brand	0	641	335.87	1767.489	88	283.85	710.148

Promote content	0	72	357.42	775.514	657	326.54	1746.378
Opine	0	649	366.89	1772.019	80	27	77.523
Suggest	0	583	410.36	1865.027	146	7.07	23.537
Self produced content	0	252	153.34	554.765	477	422.7	2026.216
Purchased	0	597	379.4	1833.861	132	104.3	485.664
Personalization	0.94	230	339.61	1012.481	499	324.97	1905.746
You	0.359	553	356.39	1824.578	176	245.36	1080.093
He/She	0.036	627	348.66	1778.621	102	212.35	780.198
Imperative	0	624	381.97	1805.317	105	18.3	103.078
They	0.347	664	10707	25561.941	65	159.65	407.955