**Applied Computer Science Projects - Juan Carlos Torrado**

“The chosen family” – mobile application of community building for lonely LGBTQ+ individuals

According to the last SSB report of 2021 in Norway (<https://www.ssb.no/sosiale-forhold-og-kriminalitet/artikler-og-publikasjoner/1-av-3-skeive-lite-tilfreds-med-egen-psykisk-helse>) 1 out of 3 LGBTQ+ individuals in the country face mental health problems, mostly related to loneliness and discrimination. The fact that Norway has a scattered population contributes to the fact that many of these individuals live in smaller places with higher rates of discrimination, and fewer opportunities to meet other LGBTQ+ individuals. Many of them have a bad relationship with their families, and hence the concept of “chosen family”, i.e.: the community, support and care network that they build to take care of each other out of family boundaries. Mobile digital technologies and social media bring excellent opportunities to foster their chances of community building and help improve their mental health by reducing the feeling of loneliness. In this project, the students will design a prototype for a community building application following a participatory design process.