

**LIST II HILARY TERM. AVAILABLE TO ALL JS STUDENTS AND TO SS NMS STUDENTS**

**HIU34573 Around the Equator: A Global History of the Tropics (Diogo de Carvalho Cabral)**



Part ecological fact, part ideological discourse, the 'tropics' were/are central to Western history writing. The category represents the environmental Other that Europeans – and later North Americans – had to deal with in constructing the modern world, with all its economic, social, racial and cultural asymmetries and inequalities. The module will explore the multiple dimensions of this history from a global perspective, emphasising the intellectual and material creation of a unified and coherent bioclimatic zone that amalgamates parts of the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania. After discussing the concept of 'tropicality' – the European gaze on non-European environments – we will journey through some critical aspects of that amalgamation, including colonialism, resource extractivism, and intertropical species transfer and acclimatisation. The last part of the module will focus on two urgent contemporary issues, namely climate change and decolonisation, seeking to discuss the future of the 'tropics'.