In the late 1990’s, long-time theatre director and TV producer Andrea Camilleri (b. 1925) became the most popular and acclaimed Italian writer of his day, thanks to a series of detective novels set in Vigáta, “the most invented village of the most typical Sicily (Tesio, 1996). Camilleri’s writing is characterized by injections of the Sicilian dialect of Italian and scattered foreign phrases. His novels became successful TV fiction aired by RAI (1999 seq.). Protagonist, police commissioner Salvo Montalbano, is now a familiar face to Italian viewers.

This talk will look at elements of regionalism in the Montalbano novels and the ways the author offers a revised notion of polycentric Italian identity at the beginning of the 21st century.